

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



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Fischer Lumber Company hosts June Business After Hours

Fischer Lumber was excited to host this month's Business After Hours, held June 23, 2016. Many RBGA members, community members, and community leaders joined Fischer Lumber owners and staff to celebrate 75 years in business!

Fischer Lumber, located at 210 N. Shamrock in East Alton, IL, is a full service lumberyard, servicing a 50 mile radius. The event was well-attended and food and drinks were featured by Chef Bob and State Street Market. Some attendees received prizes on behalf of Fischer Lumber ranging from Jeffrey's Flowers' centerpieces,

Fischer Lumber jackets and Cardinals baseball tickets. The evening was fun, relaxing and a perfect place to unwind while celebrating Fischer's success.

The company started three generations ago keeping it a family owned business. C.C. Fischer started the company passing it on to his son Chris C. Fischer. After retiring in 1995 as President of the company, Chris left it in the hands of his three sons, David, James, and Edward. The Fischer family is proud and continues to strive for success as they are able to employ more than 90 employees due to the increase of business.

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

Please join us and RSVP for the next BAH on July 21 at the Alton Marina as we have many hosts for the evening: Absolute Health Care Services, Alton Marina, Alton Materials, CNB Bank & Trust and Gentelin's on Broadway. Hope to see you there.



far left: Fischer Lumber featured State Street Market wines

near left: Chef Bob's staff members graciously served a wide selection of appetizers throughout the night.



A well-attended crowd helped celebrate Fischer Lumber's 75th Anniversary



Many community leaders joined the celebration as they networked.

Eppel's Pantry & Deli named June 2016 Small Business of the Month

The RBGA joined Jim Eppel and his staff on June 1, 2016 to congratulate Eppel's Pantry & Deli on being awarded Small Business of the Month for June 2016.

Eppel's Pantry & Deli, also known as The Pantry by most local residents, opened April 1, 2010 as a convenience store located in a very friendly, nice Godfrey area. They are different from most convenience stores being they are not a commuter-type business that sits off the highway or by a busy intersection. They rely on the community to stay in operation.

Eppel's Pantry & Deli's mission is to give back to the community. Part of their mission is to have a large community involvement and to have everyone feel comfortable and safe.

The Pantry has joined with local businesses to host annual events at the store. One of their biggest events is "Back to School Tie Dye Saturday." The pantry and other local businesses provided t-shirts and all the utensils to tie dye shirts for both children and adults free of charge. Children are encouraged to wear the shirts on their first day back to school.

Lots of time and effort has gone into improving the store's overall appearance over the years. Check out daily specials at the deli, and during the summer, visit LuLu's Shaved Ice right outside the store. Throughout the year, Jim Eppel has random "Clean-up Saturday" where teenagers from around the neighborhood help clean up the area.

Stop in and visit The



Community leaders, RBGA Ambassadors and Eppel's Pantry's staff celebrating June Small Business of the Month

Pantry at 1918 W. Delmar in Godfrey. Stay up-to-date with specials by liking their Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/Eppels-Pantry-and-Deli-102997739757443/timeline>.

Congratulations Jim Eppel and staff on your Small Business of the Month award.

Perfect Weather and 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 June 2nd at Raging Rivers Water Park marked the 18th year for the annual RiverBend Duck Race. 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, Old Bakery Beer, tropical drinks from Raifort Properties, delicious food compliments of Alton Sports Tap, Argosy Casino Alton featuring Hops House menu items, Atrium Hotel & Conference Center, Loading Dock, and Raging Rivers and endless opportunities for

networking with Riverbend community businesses.

More than 1,800 ducks raced to the finish line in the Lazy River, with more than 150 prize winners. Winners went home with Cardinals baseball tickets, restaurant gift certificates, BBQ grill sets, baskets and much more, all compliments of donations from the Riverbend community.

