

A monthly publication of the RiverBend Growth Association...
Your Regional Chamber of Commerce and Economic Development Agency



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July Business After Hours held at Alton Marina

On July 21, 2016, the RBGA joined hosts Absolute Health Care, Alton Marina, Alton Materials, CNB Bank & Trust, and Gentelin's on Broadway at Business After Hours held at the Alton Marina.

The RiverBend Growth Association thanks all of the hosts for putting on another wonderful event.

More than 200 members and guests braved the hot summer day to enjoy an evening of

food, entertainment, and beverages, along the poolside at the Alton Marina.

Business After Hours is held every month to gather, unwind, network, and to build business relationships in a relaxed atmosphere while expanding your contacts to help you and your business grow.

Please join us and register for the **next BAH on August 18** at Belk Park Golf Course which

will be themed "Caddie Shack"! There will be prizes for the best costumes, so be creative! Also, participate in the "gopher games" and enjoy themed food and drinks. Our hosts will be 1st Mid America Credit Union, Belk Park Golf Course, Bella Milano Restaurant, Jack Schmitt Chevrolet of Wood River, Sweet Sisters Cakes & Confections, and Robert "Chick" Fritz.



Thank you to our hosts for July's BAH



Attendees gather under the shade to enjoy food, beverages, and entertainment.



Karen Baker-Brncic & Mike Farrell



CNB Bank & Trust employees



Deb Ross and Ellar Duff



Hosts gather to thank attendees



RBGA Ambassadors volunteer to help the event run smoothly



Freer Auto Body named July 2016 Small Business of the Month

On July 5, 2016, RBGA and RBGA members of the community joined at Freer Auto Body to present the Small Business of the Month award for July 2016.

Starting in 1991, Freer Auto Body is celebrating 25 years in business. The Small Business of the Month is chosen by a committee. Part of the scoring process includes community service involvement. Freer Auto Body goes above and beyond giving back to the community. Their belief is, "they would not be the business it is today if not for the support of our community." Freer Auto Body strives to provide their customers with quality repair and excellent customer service while giving back to the community.

In observance of their 25 years in business, each month in 2016, Freer Auto Body is doing something kind for charitable organizations.

Some contributions include purchasing 25 car seats for Alton Memorial Hospital, scholarships for the 100 Black Men and YWCA, donation to Alton High School Athletic Department, and a donation to the Alton Boys & Girls Club.

If in need of a car repair, be sure to stop in and visit Freer Auto Body. Their services range from auto body repair, custom fabrication, accessories, insurance claim assistance, and rental car assistance. Visit them today at 4512 Alby Street Godfrey IL or visit their website <http://freerautobody.com/index.cfm> for more information.



RBGA community members joined Freer Auto Body to present the July 2016 Small Business of the Month Award on July 5, 2016.

Congratulations Freer Auto Body and thank you for your membership with the RiverBend Growth Association.

<http://www.growthassociation.com/page/event-videos/>

MAYOR REPORT - Paul Oller, Village of Roxana



This past year we have completed two major infrastructure projects and now we're moving on with other improvements in the Village.

Our Water Treatment Plant expansion is complete and our water tower has a new great look and logo. The new Public Works Center is in full operation, allowing our Street Department more space to operate and room to grow.

We have started working on major improvements to the lighting and sidewalk areas along Route 111. We are early into the planning and

design phase of this project, which will include new street and sidewalk lighting, new sidewalks, and will also enable us to relocate a large water main from under Route 111. Accomplishing all this will require time, money, and effort but making such improvements to the main corridor of the Village is long overdue.

Significant improvements are in progress for a storm water collection system on the west side of our community. These improvements will begin this month, and replace and extend a storm water management system that has been in service since the 1940's. We have all seen the time when the rain arrives faster than we can make it go away. This new system will help eliminate some problematic locations we have related to storm

water management.

We have a few other road projects in the planning stage, and we are working with two developers to bring more tax dollars and sales tax income to Roxana. More information will be coming about those matters soon, but for now, I hope everyone has a safe and enjoyable summer.

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State Farm Insurance

Karen Cooper, Past Chairman
Illinois American Water

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OSF Saint Anthony's Health Ctr.

