JUNE 2015
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Atlantis Pools hosts June Business After Hours

Thank-you to the owners and staff at Atlantis Pools for hosting the June 2015 Business After Hours networking event on Thursday, June 25, 2015.

More than 120 attendees enjoyed the event with endless networking connections and delicious food and beverages from Mac’s Time Out and Robert “Chick” Fritz Distributing.

Atlantis Pools showcased the networking event with indoor/outdoor facilities featuring in ground and above ground pools, patio furniture, pool supplies and more.

Atlantis Pools is located at 3000 Homer Adams Parkway in Alton. For more information on Atlantis Pools, please visit atlantipools.co or call 618-465-6490.

Atlantis Pools hosts:
Bethany Chapel, Chelsey Wooden, Doc Holiday, Cory Wooden and Jon Wooden

Jim Shrader of WBGZ, Karen Baker-Brnice of Alton Marina, Larry and Theresa Franklin of CNB Bank & Trust, Georgia Mills of WBGZ and Mike Drake of CNB Bank & Trust Alton.

Shell Community Federal Credit Union: Greg Lyons, Lou Bicanio and Lisa Shain

Jamie Ruyle of C.J. Schlosser, Kathy and Kari Weaver of Investment Planners and Phillis Biermann of Advantage NEWS

Partners Insurance: Carol and Michael Balding
2015 RiverBend Golf Classic tournament results

**Flight A**
- 1st Place: Premier Auto with a score of 57
- 2nd Place: Sheppard Morgan & Schwaab with a score of 60
- 3rd Place: First Clover Leaf Bank with a score of 62

**Flight B**
- 1st Place: Illinois American Water with a score of 64
- 2nd Place: CNB Bank & Trust Shipman with a score of 64
- 3rd Place: 1st MidAmerica Credit Union with a score of 64

**Flight C**
- 1st Place: Liberty Bank/Express Employment Professionals with a score of 65
- 2nd Place: Phillips 66 Wood River Refinery with a score of 67
- 3rd Place: Andy’s Auto Body and Car Care with a score of 68

**Longest Drive**
- Women: Tammy Windham of Phillips 66 Wood River Refinery
- Men: Shane DeSherlia of First Bank

**Closest to Pin**
- Women: Katie Linsey of Airport Plaza Bowl/Bowl Haven Lanes
- Men: John Stimac of First Clover Leaf Bank

**Putting Contest**
- Greg Pasdiora of Airport Plaza Bowl/Bowl Haven Lanes

**Skins**
- Johnny Aguirre, Jay Stemm, Jacob Stemm and Bobby Townser

**50/50 winner**
- Mark Voegele of Express Employment Professionals

Exclusive sponsor 1st MidAmerica Credit Union's team: Amber Scott, Alan Meyer, Perry Withers and Bob Blacklock

Med Resources: Chris Nicholson, Jeff Braun and Cyndi Altman

Andy’s Auto Body & Car Care’s team: Chuck Tucker, Kevin Frederking, Dan Adams and Mark Anderson

The 2015 RBGA Golf Classic: A rainy day
Welcome our newest members to the RiverBend Growth Association

Computer Specialists
Christina Johnson, Owner
204 W. Bethalto Drive
Bethalto IL 62010
(618) 377-0577

Computer Specialists opened in August of 2005. We work with residential and small business owners with all of their technology needs. We offer onsite, drop off and pick services. There is no need for an appointment to drop off today. Our technicians work hard to make your equipment work hard for you. We feel that just being clients is not enough. We want to build a relationship with you. Working hard to fill all your needs and answering all your questions. Our technicians work on PCs, notebooks, and Apple computers. We also repair on TVs and game consoles. Our other services include virus removal, data cable installation, data recovery, TV installation, computer upgrades, desktop sales, and much more. Besides computers our passion is also for the Relay for Life of Riverbend so much so that we donate 5% of our in house labor to the Relay for Life.

Innovative Dentistry for Complete Health
Rachelle Phillips, DMD
Jeffrey Lautz, DMD
321 N. Bellwood Drive
East Alton IL 62024
(618) 258-0028

Innovative Dentistry’s mission is to help patients achieve complete health by explaining how the health of their body is affected by the health of their mouth. For more information check us out at www.idfch.com and on Facebook.

