

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



NOVEMBER 2015

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November BAH Hosts Showcased Community Giving

Dream Home Realty Centre assembled a dynamic team of hosts for the November Business After Hours networking event: Belk Park Golf Course, Chef Bob's Catering, Federal Steel, Fischer Lumber, Helmkamp Construction, Marks Mortuary, Stock Auto Body, Sweet Sisters Cakes and Confections, TheBANK of Edwardsville and Wegman Electric.

Dream Home Realty Centre owner and managing broker Sherry Gilleland set a goal to fill two semis for the sole purpose of helping area charities reach out to those in

need. Attendees at the November 12th event donated cash and items such as new clothes, toys, nonperishable food items, pet supplies, cleaning and laundry supplies and more at this networking event.

Dream Home Realty Centre is still accepting donations for these semis through December 5, 2015. Items can be dropped off at their location in Wood River at 543 Ferguson Avenue. For questions or comments on this opportunity for donation, call 618-497-4663 or visit dreamhomerealtycentre.com.



Chef Bob's Catering



Bemis Wilderman named November 2015 Small Business of the Month

Congratulations to Bemis Wilderman Chiropractic on being named the November 2015 Small Business of the Month. Bemis Wilderman Chiropractic is located at 230 Regional Drive in Alton.

Dr. Ryan Bemis and Dr. Chris Wilderman have been serving the Riverbend community with their chiropractic care since 1997. They have been at the current location since September 2012.

Along with the common treatment for neck and back pain, there are many other services they provide: carpal tunnel syndrome, dizziness, headaches, joint stiffness,

leg pain, low energy, muscle spasms, numbness and tingling, scoliosis, shoulder and arm pain, stress, weight loss and many more.

Bemis Wilderman Chiropractic offers a variety of spinal adjustments that are safe, effective and gentle. The doctors utilize the following techniques taught by Palmer College of Chiropractic: Gonstead, Diversified and the Palmer Package.

For more information on Bemis Wilderman Chiropractic, visit www.bemiswildermanchiropractic.com or call 618-433-9333.



Congratulations to the team at Bemis Wilderman Chiropractic on the award of November 2015 Small Business of the Month: Dr. Ryan Bemis, Dr. Chris Wilderman, Terri Bryant, Chrissy Linenfelser, Shonna Fortscheider and Carol Feldewerth. Other Riverbend leaders who celebrated with the team are Trish Holmes and Tom Hoechst of CNB Bank & Trust, David Knowles of Atrium Hotel & Conference Center, Mitch Cannell of Logolt, Stephanie Tate of the Alton Regional Convention & Visitors Bureau, Matt Kotzamanis of TheBANK of Edwardsville, Pat Schwarte of Riverbender.com, Karen McAtee of the Village of Godfrey, RBGA President Monica Bristow and Kathy Weaver of Investment Planners.

Bristow receives prestigious Chamber Executive of the Year award



Monica Bristow, President, RiverBend Growth Association, was recognized by her peers at the Illinois Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives (IACCE) Awards Dinner held during their 100th annual Fall Conference Thursday, November 5.

As a chamber executive, Bristow has been a strong advocate for chamber members and a unified voice for the community. Her involvement does not end with the chamber...it expands throughout the community as a representative and officer of many boards and local organizations.

As IACCE Chair, Bristow was instrumental in encouraging board conversations regarding IACCE's role in the

development of local chamber staff and recognizing the need to allocate more time and resources to accomplishing IACCE's Strategic Plan as adopted in 2012. As a result of her willingness to hold difficult discussions with board leadership and Doug Whitley, then the President of the Illinois Chamber, Monica paved the way to formalize the separation of IACCE from the Illinois Chamber.

In the speech given to nominate Bristow, Debbie Arell-Martinez, Executive Director of the O'Fallon - Shiloh Chamber, said, "On a daily basis, as the President of the RiverBend Growth Association, Monica juggles the needs of the Chamber of Commerce and the Economic Development Organization for the communities of the Riverbend. Monica is involved in everything from education to legislation to economic development as well as

day-to-day operations of the chamber. She works with multiple municipalities, school districts, labor groups, large and small businesses as well as non-profit organizations. As an Economic Development Organization, she works closely with state, regional, county and local officials to develop new employment opportunities. Monica's work in the community is unending: serving on the United Way Southwestern Illinois Auxiliary Board, OSF St. Anthony's Hospital business and professional committee, Madison-Bond Workforce Investment Board, the Rotary of the Riverbend and many other community organizations."

