



Hillsboro Chamber of Commerce Business Brief

Friday, August 8, 2008

YOU ARE AN ESSENTIAL PIECE OF THE PUZZLE!

Volume 2, Number 8

In This Issue

- Office Update
- Member News
- Toastmasters
- MCEDC
- Chamber Supporters

Upcoming Events

- Chamber Lunch
Friday, August 15
12:00 PM
Hillsboro Country Club
August Door Prize:
National Bank
- WSMI Chamber Chat
Friday, August 22
9:05 am
- Chamber Lunch
Friday, September 19
Noon
Red Rooster Inn
September Door Prize:
The Job Center

Hillsboro Chamber of Commerce

447 S. Main St.
Hillsboro IL, 62049
217.532.3711
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Chamber Office Update

Mark Your Calendars:

▪ August Member Meeting

The monthly meeting for August is Friday, August 15 at the Hillsboro Country Club. Sandy Glenn with Prepaid Legal will be the featured speaker. She will focus on new laws and guideline changes affecting businesses in Illinois. Join us to hear committee updates and learn more about the many upcoming Chamber events!

▪ WSMI Chamber Chat

Tune in to WSMI AM 1540 Friday, August 22, 2008 at 9:05 am for the Hillsboro Chamber of Commerce live with Terry Todt. Keep up to date on upcoming events, committee news and new members.

▪ Night of Networking

The Montgomery County Economic Development Corporation with the Hillsboro Chamber of Commerce and City of Litchfield Economic Development Office are hosting the next Night of Networking Wednesday, September 10, 2008. Join us at Forsee Vineyards, Coffeen, for an evening of conversation, wine and cheese. More details to follow.

▪ Quarterly Business Tour

Join us for a hands on tour of Forsee Vineyards! Have you ever wondered how they harvest grapes? Or how grapes become the bottle of wine on your dinner table? Harvesting and processing opportunities are going to be available mid-September. Be on the look out for more details closer to harvest time. Or contact the Chamber at 217.532.3711 to learn more.

The Economic Development Committee is proud to host local Business Tours. These tours, to be held quarterly, will give Chamber members the opportunity to visit and learn more about neighboring businesses. Interested in being a tour location? Contact the Chamber or Melissa Martincic to be added to the schedule. 217.532.3711 or 217.324.2138 ext 229.

▪ Coming Soon! Hillsboro Chamber of Commerce After Hours

Beginning in October, the Hillsboro Chamber of Commerce Programs Committee will begin hosting Business After Hours for Chamber members. These events, to be held quarterly, will provide a networking opportunity for Chamber members in a social atmosphere. The first program will include a candidate meet and greet featuring candidates on the ballot this November. Watch for further details coming soon!

If you are interested in hosting, sponsoring or co-sponsoring a Business After Hour, please contact the Chamber or Gene White. 217.532.3711 or 217.532.2653

The Hillsboro Chamber of Commerce exists to advance the commercial, agricultural, industrial and civic interest of the City of Hillsboro and Greater Montgomery County.

The Chamber:

- Coordinates the talents of local business and community leaders
- Formally recognizes business excellence
- Advocates the interests of Hillsboro and Montgomery County to elected and appointed officials at all levels of government
- Supports community service organizations as they improve the quality of life in Hillsboro and Montgomery County
- Assists with economic and community development of Hillsboro and Montgomery County
- Provides opportunities for leadership development in cooperation with regional partners

Member News and Announcements

Welcome New Members!

Please help us welcome new members to the Hillsboro Chamber of Commerce

Right Choice Realty

Contact: Sid Blankenship - 217.825.5017

Business: Real Estate Sales

*Watch for Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting details coming soon!

National Bank

National Bank recognized Charles Shelhamer for his-hole-in one on #4 at the Hillsboro Country Club on Tuesday, May 27th. Mr. Shelhamer was awarded a plaque, small cash sum and a dozen golf balls from National Bank's Executive Vice President Guy Sheridan.

Montgomery County Realty has new owner

Brandi Dankoski Lentz is the new owner and manager of Montgomery County Realty. Lentz officially took over the local company from Kim Noyes on August 1, 2008. After obtaining her brokerage license in 2004, Lentz established Pike County Real Estate, Inc. in Western Illinois. She returned to Hillsboro in August 2007 and has been with Montgomery County Realty since that time. In addition to selling real estate, Lentz is also a certified appraiser. Noyes will continue working with Montgomery County Realty to meet buyers and sellers needs throughout Central Illinois.

LLCC now accepting Fall Registrations

Lincoln Land Community College's Southern Region Education Center in Hillsboro and Litchfield is still taking registrations for the fall term which starts August 23rd. An Orientation/Open House is scheduled for August 18, 4:00 PM. Seats are still available in many classes. Call 324.2090 or go to llcc.edu.

Red Rooster Lounge and Pub

Is now serving dinner six nights a week. They serve a full menu on the weekends and a smaller home style menu throughout the week. Enjoy their brunch buffet on Sundays.

Montgomery County Toastmasters

The Hillsboro Chamber of Commerce has been pivotal in bringing Toastmasters to Montgomery County. The Montgomery County Toastmasters meets the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of each month at the Red Rooster Inn. As the club grows, meetings will be held throughout the county. Currently the club meets at 7:00 am, but is looking at moving the meeting to an evening time this fall.

Incentives for Doing Business in Montgomery County

The Montgomery County Economic Development Corporation coordinates the following programs available to Montgomery County businesses. For further information on either program or other services provided by MCEDC, please contact Heather Hampton-Knodle or Amanda Cole at 217.532.3941.

Employee Hiring

Rural Renewal County: Montgomery County is designated as a Rural Renewal County which means that employers can receive up to \$2,400 tax credits for each employee they hire who is a Montgomery County resident between the ages of 18 and 39. Employers need to complete IRS Form 8850 and Dept. of Labor Employment and Training Administration Form 9061 to be eligible for the tax credits.

Access to Capital

Montgomery County Revolving Loan Fund (RLF): The Montgomery County Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) is another option to help local businesses and local lenders finance expansion and new construction projects. Financial institutions can request the RLF for the business they represent. The RLF portion, between \$5,000 and \$50,000 can be up to 33% of the total project cost. If the RLF participation agreement is approved by the RLF board, the requested amount is deposited into the financial institution that requested the funds at a fixed 2% rate for the duration of the loan. Financial institutions may not charge more than 4% above the RLF rate to recipients of revolving loan funds on the revolving loan share of the loan.

Eligible Projects:

- Acquisition of land, buildings, and fixed equipment.
- Working capital and inventory.
- Site preparation and construction, reconstruction, or installation of buildings and fixed equipment.
- Clearance and demolition, removal or rehabilitation of buildings and improvements.

Requirements:

- leverage at least \$2.00 of private funds (borrower and lender) for every \$1.00 (RLF) requested
- create or retain one full-time permanent position for every \$10,000 requested.
- Demonstrate that the proposed project is not eligible for financing from any other source on reasonably equivalent terms.
- Maintain adequate insurance on the pledged collateral.
- Comply with all applicable local, state and federal laws, regulations and ordinances.

Support Your Local Chamber Sponsors

**National
Bank**
Your Bank for the Future.

Are you or anyone you know College Bound? Stop by National Bank and open a Free Checking Account during the month of August and receive a free gift. Inquire today for complete details.

The Litchfield Job Center

502 E. Edwards

Litchfield, IL 62056

Are you interested in advertising in *Business Briefs*? If so, contact the Chamber office for opportunities and rates.



**HILLSBORO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
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