Thank you to the following sponsors of the 2016 Duck Race:

1st MidAmerica Credit Union, AdVantage NEWS, Airport Plaza Bowl, Alton School District, Alton Little Theater, Alton Memorial Hospital, Ameren Illinois, American Water, Andy's Auto Body & Car Care, APEXNetwork Physical Therapy, Argosy Casino Alton, Associated Bank, Beverly Farm, Bliss, Bowl Haven Lanes, Challenge Unlimited, Chick Fritz Distributing, C.J. Schlosser, Claywell Asset Management, CNB Bank & Trust, Contegra

Construction, Cope Plastics, Donnewald Distributing, Dream Home Realty, Freer Auto Body, Grafton Winery & Brewhaus, Hansen Meat Co, Hit & Run, Integrity Healthcare of Alton, Investment Planners, Jacoby Arts Center, JCH Healthcare, Jersey State Bank, Liberty Bank, Loading Dock, MedExpress Urgent Care, Midwest Members Federal Credit Union, OSF Saint Anthony's Health Center, Partners

Insurance Agency, Phillips 66 Wood River Refinery, Prestige Carpet & Upholstery Cleaning, Quality Buick GMC Cadillac, Raifort Properties, Riverbend Pediatric Dentistry, Raging Rivers Water Park, Roberts Motors/Quick Lane Tire & Auto, Senator Haine, SNIP Alliance,



Schiber Truck Company, Scott Credit Union, Simmons Hanly Conroy, SSM Physical Therapy, St. Peters Hardware & Rental, TheBANK of Edwardsville, The Telegraph, Toddle Towne Learning Center, WBGZ, and Ziemer USA.

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IBEW Local 649

New business, Ruby's Gaming, opens in Wood River

On June 23, 2016 the RBGA had a ribbon cutting for a new business and new member, Ruby's Gaming in Wood River, IL.

Ruby's is a gaming café that offers five gaming terminals that feature more than 50 different games to try your luck. Inside Ruby's Gaming, guests will experience a comfortable and welcoming atmosphere.

With many locations, Ruby's had their grand opening of the Wood River location and offered complimentary drinks and food.

The community members and community leaders were there to show support and to take part of both the ribbon cutting ceremony and grand opening.

Visit Ruby's Gaming today at 891 E. Edwardsville Rd, Wood River or visit their website at <http://www.playrubys.com/>. Also, like them on Facebook, <https://www.facebook.com/PlayRubys/>, to keep up with promotions and events taking place.



Fellow RBGA Ambassadors, Pat Schwarte of Riverbender.com, Martha Schultz of First Clover Leaf Bank-Wood River, Tom Hoechst of CNB Bank & Trust, Therese Kuddes of Kuddes Advertising Specialties, Kim Mosby of Partners Insurance, & David Knowles of Atrium Hotel join East Alton/Wood River community members to celebrate with Ruby's Gaming staff and owners for their Grand Opening.

New business to area, Mosquito Joe, joins RBGA

The RBGA joined a new member and new franchise owner, James Newcomer, to showcase Mosquito Joe at a ribbon cutting ceremony that was held at Homer Adams Park in Godfrey, IL.

Mosquito Joe is a pest control business that provides control treatment to both residential and commercial customers. With services ranging from barrier spray treatments, all-natural mosquito control treatments, and special event services, Mosquito Joe has something for everyone for every occasion.

With many different packages, promotions, and services, contact Mosquito Joe today at 618-215-3785 and visit their site at <http://madisonco.mosquitojoe.com/> for more information.

Congratulations and welcome to the area.



Fellow community members and RBGA Ambassadors joined the RBGA ribbon cutting ceremony for Mosquito Joe.



Call today for services and information.

Welcome our newest members to the RiverBend Growth Association

Amare, NFP

Ty Bechel
P.O. Box 384
Wood River IL 62095
416 Oak St
East Alton IL 62024
(618) 780-4843
amarenfp.org
Amare, a 501(c)(3), works with those in early recovery from drug/alcohol addiction along with the community by encouraging volunteering. Those in recovery and their families have support groups to heal and mend relationships, and Amare wants to serve as a way for the community to improve by working towards overall betterment. We work with organizations like The Legendary Mustang Sanctuary (Alhambra). We have partnered with Chestnut Health Systems (Granite City) to work with individuals searching to get well. Amare believes volunteering assists in building positive character and relationships. In any capacity, volunteering is simply incredible. We are building bridges and breaking communication barriers by doing our part in lifting up our community by providing awareness events and resource information for those in need.



discuss your meal preferences, we create a menu, shop for all the groceries, come to your home to prepare the meals, package and label the meals with heating instructions, store the meals in your refrigerator and freezer, and clean the kitchen when we're finished. If you are interested in having a party in the comfort of your home without having to worry about the food, we will take care of that for you.