"The Illinois chamber community is stronger today because of the professionals who lead the way," explains Einar Forsman President & CEO, Rockford Area Chamber of Commerce and Chairman of

IACCE's board of directors. "I've had the pleasure and honor of working with Monica for a number of years. She exemplifies the spirit of the Brann Award."

The Distinguished Illinois Chamber of Commerce Executive Award was begun in 1991 to recognize the exemplary performance and leadership of an Illinois chamber executive within their local chamber, their community and to the chamber profession. The award is named in honor of Lester W. Brann, Jr., CCE, the first recipient of the award and past president of the Illinois Chamber of Commerce.

IACCE is proud to have chosen Monica Bristow as this year's Chamber Executive of the Year.



2015

Board of Directors

Karen Cooper, Chairman
 John Keller, Past Chairman
 Karen Wilson, Chairman Elect
 Mike Fitzgerald, Treasurer
 Jeff Allsman
 Tom Berry
 Dale Blachford
 Jake Bodi
 David Braasch
 Stephanie Dykstra
 Melissa Erker
 Mike Farrell
 Kevin Hamilton
 Pam Heepke
 Jennifer Jacobsen
 Charles Linnemeyer
 Alan Meyer
 Dave Miller
 Scott Reichmann
 Cindy Roth
 Ed Ryrice
 Kent Scheffel
 Diane Schuette
 Rob Schwartz
 Cindy Smalley
 Sam Stemm
 Dave Stevenson
 Dan St. Peters
 Steve Thompson
 Denise Wolff
 Jess Woodman
 Augie Wuellner
 Charlie Yancey

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 William Kessler
 Debra Kreutztrager
 Mayor Mike McCormick
 Supervisor Doug Mueller
 Mayor Paul Oller
 John Pearson
 Mayor Joe Silkwood
 Mayor James Spann
 Ken Spells
 Brett Stawar
 Charles Stegall
 Mayor Tom Thompson
 Mayor Brant Walker
 Mayor Alan Winslow

Welcome our newest members to the RiverBend Growth Association

Advance Auto Parts

Victor Peralez General Manager
 934 E. Edwardsville Road
 Wood River IL 62095
 (618) 259-2356
 shop.advanceautoparts.com

Firehouse Subs

Hannah Mazanek Lukowski,
 Owner
 317 Homer Adams Pkwy Suite J
 Alton IL 62002
 (618) 433-8769
 firehousesubs.com

Four Leaf Marketing

Krista Reese, Owner
 3723 West Delmar Ave
 Godfrey IL 62035
 (314) 730-2899
 fourleafmarketing.com

From a one-time project to an ongoing marketing plan, Four Leaf Marketing can work with budgets of any size.

Four Leaf Marketing is a one-stop shop for all your marketing needs. We manage everything from developing strategies, planning, and implementing the perfect plan for your business.

Below are a few examples of what Four Leaf Marketing can do for you:

Consulting– business strategy, target consumer identification, long-term marketing plans, promotional strategy

Graphic design– logos, ads, business cards, brochures, billboards, menus, photography

Online marketing– website, social media, email marketing, search engine optimization, blogging, blogger outreach

Traditional marketing– print, radio, video, direct marketing

Public relations and reputation management– community events and involvement, media placement, press releases

Event planning– tradeshow, customer events, seminars

Call Krista at 314-730-2899 or email Krista@fourleafmarketing.com for a free consultation!

