



Chamber chat

A newsletter distinctly for Milan Chamber Members, Milan, IL

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Waterway Restoration:

Enthusiasts Work to Revitalize the Hennepin Canal

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Milan Medical Group

Milan Medical, located prominently at 1929 East 10th Avenue and the beltway in Milan, offers a variety of medical services to Milan and Milan area residents. Known for its friendly and caring medical staff, accessible office hours and the 'Walk in's Welcome' sign just outside the building. The thriving medical group is the place to go for aches and pains, illnesses and even urgent care.

Milan Medical has a unique team of board certified medical, osteopathic and chiropractic doctors that will work together to bring you the individualized care you deserve. Having medical professionals from a variety of disciplines under one roof, allows patients to have a 'one-stop-shop' experience saving you time and securing your continuity of care.

Milan Medical Group is open 7 days a week: from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Monday thru Friday and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. Directed under the philosophy that no patient should be denied care for financial reasons; Milan Medical accepts most insurance including: Aetna, Blue Cross/Blue Shield, First Administrators, Principal, United Health Care, and Medicare.

Qualified and accessible medical services delivered in a friendly, professional manner is what makes Milan Medical an important asset to a growing Milan community and keeps patients coming through their open doors.

Imagine the Illinois countryside viewed from a languid current of water. When you arrive at a lock there is no need to portage, you can simply boat on through. Thanks to the efforts of the Friends of the Hennepin Canal, such a recreational opportunity may soon become a reality. Dubbed the "Renaissance Project," the undertaking aims to restore three locks and reopen 50 miles of the 100-year-old, hand-dug canal.

The Renaissance Project is a partnership between the Friends of the Hennepin Canal and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. The Friends of the Hennepin Canal include the canal's most ardent supporters. Gary Wagle of Galesburg (who grew up around the canal at Colona) organized the group in 1998 and currently serves as president.

The DNR estimates the Hennepin Canal State Parkway has one million yearly visitors among its approximately 300 access points. The Friends/DNR project envisions new private enterprises including boat rental, bike rental and beds and breakfasts along the canal. The project encompasses communities in five counties (Rock Island, Bureau, Henry, Lee and Whiteside) where people can band together and create a destination area, says Foes.

The three locks to be restored to functionality are among five that have already been restored to their original look, but the work fell short of making them operable. Retired DNR canal superintendent Steve Moser says the group couldn't have picked a better route, due to the work that's already been done.

Inspiration for the Renaissance Project started with the attention given to the canal for its centennial celebration in 2007, followed, like a discordant musical note, by Gov. Rod Blagojevich's closure of the canal just a year later.

To protest the pending closure, petitions were started at several towns, including one that gathered 5,000 signatures at Annawan. Many people showed they cared about keeping the canal open. Letters were sent to legislators. One meeting at Geneseo attracted 400 people.

Johnson Lasky Architects of Chicago will launch the

first step towards repairing the locks. A \$60,000 engineering study will determine what's involved in lock repair, now estimated to cost \$350,000 to \$650,000 per lock. The Renaissance group hopes to raise a total of \$80,000 in grants and donations to pay for contingencies and fundraising costs. They planned for PayPal capability on their website.

Future phases could restore additional locks until eventually there would be a great circular path from Chicago to the Mississippi and back. Such an effort would be enormous: there are 33 locks in all on the main part of the canal. Twenty-one locks make a 196-foot climb from the Illinois River to just west of Wy- anet.

David Barber, president of the American Canal Society, is among those who would like to see all locks on the Hennepin Canal eventually restored. He looked over the canal this past summer, taking a fancy to movable bridges of several designs -- among them hand-cranked lift bridges that slide onto the road. He says he thinks the structures haven't received the attention they deserve.

Barber says he likes the plan to start with the three locks -- representing the highest stretches of the canal with the fewest locks.

"If you can be successful with that, which is limited in scope, then you start showing people what can happen," he says. "Then you branch out from there. It's not a big issue, it's just a matter of starting with the easy part and working your way out. The canal is in very good shape, it's all owned by the state and it has water in it. That gives you a tremendous leg up."

A man from the Chicago area who has since passed away was so intrigued with the restoration that he rewrote his will to leave some money to the project. A speed skater from San Francisco thinks the canal would be perfect for a competitive skating event and came here last winter to study it. Besides Barber, another canal enthusiast visited the tourism office over a year ago, full of eagerness and advice on the canal. And there are others.

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President's Page

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

As I enter into the year as your new Milan Chamber of Commerce President, I would first like to thank Lory Van Blair for your service in that capacity this past year. Lory is passionate about furthering Milan's growth on all levels and I hope that I can follow her example.

"We are a community of tremendous potential..."

We spent a lot of time this past year at the Board level trying to gauge your opinions on what direction you would like us to take as we move forward. At the Stern Beverage meeting it was voted that we remain an independent entity. As I did then, I will go on record as saying that I shared the majority opinion at that time and still do. We are a community of tremendous potential which seems to be weighed down only by our lack of solidarity and common focus.

