



Hillsboro Chamber of Commerce

Business Brief

September 11, 2009

Hillsboro Chamber of
Commerce

447 South Main Street
Hillsboro, IL 62049
217-532-3711

hillsborochamber@consolidated
.net

www.hillsborochamber.net

Board of Directors

Gene White, President
White and Associates

Vice President

Mike Ryan, Treasurer
National Bank

Angie Eickhoff
White and Associates

Dennis Fenton
State Farms Insurance

Melissa Durbin
Job Center

Susie Galer
The Journal News

Chamber Office Update

Mark Your Calendars:

After Hours

Be our guest at Indian Springs golf Course for a Night of Networking on Tuesday, September 22nd from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm. There will be light refreshments, a brief presentation, a speaker, and networking opportunities. Please RSVP by calling 217-532-3941 or going to the website <http://web.extension.uiuc.edu/montgomery>. The event is being hosted by:

- Litchfield Economic Development Office
- Montgomery County Chambers of Commerce
- Montgomery County Economic Development Corporation
- University of Illinois Extension, Montgomery County

WSMI Chamber Chat

Tune in to WSMI AM 1540 Friday, August 21, 2009 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.

September Member Lunch

The September Member Lunch is Friday, September 18 at 12 noon at Gianni's. The Salad bar/buffet will be available for individuals attending the meeting. Guest speaker this month is Nancy Richardson from PAWS care. As always the monthly lunch provides a great networking opportunity. All member businesses are encouraged to invite their employees to attend the monthly lunch. RSVP to 217.532.3711 or hillsborochamber@consolidated.net.

Hot Dog Sale

The Hillsboro Chamber of Commerce will be selling Hot Dog lunches on Saturday, September 12 at Dollar General. We need several volunteers to help out that day. Please contact the Chamber office if you can help. All goods are graciously donated by Dollar General vendors, courtesy of Dollar General. All proceeds will go to the Chamber. Come out and support our efforts!

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Monthly Meetings:

- Chamber Lunch
Friday, September 18
Noon
Location: Gianni's
September Door Prize:
Dennis L. Fenton –
State Farm Insurance
- Chamber Lunch
Friday October 16
Noon
Location: TBA
October Door Prize:
The Job Center/ IDES

Terri Miller
Miller Enterprise

Toby Dean
WSMI

Kim Noyes
Montgomery County
Realty

Don Burton
Individual Member

Roberta Hemann
Executive Director

▪ Bird Release

REMEMBERING THE HEROES: In remembrance of the heroes that lost their lives on 9-11-01 Barb and others around the United States will release white birds at 9:11 am. Barb will release 30 white birds on The Lincoln Plaza in downtown Hillsboro. Please show your support for our heroes whom lost their lives in 2001.

Check the Chamber website events calendar for these and other important dates.

www.hillsborochamber.net

Summer on The Plaza

Farmers Market

Every Thursday 4-7

Tons of Seasonal Produce, Flowers, and handmade items.



Remembering The Heroes
September 11, at 9:11 am



The Chamber is coordinating events taking place on The Plaza throughout the summer. Contact our office to place your event on the calendar!

Member Benefits

Submit Your News to the Chamber

If you have an item you would like included in the *Business Brief*, please email or mail it to the Chamber office by the first Friday of each month. *Business Brief* is a great way to share your news, announcements and promotions!

Member News and Announcements

Welcome New Members!

Gianni's Contact: John and Katiey Vitale ~ 217.532.7888 ~ 209 S. Main, Hillsboro IL 62049
Business: Italian Restaurant

National Bank Is your House Green? Go Green with National Bank. Sign up for any one of our FREE Green Benefits and receive a small token of our appreciation for helping our House Go Green. Green Benefits include Secure Email Statements, Online Banking, Bill Pay, Visa Debit Card, Direct Deposits and automatic debits. Ask any customer service representative for complete details. Limited Time for Giveaway. Member FDIC-\$250,000 in FDIC coverage until December 31, 2013

10th Annual National Top Business Awards Program Announced

Southport, CT. - August 31, 2009 / -- DiversityBusiness.com, the nations most prestigious and leading business internet portal will be conducting its 10th annual "Top Businesses in America" survey. The research allows entrepreneurs to be identified and honored for their business achievements

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

Business Brief Sponsors – We Thank You!