Illinois State Treasurer Michael Frerichs

Dan Kovats, Outreach Asst.
 One West Old State Capital Plaza Suite 400
 Springfield IL 62701
 217-557-4356
 www.illinoistreasurer.gov

The Illinois Treasurer is the state's chief investment officer and Frerichs is a Certified Public Finance Officer. He protects consumers by encouraging savings plans for college or trade school, increasing financial education among all ages, and removing barriers to a secure retirement. As the state's Chief Investment Officer, he actively manages approximately \$25 billion. The portfolio includes \$13 billion in state funds, \$7 billion in college savings plans and \$5 billion on behalf of local and state governments. The investment approach is cautious to ensure the preservation of capital and returns \$28 to the state for every \$1 spent in operations. The Treasurer's Office predates Illinois incorporation in 1818. Voters in 1848 chose to make it an elected office.

Phoenix Physical Therapy

Chris Amick
 935 E Airline Drive
 East Alton IL 62024
 (618) 258-9093
 phoenix-pt.com

Phoenix Physical Therapy is a local, therapist owned company. We are located at 935 E. Airline Drive, just down the road from the airport in the East Alton/Bethalto area. We are conveniently located near I-255, Rt. 140, and Rt. 111. The East Alton/Bethalto clinic is under new management, with Chris Amick bringing his 13+ years of outpatient experience to the location. We specialize in outpatient physical therapy, post-surgical rehab, vestibular rehab (specialized treatment for dizziness and vertigo),

sports and running injuries, and personal training. We have a 2000+ square foot personal training and sports performance gym located within the facility, in addition to the physical therapy area. Our personal trainers emphasize health and fitness coaching, and we have very affordable individual and group packages. Tours of the personal training gym and PT facility are available during regular business hours, along with free screenings. To schedule physical therapy, a free screening, or tour of our facility, please contact us at (618) 258-9093.

SuePer Marketing Ideas

Sue and Larry Pruett, Owners
 32950 Delhi Road
 Brighton IL 62012
 (618) 372-3501

SuePer Marketing Ideas helps local companies reach their growth potential by creating and implementing customized Internet marketing systems. We allow business owners to do what they do best – run their business. Our job is to be the local marketing expert that leverages technology to achieve maximum results for your business. We do this through setting up, optimizing, and managing your online presence. We turn your pretty website into an effective website that is search engine friendly, and will grow your bottom line.

We help you keep in touch and interact with your prospects, clients, customers, or patients with a cohesive online presence that is open and friendly through email marketing and social media. This helps them become raving loyal fans of your business.

We also help local businesses sell their physical products online all over the world via online marketplaces as well as on your own website.

SuePer Marketing Ideas - Turning Your Web Presence into Web Profits™

AMBASSADOR SPOTLIGHT

Dick Propes

Retired

Dick Propes is a retired elementary principal from the Alton School District. He is a graduate of Southwest Baptist University, Bolivar, MO and Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, IL. He served in the Army during the Korean War. Since retiring, he has kept busy travelling and volunteering, hoping to make this a better community. He serves as Chair for Lewis & Clark Community College Scholarship Program, serves on the White Cross Auxiliary Board, volunteers at Alton Memorial Hospital, Program Chair for Godfrey Lions Club, Board member of Retired Teachers Association and Alton Youth Symphony and ushers at the Fox Theater. He is an active member of Main Street United Methodist Church. Dick has been honored with Retired Teacher of the Year Award, Our Hometown Hero, STAR Volunteer at Alton Memorial Hospital, Lion of the Year Award and Life Service Award from Southwest Baptist University. Dick and his wife Marge enjoy spending time with their daughter and son-in-law Karen and Bob Shaw. They have one granddaughter, Sarah.



Amy Schaake

Edwardsville Intelligencer

Amy Schaake has been active with the RiverBend Growth Association since 2008, serving on the Ambassador Committee and chairing the Awards Committee. Involvement in this organization has proven to be a networking opportunity that exceeds all others both personally and professionally.

Amy will be celebrating her fifth year as Director of Advertising at The Edwardsville Intelligencer. This multimedia organization extended the distribution to the River Bend area of our weekly, TMC, The Edge of The Weekend. The expansion of this news and entertainment publication into Maryville and Collinsville in December will take this mailbox delivery total to 30,000. The objective of The Intelligencer is to deliver to all higher income household of Madison County by the end of 2016.