Fitness for the Soul

Tabitha Schulte Owner
4425 Industrial Drive (inside Nautilus Fitness Center)
Alton IL 62002
(618) 917-4475
tabfitnessforthesoul.com/

Step away from your workout or just your routine and walk into a room of tranquility at Fitness for the Soul massage. Whether it be stress relief, sore muscles, or just quiet time we are here to help. We have three massage therapists, three massage rooms, and custom spray tans. Our services are/but not limited to swedish, prenatal, deep tissue, hot stone, hot bamboo, cupping, ear candling, and also an all-inclusive two hour massage. Help to restore the gift of harmony and balance to your life at Fitness for the Soul (inside Nautilus Fitness Center).



occupational health and wellness and prevention services. With warm, welcoming centers and a full medical team, centers are open 12 hours a day, seven days a week, with no appointment needed. Centers offer walk-in treatment for everyday illness and injury, including more advanced offerings such as X-rays, IVs, EKGs, labs, minor surgery, stitches and treatment for broken bones, sprains and strains. Patients can also receive wellness and prevention services such as physicals, wellness exams tobacco cessation counseling and flu shots.

Midwest Basement Tech

Steven Jones Vice President
P.O. Box 38
104 Ransom
Brighton IL 62012-0038
(618) 372-7077
midwestbasementtech.com/
Midwest Basement Tech is a fully insured specialist in waterproofing, foundation repairs and healthy home solutions for residential and commercial properties. A family owned business established by Steve and Karen Jones in the Alton area serving both sides of the river for over 35 years. Provides free estimates, lifetime transferable warranties, nationally backed warranties, and healthy basement certificates.



Midwest is a proud member of the Better Business Bureau with an A+ rating. Also, Midwest is a member of the Basement Health Association which provides ongoing training and certification for Midwest with the only waterproofing specialist in the area. Midwest knows what will or will not work for the homes foundation. Midwest is a hi-tech specialty firm which utilizes nationally known patented waterproofing and foundation repair methods and is able to

evaluate and recommend the best possible solution for your family and the foundation of the home. Homeowners, realty firms, builders, architects and engineers will attest to the quality, reliability and service satisfaction of the firm. Midwest believes in old fashion quality and it shows from start to finish.

Mosquito Joe of Madison County

James Newcomer Owner
34 Steele Drive
Granite City IL 62040-5226
(618) 600-1435
madisonco.mosquitojoe.com



Outside is fun again.

When it's mosquito season in Madison, Bond, Macoupin, and Jersey Counties of Illinois, it's tempting to hide inside. Mosquitoes ruin outdoor fun and expose us to insect-borne disease. Now, Mosquito Joe can help. Mosquito Joe provides mosquito control solutions for residential and commercial properties. Our technicians visit your property to deliver convenient and effective mosquito control treatments to rid your yard of mosquitoes, ticks and fleas. Learn more about our services or contact us for a free quote.

Hours of operation are Monday-Friday from 7am to 5pm and Saturday from 8am to 2pm.

Olga's Kitchen

Tammy Hayden Manager
206 Alton Square
Alton IL 62002-5919
(618) 462-0642
olgas.com



Chris B's Culinary Creations LLC

Chris Bennett Chef/Owner
880 Albers Ln
Bethalto IL 62010-1157
(618) 520-1250
chrisbsculinarycreations.com



ChrisB's Culinary Creations is a personal chef service that prepares meals for you and your family to enjoy. We also cater in-home dinner parties as well. After a free consultation to

MedExpress Urgent Care

1704 Homer M. Adams Pkwy
Alton IL 62002
(618) 465-0260
medexpress.com

OPENING JULY 20, 2016



As a neighborhood medical center, MedExpress offers a broad scope of urgent care,

AMBASSADOR SPOTLIGHT

David Knowles

Atrium Hotel & Conference Center

I am the Catering Director at the Atrium Hotel and Conference Center. The Atrium Hotel has been a member of the Growth Association as long as I can remember and we like to take full advantage of all of the networking opportunities offered by this organization. I also have been on the board for Alton Memorial Hospital White Cross Auxiliary for the past 8 years, Altonized Community Federal Credit Union for 4 years, Pride Incorporated for the last year, and also act as a volunteer with several other non-profit organizations.



