



Chamber chat

A newsletter distinctly for Milan Chamber Members, Milan, IL

P.O. Box 1036
Milan, IL 61265
309.716.8144
www.milanilchamber.or

Record Flooding Predicted For Rock and Mississippi Rivers by mid-April

Business Spotlight



Hitmen Sports Complex

Meet Milan Chamber's newest member: the Hitmen Sports Complex. Did you know that the W.B.S.A. diamonds were purchased by the Quad City Hitmen, with the goal of turning the complex into a state of the art facility, attracting national tournaments to our area? **Now there are huge sponsorship opportunities that will go directly back into the improvement of the diamonds - 100%.** Ever fancied the opportunity to have the naming rights of a state of the art sports complex?

Imagine: YOUR NAME HERE Sports Complex....

Get all the information on sponsorship opportunities available including naming rights to fields, dugouts and outfield signs, contact **Linsey Krueger** to find out more.

563.271.6560
linseyrosshj@aol.com

Based on current conditions of the Mississippi River basin and it's estuaries, weather forecast for river levels on the Mississippi and Rock Rivers are expected to flood by mid-April. Some estimates, predict the flooding to hit major or record levels according to the North Central Forecast Center.

Flood levels are estimated based on complex mathematical models from calibrated snow melt and rain fall rates. These models are developed for preset forecast service points along major rivers that have a history of flooding. For the Milan area, to keep current of flood level predictions, forecasters look at Lock & Dam 15 for flood levels. These forecasts provide decision makers a statistical basis for setting priorities and increase awareness. However, river forecasts are only of value when citizens take proactive measures to become informed and take actions to reduce loss.

Vast resources of information can be found on the web to help businesses and individuals prepare for flooding events.

If rivers are confirmed to be approaching flood levels, there will be a link to the flood levels on US Army Corps of Engineers main home page. Keep an eye on the home page for the latest updates, news releases and links to any special websites developed for flood-

The following website is used by everyone to verify river levels and obtain forecasts. Select the Rock Island District from the drop-down menu, then select Mississippi River & Passes or the Rock River Basin, then choose which part of the river (river gage/station) you would like a status/forecast for:

<http://www2.mvr.usace.army.mil/WaterControl/new/layout.cfm>



Milan: preparing for the worst—hoping for the best.

The Rock River at Moline is located here:

<http://www2.mvr.usace.army.mil/WaterControl/stationinfo2.cfm?sid=MLI12&fid=MLI12&dt=S>

The Mississippi River at Lock and Dam 15 is located here:

<http://www2.mvr.usace.army.mil/WaterControl/stationinfo2.cfm?sid=MI15&fid=RCKI2&dt=S>

Preparedness guidelines can be found at:

www.fema.gov
www.floodsmart.gov

Understand your insurance policy. FEMA recommends insuring at least 80% of the structures on your property for flood. Check if the flood zone is on your policy, it must be the same as that on the current flood insurance rate map. There is usually a 30 day waiting period for coverage to become effective, beginning the day the premium is received.

<http://www.mvr.usace.army.mil/>

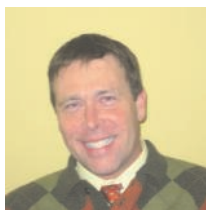
President's Page

JIM HUISKAMP, V.P. BLACK HAWK BANK & TRUST

Jim Huiskamp

309.787.9559

jim@ChoosetheChief.com



It is now late in March and the weather is starting to improve significantly. We took an opportunity to get out for a bike ride a little over a week ago, led by Dean Mathias, to promote the work that is being done on the bike path. Dean stated towards the beginning of the ride that we couldn't have picked a better day. When I consider that there are 365 days in a year I could not resist to share that I would bet that we could have found maybe one, or two, that were above the current

40 degree weather at that time.

What I thought was going to be a short ride for a picture turned out to be somewhere in the neighborhood of 5 miles, 1.5 of it on a grass trail that we hope will soon be paved. I wasn't sure that we weren't going to lose Annette as she was walking her bike at this point and talking on her cell phone. She said it was with Steve Seiver, but I suspect 911 was the real call placed. Dean is passionate about biking and it was a lot of fun to get my first experience on the trail with him. This is one of those projects that will really help to set our community apart from others, or bring us up to the standards of the very best. My compliments to all the riders who participated that day...it

will not be my last ride on our trails. Please find a way to get involved with a project happening around Milan and send me news of your success, or plea for help.

Some other brief notes...Your board of directors continues to work on wrapping up our strategic planning session and organization of some goals going forward. I hope to share some of those results with you at a future meeting.