As a member of a business with locations in different cities. I have seen how some have prospered through collaboration while others move sideways to down because of fractionalism. I'm sure that I won't be able to change much on my own but, I am making it one of my top goals to explore how our community's leaders, at all levels.; public and private, can forge a new cooperative vision so that we can all start pulling in the same direction. If you are one of those leaders, or know of someone that I need to be speaking with, please give me a call, or shoot me an e-mail, my contact information is below.

I wish you the best in 2011 and look forward to your positive suggestions on how we can improve as a community, or chamber.

Take care,

Jim Huiskamp

Blackhawk Bank & Trust

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jim@choosethechief.com

Announcements

Mark your calendars for the Milan Lion's Club

SUPER RAFFLE

SUNDAY, MARCH 6

MILAN COMMUNITY CENTER

Doors open at 3:30 p.m.

Games start at 5:00 p.m.

\$500 Bike & Hike Bike Package
(Giant Sedona Bike and Accessory Package);
\$200 of Gift Cards to Milan's Restaurants
(Milan's "Power Lunches for Pedal Power")
\$150 Alarm Clock and I-Pod Charger
\$100 HyVee Gift Certificate and more

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.

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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

Chamber *Happenings*



Date/Time	Presenter	Location	Topic
Wednesday, Feb 2 nd , Noon	Mark Hunt, Bi-State Economic Development Project Manager Annette Ernst, Village	Milan's Welcome Inn – Banquet Room	Economic Development: Trends, Projections and Aspirations in Milan
Wednesday, March 2 nd , 7 AM	Mike Oberhaus, Superin- tendent, SD 41	Happy Joes – Banquet Room	State of Milan/Rock Island Schools
Wednesday, April 6, 6 PM	Mike Wernsmen, Ruhl & Ruhl Insurance	TBA	Health Care Reform & Small Business



This is your Chamber...LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD! What type of programming would you like to see this year? Contact us at milanilchamber@gmail.com or go to our website at www.milanilchamber.org and click on the Programming 2011 link to voice your preferences. Thank you.

Chamber *Minutes* 1/12/11

Jim Huiskamp, Betty Boltz, Bruce Brooks, Lory Van Blair, Vera Hinrichsen, Kevin Humphrey, Dennis Mosley, Steve Wilson, Del Steiert. Absent: Ron Heinzman and John Ryan

January meeting at the Welcome Inn at 12:00.

Secretary's report December report accepted as presented motion by Lory Van Blair 2nd Del Steiert carried

Treasurer's report December checking balance \$10,792.15. No change \$17,022.84 A motion by Steve Wilson and 2nd by Vera Hinrichsen to accept the December Treasurer's report carried.

Dues/Membership – Betty reported money coming in pretty well. It was decided that 2nd notices should be sent in February.

Supplies Request from Sarah, she needs to make membership packets. She needs note cards and business cards.

Vera Hinrichsen made a motion to purchase note cards and business cards as needed from Beardsley Printery 2nd by Bruce Brooks. Jim will make 50 copies of the membership application

It was reported that Sarah would like to share a mailing to all 400 businesses in Milan with the Village (Annette) of the Doing business in Milan. We will check into this and vote on this at the next meeting.

We discussed the Feb 9 2011 "retreat" from 11:30 to 2:30 at Happy Joes; Christine Nitz will facilitate the discussion. This meeting will replace the regular board meeting. Jim requested that each board member send him what they would like to see in the short or long term. Jim, Vera and Sarah will try to meet with Christina before our "retreat". We will have a short board meeting at the end.

President Jim Huiskamp brought up the community directory. This is the directory that Annette explained to us. Jim met with 2 people from Home Pages. The directory will happen no matter what we do. We would be, essentially advertisement space for \$321.55. This is 1/3 of the cost shared with the Village and Community Center. Lory Van Blair made a motion to participate in the Home Pages which will be sent to all 61264 zip codes 2nd by Vera Hinrichsen. Carried.

Programming for 2011 still being set

Feb 2 meeting at 12:00 at the Welcome Inn with Mark Hunt from Bi-State Economic Development Project Manager and Annette Ernst. Menu will be choice of Country Club & soup of the day or Turkey & Swiss & soup of the day.

March 2 meeting at 7:00 am with Mike Oberhaus Dist 41 Superintendent at Happy 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.

It was suggested that maybe we should invite the Village trustees up for reelection to a public forum before the election in April. Those up for reelection are Bruce Stickell, Harry Stuart, and Jay Zimmerman.

Sarah's office hours have changed to 9am to 3 pm Monday, Wednesday, and 9 to noon on Fridays. Phone hours remain the same 9-5 Monday thru Friday.

It was presented that Dave Temple might be interest in joining the board. Dennis Moseley made a motion to accept Dave Temple from The National Bank to the board if he will accept the invitation. 2nd by Lory VanBlair. Carried.

There were several suggestions on what to do with the 50/50 and baskets money from the Holiday Party.

Kevin Humphrey made a motion to give the 50/50 and basket money from the Holiday Party to the Bike Path project. 2nd and carried

Betty Boltz reported that she is interested in getting the Village to put up Welcome to Milan signs; at Village expense, but would like the backing of the Chamber. She is proceeding with this request.

