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MILAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

August 2009

# Chamber chat

AUGUST 2009  
(309) 716-8144

## Business Spotlight — Eriksen Chevrolet-Buick

Eriksen Chevrolet Buick has been a fixture at 325 East 1 Street in Milan for years. Specializing in Chevy and Buick auto sales and service, many Milan and surrounding area residents have driven off the lot with an Eriksen vehicle. Known for their large inventory of new and used vehicles, Eriksen offers a full menu of services to vehicle owners, including Parts, Body and Financing. Hours vary for each of these departments but, can be easily referenced at [www.eriksens.com](http://www.eriksens.com).



[www.eriksens.com](http://www.eriksens.com)

309-787-1765

Eriksen is also know for hosting and supporting the MIP or Milan Improvement Project Arts & Craft Fair for over 35 years. Volunteers run the fair, which is a major fundraiser for MIP and distributes funds for Milan area projects; most notably the play equipment at Camden Park and the landscaping at the 280 overpass.

Eriksen will be hosting the September 2, General Meeting. Randy Allison will be speaking about the CARS Program and the Auto Industry. See CARS article inside.

## A Message to Members.....

Believe it or not but, it is time to start thinking about Fall. For me, nothing marks the passing of summer like shopping for school supplies. In the words of Garrison Keillor, "the end of summer...and the start of school and higher algebra and the imposition of strict rules" is a premonition of things to come.

In Milan, the ritual of the Indian Summer Festival is set to begin September 4 thru 6. It is a time to let go and enjoy the very last drops of summer...the Indian Summer. This year Milan Chamber is responsible for staffing the pop/beer/wristband-tickets sales for Saturday, September 5, positions are open from noon to 11:30 p.m. It is your chance to volunteer, give homage to summer and the time honored tradition that long standing citizens of Milan and surrounding areas have come to know as the Indian Summer Festival.

It is also a time to start planning for some of the highlights of the coming season. This year Milan Chamber will be planning the

Trunk'r Treat event for area families and we need your planning expertise. Milan Chamber is looking for a committee of creative and enthusiastic volunteers to help put on a great event that is certain the bring smiles to hundreds of little ghosts and goblins.

Finally, dare I say it, there is the annual Christmas/Holiday party—only 5 months away. If you have a knack for bringing forth Christmas/Holiday cheer, we need to hear from you. The party is the last event of the year and is set to take place once again at Pinnacle Country Club.

What ever you do to prepare for the coming season, whether it's pithier through stacks of crayons, pencils and wide lined paper, or riding the Ferris wheel at the Indian Summer Festival; remember, there is no better way to participate than by giving your time. Please consider volunteering for any of the events/committees that I have outlined and thank you in advance to everyone who has and will play a part in making these events happen.

*Sarah Wright*

Milan Chamber of Commerce



# AUGUST 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>“One of the secrets of life is to make stepping stones out of stumbling blocks” ~ JACK PENN</p>						1
2	3	4	5 General Meeting Edward's Creative Parking Lot/Tent  Outdoor Meeting 6:00 PM	6	7	8
9	10	11	12 Board Meeting Blackhawk Bank & Trust 7:00 AM	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 30	24 31	25	26	27	28	29

## ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mark your Calendar  
for our next  
General Meeting  
to be held at

Eriksen's Chevrolet Buick

Wednesday, September 2  
6:00 PM

Please RSVP

(309) 716-8144  
milanilchamber@gmail.com



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# Board *Minutes*

Chamber Minutes 7-8-09

Jim Huiskamp, Betty Boltz, Bruce Brooks, Ron Heinzman, Del Steiert, Lory Van Blair, Steve Wilson, Non Board Members: **Absent:** Cathy Edwards, Chris Bayer, Vera Hinrichsen, John Ryan

**Secretary's report** approved by Ron Heinzman 2<sup>nd</sup> by Del Steiert Carried

**Treasurer's report** approved by Ron Heinzman 2<sup>nd</sup> by Del Steiert Carried

**Treasurer's Report** Checking account balance is \$18,635.92 and \$17,022.84 in the CD.

## Agenda items

Golf Report: Betty presented a spreadsheet detailing income of \$15,051.00, expenses of \$5,711.09 with a profit of \$9,339.91 Report of the last Council meeting, it was reported we had the largest fireworks attendance, which created some safety issues. They will pass an ordinance updating the liquor licenses for the village, the update involves changing the time to sell liquor, and it will be the same for every day which starts at 6:00 am.

## New Business

No one is signed up for the July 20<sup>th</sup> Village Council meeting.

Sarah suggested advertising for e-mail alerts. This will be equivalent to business card size ads for the newsletter.

The ad will actually be twice the size of a business card and can be linked to the business website. Business card size ads are \$30 a month, 6 month for \$160 and 1 year for \$320. We would allow 1 ad on e-mail updates with a 4 ad per month limit.