Our next meeting is April 6th, 6:00pm, at the Welcome Inn. Dwight Swartz, Swartz Insurance Agency will be here to talk about health care reform

I was far less than inundated with calls to join my invitation of coming together to help change the climate of Milan going forward. I sincerely appreciated those who did reach out to me. It's rather sad to see that we either believe that we don't have enough time to work for change, don't feel like our efforts will make a difference, or don't care. I look to get moving on these efforts, in earnest, sometime in April. Shoot me a quick email if you are on board.

Enjoy the coming Spring and get out for a walk, or a bike ride, on our recreational paths.

Path Gains Access *into Milan*

The Hennepin Canal is one of Milan's identifying features, loved by generations of people who have used the canal for walking, biking and fishing, will be pleased to know that there will soon be greater accessibility to this natural resource. Coming this summer, construction will begin to run a recreational path from Veteran's Memorial at Carr's Crossing to the Hennepin Canal Trail.

Bikers, walkers and joggers coming off the separated trail accommodation on the south side of the bridge will find themselves on a 10 foot wide hard-surfaced asphalt multi-use corridor trail going into Milan, essentially making a continuous trail connecting with the Kiwanis Train in Moline and the Ben Williamson Park and Crosstown Connector Trail in Rock Island. Connections from Moline and Rock Island where completed just last year. From the bridge the path will extend to Lock 30 just behind Milan Surplus in Milan.

Visitors to the new recreational path will be greeted by a natural environment that is also used by an abundant array of wildlife including, herons, eagles, egrets among other birds: making for exceptional bird-

ing opportunities - one of the largest recreational hobbies in the nation. Bikers who have been inhibited from crossing into Milan because of limited accessibility, will be encouraged to find the safety features incorporated into the bridge and greater accessibility to Milan's business district off the trail.



Bikers: (from left to right) Dean Mathias, Annette Ernst, Jim Huiskamp and Arion Cox point to where to path will lead off the bridge and into Milan.

The recreational path was made possible by a Federal Share Illinois Transportation Enhancement Program grant or ITEP, at a contribution of \$246,282 and local contributions for a total cost of \$307.852.

Says Economic Development Director for the Village of Milan, Annette Ernst, "Completion of the south side trail connection provides more opportunities to link, expand, and enhance other existing and planned local, regional, state and national trails." The project links over 11 miles of trails over the Rock River, bringing visitors into Milan seeking recreational opportunities along the Hennepin Canal Parkway. Continues Mrs. Ernst, "This project will increase the economic vitality and development interest in this area."

Board of Directors

PRESIDENT

Jim Huiskamp - Black Hawk Bank & Trust

VICE PRESIDENT

Kevin Humphery - Retired

TREASURER/SECRETARY

Betty Boltz - MIP

OTHER BOARD MEMBERS:

Ron Heinzman—Stern Beverage

John Ryan— CIS Financial

Lory VanBlair— Beardsley Printery, Inc.

Bruce Brooks— Black Hawk Bank & Trust

Dennis Moseley—Flooring Xpress

Del Steiert—Merls Business Machines

Steve Wilson—Johnson & Wilson

Vera Hinrichsen—Just Kids Early Care & Education Centers

Dave Temple—THE National Bank



Preferred Ball Golf Outing

**MONDAY, JUNE 13 2011
Pinnacle Country Club**

Every registered team will receive 1 FREE Hole Sponsorship!

SHOTGUN START 1:00 PM | \$400 TEAM/\$100 PERSON

The Milan Chamber Golf Outing is the only fundraiser that directly benefits Milan Chamber. Proceeds from this event fund our efforts to provide quality benefits to our members and make Milan a great place to live, work and play.

Lunch & Dinner

Provided

- Title Sponsor \$1500
- Golf Cart Sponsor \$750
- 19th Hole Party Sponsor \$750
- Beverage Sponsor \$500
- Lunch Sponsor \$500
- Hole Sponsor \$150

Sponsorship

Opportunities

\$(TEAM FEE)

\$(SPONSORSHIP FEE)

COMPANY NAME

ADDRESS

CONTACT NAME

PHONE

GOLFER #1

PHONE

ADDRESS

GOLFER #2

PHONE

ADDRESS

GOLFER #3

PHONE

ADDRESS

GOLFER #4

PHONE

ADDRESS

Pinnacle Dress Code—No boxer shorts, muscle shirts, jeans or cut-offs allowed on the course or in the clubhouse. Thank you!

Not all is doom and gloom. Flood protection in Milan/Big Island is well designed, constructed and in excellent condition. It includes over 10 miles of levees, ponding areas, flood wall, gates, and pumping stations. The flood stage projections (issued so far as “probabilities” rather than forecasted stages) are within the design limits of the flood protection system.