Investment Planners, Inc.
Kathy Weaver, Owner
5512 Godfrey Road, Unit B
Godfrey IL 62035
(618) 466-0100

Kathy Weaver and Chris Hammann have recently partnered together to open an Investment Planners, Inc. office at 5512 Godfrey Road. Weaver and Hammann will offer solutions for investments and asset management through Investment Planners, Inc. as well as wealth advisory services for high-net worth accounts through IPI Wealth Management, Inc.

With almost 35 years of combined financial industry experience, Weaver and Hammann have built their reputation by putting a true focus on doing what’s best for their clients. Weaver has been in the investment and securities industry since 1996. She became a financial advisor in 2002. Hammann has been in the investment and securities industry since 1993. He has been with IPI since 1997. Kathy brought her daughter, Kari Weaver on board to manage the day to day activities of the office. She also has a background in the financial industry.

If you have questions about a 401k rollover, IRA, Roth IRA, or 529 College Plan, they can be reached at 618-466-0100. Their office is located at 5512 Godfrey Road, Godfrey, IL. They also offer free consultations.

Marathon Pipe Line LLC
Bill Coulter, Area Manager
P.O. Box 261
700 S. 6th St.
Wood River IL 62095
(618) 254-1112
marathonpipeline.com

Marathon Pipe Line LLC (MPL) operates one of the largest petroleum pipeline systems in the United States, based on total volume delivered. MPL operates approximately 6,000 miles of pipeline in 14 states. These pipelines range from 4 inches to 40 inches in diameter. MPL transports crude oil, refined petroleum products and refinery feedstocks to and from terminals, refineries and other pipelines. MPL safely controls the movement and delivery of an average of 120 million gallons of crude oil and petroleum products daily through its pipelines. For further information on MPL, visit the company’s website at http://www.marathonpipeline.com.

New York Life Insurance Company
Rochelle Freeman
Financial Services Professional
One City Place Dr., Ste. 260
Creve Coeur MO 63141
(314) 994-6495
AMBASSADOR SPOTLIGHT

Linda Funk
Regions

Hello! My name is Linda Funk and I am the Manager/Vice President of the Regions Bank branch in Godfrey. The Ambassadors Committee offers so many opportunities to meet our community leaders and to visit local businesses, communities and organizations in our area. As a lifelong resident of the Riverbend area, I appreciate all that our communities have to offer. There have been many changes in banking since I started my banking career in 1969 at Illinois State Bank of East Alton. But the one constant is the wonderful people in our communities. It is very rewarding to me to be a banker and to have repeat customers and the opportunities to assist many people with their goals and dreams. I have made many friends through the years. I work, live, shop and play in the Riverbend area. I have been married to my husband, Mike, for 45 years. Mike is a local barber. We have two children, Andy (married to Farrah) Funk and Amanda (married to Adam) Cole. We are very fortunate that they also live and work in the Riverbend area. We now have three grandchildren (Wyatt, Claire and Michael) and they keep us happy and very busy. I enjoy quilting, reading and the great outdoors in any free time.

Jerry Gibson
retired

I retired from education eighteen years ago and shortly thereafter it became my good fortune to become involved with a select group of volunteers, the “Ambassadors”. Our mission is to promote area businesses and provide support to the services of the Growth Association. The Ambassadors have provided me opportunities to become acquainted and work with businesses and get to know people that make this area such a great place. I continue to be impressed with the services and opportunities of our community.

It has been my privilege to have served on the Godfrey Township and Village Board for twelve years. I did not choose to run as trustee for another term and I thank the residents for their support. I will continue to do whatever I can to support the village.

I’ve been married for 50 years to my wife Lois. We have two daughters and now enjoy four grandchildren, two in Chicago and two currently in Bethesda, Maryland who are moving back to Chicago.

My volunteer work with Kiwanis offers additional service projects. My fishing buddies keep me busy and always looking forward to having fun and creating stories to share.

I am committed to working on behalf of the River Bend area businesses and community organizations. Godfrey has enjoyed considerable progress and I am certain it is on the brink of additional commercial growth. I want to do my best to see the area continue as a place in which we can all take great pride. I know the next decade will bring challenges and change and I will do my best to see that these changes and opportunities are positive.

Tom Hoechst
CNB Bank & Trust, N.A.