Ron Heinzman made a motion to allow ads on the website but to limit them to four a month. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Lory VanBlair. Carried

Sarah also suggested a website page for coupons and promotions. Would like this offer as a new benefit to chamber members and visitors to the site. This was tabled

The Board reviewed the new membership packet. It was suggested that we have a combination welcome letter from the Chamber President and Mayor Dawson and a current newsletter in the packet. Sarah will work on this.

Sarah questioned if we should be recruiting new members in Sherard, Andalusia and Edging ton and Coal Valley. There was discussion but suggested we think about it for further discussion.

We need a Planning Committee to recruit new board members, planning the Christmas Party and Trunk or Treat and perhaps create a mission statement.

Sarah will be meeting with Big Island coalition tomorrow about a bike path around Mirror Lake and support efforts to continue the path into the business district.

Sarah will not be taking vacation in July

Sarah met with Mayor Dawson about the feasibility of having the chamber office at the Village.

Next General Meeting will be August 5, at Edwards Creative with Doggie Styles furnishing the food.

Next Board Meeting will be August 12 at 7:00 am at Blackhawk Bank & Trust.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 am  
Secretary Betty Boltz

# What is *IL PTAC*

The Illinois Procurement Technical Assistance Center at Black Hawk College (IL PTAC @ BHC) mission is to strengthen the North West Region of Illinois economy by stimulating job creation, growth, and business retention. To accomplish this goal, the IL PTAC @ BHC assists businesses in securing government contracts from a prime contractor. Our center will help the businesses in the NW Region with Federal, State, City, County and Sub Contracts with a prime contractor. Our center will help with one on one counseling, tailored bid matching for your product or service daily, bid history information, marketing strategies, registration and certifications at no cost. We are funded by the DOD/Defense Logistics Agency, the Illinois Entrepreneur Network with Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity in agreement with our host institution, Black Hawk College. We provide you with advocacy to help our businesses through the complicated and difficult intricacies of obtaining federal, state and local government contracts.

Join Vicki Miller



IL PTAC @ BHC

Under the big tent—Edwards Creative Parking lot

Wednesday, August 5

6:00 p.m.

Vicki will have plenty of handouts and will be available to answer any questions you might have about their services.

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# Chamber members



## BOARD MEMBERS:

**President**  
Cathy Edwards  
*Edwards Creative Services*

**Vice President**  
Jim Huiskamp  
*Blackhawk Bank & Trust*

**Secretary/Treasurer**  
Betty Boltz  
*MIP*

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

**Vera Hinrichsen**  
*Just Kids Early Care & Education Centers*

**Ron Heinzman**  
*Stern Beverage*

**John Ryan**  
*Past President/ CIS Financial*

**Del Steiert**  
*Merl's Business Machines*

**Lory Van Blair**  
*Beardsley Printery, Inc.*

**Steve Wilson**  
*Johnson and Wilson, P.C.*

**Bruce Brooks**  
*Blackhawk Bank & Trust*

**Chris Bayer**  
*Aflac Insurance*

AFLAC—Chris Bayer  
American Bank & Trust  
Appraisals of Real Estate Barb Robertson  
Au Jus Neighborhood Bar & Grill  
Auto Acres Used Parts  
Avonlea Cottage Assisted Living  
B&B Drain Tech Inc.  
B&B Hardware Inc.  
Beardsley Printery, Inc.  
Benny's Pizza  
Blackhawk Bank & Trust  
Blackhawk Township  
Brandt Construction  
Bush Turf Inc.  
Diamond Builders  
Dr. Karla Buckrop  
Dwight S. Swartz Sr. and Assoc.  
Builders World Lumber  
CIS Financial Group Inc.  
Coach House Garages  
Collinson and Scott  
Collinson Stone Co.  
Comfort Harbor  
Creative Packaging Co.  
DHCU Community Credit Union  
Diamond Builders  
Doggie Styles  
Edwards Creative Services  
Eriksen Chevrolet-Buick  
Ferrari Insurance Agency  
Federated Insurance  
First Presbyterian Church  
Flooring Express  
Frye Lake National Golf Community & Marina  
Happy Joe's  
Hi Cliff Estates  
Hughes Tire & Battery  
Hy-Vee  
IH Mississippi Valley Credit Union  
Johannes Bus Service  
Johnston & Wilson, P.C.  
Just Kids Inc.  
Jumer's Casino & Hotel  
Kitchen Cooked Inc.  
McDonald's  
Meathead's Meat Market  
Merl's Business Machines  
Mid American Builders  
Mid American Energy Co.  
Midwest Horseshoeing Supply  
Milan Auction  
Milan Lanes  
Milan License and Title  
Milan Medical Group

Milan Optical  
Milan Police Dept.  
Milan Surplus  
MIP  
Missman Stanley & Associates  
Modern Woodmen of America  
Moline Dispatch  
Mr. Ed's Ltd.  
MVP Collision Repair  
Nalevanko-Ullrich Builders Inc.  
Outdoor Innovations/  
The Conservancy  
Pinnacle Country Club  
Pinocchio's Gourmet Pizza  
Quad City Animal Welfare Center  
Quad City Re-Bath  
Rock Island County Board—  
Ken Maranda  
RIA Federal Credit Union  
RiverStone Group  
Roth Pump  
Ruhl-Ruhl  
Ryan Companies UC Inc.

