



"Changing to make Milan a better place"

MILAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

SEPT. 2008

321 West 2nd Avenue  
Milan, Illinois 62164

WWW.MILANILCHAMBER.ORG  
STAFF@MILANILCHAMBER.ORG

SEPTEMBER 2008  
(309) 716-8144

# Chamber chat

## Business Spotlight

### RIA Federal Credit Union

R.I.A. Federal Credit Union was originally organized under Iowa Law and opened for business in September of 1935. Today, the Credit Union belongs to the Illinois Credit Union League and is affiliated with the National Association of Federal Credit Unions. R.I.A. Federal Credit Union is a federally chartered credit union. Therefore, they follow the laws of the Federal Credit Union Act and are supervised and regulated by the National Credit Union Administration (NCUA). All accounts at the credit union are federally insured by the NCUA against loss up to \$100,000 per member. An additional \$250,000 of deposit insurance is provided to their members, at no cost, through Excess Share Insurance Corporation (ESI). This means savings at R.I.A. are protected up to \$350,000 - the highest federal / private share savings insurance available. This increased level of deposit insurance is just another example of how R.I.A. is determined to provide members with the highest quality of financial services.



Did you know that members of R.I.A. Federal Credit Union can have their parents, spouse and children join too? From credit cards to auto loans, we offer an outstanding lineup of services. At RIA Federal Credit Union, your financial success is our goal! Visit our Milan branch or log on to [www.riafcu.com](http://www.riafcu.com)!



**Location—Location—Location**  
The Milan Chamber of Commerce has a 'place to hang its hat'. The Chamber office is now located at the former Milan Municipal Building,  
**321 West 2nd Avenue.**

Office hours are:  
Tuesdays and Thursdays  
9:00 AM to 1:00 PM.

Phone hours are:  
Monday thru Friday  
9:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

Chamber Phone: (309)-716-8144

### From The President...

Thank you to Mayor Dawson, Chief Beckwith and the staff at the new Milan Municipal Building for hosting the August Chamber meeting. Chamber members were treated to an exclusive tour of the new state-of-the-art facility which rivals city halls and municipal buildings of much larger cities. After the tour, I asked others what they thought of the building. Chris Bayer said, "It's very warm and inviting, but it's still very modern and professional. You don't see that in a lot of other government buildings." I agreed completely. Not only was this a good description of our new Municipal Building, but also a good description of what the Milan Chamber attempts to accomplish on a daily basis. We do our best to create a community that is welcoming, inviting and friendly, while striving to maintain a strong level of professionalism for our members and for the future of Milan. The building has made our Village proud and is another motivation to continue in striving to improve our community; for our residents and businesses alike.

*Vera Hinrichsen*

President - Milan Chamber of Commerce  
Executive Director - Just Kids Early Care & Education Centers



# September 2008

**Sun      Mon      Tue      Wed      Thu      Fri      Sat**

	1 Labor Day - Chamber Office Closed	2 Village Board Meeting, 6:30pm	3 General Meeting - Happy Joe's, 7am	4	5	6
7	8	9	10 Chamber Board Meeting	11	12	13
14	15 Village Board Meeting, 6:30pm	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

## ANNOUNCEMENTS:

\*  
MIP Craft Fair is coming up...mark your calendars for Sunday, October 5

\*  
Watch for inserts in the Argus/Dispatch/Leader newspapers with exclusive ads featuring Milan Chamber Business members and highlighting the upcoming MIP Craft Fair.

See these newspapers:  
Thurs. September 25  
Thurs. October 2

\*  
*Change of Venue.*  
Milan Chamber will not be attending Circa 21, November 5. Instead, Milan Medical will be hosting our general meeting that evening at 6 PM.

## Coming Up...



The Village of Milan is gearing up for the second annual **Milan Monster Mash and Costume Contest**. This year's event will take place once again at the Milan Community Center, **Friday, October 17 from 8 PM to midnight**.

Guests will be greeted by festive décor and howling tunes by Grey Wolf. This event features great prizes, raffles and a guaranteed good time for only \$5 at the door.

Get into the Monster Mash spirit and consider becoming a table sponsor for only \$25! Contact Annette Ernst at the Village, 309-787-8500, for table entry information.

This event is sponsored by the Village of Milan's Department of Economic Development and Milan Parks & Recreation.