Although I am very committed to my position with the Hearst Corporation, my greatest accomplishment had been my son, Brandon. I am blessed to have an incredible daughter-in-law, Samy and of course, granddaughter Brooklynn. My grandson Evan will join us in 2016!



Martha Schultz

First Clover Leaf Bank

Martha Schultz is a native of the RiverBend area having grown up on the family farm in Godfrey. She is a graduate of Alton Senior High School, and now resides in Cottage Hills with her husband Mark. Their daughter Heather is a flight attendant for Delta Airlines.

When Martha is not spending time with family and friends, you can find her at First Clover Leaf Bank in Wood River as the Assistant Vice President/ Branch Manager. Martha has always been active in the RiverBend area, not only as a banker for 29 years, but by all the volunteering she does. She is a member of the Wood River Rotary Club, Treasurer for the Bethalto Boys & Girls Club, Recording Secretary for the Wood River Women's Club and a member of the Wood River Heritage Council. She has also been a volunteer for the American Cancer Society for many years.

She feels it is privilege to serve the area in which she lives and works. The one thing she loves about her job and all the volunteering she does is the people she meets and the friends she has made along the way. As Ambassador for the RiverBend Growth Association, she has been able to continue to help serve the community and meet a lot of great people.



Advance Auto Parts Celebrates Grand Opening

Congratulations to the team at Advance Auto Parts on the grand opening of their store at 934 E. Edwardsville Road in Wood River.

Advance Auto Parts is your one stop shop for any item you need for your automobile: batteries, brakes, steering, suspension, cooling and heating, engine and ignition and so much more.

The friendly staff will delight you with their knowledge of the parts and services you need for your automobile.

For more information on Advance Auto Parts, visit shop.advanceautoparts.com or call 618-259-2356.



Congratulations to the team at Advance Auto Parts on the grand opening of their store. Many community leaders attended the event: David Knowles of Atrium Hotel & Conference Center, Stacey Loveland of Foxes Grove Supportive Living Community, Maura Wuellner of United Way, Megan Knight of Good Knight Cupcakes & Cookies, Wood River Mayor Frank Akers and city councilwoman Cheryl Maguire, Kathy Weaver of Investment Planners, Pat Schwarte of Riverbender.com, Karen Baker-Brcnic of Alton Marina and Therese Kuddes of Kuddes Advertising Specialties.

FOSTER TOWNSHIP REPORT – Bill Ambrose, Supervisor



Not much to report in Foster Township. Things are quiet in the country. Foster

Township Highway Department purchased a new dump truck to replace the one that has been acting up a bit. Most of the western portion of the Township was oiled and chipped this past summer and the rest (east side) will be resurfaced in the 2016 season.

The corner lot at Fosterburg Road and Main Street has been purchased by the Township Board

of Trustees for possible construction, in the near future, of a small Township Museum.

The Township will soon undergo some renovations to, hopefully, improve the looks and the efficiency of the Town Hall building. The Hall is available for the residents of Foster Township to rent for reunions, birthdays, wedding receptions, showers, etc. Reservations for 2016 will start January 4.

Township Concerts In The Park 2015 Season was a great success. 10 weeks of concerts. They will be held every Monday night in June, July, and the 1st Monday in August from 7:00

p.m. – 9:00 p.m. Watch for the 2016 Concert schedule of performances. It will be available sometime in the Spring. A big “Thank You” goes out to the Fosterburg 4-H Club for providing refreshments at our concerts. As a community project, they also spread over 500 bags of rubber mulch around the park swings. Again, “Thank You!” They are still accepting new members. If interested, call Amy Elik at 618-372-4730.

A special “Thank You” to a group of concerned residents that took it upon themselves to pick up trash along some of the roads in Foster Township. By the time they had finished, they had filled one pick-up truck

with numerous bags of trash.

The Senior Citizens group meets every 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month. Anyone 55+ is welcome to join. For more information, contact its President, Bob Harris at 618-462-4008.

Please feel free to contact our office with any needs or concerns that you might have at 618-259-0726 or 618-377-9591.

The Foster Township Officials & Staff want to wish each and every one a Blessed Holiday and a safe New Year.

