



“Changing to make Milan a better place”

Chamber chat

A newsletter distinctly for Milan Chamber Members, Milan, IL

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

Get an EDGE

With the Entrepreneurial or EDGE Center—Augustana College



Vision Crest

VisionCrest CEO, Christine Nitz, PCC, CPCC, is a certified Executive Coach, a highly skilled corporate trainer, speaker, author and business consultant.

For over 30 years Christine has helped men and women communicate more effectively, manage new ideas, direct change, and develop the skills to maximize performance. She has authored numerous training programs on interpersonal communications, leadership, sales, and team building. Universities and companies throughout the US use her workbooks to train teachers, advance leadership skills and build strong customer service teams.

Christine helps clients identify goals, set priorities and manage the shifting paradigms in their personal and professional lives. As a Professional Coach, she helps clients think outside the box, identify possibilities and get un-stuck when circumstances seem to be taking control of their lives.

“Not a single session goes by that I don't take 2-3 nuggets back to my business. My sales have increased three fold since I've been working with Christine.” —Sam Jones, REALTOR®

Walking into the Entrepreneurial Center, visitors will be greeted by a business environment complete with cloth lined cubicals and high powered computers humming with data computation. But, on closer inspection evidence of student life comes into focus; the collection of Mr. Potato heads keeping watch over the scene, each representing an individual student. Or the bright collection of vintage toys littering the high shelves in the office of the Entrepreneurial Centers Director, Douglas Tschopp.

That is because the Entrepreneurial Center or EDGE Center which stands for Entrepreneurial Development through Guided Experience is run by students and overseen or 'guided' by Mr. Tschopp who seems to fit right into the setting with his toy inspired tie.

The Center has over 12 years experience in connecting students with community organizations and small businesses in need of affordable communications, marketing, and creative services including web design. Says Tschopp, “We have served over 200 organizations through the years, the majority of those non-for-profits and roughly 25% small businesses.” Examples of the Center's work can be seen by visiting the websites of the Bucktown Center, Red Crow or Creekside Vineyards. Students gain real skills and experience in the workplace while small businesses and non-for-profits gain a low cost resource for their marketing needs.

The revenue earned by engaging the community in this manner goes back to the students in the form of scholarships, computer equipments, software and an occasional pizza. “The Center is unique in that it is most likely the

only student run, student endowed scholarship fund”, says Mr. Tschopp. The Center is great resource for a variety of services (see list below) and all proceeds go toward giving small businesses and students alike an 'EDGE' in a competitive marketplace.



Meet Entrepreneurial Center Director Douglas Tschopp at Augustana College

Electronic Media

- Web Design
- Social Media Management
- Social Media Strategic Planning

Marketing

- Strategic Marketing Plans
- Media Planning
- Media Placement

Management

- Organizational Support
- Membership Management
- Conference Management

Public Relations

- Media Relations / News Release Writing
- Event Planning

Creative

- Print design
- Logo design
- Photography
- Video

President's *Page*

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

We had a decent turnout for our last Chamber event where Mark Hunt provided us with results and trends of the recently completed Census data. It was an interesting program and I would like to thank Hy-Vee for hosting the event. At the meeting we discussed the currently shrinking population in Milan and some of the theoretical causes. Mark didn't feel that the trend was overly concerning but I'm not sure that we all shared that opinion.

Why are you a member of the Milan Chamber of Commerce?

arm-twisting? Are you a member because you feel you "have to be"? Maybe you're a member simply because you always have been. Every one of these sentiments will push us sideways, to down. If we want to change things in Milan we have to one day, sincerely, and actively, join together as a community and decide that this is a goal worth fighting for. Sadly, and I'm as guilty as anyone, we get busy with our jobs and our kids and we come to the conclusion that "someone else will do it", "nothing is going to change anyway", and so forth. We are all to blame for our lack of progress...the businesses, elected and non-elected city officials, and our residents. If we all decide that our current state of affairs is acceptable then I am fine with that; not really, but I can live with it. But, if that

is not the case then don't complain about where we are now, or, as our current census data seems to indicate, where we are headed on our downward sloping trend.