Have you ever heard of "Trunk'r Treat"? It is like a Halloween tail-gate party for kids! Bring your family to the **lower bowl at Camden Park on Thursday, October 23rd from 6—7 PM** and get your 'tricks or treats' from the trunks of vehicles from local organizations and businesses.

"Trunk'r Treat" is a fun and safe way to enjoy Halloween in Milan. **Businesses interested in participating are encouraged to contact Annette Ernst** at the Village, 309-787-8500.  
*Rain date is set for Thursday, October 30.*

Sponsored by Village of Milan's Department of Economic Development and Milan Park & Recreation.

# Chamber *members*



## BOARD MEMBERS:

### President

Vera Hinrichsen  
*Just Kids Early Care & Education Centers*

### Vice President

Jim Huiskamp  
*Blackhawk Bank & Trust*

### Secretary/Treasurer

Betty Boltz  
*MIP*

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

### Cathy Edwards

*Edwards Creative Services, LLC*

### 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.*

AFLAC—Chris Bayer  
American Bank & Trust  
Appraisals of Real Estate Barb Robertson  
Au Jus Neighborhood Bar and 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  
Dr. Karla Buckrop  
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  
Elite Graphics  
Eriksen Chevrolet-Buick  
Family Funeral Services  
Ferrari Insurance Agency  
Federated Insurance  
First Presbyterian Church  
Flooring Express

Happy Joe's  
Hi Cliff MHPI, LLC  
Honsa Ergonomic Technologies  
Hughes Tire & Battery  
Hurst Mfg.  
Hy-Vee  
IH Mississippi Valley Credit Union  
Ink Catridge Source  
Johannes Bus Service  
Johnston & Wilson, P.C.  
Just Kids Inc.  
Main Street Barber Shop  
McDonald's  
Meathead's Meat Market  
Merl's Business Machines  
Mid American Builders  
Mid American Energy Co.  
Midwest Horseshoeing Supply  
Milan Auction  
Milan Flower Shop and Greenhouse  
Milan Lanes  
Milan License and Title  
Milan Medical Group  
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  
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  
Skiles Driving School  
Stern Beverage  
THE National Bank  
The Touch Inc.  
Therapeutic Oasis Massage & Spa  
Thomas Paint & Decorating  
Union Federal Savings & Loan  
Valley Construction  
VFC Distributors, Inc.  
Village of Milan  
Walman Optical  
Wheelan-Pressly Funeral Home  
Wilbert Vault  
XPAC

# Board *Minutes* 8/13/08 Secretary Betty Boltz

Vera Hinrichsen, Betty Boltz, Cathy Edwards, Jim Huiskamp, Ron Heinzman, John Ryan, Del Steiert, Lory Van Blair, Steve Wilson Absent: Non Board Members. Nikki Pilcher, Ashley

Meeting opened by President Vera Hinrichsen at Milan Village Hall

Secretary's report approved by Steve Wilson seconded Cathy Edwards and carried

Treasurer's report approved as presented by Steve Wilson seconded by Ron Heinzman Carried.

New members are Benny's Pizza and Elite Graphics

Fliers for Indian Summer Festival will be distributed on Aug 21 and 28. All ads were sold and all ads for the Fall MIP Flyer for September 25 and Oct 2 have been sold also. Should we consider a holiday flyer at the end of the year?

We have not committed to the Circa 21 night on November 5. It was decided to drop the Circa night. We will need to plan a meeting for November.

We need to work on the Holiday Party. We need a chairperson. We will check with Toni Gasper, Nikki and Ashley said they would help. Vera said that Just Kids will work on the baskets. A door bell has been installed at the Chamber office. Quick Books has been installed on the extra laptop

We are checking with the Village for internet service. Should know by next week if Chamber needs to provide its own service.

Sarah and Annette are working on trying to get a Band Shelter for Camden Park but since the storm everything is on hold.

Jim reported that the bank needs the DSL router back. Betty will make sure it gets back to the bank.

Vera and Betty interviewed two people for the Chamber employee position, both had positive qualities. Sarah also requested an interview. After that, Vera and Cathy thought we should try to work out something with Sarah. After much discussion, it was decided that hiring Sarah as an independent contractor might be the best route to go. We will have to work with Sarah and review the pay and mileage we were paying our employee. We would offer a flat amount and she will be responsible for everything else. Jim Huiskamp made a motion to explore hiring Sarah Wright as an independent contractor at an amount of not to exceed \$15,000 a year; what we were currently paying our employee in wages and mileage.