Current Realty Showcases Godfrey Subdivision

Realtor Jenni Beck of Current Realty was excited to showcase new homes in the residential subdivision, Rivers Edge, located at 6809 Beall Court in Godfrey.

Rivers Edge is a subdivision on the north side of Godfrey that continues to grow; therefore, showing the two new completed homes was a nice touch to bring interest

back to this neighborhood.

For more information on the Rivers Edge Subdivision or for any home buying needs, contact Jenni Beck at Current Realty at 465-3580 or visit Current-Realty.com.



Many Riverbend supporters attended the ribbon cutting event with Jenni Beck of Current Realty: Tom Hoechst of CNB Bank & Trust, Nancy Bivens of WBGZ radio, David Knowles of Atrium Hotel & Conference Center, Mike and Nancy Wilson of Jeni J's, Linda Funk of Regions Bank, RBGA President Monica Bristow, Michelle Blackwood of Challenge Unlimited, Godfrey Mayor Mike McCormick and Godfrey Trustee Mike Stumpf, Pat Schwarte of Riverbender.com and Jerry Gibson of Kiwanis.

YWCA Showcases Children's Learning Center

Congratulations to the team at the YWCA on the completion of its renovated Children's Learning Center and the added benefits to its After-School-Program.

YWCA Executive Director Andrea Lamer, her employees and many community volunteers revamped both the interior and exterior of the learning center: painting,

flooring, activity stations and more.

The inspiration for this project came from the many children to attend the after school program and benefit from the many resources it provides.

For more information on the YWCA and the many programs it offers, visit altonywca.com or call 618-465-7774.



Thank-you to the attendees who supported the YWCA's dedication: Dick Propes, Stephanie Tate of the Alton Regional Convention & Visitors Bureau, Tom Hoechst of CNB Bank & Trust, Alton Mayor Brant Walker and Deputy Director of D&H Matt Asselmeier and Stacey Loveland of Foxes Grove Supportive Living Community.

#SpendRiverbend
Eat. Shop. Be. Local.

Win \$1,000!

Presented by The North Alton Godfrey Business Council, Riverbend Growth Association, Alton Main Street Association, Alton Regional Convention & Visitor's Bureau, Upper Alton Business Association, Alton Encore

Take a selfie and post it to Facebook, Twitter or Instagram while you are shopping and use the #SpendRiverbend to be entered to win great prizes

OR OTHER GREAT PRIZES!

- Ride in the Original Batmobile**
Presented by Motoexotica.com
- \$500 Custom Framing**
Presented by Picture This and More
- Year membership at Nautilus Fitness**
Presented by Nautilus Fitness Center
- Two tickets to a performance of your choice in the 2016 season at the Liberty Bank Amphitheater**
Presented by Liberty Bank
- One season pass to the new Ice Rink**
Presented by The Loading Dock

Learn more at www.spendriverbend.com

GCS Credit Union Celebrates Merger

Congratulations to the team at GCS Credit Union on the completion of the merger with Bell Community Credit Union.

The Bell Community Credit Union was a non-for-profit community-based financial institution established in 1940 originally serving Illinois Bell Telephone employees from Alton to Cairo, Illinois.

This merger will bring added benefits to members

of both credit unions. Current BCCU members will see expanded products and services while current members of GCS will be able to use the new location in the Alton area. GCS will now have eight Metro East locations.

For more information on GCS Credit Union, visit mygcsu.com or call 618-797-7993.



The merger between GCS Credit Union and the former Bell Community Credit Union is now complete. Many attendees showed their support and congratulations with President Keith Burton and his staff: Stacey Loveland of Foxes Grove Supportive Living Community, Cara Pascal of Options Now Medical Pregnancy Clinic, Jerry Gibson of Kiwanis, Pat Schwarte of Riverbender.com, Nancy Bivens of WBGZ Radio, Therese Kuddes of Kuddes Advertising Specialties, and Sherry Gilleland and Jane Short of Dream Home Realty Centre.

