

# Alton Square Mall's Cookie Factory Bakery and Cafe still cookin' after years of baking

By Jill Moon - [jmoon@civitasmedia.com](mailto:jmoon@civitasmedia.com)



(left) Officials and family at Cookie Factory Bakery and Cafe Friday morning, with Godfrey Mayor Mike McCormick, left, standing next to his wife, Cookie Factory Bakery and Cafe owner Linda McCormick, next to RiverBend Growth Association's (RBGA) Trish Holmes, and RBGA President Monica Bristow, right, as Linda McCormick accepts the honor of her business being named RBGA's Small Business of the Month for July.  
Jill Moon | The Telegraph



(right) Cookie Factory Bakery and Cafe full-time employee of 10 years, Jessica Moore, works Friday morning during the Alton Square Mall-based eatery's celebration and presentation for being named RiverBend Growth Association's July Small Business of the Month. Moore had the opportunity to help JCPenney's new general manager, Kathy Nickle, with a purchase during the event, which included complimentary house-baked cookies and Olga's Kitchen bite-size sandwiches. Nickle began her position at

the JCPenney Alton location last week.

ALTON — The Cookie Factory Bakery and Cafe's celebration as the RiverBend Growth Association's July Small Business of the Month became a family affair for employees and supporters.

The eatery continues to thrive as a longtime occupant of Alton Square Mall, which currently has many vacant storefronts.

"It helps we're a destination spot," said Jennifer Camerer, daughter of owner Linda McCormick.

McCormick started the business 27 years ago and recently began delivery service for home or business.

"Our birthday cookies are very popular. We're reaching out more. So maybe if they aren't coming to us, we're going to them," McCormick said.

She also credited her employees, who over the years included most of McCormick's immediate family members, for Cookie Factory's success.

"Your employees matter so much and they care about our store," she said.

Camerer still works at Cookie Factory as needed and always on Valentine's Day, Camerer noted.

"I replace the tile," her husband, J.B. Camerer, chimed in Friday morning standing among several Cookie Factory supporters, who included McCormick's husband, Godfrey Mayor Mike McCormick, RiverBend Growth Association (RBGA) Ambassadors, RBGA President Monica Bristow, McCormick's mother, Nellie McCormick, 84, and stepfather, Mac McCormick, 93, who is no relation to Mike McCormick.

Linda McCormick's granddaughters, Lexi and Brianna Camerer, also work at Cookie Factory.

"My mom worked here and the girls would be here in their pumpkin seats," McCormick proudly noted about Lexi and Brianna. "All of us at Cookie Factory work real well together."

McCormick made sure to invite her mall family as well, letting other mall retail stores know about Friday's RBGA's presentation to Cookie Factory as July's Small Business of the Month, which garnered new connections, including JCPenney's brand new general manager, Kathy Nickle, who started in the position last week.

Nickle and department supervisor Brenda Abert attended Friday's event to show support for Alton Square Mall stores.

"I heard from Olga's manager, she told me, and of course I wanted to participate and take coupons," Nickle said. "It's amazing she's been in this mall 27 years."

Olga's Kitchen also participated by supplying bite-size sandwiches to accompany Cookie Factory mini cookies, all complimentary to guests Friday.

Follow Cookie Factory Bakery and Cafe at [www.facebook.com/cookiefactoryalton](http://www.facebook.com/cookiefactoryalton) for more information. Reach Jill Moon at 618-208-6448 and Twitter @jill\_moon.