I am a lifelong resident of the greater Alton RBGA area. After graduating from high school I joined the U.S. Navy and served as a hospital corpsman with the 2nd Marine Division from 1963 to 1966. I married Mary Farley Hoechst in 1968, and we made Alton our home. We have three children and two grandchildren. I worked in the retail side of the grocery business for forty years, retiring in 2006. From 1997 until 2013 I served as an elected official as an Alderman, County Board Representative and Mayor of Alton. I feel extremely fortunate to have met and worked with so many people who have invested in the RBGA area and utilized the services and resources it has to offer. I have always loved working with the public and being a part of progress for the RBGA area. I am presently working for CNB Bank & Trust as the Business Development Officer and appreciate their participation in the RBGA and allowing me to serve as an Ambassador. It is very rewarding to see not only new business startups but businesses participating in expansion. We must view the RBGA area as a team effort. Every business large or small lends an important component to our success and continued growth as a united community.
Med Resources Reveals Renovations

Med Resources celebrated with a ribbon cutting ceremony on June 16, 2015 to reveal the incredible renovations to this facility located at 2350 State Street in Alton.

Med Resources is one of the largest full service providers of medical equipment and supplies in the area. Their product offerings include orthotics, ambulatory aids, complex mobility equipment, bariatric equipment, respiratory line, retail store and more.

For more information on Med Resources, visit medresourcesinc.com or call 618-466-5632.

Encore Bath & Shower Celebrates New Location

Congratulations to Encore Bath and Shower owner Allan Morse on his 24 years in business and the grand opening of his store front business at 6001 Godfrey Road, Suite E in Godfrey, IL.

Encore Bath and Shower is family business, established in 1991. They are third generation contractors, specialized in bathroom remodeling.

Encore Bath and Shower specialties include walk-in hydro therapy tubs, replacement tubs/showers, customer shower walls, tub to shower conversions, tub/shower liner system with lifetime warranty, tub/shower resurfacing and ADA safety.

For more information on Encore Bath and Shower, visit encorebathil.com or call 618-466-1100.
Associated Bank Celebrates with Ribbon Cutting

Associated Bank, located at 104 Homer Adams Parkway in Alton, showcased its renovations to this site on June 16, 2015.

Bank Manager Kim McGibany was excited to reveal all of the renovations inside the lobby as well as introduce staff members who pride themselves in customer service.

Associated Bank offers a wide variety of products and services such as checking and savings accounts, online and mobile banking, insurance products, private client services and more.

For more information on Associated Bank in Alton, visit AssociatedBank.com or call 618-465-4422.

Investment Planners is new business in Godfrey

Congratulations to Kathy Weaver and her partner Chris Hammann on their new business, Investment Planners, located at 5512 Godfrey Road, Unit B, in Godfrey, IL.

Investment Planners offers solutions for investment and asset management as well as wealth advisory services for high net-worth accounts. Kathy and Chris have a combined 35 years of financial industry experience.

For more information on Investment Planners, call 618-466-0100.

The Associated Bank team in celebration: April Starrett, Jeff Korte, Diane Gantner, Jaycee Greene, Phil Hickman, Kenny Weston, Kim McGibany, John Vitale, Tracy Session, Andrea Altamirano and Sheila Addison. Riverbend community leaders in attendance were Sarah Bolyard of Alton Square Mall, Dick Propes, Jerry Gibson of Kiwanis, David and Chad Stevenson of Quality Buick GMC Cadillac, David Craig of SCORE, Tom Hoechst of CNB Bank & Trust, Auggie Wueffner of Alton Securities Group, Nancy Bivens of WBGZ, Pat Schwarte of Riverbender.com and Michelle Blackwood of Challenge Unlimited.

Pictured are Linda Funk of Regions Bank, Godfrey Mayor Mike McCormick, Investment Planners: Chris Hammann, Kathy Weaver, Kari Weaver and Mike Weaver, RBGA President Monica Bristow, Michelle Blackwood of Challenge Unlimited, Dick Propes, Pat Schwarte of Riverbender.com, Lee McRaven of OSF Saint Anthony’s Health Center, Tom Hoechst of CNB Bank & Trust, Jane Short and Sherry Gilleland of Dream Home Realty Centre, Cara Pascal of Options Now and Dave Stevenson of Quality Buick GMC Cadillac.
Beautiful Night for the RiverBend Duck Race

On behalf of the RBGA and the hosts of the RBGA Duck Race, Alton Memorial Hospital, American Water, Freer Auto Body, Raging Rivers, Scott Credit Union, St. Peters Hardware & Rental and The Telegraph, thank-you for another successful event!