However, it is always best to prepare for the worst and hope for the best and meanwhile stay informed of forecasts and events as they develop. Village officials expect the system to perform very well and are very confident of the additional pumping capacity provided by 4 new trailer-mount storm water pumps and hoses which will increase current pumping capacity by an additional 12,000 gpm. Additionally, 15 new portable pumps have been purchased – used to handle smaller ponding areas and catch basins; and additional generators will be brought in to maintain pumping capacity and critical infrastructure in case of commercial power outages.

To hear more about flood planning first hand a “Town Hall” meeting to discuss flood issues and projections – open to all concerned

residents and businesses is scheduled for **Wednesday, March 30th at 5:30 pm at the Milan Community Center, 2701 E. 1st Street.**

A series of articles and flood-related links will be posted on the Village of Milan website see: **www.milanil.org**. Local media outlets will also be continuously updated on flood preparedness measures specific to Milan. *Please, check the site periodically for volunteer requests for sandbagging at the Village Garage, 613 W 1st Ave.* Village officials have 140,000 sand bags on hand. They will be stockpiled for use at preplanned closures and to have on hand for emergency use.

The Village continues preparations, including coordinating with other area agencies, Rock Island County EMA, Illinois EMA, the NWS Flood Forecast Center, the Big Island River Conservancy District, and the Corps of Engineers.

Advanced warnings are designed to give time to prepare. Be informed, be proactive - make a plan, and review your insurance policy; in other words, *be prepared*.

Chamber *Minutes*

Jim Huiskamp, Betty Boltz, Bruce Brooks, Vera Hinrichsen, Kevin Humphrey, Dennis Mosley, Dave Temple, Del Steiert, Lori Van Blair, Steve Wilson Non Board Members: Sarah Wright Annette Ernst, Steve Seivers Absent: Ron Heinzman, John Ryan

Secretary’s report for February accepted as presented motion by Dennis Mosley 2nd Lory Van Blair carried

Treasurer’s report February checking balance \$18,023.45. No change \$17,022.84 A motion by Steve Wilson and 2nd by Bruce Brooks carried

Agenda Items: Discussion was held on the continuation of our planning and goal setting meeting. President Jim Huiskamp brought before the board, committees that should be implemented. They are as follows with chairpersons.

Planning ---Dennis Mosley
Communication - Lory Van Blair

Membership - Del Steiert
Economic Development – Ron Heinzman

Legislative Liaisons – Steve Wilson, John Ryan
Programming/Events---Vera Hinrichsen

It was decided that each committee will report back to the board monthly.

President Jim reviewed the mission statement

The Milan Chamber of Commerce will identify and stay current with business and community interest and will provide information, services and leadership that promotes member businesses and help our community prosper and grow.

The board was asked to review the handout and vote on the mission statement at our next meeting.

Betty Boltz made a motion to have “calling cards” with the Mission Statement, website, address and phone number on the front of the card after the vote. Seconded by Vera Hinrichsen carried.

Sarah is still working on the membership packets., we were given a list of the member benefits that she put together.

Programming Committee would like to start planning for 2012. They will meet on April 1 at Flooring Xpress at 10 am any one is welcome to come and share ideas. Programming for the rest of the year is listed:

May	Gerry Huiskamp “The State of the Local Economy”
June	Golf Outing
July	No Meeting
August	Economic Development with Trustees
September	Photo Contest Finale and possible “Best Pizza in Milan” contest
October	Year in Review/Election of Officers
November	possible Small Business/ Gov’t Contracting Panel
December	TBD

Sarah has arranged a photo opportunity for the Chamber Chat and Village Voice on Carr’s Crossing with Dean Mathias for March 11, at 10 am promoting the new bike path. The Milan Chamber presented a \$350 donation to the Big Island Soil and Water Assoc for the bike path from proceeds of the holiday party.

Golf committee update: Kevin Humphrey and Chuck Van Blair have contracted with Pinnacle Country Club for our golf outing for June 13. They will charge us the same prices as last year, and the hold payment has been made. Goal is 18 teams.

The Hitmen baseball team organization would like us to send out sponsor opportunities to Milan businesses. It was decided that we can do that if they are members.

Sarah is going to release information on the Joel Brunsvold/Milan Photo Contest in the newsletter and will send out a media release also.

April 6 meeting at 6 pm with Dwight Swartz, Swartz Insurance Agency, on Health Care Reform and small business. Location Welcome Inn

Secretary Betty Boltz



Milan Chamber Board President, Jim Huiskamp and Board Treasurer/Secretary Betty Boltz hold the BISWAPA plans for improving the bike path along the Hennepin Canal at the Milan Lion's Supper Raffle held at Milan's Community Center.

That evening Mr. Huiskamp also presented a check for \$350 from the Milan Chamber of Commerce to BISWAPA in support of its efforts to beautify the bike path. The group hopes to make the path a destination for visitors seeking recreational opportunities in Milan.