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TheBANK of Edwardsville

Jim Shrader
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Cope Plastics

Sam Stemm
WBGZ/AltonDailyNews.com

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Quality Buick GMC Cadillac

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Carrollton Bank

Martha Warford
Beverly Farm

Dwight Werts
Werts Welding & Tank Service

Charlie Yancey
IBEW Local 649

Welcome our newest members to the RiverBend Growth Association

American Air

Mark Shearlock
191 N Old St. Louis Rd.
Wood River IL 62095
(618) 251-8585
myamericanair.net



American Air is a full service HVAC contracting company offering residential and commercial services. Although the company was established in 2015, my business partner Jeff Sheets and myself have served the metro east through some of the largest HVAC companies for a combined total of 55 years. We are a Carrier dealer, although we offer service to all makes and models, including honoring other manufacturer's parts warranties no matter who installed the equipment. We are proud members of the International Association of Sheet Metal Workers Local 268 and have been for 20 years. All of our equipment comes with a 10 years parts and 5 year labor warranty. We are proud to offer the Riverbend a company they can rely on. At the end of the day our customers' happiness is our only goal.

LaBest Pet Resort & Services

Julia Whitehead Vice President
4933 Indian Hills Dr.
Edwardsville IL 62025-5943
(618) 692-6399
labestinc.net



At LaBest Pet Resort & Spa we offer a variety of services for your pet. We offer boarding with six different options you can choose and we do special accommodations for animals. We have standard, deluxe, semi-private, and private rooms for you to choose from. You can also take a tour of our facility to make sure it's the right fit for your pets! All rooms have A/C, heat, radio, tv, along with three walks a day. For grooming, options consist of skin treatments, teeth brushing, shedless

treatment, and much more! We provided doggie day care, it starts at 7am-6pm Monday-Saturday. Doggy day care helps your dog with socialization skills along with our training we provide. You can sign your pup up for different kinds of training, private, in-home, behavioral consultations, etc. Other services we provided are yard clean ups, massage therapy, puppy pool, shuttle service, in home pet care.

Ruby's

Keith Rentschler, Owner
891 E Edwardsville Rd
Wood River IL 62095
(618) 251-8012
playrubys.com



Wood River hit the jackpot with Ruby's in the Family Video Center at 891 E Edwardsville Road. A neighborhood gaming destination, Ruby's is a unique place to grab a bite to eat, enjoy a premium cup of coffee from our coffee bar, a soft drink or your favorite wine or beer. With an upscale and comfortable atmosphere, the main attraction at Ruby's is the five video gaming machines with your favorite slot and video poker games. A 21-and-over establishment, Ruby's is a great place for a relaxed night out unlike anything else in town.

Employment Opportunities

The RBGA has a section on our website with Employment Opportunities.

It's located at <http://www.growthassociation.com/page/employment-opportunities/>. It can also be accessed from the header of any page throughout the site.

Members can post their job openings on this page.

Here's the link: <http://www.growthassociation.com/page/create-employment-ad/>

AMBASSADOR SPOTLIGHT



Matt Labertew
Axis Spinal Care

My name is **Dr. Matthew Labertew**. I am a native of the Bethalto area and graduated from Civic Memorial High School in 1993. After receiving treatment for a sports injury in high-school, I decided to become a chiropractor to provide the same help and pain relief to athletes of all ages, their families and my community. I've been in practice for 15 years, specializing in Chiropractic, Acupuncture and Nutrition. Patients and their families continue to return to me because I am their hometown chiropractor; I provide compassionate care and make it affordable for everyone. I have patients from 2 to 102 and accept most major insurances including Medicare. Call my office at (618) 377-9920 to make an appointment or stop by. The office now has a full time licensed physical therapist and massage therapist. Walk-ins, emergent care and same day appointments are available for all patients, new or established. Thanks to the Riverbend Community I look forward to my next 18 years in Bethalto as your hometown chiropractor!



Marlene Lewis
Alton Memorial
Hospital

My name is **Marlene Lewis** and I am the manager of Foundation and Development at Alton Memorial Hospital. My career with BJC began in 1993 as event coordinator at Christian Hospital. In 1999, I accepted a position at Alton Memorial Hospital as Senior Coordinator of Community Relations and Development. As the hospital began the Building the Best Care Close to Home capital campaign in 2005, I moved into the full-time development role.

I completed my Bachelor of Science degree in Organizational Leadership at Greenville College in 2008. In September 2011, I achieved another long-time goal by becoming a Certified Fund Raising Executive (CFRE).

I've been an ambassador with the Growth Association for about 10 years – it's a wonderful organization that offers many opportunities to meet and interact with members of the business community.