Submitted by

Secretary Betty Boltz



Milan Chamber of Commerce Membership Application 2009

Milan Chamber of Commerce
 P.O. Box 1036
 Milan, Illinois 61264

 309-716-8144

 www.milanilchamber.org
 staff@milanilchamber.org

The Milan Chamber of Commerce is the heart of the Milan business community. Your membership is your tool to help grow your business and gives you access to a spectrum of programs and services. General Meetings are held monthly and include meals for one member only. Additional meals can be purchased for \$7 per person.

Membership Dues Structure

Elected Officials-Clergy	\$75
Retired/Residential	\$75
0-20 Employees	\$125
21 Employees and over	\$225

Complete the information below and return with your payment

MEMBER INFORMATION

Business Name:	Member Name:
Number of Employees:	Spouse Name:
Business Address:	Home Address:
City: State: Zip:	City: State: Zip:
Billing Address:	Home Phone:
Business Phone:	Cell Phone:
Business e-mail:	Personal e-mail:
<input type="checkbox"/> Check here if you would like to receive Chamber Update e-mails to keep abreast of Chamber events. Your address will not be distributed or sold to anyone.	
Chamber distributes the Chamber Chat newsletter monthly, please indicate which method you would like to receive them.	
<input type="checkbox"/> E-mail only <input type="checkbox"/> Standard Mail <input type="checkbox"/> Both	
I/We would like to know more about:	
I/We joined Milan Chamber because:	
I/We would like to see Milan Chamber do:	
I would like to volunteer or contribute to the following community events on behalf of Chamber, please check all that apply: <input type="checkbox"/> Sponsor a General Meeting <input type="checkbox"/> Indian Summer Festival <input type="checkbox"/> Annual Holiday Party <input type="checkbox"/> MIP Arts & Craft Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Golf Outing <input type="checkbox"/> Recruiting a new member <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____	

"Changing to Make Milan a better place"

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The Renaissance project itself does not include an excursion canal boat on the canal.

"That's not our mission at all," says Foes. "We want fishing boats, canoes, kayaks to come through initially and then hopefully someone will come through with a (canal) boat. But that gets into DNR. That's why working with DNR is so important. Our goal is to preserve the locks, then entrepreneurs can come in."

A non-profit society is now operating a commercial canal boat, a mule-pulled, 19th century replica, on the Illinois and Michigan canal at LaSalle. The canal boat, named "Volunteer," takes people 3/4 mile between non-functioning locks for \$14 (16 and under, \$8). Its visitor center also boasts a restaurant. It is a potential model for what could be done on this side of the feeder canal, for longer trips.

"I've been to Rock Falls," says Barber. "It's not the biggest place in the world, but something like this is big news."

He cites a canal in Scotland where a series of locks was replaced with a boat lift in 2002. According to Barber, the Falkirk Wheel boat lift has become the third most popular tourist attraction in Scotland and the queen herself attended the grand opening.

"This is the kind of impact waterways have," he says. "This kind of thing has potential."



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B&B Hardware Inc.	MIP
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Blackhawk Township	Mr. Ed's Ltd.
Brandt Construction	MVP Collision & Repair
Bush Turf Inc.	Nalevanko-Ullrich Builders Inc.
Dr. Karla Buckrop	Outdoor Innovations/ The Conservancy
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Collinson and Scott	Quad City Animal Welfare Center
Collinson Stone Co.	Quad City Re-Bath
DHCU Community Credit Union	Rock Island County Board— Ken Maranda
Diamond Builders	Rock Island County Extension
Edwards Creative Services	RIA Federal Credit Union
Eriksen Chevrolet-Buick	River Stone Group
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Flooring Xpress	Stern Beverage
Fyre Lake National	Swartz Insurance Company
Happy Joe's	THE National Bank
Group O	The Touch Inc.
Hi Cliff Estates	Therapeutic Oasis Massage & Spa
Hughes Tire & Battery	Valley Construction
Hy-Vee	VFC Distributors, Inc.
IH Mississippi Valley Credit Union	Village of Milan
Johannes Bus Service	Village Woods Appartments
Johnston & Wilson, P.C.	Walgreens
Just Kids Inc.	Walman Optical
Jumer's Casino & Hotel	Welcome Inn
Mass Custom Hauling & Crushing	Wheelan-Pressly Funeral Home
McDonald's	Wilbert Vault
Meathead's Meat Market	XPAC
Merl's Business Machines	
Mid American Builders	
Mid American Energy Co.	
Midwest Horseshoeing Supply	
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Milan License and Title	
Milan Medical Group	



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.

FEBRUARY General Meeting

Economic Development :Trends, Projections and Aspirations for Milan

What are some of the trends that will be shaping Milan in the future? Come hear from Mark Hunt, Economic Development Project Director for Bi-State Regional Commission about what these trends might mean for your business and our region.

Wednesday, February 2
Milan's Welcome Inn
Starting at NOON

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



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Office hours	Mon & Wed 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Fri 9 a.m. to Noon
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