I'm asking leaders from all of the three groups I mentioned, the businesses, elected and non-elected city officials, and our residents, to contact me with a sincere desire to put aside their egos, self interests, or agendas, and meet with me to form a plan of actionable events which can move us forward. My guess is that it will take sacrifice from all parties to achieve measurable growth. I know of a few people that I need to talk to but this won't significantly affect the outcome. Realize that there may be a lot of people who don't even read our newsletter, or don't belong to the Chamber. If you feel they should be a part of a concentrated group effort for positive change get them a copy of this invitation, or send them the link through email. If I find that this plea falls on deaf, or apathetic ears, I will simply know that we are all to blame but I, at least, will be able to dismiss the complaints, and finger pointing, of why we don't progress.

I hope to see you all at our next membership meeting which will be held early, **7am, at Happy Joes on March 2nd**. The meeting will feature Dr. Mike Oberhaus who will give us an update on the RI/Milan School District.

Sincerely,

Jim Huiskamp
Milan Chamber
309.787.9559
jim@choosethechief.com



Current President, Jim Huiskamp of Black Hawk Bank & Trust hands off a plaque in appreciation of service to former President, Lory VanBlair of Breadsley Printery at the February Milan Chamber General Meeting.

Announcements

Coming up...

SUPER RAFFLE

SUNDAY, MARCH 6

MILAN COMMUNITY CENTER

Doors open at 3:30 p.m.

Games start at 5:00 p.m.

See 5:00 p.m. Gift Presentation by a Milan Chamber representative to the BISWAPA for the Community Vision / Bike Path Project.

All proceeds raised at the Super Raffle will go to benefit the Big Island Soil & Water Preservation Association or BISWAPA in their efforts to expand and beautify the bike path along the Hennepin Canal.

Board *of Directors*

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Jim Huiskamp - Black Hawk Bank & Trust

VICE PRESIDENT

Kevin Humphery — Retired

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Betty Boltz - MIP

OTHER BOARD MEMBERS:

Ron Heinzman—Stern Beverage

John Ryan— CIS Financial

Lory VanBlair— Beardsley Printery, Inc.

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The Joel Brunsvold/Milan Photography Contest



Joel Brunsvold of Milan was a long time resident and supporter of Milan, serving as Mayor of Milan from 1977-1983. He was an avid photographer and wildlife enthusiast and served as the Director of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. The Joel Brunsvold/Milan Photography Contest is named in honor of his memory and service to Milan.

The purpose of the contest is to showcase Milan and areas of distinction closely surrounding Milan.

To highlight the places, faces and spaces that make Milan a great place to live, work and play and provide a venue for regional photographers to display their artistry and skill

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"Changing To Make Milan A Better Place"

ABOUT THE CONTEST:

The Joel Brunsvold/Milan Photography Contestant was created to provide beautiful photos for the benefit of the Milan Chamber of Commerce. Photographers whose work is accepted for inclusion will be acknowledged on a contributing photographers page on the Milan Chamber website.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES:

Submissions of **one 8x10 print** and **a digital copy of the same print** on either a CD or DVD will be accepted. Submit the digital files in JPEG format in a quality suitable for 16x20 @ 300 DPI.

Only four submissions per photographer. For each submission, please include a 'rough location' where the picture was taken. Do not imbed the location in the image file. List locations on a word file on your disk of submissions.

Submissions may be in:

- Landscape or portrait orientation
- Black & white and or color
- Files that have been moderately edited
- Include images that reflect the distinct seasons

Submissions may NOT:

- Montage of more than one image

Please:

- Mark your disk and the back of your photo (in pencil) with your name and Brunsvold/Milan Contest
- Include the Submissions Release Form and Contact Information Sheet with your submission.
- Submit your entries no later than August 15, 2011

Mail your submission packets with subject line Brunsvold/Milan Contest to:

Milan Chamber of Commerce

PO Box 1036

Milan, IL 6126

Call (309) 716-8144 with questions.

WHO MAY ENTER:

The Joel Brunsvold/Milan Contest is for everyone; that is why we have 3 divisions for entries: Professional, Amateur and Junior (18 years or younger). Prizes will be awarded to the top three entries of each division.

PROFESSIONAL/AMATEUR/JUNIOR

\$75 for 1st

\$50 for 2nd

\$25 for 3rd

PHOTO CONTEST CONCLUSION:

The photo contest will culminate in an event to unveil the photo contest winners and thank the contributing organizations/sponsors.

