

## Sanders Waste System named small business of the month

by Steven Spencer, Staff Writer  
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ALTON - The RiverBend Growth Association has presented Sanders Waste System the Small Business of the Month Award for September.



The family owned and operated business has been providing their services to the area since 1936.

The Sanders brothers, Robert and Glenn, took over the company after their father in 1987 and have been continuing to uphold the family business in over a dozen counties including Madison, Jersey, Greene, Calhoun, Macoupin, Montgomery, Washington and St. Louis.

Robert and Glenn said it takes a lot of time and dedication to keep the business going strong.

"You work hard, invest in it, put time in and try to do the best you can with the customers," Robert said. "You're working several hours in a day. Any where from twelve to fourteen hours in a day, you're never done. The main thing is keeping the trucks clean, keeping everything straight and keeping the customers happy."

With an average of about 70 trucks on the streets a day the company does anything from residential, commercial and roll-offs, everything but hazardous waste.

As their business continues to expand and grow, Robert and Glenn said some things will never change.

"It's still family all the way," Robert said. "We aren't changing that."

# Robert Sanders Waste Systems selected as RBGA's Small Business of the Month

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The RiverBend Growth Association named Robert Sanders Waste Systems Inc. as this month's Small Business of the Month. The business, owned and operated as a family business since trash pickup occurred by horse and buggy, is run by Robert Sanders. Sanders is the third generation of his family to Sanders. The company's vehicles are regularly seen on pickup routes. Submitted photo/For The Telegraph

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ALTON — Longstanding company Robert Sanders Waste Systems Inc., named by the RiverBend Growth Association as this month's Small Business of the Month, is well known for its trash collection services.

The company's vehicles are regularly seen on pickup routes.

Robert Sanders, who is the third generation of his family to run the business, said he was thrilled to be receiving the award.

"We're really proud of it," he said.

The business started with Sanders' grandfather, who collected trash in the days before mechanized vehicles.

"(My grandfather) and them was in it, and his brother, and years and years ago, they did it by horse and buggy," Sanders said. "Long before my time."

Sanders took over from his father, also named Robert, in 1987.

Today, the business has grown to 78 employees, who together operate 84 trucks across the company's service area of 11 Illinois counties.

Robert Sanders Waste Systems services all local areas, including Madison, Jersey, Greene, Macoupin, Calhoun and St. Clair counties, in addition to parts of St. Louis.

Business is thriving.

"Our business has grown every year," Sanders said. "Every year it grows, grows, grows. It's a real good business."

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