I have worked for Holiday Inn Alton/ Atrium hotel for the last 17 years and have had the opportunity to work with many of the people in the Riverbend community. The best part of my job is working with so many repeat guests and being able to develop relationships with people. It is so rewarding to be able to work with a family who is holding their third daughter's wedding reception here or to be able to have a corporate client call me and say "Hey David, just set my meeting up the same way we did last time." The hotel is going through major renovation over the next few months and a new brand will be announced soon. I look forward to all of the exciting new changes.

I was born in St. Louis but raised in the Riverbend area since the age of 5. I've been married for the last 23 years to my wife, Mary, who was born and raised in Alton. We have two children, Andrew, a college student and Anna, a student at St. Mary's. I enjoy running at 4:30am with the girls (my faithful running mates) and when I am not working I enjoy spending time with my family and friends. I invite everyone to stop by the hotel to see the changes as they take place and enjoy a cold beverage or bite to eat from our fantastic Franco's Restaurant or Lily's Lounge. If you ever have any hotel, banquet or meeting needs please call me and I look forward to meeting everyone.

Matt Kotzamanis

TheBANK of Edwardsville

Matthew Kotzamanis is the Retail Lending Officer at TheBANK of Edwardsville's Alton Center. An employee of TheBANK since 2005, Matthew's job focuses on helping customers secure construction, auto, home and small business loans, as well as establishing lines of credit. He is also an active member of the RiverBend community as Treasurer of the RiverBend Rotary Club, a member of Kiwanis Club of Bethalto, and a member of the Alton Area Business Development Association. He was honored in 2011 as one of the "20 Under 40" by the Telegraph and the RiverBend Growth Association for his contributions to the area.



A first generation American citizen with parents emigrating from Greece and Slovenia, Matthew grew up in the restaurant business, establishing a keen understanding of what it means to be a business owner as well as the value of hard work. He has carried the lessons learned from his upbringing into his adult professional life, citing the most rewarding part of his job as the opportunity to help others make their dreams come true. Matthew lives in Bethalto with his wife, Brandy, and has two children: Lacy, a 22-year-old graduate of Oklahoma State University; and 9-year-old son, John. Matthew's hobbies include exercising, working on home improvements, and spending time with his family.

Therese Kuddes

Kuddes Advertising Specialties

I am **Therese Kuddes** and my husband, Kevin, and I own Kuddes Advertising Specialties and Bridge Coin. I have been selling advertising promotional items since 1983. Kuddes Advertising Specialties was started by Donald E. Kuddes in 1955 and has always been locally owned and operated.



I am active with the RiverBend Growth Association. I was born and raised in Louisville, KY, graduated from Mercy Academy High School and attended Western KY University. My husband and I have lived in Godfrey for more than 29 years and we are members of St. Ambrose Catholic Church. We have two sons, Ben, a Civil Engineer in Little Rock, AR; and Brian, a Marketing Representative for Prudential Insurance working in Springfield, IL.



• 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/>

Mayor Report - James V. Spann, Village of Hartford



The Confluence of the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers is a great place to be. The Village of Hartford

is a confluence of modes of transportation beginning with the two great rivers that provide river transportation north and south, followed by a great rail system that can move products east and west, complemented by a great highway system to move product and people north, south, east and west.

The Village of Hartford is extremely excited about bringing visitors to our region. Being located at the entrance of the Meeting of the Great Rivers National Scenic Byway is a great opportunity to sell our region to 25,000 vehicles traveling Illinois Route 3 each day. The Lewis and Clark State Historic Site is bringing visitors from all

over the world to our region to learn about Site #1 of the Lewis and Clark Trail. The Confluence Bikeway located on top of our levee system provides great access to the Great River Road.

The Lewis and Clark Confluence Tower is thriving with new programming and new partners highlighting interpretive displays about our communities as well as serving as a Welcome Center to the Meeting of the Great Rivers National Scenic Byway and we have recently dedicated a new 180 seat amphitheatre to further celebrate the talent in our region. Join us Tuesday evenings in July and August for live music celebrating the new amphitheatre and soak up some local music at a beautiful venue.

The tower is the centerpiece of the Lewis and Clark Commerce Center, a 60+ acre commercial strip located on Route 3 at a lighted intersection. These 60+ acres are located between two free

World Class museums -- the Lewis and Clark State Historic Site located at Route 3 and New Poag Road in Hartford and the National Great Rivers Museum located at Lock and Dam 26 in Alton. The 50 acre Lewis and Clark Commerce Center is open for business for commercial development with utilities, Tax Increment Financing and Enterprise Zone Incentives in place.