Satellite Signals  
Stern Beverage  
Stwartz Insurance Company  
THE National Bank  
The Touch Inc.  
Therapeutic Oasis Massage & Spa  
Thomas Paint & Decorating  
University of Illinois Extension  
Office  
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**Looking for a few good volunteers for Saturday afternoon and evening  
Contact Sarah Wright 309-716-8144 with your availability**



**Labor Day is approaching again  
Enter your float for this year's Parade!**

**This Year's Theme:  
Hail to the Red, White and Blue**

**Date: Saturday, September 5, 2009**

**Time: 10:30 a.m.**

**Entry Deadline: August 29, 2009**

**GATES OPEN 8:30 AM. AUTOMATICALLY LOCK AT NOON!**

**CATEGORIES / PRIZES:**

**COMMERCIAL (Trophies)**

**1<sup>st</sup> Place, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place and 3<sup>rd</sup> Place**

**SR DIVISION**

(Organizations with members over 18 yrs of age)

1<sup>st</sup> Place - \$100.00

2<sup>nd</sup> Place - \$70.00

3<sup>rd</sup> Place - \$50.00

**JR DIVISION**

(Organizations with members under 18 yrs of age)

1<sup>st</sup> Place - \$80.00

2<sup>nd</sup> Place - \$60.00

3<sup>rd</sup> Place - \$40.00

Vehicles pulling the floats should have a sign stating which category in which it is entered.  
Judging is done prior to the start of the parade. Information will be sent after float entry is received.

**FEE - NONE**

Please fill out form below, detach and return to:

MISF Parade

P O Box 1036

Milan IL 61264



CATEGORY: (check one) (  ) Commercial (  ) SR Division (  ) JR Division

Name

Address

Contact Person(s) and Phone Number(s)

# CARS

## “Cash for Clunkers” Program

Congress has allocated \$1 billion for a program to encourage people to trade in older, less efficient cars or trucks for new, more efficient environmentally-friendly ones.

The program is officially known as the Car Allowance Rebate System (CARS). Commonly referred as the “cash for clunkers” program.

CARS is designed to help struggling auto manufacturers and spur consumers to take advantage of discounts from the dealership when trading in their vehicle. A secondary goal is to reduce carbon emissions by removing vehicles that get less than 18 miles per gallon.

The more efficient the new car is, the larger the incentive for consumers. For example, if a new car gets 4 mpg higher than that “clunker” being traded for it, you qualify for a \$3,500 voucher; 10 mpg and the program will pay \$4,500.

To see if your vehicle qualifies for the required fuel economy standard of 18 mpg or less, visit [www.fueleconomy.gov](http://www.fueleconomy.gov).

“The response has been tremendous”, says Randy Allison, General Sales Manager for Eriksen Chevrolet Buick. “This is a very unusual program and there has been a wide swath of people who are taking advantage.” Mr. Allison continues, “If a consumer has done everything right: owned, insured and registered their vehicle and fits the guidelines then they qualify.”

Taking less fuel efficient vehicles off the road is a two step process. If your car gets 18 miles per gallon or less and is up to 25 years old, then you qualify. The dealership will then take the car, drain the oil out of it, pour in a solution that seizes the engine and then take the car to a salvage crusher. Permanently removing the vehicle from the roads. So if your car is worth more than \$4,500 then this program is not for you.

Concludes Mr. Allison, “I think this is a good, green, responsible program that is good for the car industry.”

The program runs through Nov. 1 or until the \$1 billion appropriated for it runs out.



*Learn more about the CARS program and the car industry from Randy Allison, Sales Manager for Eriksen*

**September Monthly Meeting  
Wednesday, September 2  
6:00 p.m.  
Eriksen Chevrolet-Buick**

### Step 1

Visit [cars.gov](http://cars.gov) for current information about the program

### Step 2

Determine if you qualify and what you need to bring to the dealer.

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About their lives.





# General Meeting

Meeting Hosts:

Edwards Creative and  
Doggy Styles II  
Look for tent in parking lot.

Speaker: Vicky Miller-PTAC



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"Government Contracting & The Economic Potential  
of Your Business" - Illinois Technical Assistance  
Center Illinois Northwest Region

**WENDESDAY, AUGUST 5**

6:00 PM

Please RSVP to  
[milanilchamber@gmail.com](mailto:milanilchamber@gmail.com)

*Wednesday, August 5*



*Book Travel at:*  
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