Special Thanks

We want to thank
Bosscotech for
building the
Chamber a custom
built computer.



on a national and regional basis.

This year's survey will determine the Top 500 businesses in the United States and the Top 100 businesses in each State in the following categories; Privately-Held Businesses, Women Owned Businesses, Small Businesses, Veteran and Diversity Owned.

To be a member of this elite group is indeed an honor. DiversityBusiness research has been recognized and published by the world's most preeminent publications including Forbes Magazine, Business Week and thousands of media outlets throughout the world. Honorees will be recognized and honored at the 10th Annual Multicultural Business Conference in April of 2010 in Washington D.C..

The national data collection effort is a massive undertaking. In order to participate, businesses must register at www.DiversityBusiness.com/BusinessAwards.

All privately-owned businesses are encouraged to register. Last years winners received enormous recognition and exposure for their companies.

About DiversityBusiness.com

Launched in 1999, DiversityBusiness, with over 46,000 members, is the largest organization of diversity owned businesses throughout the United States that provide goods and services to Fortune 1000 companies, government agencies, and colleges and universities. DiversityBusiness provides research and data collection services for diversity including the "Top 50 Organizations for Multicultural Business Opportunities", "Top 500 Diversity Owned Companies in America", and others. Its research has been recognized and published by Forbes Magazine, Business Week and thousands of other print and internet publications. The site has gained national recognition and has won numerous awards for its content and design. DiversityBusiness reaches more diverse suppliers and communicates more information to them on a more frequent basis than all other organizations combined. We also communicate with mainstream businesses, government agencies and educational institutions with information related to diversity. Our magazine reaches over 300,000 readers, a monthly e-newsletter that reaches 2.4 million, and website visitors of 1.2 million a month. It is a leading provider of Supplier Diversity management tools and has the most widely distributed Diversity magazine in the United States. DiversityBusiness.com is produced by Computer Consulting Associates International Inc. (CCAIi.com) of Southport, CT. Founded in 1980.

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Source: DiversityBusiness.com

Montgomery County Realty Four new agents who have a long history of service to clients in the Litchfield area have joined the Montgomery County Realty, Inc. Litchfield office. Montgomery County Realty, Inc. owner Brandi Lentz welcomes Chris Johnson, Sherri Rundquist, Diane Summers, and Bob Hermsmeyer, who will be joining Maria Eilers, Nikki Bishop, Hans Mizera, Janie Euson, Jim Klaustermeier, and Ron Lawrence in the Litchfield office, which is now located at 302 North State

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

Street, the former home of Prairieland Realty.

A ribbon-cutting officially opened the new location on Monday, Aug. 31st. Montgomery County Realty, Inc.

"This company continues to grow and serve area clients with their real estate needs as it has for the past 20 plus years," Lentz said.

The Litchfield Remax agents joined the Montgomery County Realty team in 2007. One year ago, Lentz bought MCR from previous owner Kim Noyes, who continues to work full-time at the Hillsboro office located at 551South Main Street.

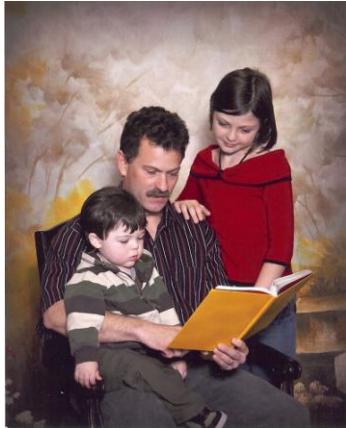
CICBC Please join us to **donate blood** at the **Hillsboro Moose Club** on **Wednesday, September 16** in support of the central Illinois blood supply. We welcome community members to donate from **12:00 pm to 6:30 pm**. Central Illinois Community Blood Center is **the only** blood provider to 19 central Illinois hospitals, including the **Hillsboro Area Hospital, Taylorville Memorial Hospital, Memorial Medical Center and St. John's Hospital**. Please join us for this life-saving event. If you have any questions about donating you can call 1-866-GIVE-BLD. Walk-ins are always welcome, but to schedule an appointment call Rose at 537-3571 or sign up online at www.CICBC.org