Growth Association members heard about freight and how it impacts local economy

On Tuesday, November 10th, the RBGA membership was invited to hear about the newly created St. Louis Freight District. Freight District Executive Director Mary Lamie led the panel discussion. Other panel members were Dennis Wilmsmeyer, Executive Director of America's Central Port and Mark Harms, President of SCI Engineering and the Leadership Council SW Illinois' Transportation Committee Chair. The three of them gave an enlightening presentation on the amount of freight that comes in and out of the St. Louis region and how that positively impacts our local economy. They talked about the development of a strategic plan for freight that will outline goals and priorities such as investment in the 125 year-old Merchants Bridge and increasing the value of goods that move through the area by adding more products like furniture and appliances to the mix. The area is currently the 10th largest metro by freight volume competing with areas such as Memphis, Indianapolis, Chicago and Kansas City. More than 60 RBGA members attended including representatives from many of the municipalities.



Riverbend Chiropractic celebrating 18 years in business

Dr. Stephanie Monroe and her team at Riverbend Chiropractic are celebrating their 18th year in business this month. Dr. Monroe has been practicing for 20 years in the Riverbend.

Riverbend Chiropractic is located at 3302 Godfrey Road in Godfrey. Appointments can be made by calling 618-467-2744.

During the month of November, they are collecting canned goods to support local food pantries.



Pictured from left to right are Sarah Schwegel, Alicia Dreith, Jeanna Clark, Jamie McLaughlin, Mallory Deist, Dr. Stephanie Monroe and Monica Bristow, RBGA President.

SAVE THE DATE

RBGA Annual Dinner

Thursday, January 28, 2016

1904 General Store Celebrates Grand Opening

Congratulations to owner Chris Velloff of 1904 General Store on the grand opening of her retail store located at 322 E. Broadway in downtown Alton.

The 1904 General Store is filled with candies including a large selection of fudge. Throughout the store you will find a variety of furnishings for the inside and outside of your home, such as door decorations,

seasonal items, soaps, candles and more.

The name 1904 General Store was chosen because the wood in the store is from the 1904 World's Fair.

For more information on the 1904 General Store, call 618-433-8195 or friend them on Facebook.



Congratulations to 1904 General Store owner Chris Velloff on the success of her retail store. Several Riverbend community leaders attended the event: Alton Mayor Brant Walker and Deputy Director of D&H Matt Asselmeier, Trish Holmes and Tom Hoechst of CNB Bank & Trust, Stacey Loveland of Foxes Grove Supportive Living Community, David Knowles of Atrium Hotel & Conference Center, Stephanie Tate of the Alton Regional Convention & Visitors Bureau, Jerry Gibson of Kiwanis, Therese Kuddes of Kuddes Advertising Specialties, RBGA President Monica Bristow and Karen Baker-Brcnic of the Alton Marina.

Cork Tree Creative voted one of the best marketing firms for 2015

reprinted from Riverbender.com
November 12 2015
EDWARDSVILLE – Cork

Tree Creative, Inc. has been voted one of St. Louis Small Business Monthly's (SBM) 2015 Best Marketing Firms in the publication's November 2015 issue on stands now.

Each month, SBM's "Best in Business" section features St. Louis area companies aiming to be the best in their industries. Cork Tree Creative, Inc. and 25 other firms were named by SBM readers as one of the best marketing firms in St. Louis. The woman-owned business was also named one of best public relations firms in St. Louis for two consecutive years by SBM.

SBM polls its readers monthly, identifying the best businesses in the area in a particular industry.

Cork Tree Creative, Inc. topped the list out of more than 200 nominations submitted throughout the region. "There's nothing more

satisfying than focusing on a career that you enjoy, working with a team of professionals that exceed the expectations of clients every day," said Laura Reed, co-owner and public relations director at Cork Tree Creative, Inc. "Our team is thrilled that our agency is considered one of the area's best marketing firms and our goal is continued success, growth and having fun while doing it."

Cork Tree Creative, Inc., located at 60 S. State Route, Edwardsville, Illinois, is owned by Jan Carpenter and Laura Reed. The company offers public relations, website development, graphic design, search engine optimization, social media management services, photography/videography services and more. For more information, please call (618) 656-7333, visit <http://www.corktreecreative.com> or find us on Facebook and Twitter.



Employment Opportunities

The RBGA has recently added a section to 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/>