The event will be held:

Wednesday, September 7 at 6 p.m.

Milan Community Center

JUDGING:

An independent panel of judges will be viewing your submissions. The purpose of the contest is to highlight the places, faces and spaces that make Milan a great place to live, work and play.

Consider our areas natural resources such as: the Hennepin Canal, Camden Park, the Ken Collinson Ecological Preserve, Big Island and all of the flora and fauna that live in these areas.

Also consider one of Milan's greatest resources, the people of Milan: consider the Indian Summer Festival Parade, 3rd of July Fireworks Display, MIP Arts and Craft Fair, etc.

And consider places of distinction like the Veteran's Bridge and Carr's Crossing, the steel dam, the bike path along the Hennepin, the blue bridges, etc.

Please pass this submission information on to your colleagues and friends. *Thank you!*



It's what we do.

www.ChoosetheChief.com/Community



Chamber *Minutes* 2/9/11

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

February meeting at the Happy Joe's at 11:30 am.

Secretary's report for January accepted as presented motion by Bruce Brooks 2nd Del Steiert carried

Treasurer's report January checking balance \$19,092.73. No change \$17,022.84 A motion by Ron Heinzman and 2nd by Del Steiert carried

Agenda Items

We will be having a Joel Brunsvold – Milan Photography Contest in September. Brian Brunsvold has found a sponsor for the event, Eriksen's. Eriksen's would like to promote it through the news channel 8 - 3 degree guarantee. We will have promotion in the Chamber Chat, website and fliers in the schools and media release. We would like to make the September meeting more of a community event.

Golf committee update: Kevin Humphrey and Chuck Van Blair have been contacting local golf course to do some cost comparison. They are thinking

about reducing the cost per participant to \$75 to \$85 and eliminating lunch. They have a tentative date set of June 6. Checking other golf outings before a final decision is made. It was pointed out that we should spend enough dollars at what ever golf course to make it worth their while. .

Sarah will be doing a mailing in February. Would like an update list of benefits.

Programming for 2011 still being set

March 2 meeting at 7:00 am with Mike Oberhaus Dist 41 Superintendent at Hoppy Joes, Menu Breakfast pizza, cinnamon rolls, coffee & juice.

April 6 meeting at 6 pm with Mike Wernsman Ruhl & Ruhl, on Health Care Reform and small business Location TBA

It was suggested that we ask the membership what programs they would desire for presentation. Sarah, Vera and Dennis will work on this.

Secretary Betty Boltz

Caught in *the Gap*?

Would you like to open and business or expand an existing on but, are caught in a funding gap? The Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) is targeted for you. The RLF is for businesses that cannot make economically feasible financing because of conventional interest rates and lending/exposure limits applied by local lending institutions.

The RLF program is run by the Bi-State Regional Commission and is available to all communities located within Rock Island and Scott County.

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Chamber *Membership*

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| B&B Drain Tech Inc. | Milan Optical |
| B&B Hardware Inc. | Milan Police Dept. |
| Beardsley Printery, Inc. | Milan Surplus |
| Blackhawk Bank & Trust | MIP |
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The Conservancy |
| Coach House Garages | Orange Guy Inc. |
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| Collinson Stone Co. | Pegalo's Pizzeria & Gelato Cafe |
| DHCU Community Credit Union | Quad City Animal Welfare Center |
| 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 |
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| Meathead's Meat Market | Welcome Inn |
| Merl's Business Machines | Wheelan-Pressly Funeral Home |
| Mid American Builders | Wilbert Vault |
| Mid American Energy Co. | XPAC |
| Midwest Horseshoeing Supply | |
| Milan Lanes | |

Milan Chamber meets the 1st Wednesday of every month for learning, networking and even fun. Times and locations due vary and the best way to stay in touch with Chamber happenings is to sign up for e-news alerts. Contact Milan Chamber at milanilchamber@gmail.com to sign up today.

MARCH General Meeting

"The State of Milan/Rock Island Schools"

Presentation by: Dr. Mike Oberhaus

Wednesday, March 2nd

Happy Joes

Starting at 7 AM

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



Mark your calendars for
 Milan Chamber's
 Preferred Ball Golf Outing
Monday, June 13
1:00 p.m.
Pinnacle Country Club

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