My husband Dale and I live in a 120-year-old house in the historic Christian Hill neighborhood. I enjoy antiques, collecting local ghost stories and boating on the Mississippi River.



**Stacey Noble
Loveland**
Foxes Grove
Supportive Living
Community

My name is **Stacey Noble Loveland** and I have been an Ambassador with the RiverBend Growth Association for six years. As an Ambassador I have enjoyed many opportunities to be involved personally and professionally with the Riverbend area.

The Riverbend area is a wonderful place to work and live. I am an Alton native, and very proud to see the continued growth and opportunities here in our community. Along with being an Ambassador for the RBGA, I am involved with my Church (Resurrection Lutheran), Alton Main Street, Inc., a member of the Parent Advisory Board for the Riverbender.com Community Center, a volunteer with the Alton School District's ROAR (Reach Out And Read) program, and I am also privileged to be a part of the RBGA's Young Adults Leadership program in which I am a mentor to some outstanding young future leaders from our area high schools. In addition to all of that, I am the very proud mother of my 18 year old son, Ty, who will be attending Bradley University in the fall. I have a Master's degree in Gerontology and am the Executive Director of Foxes Grove in Wood River.

I am also the co-founder of Stockings for Seniors, a non-profit event that provides small gifts for seniors who may not have any family or be isolated during the holidays.

Foxes Grove is a supportive living facility for seniors 65 and older. As an Ambassador I have been able to use the resources of the Riverbend Growth Association to help promote Foxes Grove and all of the wonderful services we offer for seniors. I love working with seniors and helping them make Foxes Grove their home!

The Riverbend area is alive with growth and changes and it is my pleasure to be a part of it.



Grab a quick bite at A Quick Bite

On June 29, 2016, the RBGA joined staff and leaders of Challenge Unlimited to celebrate the grand opening of A Quick Bite.

A Quick Bite is located inside the Madison County Administrative Building in Edwardsville, IL. It is a café style cafeteria with many menu items to choose from.

Challenge Unlimited and the community are excited about this new café as it allows more job positions for Challenge clients.

Challenge Unlimited, Inc. is a non-profit organization established in 1959 to provide work related opportunities to individuals with disabilities and enable them to achieve their highest level of independence. For more than 50 years, Challenge Unlimited has been committed to the inclusion of individuals with disabilities into mainstream society.

A Quick Bite opened July 5, 2016, Monday-Friday from 730a-3p. Stop in and grab something off the menu and like Challenge Unlimited on Facebook, <https://www.facebook.com/ChallengeUnlimitedIncAbilityOneProvider/?fref=ts>, to keep up-to-date about the exciting opportunities and successes happening right here in the community.



Med Express opens clinic in Alton

On July 19, 2016, the RiverBend Growth Association, many members of the community, the RiverBend Growth Association Ambassadors, and elected officials joined at 1704 Homer Adams Parkway in Alton to celebrate with MedExpress on their grand opening.

The new center offers walk-in treatment for everyday illness and injury, including advanced offerings such as on-site X-rays, IVs, labs, stitches and treatment for broken bones, sprains and strains.

The facility is open 8a-8p seven days a week. MedExpress has facilities in Arkansas, Delaware, Florida, Indiana, Kansas, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Jersey, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Virginia and West Virginia...and now Illinois!

The facility has brought 20 jobs to the area and hopes to continue to grow.

Congratulations MedExpress and staff members.

Visit their website at <https://www.medexpress.com/> to find out more information and details.

Members of the community, the RiverBend Growth Association Ambassadors Matt Kotzamanis of TheBank of Edwardsville, Martha Schultz of First Clover Leaf Bank-Wood River, Linda Funk of Regions Bank, Kurt Ferguson of The Telegraph, Tom Hoechst of CNB Bank & Trust, Michele Blackwood of Challenge Unlimited, Lee McRaven of OSF Saint Anthony's Health Center, Nancy Bivens of WBGZ, President of RBGA Monica Bristow, and Mayor Brant Walker



Grand opening of MedExpress



Hirelevel Gives Back To Local St. Louis Charity Something Bigger Than Yourself

Giving back to the local community is something that HireLevel, one of the region's largest women-owned employment, payroll, and workforce services companies, helps bring awareness to with the help of their newly established employee program. The companies Charitable Giving Challenge, challenges their employees to donate money monthly to be given to a different local charity of their choice. The idea is that a strong

community builds a strong business, and by donating and volunteering they are helping fuel the economy and community in which they live.