The Village of Hartford is looking for industrial development on the 375+ industrial acres along Illinois Highway 111, south of the refinery complex with a truck route, rail access, Tax Increment Financing and Enterprise Zone Incentives.

The Village hopes to grow existing businesses and attract new partners to develop industrial business in the Helmkamp industrial area and an entertainment district around the Lewis and Clark Confluence Tower. Hartford is implementing its

Comprehensive Plan to assist the village in exploring new development opportunities that have not yet been explored.

2016 has been a busy year already with the lining of the Hawthorne Street's 48" sewer, overlaying of Piasa Lane, flood fighting, annexing over 300 acres and completion of a new Business District. We are currently seeking bids to resurface Old St. Louis Road from 5th to 7th Street, beginning resurfacing and new sidewalks to Central Avenue and have just received grants to resurface North Delmar and install a new waterline on South Market.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank The Village of Hartford employees and elected officials for their continued dedication to making Hartford a great place to live and work. I look forward to improving the Village during my term as Mayor.

Bliss salon now offers Bare Minerals

On June 22, 2016, the RBGA joined the community and community leaders of Godfrey to help celebrate a new line being featured at Bliss with owner Kaysee Johnson.

In April, Bliss started selling the product Bare Minerals which is a well-known natural line only offered at select locations in the area. "You no longer have to go to St. Louis for the product, we offer it right here in Godfrey," says owner Kaysee Johnson.

Bare Minerals offers products ranging from make-ups, skin care, and kits for your everyday health & beauty care.

Bliss is a professional spa & salon that provides services and products to fit your everyday needs. Bliss has also partnered with the American Cancer Society to help

cancer treatment patients. The staff members are trained volunteers that can cut and style a wig for no charge to anyone going through treatment.

Visit Bliss today, 3047 Godfrey Rd, Godfrey Il 62035 to inquire more and to experience the services. "Like" them on Facebook to keep up with specials and products being offered at <https://www.facebook.com/Bliss-Massage-Skin-Care-Center-187084807980016/>.



Bliss staff, community members, and community leaders join the ribbon cutting ceremony for Bliss to showcase a new product, Bare Minerals, offered now.

Additional location for Franklin & Vaughn in Alton

On June 7, 2016, the RBGA, community leaders, community members, staff, and family joined at an open house to host a ribbon cutting for Franklin & Vaughn, LLC to officially announce the combining of Croxford & Company and Franklin & Vaughn. The actual merging took place in October 2015. Mark Vaughn explains that with the merge, clients will still receive the same great service with the same great professional staff.

Franklin & Vaughn, LLC now has offices in Edwardsville and Alton. Visit them today in Alton at 2852 Homer Adams Parkway for CPA services ranging from audits, tax preparation, and bookkeeping from experienced and certified accountants.

Stop by or call 618-462-1162 for more information.

The RBGA congratulates Franklin & Vaughn and wishes them the best on the new transition.



Ambassadors, community leaders, community members, and staff joined to celebrate the combination of Croxford & Company and Franklin & Vaughn with a ribbon cutting.

Networking Opportunities for RBGA members

On June 15, the RBGA held one of its monthly networking events. Breakfast Connections is held every other month on the even months of the year. The events' agenda varies from month to month. Some months have speakers from the community speaking on a variety of topics related to the workforce. In other months, activities are held that give members the opportunity to spotlight their business or place of employment in a collaborative way. There is always time before and after to network with others in attendance. Members are encouraged to bring literature about the products and services they offer and/or flyers for any upcoming events they may have.



very informative slide-show presentation on FICO scores. She discussed having peace of mind by illustrating the "hows" to improve your score and to maintain a good score. Roughly 40 attendees at Atrium Hotel in Alton enjoyed this presentation and left the luncheon more aware of FICO.

The presentation was informative to everyone in attendance, and the RBGA encourages you to seek out the opportunity to attend the next event.

This month a representative from Scott Credit Union, Ashleigh Deatherage, did a

Please mark your calendar and network with us on July 20th for the next Total Networking Luncheon event at Julia's Banquet Center where we will have Patrick Buchana presenting "Taking Control of Your Money."