Seconded by Ron Heinzman. Carried. We need to check with members for programs of interest for future meetings.

We will move our board meetings to the new branch of Blackhawk Bank & Trust from now on. Meeting adjourned at 8:00 am

# Chamber Travel

Don't forget...The Milan Chamber of Commerce is your source for great deals for personal and business travel! The Chamber has partnered with YTB Travel International for a unique opportunity called *Passport to Giving*. Through this partnership, the Milan Chamber is now your online travel provider!

When you log on to [www.milanilchambertravel.com](http://www.milanilchambertravel.com) to book your personal and business travel, you will be making a donation to fund the activities of our organization. Instead of the travel commission going to a travel company, it is donated to the Chamber. This means you won't pay more for your hotel, car rental, vacation package or cruise - and you'll be helping to make Milan a better place!

**YOU WILL PAY THE SAME OR LESS THAN OTHER ONLINE TRAVEL SITES AND HELP THE MILAN CHAMBER AT THE SAME TIME!**

#### User Testimonial:

*"I have used (the Milan Chamber Travel site) to book 21 separate travel events, from hotels to cars to airfare. In fact our airfare for our annual Montana elk hunting trip was cheaper than going to the airline's own website. My bottom line report is that it is just as easy to use as the other travel sites (I am a VIP or Premium member of Travelocity, Expedia, Orbitz and Cheaptickets) and I am glad that the Chamber will be getting some of the commish!"*

**John Ryan - CIS Financial Group, Inc., Milan Chamber Board Member**

## Ever Heard of the Milan Bottoms?

*The following has been printed with permission from Land & Nature, a newsletter from the Natural Land Institute*

Milan, Illinois is home to one of the largest stretch of floodplain forest and marsh along the Upper Mississippi River in Illinois. It is located below the mouth of the Rock River between the Towns of Milan and Andalusia and is home to numerous bird species.

The swampy backwaters are teeming with bird life, providing important nesting areas for herons, red-shouldered hawks and bald eagles. A rookery of 300 to 350 nest of great blue herons, great egrets and black-crowned night herons have been active on the site for almost 40 years. It is also home to the yellow-crowned night herons, an Illinois endangered species.

About 1500 acres of the 3400 acre Milan Bottoms wetland complex are included in the Mark Twain National Fish and Wildlife Refuge. It is also designated as a natural area on the Illinois Natural Inventory because of the large number of amphibians, reptiles, migratory songbirds that need large tracts of forest to



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## Do You Work Your Business or Does Your Business Work You?

Most business owners we interview have no clue how to make their business' the tax and financial haven that they desire it to be. I'm talking about strategies that have you paying the lowest taxes possible, saving more for your retirement, improving your current lifestyle, and creating an asset that someone will want to buy. We are now accepting a limited number of new qualified clients. Call us at 799-5684 to find out if you qualify for my team's services.

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. John collaborates with other professionals.

survive; such as the Cerulean warbler, yellow throated vireo, American redstart, pileated woodpecker, yellow-throated warbler, red-eyed vireo, Northern parula, Eastern wood-pewee, great crested flycatcher and yellow-billed cuckoo. Bobcats and river otters have also been reported in the area.

More than 12 million people annually recreate on or along the Mississippi River—four times more than visit Yellow Stone National Park. Millions of people hunt waterfowl and watch birds along the Mississippi and it's floodplains, spending nearly \$400 million each year on equipment and travel-related expenses in riverside communities. Wildlife watching alone in Midwestern states generates nearly \$6 billion in annual spending, supporting more than 150,000 jobs.

~FROM "RIVER OF RENEWAL"  
By American Rivers, Inc. 2001

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# General Membership Meeting

## September 3, 2008

Morning Meeting at Milan Happy Joe's



**SEPT. 3 - 7:00AM**

Cost for breakfast is \$5.00 in advance or \$7.00 at the door. Please RSVP to [staff@milanilchamber.org](mailto:staff@milanilchamber.org) by August 29th.

Presentation by Cathy Edwards: Branding Your Business



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