This month their charity of choice is Something Bigger Than Yourself. Something Bigger Than Yourself is a local St. Louis, Missouri charity that helps raise awareness and assists less fortunate children by providing musical instruments, sports equipment, and special events to enhance the lives of

those living in children's homes throughout the United States. It all started when Jay Lipe and his daughter knocked on the door of The Alton Illinois Children's home in 1998 bearing gifts for the children. Ever since then, Something Bigger Than Yourself has made it their mission to change the lives of children in challenging circumstances.

"Kids are the future of our community," said Sarah Powell, Director of Client Development.



We're
HireLevel.
Powered by Extra Help

"If there is one way to make a positive impact, it's to help our future generations get the guidance and help that they need to make a positive impact when they are in our positions."

For more information on Something Bigger Than Yourself or to make a donation, visit their website at www.somethingbiggerthanyourself.com.

Total Networking Luncheon held at Julia's

The RBGA hosted one of its monthly networking events Wednesday, July 20th. RiverBend Growth Association members met at Julia's Banquet Center with an attendance of more than 30 people.

These events are led by Director of Member Services, Trish Holmes, and both promoted and planned with the help of the Promotions Committee. This year the Promotions Committee set a theme of overall health in the workplace. To date, meetings have consisted of speakers and activities that can also be incorporated into a great networking tool. The activities have spotlighted businesses in attendance.

This networking event is growing every month and RSVP's are strongly encouraged to help promote your business or organization.

The Small Business of the Month was presented to Freer Auto Body, located at

4512 North Alby Rd, Godfrey IL 62035. Congratulations to Freer Auto Body.

Two speakers spoke to the audience. Nate Keener spoke to the group about Solarize Godfrey, a community-wide solar education and group purchase program sponsored by the Godfrey Climate Protection and Energy Efficiency Committee.

Wealth Manager, Patrick Buchana, a local provider of investing for Dave Ramsey, and is affiliated with First Allied Securities, Inc presented to the group his presentation of "Take Control of Your Money". It was well received and a great education piece for our members.

The Riverbend Growth Association hopes to see you August 17 for the next Breakfast Connections event at Atrium Hotel at 8am. Come for a presentation by Karen Wilson of State Farm who will help you uncover the truth on ***"The LEGEND of Multitasking."***



Margaret Freer accepts the Small Business of the Month award from Trish Holmes



Nate Keener speaks on Solarize Godfrey

WOMEN ON THE MOVE

ANNUAL WOMEN'S SEMINAR

Title Sponsor



Wednesday, September 21, 2016

7:30am-1:00pm

Lewis and Clark Community College
Commons



MAJOR PRIZE DONOR SPONSOR

- provide 300 attendance gifts with your logo to be prominently showcased (item must be approved by committee)
- table to promote your business and sell merchandise
- 4 admissions

FIRST CLASS SPONSOR

- logo on program 
- table to promote your business and sell merchandise
- recognition on table signs
- recognition prior to all speaker introductions
- logo on multimedia presentation
- business listed on RBGA social media
- add one item to each attendance bag
- reserved table for six

RESORT PACKAGE SPONSOR

- business name listing on program 
- listed on menu placemats
- business listed on RBGA social media
- included in multimedia presentation
- add one item to each attendance bag
- 4 admissions

WEEKEND GETAWAY SPONSOR

- verbal recognition prior to lunch 
- recognition on buffet lunch signage
- business listed on RBGA social media
- included in multimedia presentation
- add one item to each attendance bag
- 3 admissions

STAYCATION SPONSOR

- table to promote your business and sell merchandise 
- business listed on program
- business listed on RBGA social media
- included in multimedia presentation
- add one item to each attendance bag
- 2 admissions

ADMISSION TICKET

- individual or table of six 

SOUVENIR SPONSOR

- provide one door prize (\$20+ value)
- name on RBGA social media

Sponsorship deadline is September 9, 2016.

Company Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone/Email _____

Contact _____

- First Class Sponsor \$1,000
- Resort Sponsor \$500
- Weekend Getaway Sponsor \$250
- Booth Sponsor \$150
- Souvenir Sponsor
- Table of six \$275
- Individual \$50

____ Check enclosed, payable to RBGA

____ Please charge my credit card \$ _____

Name on card _____

Number _____

Expiration Date _____ / _____ CVV _____

Signature _____

Scan and fax back to 618-466-8289 or mail with payment to address below.

Payments may be made online at GrowthAssociation.com.

PAYMENT IS DUE PRIOR TO EVENT.