Port District Receives Award for Commitment to Logistics and Distribution

America's Central Port District was recognized as a winner of the 8th annual EDIE awards at the 2016 Illinois Chamber of Commerce Annual Meeting and Luncheon held June 14th in Chicago, Illinois. The Port was one of five winners out of 22 applicants.

The EDIE Awards, sponsored by ComEd, are designed by the Illinois Chamber of Commerce and the Illinois Economic Development Association (IEDA) to honor those who imagine, design, invest, build, and bring jobs, growth and prosperity to communities in Illinois. It is the job creation and growth provided by those innovative companies that acts as an economic lifeline for our state.

With the completion and opening of its new multi-modal Madison Harbor in January, the Port is positioning itself to create more jobs and transportation opportunities for the State of Illinois and the St. Louis region. The \$50 million lock and ice-free harbor, located on the Mississippi River, increases the on-loading

and off-loading capabilities of the Port's operators, while also positioning the Port for the future of containerized shipping.

"This is a great honor for both the Port District and the City of Madison," said John Hamm III, Mayor of Madison, IL and current board chairman of America's Central Port.

"Since the Port began in 1959, our mission has been to create job growth and transportation opportunities, and development for the region," said Hamm. "Through ongoing collaboration and teamwork, the Port plans to continue infrastructure investments for the benefit of our state."

Hundreds were in attendance at the annual luncheon, including Illinois Governor, Bruce Rauner, who gave remarks congratulating the Port and all EDIE award recipients. Chairman, President, and CEO of The Boeing Company, Dennis Muilenburg, was the keynote speaker for this event.

www.americascentralport.com

TheBANK Honored for Financial Literacy Program

TheBANK of Edwardsville was honored recently by Nasdaq and EverFi for its work in helping educate local students at the



2016 Financial Education Awards ceremony in New York City, earning the 2015-16 Financial Education Innovation Award.

“TheBANK of Edwardsville has been a wonderful partner with us for several years and has made such a big impact in the lives of thousands of students through its Financial Literacy Program,” Tim Convey, vice president of EverFi said.

TheBANK’s schools-based financial education program is making a positive impact on students’ understanding critical financial topics. Data collected from more than 2,800 students who completed the program in the 2015 school year revealed that students’ understanding of financial topics increased by an average 35 percent after interacting with the curriculum.

TheBANK of Edwardsville Financial Literacy program is a web-based interactive course designed to empower young people with the essential skills needed to make sound financial decisions. TheBANK of Edwardsville has partnered with leading education technology company EverFi to bring this interactive program to 17 high schools in Illinois at no cost. High schools currently using TheBANK’s program include, Metro East Lutheran,

Triad, Edwardsville, East St. Louis, Granite City, Madison, Highland, O’Fallon, Belleville Althoff, Alton, Alton Marquette, Collinsville, Belleville East, Belleville West, Bethalto-Civic

Memorial, East Alton-Wood River and Roxana.

TheBANK of Edwardsville’s Financial Literacy Program uses the latest in simulations and gaming to bring complex financial concepts to life for today’s digital generation. The high school course offers over eight hours of programming with ten units in a variety of financial topics including credit scores, insurance, credit cards, student loans, mortgages, taxes, stocks, savings, 401k’s and other critical concepts that map to national financial literacy standards. The platform uniquely tracks the progress and performance of every student.

TheBANK of Edwardsville is a leading, locally-owned bank in the St. Louis metro area with 21 locations in Illinois and Missouri. TheBANK has a tradition of providing personal service, offering the most innovative products and giving back to the communities in which it serves dating back to 1868. For more information, please visit us online at www.4thebank.com, on Facebook at www.facebook.com/thebankofedwardsville or on Twitter at @4thebank.

Freer Auto Body & Accessories Inc. Earns Official Certification

- Freer Auto Body & Accessories Inc. has been
- officially Certified by Assured
- Performance, a non-
- profit consumer advocacy
- organization
- for maintaining
- the right tools,
- equipment,
- training, and
- facility necessary to repair the
- participating Automaker brand
- vehicles according to the
- manufacturer’s specifications.
- In achieving their certification,
- Freer Auto Body & Accessories
- Inc. is now an integral part
- of the most advanced repair
- capable and efficient auto
- body repair network in
- the world. Adding to their
- credentials, Freer Auto Body
- & Accessories Inc. is officially
- recognized by Assured
- Performance, FCA, GM, Ford,
- Infiniti, and Hyundai.



