

Schiber Truck Company named Small Business of the Month

By Nathan Grimm ngrimm@civitasmedia.com

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HARTFORD — Celebrating its 60th anniversary in September, Schiber Truck Company got a belated gift Wednesday when it was recognized as the RiverBend Growth Association’s Small Business of the Month for October.

RBGA Director of Member Services Joell Aguirre and members of the growth association presented Schiber president Neil McInnis Jr. and vice president Robert M. Schiber with the award at their Hartford office at 1701 S. Delmar Road. McInnis said he and the company’s employees appreciated the recognition.

“We’re very honored for all our employees to receive this honor,” McInnis said. “They’re all going to be very excited.”

The company specializes in transportation of hazardous waste and hazardous materials. The company was started in Hartford in 1954 by Schiber’s grandfather, Robert L. Schiber, and they’ve been a community fixture ever since. Schiber said they moved to their current location off Illinois Route 3 in the early 1990s.

McInnis said the company’s dedication to the village and its people is one of the things that the business takes pride in.

“This year is our 60th anniversary in business, and we’ve been in Hartford the whole time,” McInnis said. “So we’ve been in this community.”

Schiber Truck Company was presented with the award 11 years ago, the last time the company won the small business award. McInnis said although they've remained an active part of the community, a lot has changed since then.

"When we won the award last time we had 20 trucks and we had three terminals," McInnis said. "Now we have six terminals. We've even expanded out into the east coast — we actually have a facility out in Delaware. We have about 60 trucks and 75 employees now."

McInnis said the majority of those employees live in the area and give back to the community, one of the reasons Aguirre said the business was chosen for the designation.

"One of the main reasons Schiber Truck Company was chosen as the Small Business of the Month was their long-term commitment to the community, their community involvement, and their customer service," Aguirre said.

Perhaps the most visible and recognized way Schiber gives back is through its involvement with the Marines' Toys for Tots campaign around the holidays. McInnis said the business donates a trailer for local Marines to use in collecting toys, and Schiber moves the trailers up to the Wood River VFW as the holiday approaches. McInnis also serves on the St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee in St. Louis.

Looking ahead, McInnis said he hopes the business will continue to grow and, as always, continue to be a large part of the community.

"We'd love to expand, and we're always looking for good, quality people from the community," McInnis said.