Chamber *Membership*

- | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| American Bank & Trust | Milan Medical Group |
| Avonlea Cottage Assisted Living | Milan Optical |
| B&B Drain Tech Inc. | Milan Police Dept. |
| B&B Hardware Inc. | Milan Surplus |
| Beardsley Printery, Inc. | MIP |
| Blackhawk Bank & Trust | Missman Stanley & Associates |
| Blackhawk Township | Modern Woodmen of America |
| Brandt Construction | Mr. Ed's Ltd. |
| Bush Turf Inc. | MVP Collision & Repair |
| Dr. Karla Buckrop | Nalevanko-Ullrich Builders Inc. |
| Linda A. Cain, C.P.A. | Outdoor Innovations/
The Conservancy |
| CIS Financial Group Inc. | Orange Guy Inc. |
| Coach House Garages | Pinnacle Country Club |
| Collinson and Scott | Pegalo's Pizzeria & Gelato Cafe |
| Collinson Stone Co. | Quad City Animal Welfare Center |
| DHCU Community Credit Union | Quad City Htimen |
| Diamond Builders | Quad City Re-Bath |
| Eriksen Chevrolet-Buick | Rock Island County Board—
Ken Maranda |
| First Presbyterian Church | Rock Island County Extension |
| Flooring Xpress | RIA Federal Credit Union |
| Fyre Lake National | River Stone Group |
| Happy Joe's | Roth Pump |
| Group O | Stern Beverage |
| Hi Cliff Estates | Swartz Insurance Company |
| Hughes Tire & Battery | THE National Bank |
| Hy-Vee | The Touch Inc. |
| IH Mississippi Valley Credit Union | Therapeutic Oasis Massage & Spa |
| Johannes Bus Service | Valley Construction |
| Johnston & Wilson, P.C. | VFC Distributors, Inc. |
| Just Kids Inc. | Village of Milan |
| Jumer's Casino & Hotel | Village Woods Appartments |
| Mass Custom Hauling & Crushing | Vision Crest |
| McDonald's | Walgreens |
| Meathead's Meat Market | Walman Optical |
| Merl's Business Machines | Welcome Inn |
| Mid American Builders | Wheelan-Pressly Funeral Home |
| Mid American Energy Co. | Wilbert Vault |
| Midwest Horseshoeing Supply | XPAC |
| Milan Lanes | |
| Milan License and Title | |



CIS FINANCIAL GROUP, INC.

The Quad Cities Retirement Specialist™

John M. Ryan, CFP® 8100 47th St., Milan, IL 61264

309-799-5684 john.ryan@qa3fa.com

Bad News: You are personally responsible for the performance of your employees 401(k) plan...

Good News: We can help your company and your employees to make the most of your company's retirement plan

Our **OptimizeMy401kSM** service provides Fiduciary Liability Protection for your company and investment advice and guidance to your employees using your current plan.

OptimizeMy401kSM is a win-win for everyone - protect your company and give your employees the personalized advice that the Plan Administrators don't have time or expertise to give.

Call 309-799-5684 for more information today!

John M. Ryan is a registered representative of and offers securities through QA3 Financial Corp. Member FINRA/SIPC. John M. Ryan is an Investment Advisor Representative of and Advisory Services offered through Capital Investment Strategies, Inc. a State of IL, IA, and CO Registered Investment Advisor. CIS companies and QA3 are unaffiliated.

APRIL General Meeting

"Small Business & Health Care Reform"

Dwight Swartz, Sr. Swartz Insurance Agency

Wednesday, April 6th

Milan's Welcome Inn

Starting at 6 PM

Free to all prospective members; includes your meal, networking and you!

Please RSVP by April 4.



Announcements

Seeking Volunteers for MIP Arts & Craft Festival - Sunday, May 1

Milan Chamber provides volunteers for all refreshment stands. All proceeds from the fair go directly back to Milan for community improvements.

Early morning, late morning and early afternoon shifts available.

Please contact (309)716-8144 or milanilchamber@gmail.com with your availability.

Volunteers Needed for SANDBAGGING

Please see www.milanil.org for dates and times. Sandbagging will be held at the Village Garage, 613 W 1st Ave.



All geared up and ready to go: Dean Mathias, Annette Ernst, Jim Huiskamp, Arion Cox and Sarah Wright prepare for a ride along the Hennepin from Village Hall. See page 2

Phone 309.716.8144
Website www.milanilchamber.org
Address P.O. Box 1036
 Milan, IL 61264
Phone hours Mon-Fri 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Office hours Mon & Wed 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Fri 9 a.m. to Noon
E-mail milanilchamber@gmail.com