- To become Certified and
- officially recognized by the
- various Automakers, Freer
- Auto Body & Accessories
- Inc. passed the rigorous
- certification process essential
- to help ensure a proper
- and safe repair of the new
- generation of advanced
- vehicles. Less than 5 percent
- of body shops across the
- nation are able to meet the
- stringent requirements to
- become officially Certified
- and recognized. The Certified
- network is made up exclusively
- of best-in-class collision
- repair businesses that
- have met or exceeded the
- stringent requirements of the
- certification program.

- According to Freer Auto
- Body & Accessories Inc. owner,
- Timothy L. Freer, “We’ve
- worked hard to stay ahead

of the curve in the collision repair industry. This official Certification demonstrates that commitment to our customers. We take pride in our highly trained technicians who use the latest tools and equipment to deliver a top quality repair and the best customer service.”

The certification criteria is based upon auto manufacturer requirements. These are critical to ensure the vehicle fit, finish, durability, value and safety following an accident. As new model vehicles are being introduced that use light weight high strength materials and advanced technology, a proper repair according to manufacturer specification is even more important than ever to ensure the passenger safety and proper performance of the vehicle. Auto manufacturers want to ensure that consumers have the option of Certified Collision Repair wherever they live, work, or travel.

“Consumers need the confidence and peace of mind to know their vehicle is repaired by a shop that has what it takes to ensure the vehicle safety. Freer Auto Body & Accessories Inc. is officially a Collision Care Provider™,” said Scott Biggs, CEO of Assured Performance Collision Care. “They represent the standard by which all other body shops are measured.”

For more information, Freer Auto Body & Accessories Inc. can be reached at 618-466-6151 or <http://freerautobody.com>.

SNIP Alliance opens pet food pantry

On Friday June 24, 2016, the RiverBend Growth Association joined SNIP Alliance to showcase their new Riverbend Pet Food Pantry behind the Public Works Building in Alton, IL. Part of SNIP's mission is to provide education to the public on benefits of spray-neuter services and providing low cost to the public. Now they are excited to be able to have a location with capacity to take donated items for pets to distribute fairly.

Please visit and like SNIP Alliance on Facebook , <https://www.facebook.com/snipalliance>, to keep up-to-date about drop off locations to help contribute to the food pantry.

Congratulations to SNIP Alliance!



SNIP Alliance Board Members, Matt Asselmeier, and Ambassadors Lee McRaven of OSF St. Anthony's and Martha Schultz of First Clover Leaf-Wood River celebrate at the ribbon cutting ceremony.

Jersey State Bank Offers 7 Tips to Avoid Online Fraud

Every year, millions of consumers fall victim to cybercrime. According to the FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center, in 2014, consumers lost more than \$800 million from scams initiated through the web. In recognition of Internet Safety Month in June, Jersey State Bank is highlighting seven tips to help consumers protect themselves from online fraud.

"The Internet has become one of the most popular tools used to commit fraud and criminals are becoming more and more sophisticated with their hacking techniques," said Jim Hoefert, President. "Victims perceive a level of trust from the criminals and then become vulnerable to their offering, resulting in a breach to their personal information. As a result, it's extremely important for consumers to secure their wireless networks and filter the amount of personal information they choose to divulge online."

Jersey State Bank

recommends the following tips to keep you safe online:

Keep your computers and mobile devices up to date.

Having the latest security software, web browser, and operating system are the best defenses against viruses, malware, and other online

threats. Turn on automatic updates so you receive the newest fixes as they become available.

Set strong passwords. A strong password is at least eight characters in length and includes a mix of upper and lowercase letters, numbers, and special characters.

Watch out for phishing scams. Phishing scams use fraudulent emails and websites to trick users into disclosing private account or login information. Do not click on links or open any attachments or pop-up screens from sources you are not familiar with.

Forward phishing emails to

the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) at spam@uce.gov – and to the company, bank, or organization impersonated in the email.



Keep personal information personal. Hackers can use social media profiles to figure out your passwords and answer those security questions in the password reset tools. Lock down your privacy settings and avoid posting things like birthdays, addresses, mother's maiden name, etc. Be wary of requests to connect from people you do not know.