The beautiful evening on May 28th at Raging Rivers Water Park marked the 17th year for the annual RiverBend Duck Race at Raging Rivers Water Park. More than 1,000 RBGA members and guests enjoyed the event with beer tasting from Donnewald Distributing and Robert “Chick” Fritz, wine tasting from the Grafton Winery & Brewhaus, tropical drinks from Raifort Properties, delicious food compliments of Aeries Winery, Alton Sportstap, Argosy Alton Casino, Atrium Hotel & Conference Center, Loading Dock, Raging Rivers and Tony’s Restaurant and endless opportunities for networking with Riverbend community businesses.

More than 1,600 ducks raced to the finish line in the Lazy River, with more than 150 as prize winners. Winners went home with Cardinals baseball tickets, restaurant gift certificates, BBQ grill, baskets and much more, all compliments of donations from the Riverbend community.

Thank-you to the following sponsors of the 2015 Duck Race:

WBGZ/AltonDailyNews.com named June 2015 Small Business of Month

Congratulations to WBGZ owner Sam Stemm and his staff on being selected the June 2015 Small Business of the Month award. WBGZ is located at 227 Market Street in downtown Alton.

WBGZ is a locally owned and operated radio station and has been in business for 67 years. Their dials are 1570AM and 94.3FM. WBGZ is hyperlocal, focusing the majority of its broadcasts to local news and information.

For more information on WBGZ, visit altondailynews.com or call 618-465-3535.

Nominations being accepted for Captain of the RiverBend Awards

The Captain of the RiverBend Awards were created by the RiverBend Growth Association to help identify the many ways in which local businesses have enhanced the Riverbend region. Recognition awards will be given to businesses that have excelled in their efforts and achievements over the past year, from July 1, 2014, to June 30, 2015.

The businesses in our community are vital to the economic growth and development of the Riverbend region. Sales and real estate tax dollars, increased employment opportunities, job training and education, improved working conditions, and civic “marketing” provide city officials, civic organizations, and individuals with the tools for progress in many areas.

Please help us honor businesses deserving recognition by nominating a member company. All nominations need to be submitted by July 31, 2015.

The Captain Awards will be presented at the annual State of the RiverBend Luncheon on October 29, 2015.

Send an email to Joell Aguirre at jaguirre@growthassociation.com with the name of the member business you believe is deserving of this honor.

SAVE THE DATE

The RBGA annual women’s event will be held September 16, 2015 at Atrium Hotel & Conference Center.

Event details will be mailed to members soon!
The RiverBend Growth Association is now located in the Benjamin Godfrey Mansion at 6722 Godfrey Road, owned by Lewis & Clark Community College. The following story is a reprint from the menu of Benjamin’s which occupied the Mansion in the early 1990’s.

The Benjamin Godfrey Mansion

This gray limestone mansion, built between 1831 and 1833 by Captain Calvin Riley, was bought in 1834 by Captain Benjamin Godfrey. Godfrey enlarged the mansion and converted it into a grand country mansion marked by spacious southern-styled galleries.

The mansion, of a Greek Revival style with a southern influence, is built with eighteen-inch walls of limestone along with oak and other native structural lumber. The limestone used was brought up locally from the bluffs along the Mississippi River. This profile originates from Captain Benjamin Godfrey’s earlier years as a New England sea captain who sailed the world.

By the time Benjamin Godfrey came to Alton in 1832, he had already made and lost two fortunes and risked a third to build the Alton and Sangamon Railroad from Alton to Springfield.

Captain Godfrey also established the Alton branch of the Bank of Illinois and introduced new varieties of trees in his huge orchards on the vast acreage he owned.

When his railroad was completed, Benjamin Godfrey returned to his stone mansion and devoted himself to his favorite project, Monticello Female Seminary. Benjamin Godfrey had several daughters that he wished to educate and, for that reason, he founded the college in 1838 which is now known as Lewis & Clark Community College located just a mile south of Benjamin’s.

Because of Benjamin Godfrey’s numerous achievements and associations, the Benjamin Godfrey Mansion proved to be a significant piece of Godfrey, Illinois history. Abraham Lincoln often visited the mansion to meet with Godfrey as his personal lawyer. Another historical figure, Charles Lindbergh, used the field behind the mansion as a rest stop and refueling point for his mail flights.

The mansion remained in the Godfrey family until 1895 when the William L. Waters family purchased it. The Waters occupied it until 1962.

The Benjamin Godfrey Mansion was declared a national historical site by the Department of the Interior in 1934.