Secure your internet connection. Always protect your home wireless network with a password. When connecting to public Wi-Fi networks, be cautious about what information you are sending over it.

Shop safely. Before shopping online, make sure the website uses secure technology. When

you are at the checkout screen, verify that the web address begins with https. Also, check to see if a tiny locked padlock symbol appears on the page.

Read the site's privacy policies. Though long and complex, privacy policies tell you how the site protects the personal information it collects. If you don't see or understand a site's privacy policy, consider doing business elsewhere.

Jersey State Bank, the only locally owned and operated Bank in Jersey County, has a long history as a trusted provider of financial products and services to Jersey County and the surrounding area. Established in 1903, the Bank has assets in excess of \$140 million and currently two offices to serve its customers in Jerseyville and Grafton.

www.jerseystatebank.com

RiverBend Golf Classic 2016

The RBGA's annual golf tournament was Friday, June 17, 2016 at Woodlands Golf Course in Alton, IL. This year's tournament was a full day of golfing and networking with members of the RBGA and members of the community. Thank you to all of our sponsors and teams that participated this year:

Exclusive Sponsor

1st Mid America Credit Union

Eagle Sponsor

Alton Memorial Hospital

Clubhouse Sponsors

Andy's Auto Body & Car Care, First Clover Leaf Bank, Illinois American Water, Phillips 66 Wood River Refinery, and Riverbend Pediatric Dentistry

Own Your Own Hole

Sponsors

Airport Plaza Bowl/ Bowl Haven Lanes, Express Employment Professionals, and Quality Buick GMC Cadillac

Beverage Sponsors

Alton Center Business Park, Argosy, Carpenters Local #664, Donnewald Distributing, Robert "Chick" Fritz, and TheBANK of Edwardsville

Putting Green Sponsors

Alton Marina and State Representative Dan Beiser

Team Sponsors

Alton Securities & Asset Advisors, Argosy Casino, Bluff City Grill, Carrollton Bank, CNB Bank & Trust in Alton and Shipman, Jersey State Bank, Lewis & Clark

Community College, Liberty Bank, Midwest Members Credit Union, "Chick" Fritz, Sheppard Morgan & Schwaab, State Farm Karen Wilson, TheBank of Edwardsville, and Werts Welding & Tank Service

Hole Sign Sponsors

AdVantage NEWS, Altonized Community Federal Credit Union, Atrium Hotel & Conference Center, Beverly Farm, Bluff City Grill, Carrollton Bank, CNB Bank & Trust, GCS Credit Union, Imaging Center of Alton, Kuddes Advertising Specialties/Bridge Coin, Macias Insurance, Midwest Members Federal Credit Union, Mike Babcock for State Representative 111th District, Nautilus Fitness Center, OSF Saint Anthony's Health Center, Riverbend Kitchen & Millwork LLC, Royal Office Products, Scott Credit Union, Sheppard Morgan & Schwaab, Simmons

Hanly Conroy, Wegman Electric Company

Hole in One Sponsor

Roberts Motors

Prize Sponsors

Catdaddy's Tavern, Republic Services, Rib City, Rick Faccin-Madison County Auditor, Riverbend Kitchen & Millwork, State Representative Dan Beiser

2016 RBGA Golf Classic Tournament Results

Flight A:

1st Lewis & Clark Community College with a score of 55
 2nd Place: Alton Memorial Hospital with a score of 57
 3rd Place: Alton Securities with a score of 57

Flight B:

1st Place: Continuum Technology Group with a score of 60
 2nd Place: First Clover Leaf Bank with a score of 60

3rd Place: Campbell/Osbourn/Bauer/Bauer with a score of 61

Flight C:

1st Place: Adams/Bristow/Hardin/Roth with a score of 65
 2nd Place: 1st Mid America Team 2 with a score of 65
 3rd Place: Bank of Edwardsville with a score of 65

Longest Drive:

Women: Amber Scott of 1st Mid America Credit Union
 Men: Justin Kleinschmidt of Sheppard Morgan & Schwaab

Closest to Pin:

Women: Meredith Elfrink of State Farm-Karen Wilson
 Men: Steve Palen of City of Wood River

Putting Contest:

Ryan Aulabaugh

Skins:

Carrollton Bank & Riverbend Pediatric Dentistry

50/50 winner:

Steve Palen