Quality Carpet Care Plus EthicalServices.Com is a Consumer Advocate Association set up to protect, inform and educate potential homeowners looking to have their carpets cleaned. Their focus is to target the carpet cleaning industry, since homeowners regularly have difficulty deciding on what carpet cleaner to use. Everyday in this industry, consumers are swamped with offers that are misleading. They also have to put up with broken promises, worthless guarantees and false advertising. Ethical Services is the quickest and most reliable way for homeowners to find a carpet cleaning professional.

Their objective was to evaluate these companies to the best extent possible and to determine who used ethical business practices as well as who did not. EthicalServices.com has a carpet-cleaning directory of over 30,000 carpet cleaning businesses Nationwide. You can find a pre-screened carpet cleaning business in your area by searching by zip code. Quality Carpet Care Plus is currently listed on EthicalServices.com as an ethical service provider of carpet cleaning in Illinois. We are very proud of the fact that out of all of all the carpet cleaners in Illinois there were relatively few companies that have met the criteria that qualifies them to be recommended and endorsed by EthicalServices.com. Quality Carpet Care Plus has just

celebrated 7 years in business in this area and with over 12 years of business in the carpet cleaning industry. They have recently updated their cleaning method by purchasing new State-of-the-Art PowerClean truck mount machine.



Randy Renaker pictured above has achieved “Master Textile Cleaner” status by the International Institute of Cleaning and Restoration. He may be contacted at 217-538-2299 for more details. Or you may call this 24hr. Toll Free Consumer Info Hotline, which was set up to provide consumers with “6 costly misconceptions about carpet cleaning, , and 7 questions to ask before letting any cleaner into your home. Call: 1-888-892-0057 Look up Quality Carpet Care Plus Fillmore IL in Google search for instant coupons for free cleaning to new clients.

Are you interested in sponsoring the Business Brief? If so, contact the Chamber office for opportunities and rates



NEWS RELEASE

Contacts:

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1-618-614-3032 1-309-677-5284

Electric Rate Relief Assistance Offered To Non-Profit Organizations, Schools, Senior Centers, Churches Assistance Available through Oct. 7, 2009

Peoria (Aug. 20, 2009) – The Ameren Illinois Utilities (AmerenCIPS, AmerenCILCO, AmerenIP) today announced that an electric rate relief program now is providing assistance up to \$5,000 to individual non-profit and other qualified organizations that have experienced financial hardships due to the higher cost of electricity.

"In addition to the rate relief assistance provided to residential electric customers, we want to make certain assistance is available non-profit organizations, senior centers, schools, churches and other religious institutions," said Stan Ogden, vice president of Customer Service and Public Relations for the Ameren Illinois Utilities.

"We have designed this assistance program to meet the needs of those organizations that have the greatest need. We urge all qualifying non-profit organizations to submit applications," Ogden said.

To qualify, a non-profit organization, school, senior center, church or other religious institution must be an Ameren Illinois Utilities customer who has continuously purchased electricity through the Ameren Illinois Utilities since Jan. 1, 2008. Also, an organization must demonstrate the higher rates for electricity have caused a financial hardship.

In addition, assistance is available to small independently owned and operated businesses that have 50 or fewer employees and have their principal office in Illinois. A small business also must be an Ameren Illinois Utilities customer who has continuously purchased electricity through the Ameren Illinois Utilities since Jan. 1, 2008. In addition, a small business must demonstrate the higher rates for electricity have caused a financial hardship.

Applications to the Non-Residential Hardship Fund, which is being administered by the Energy Assistance Foundation, must be submitted between Aug. 26 and Oct. 7, 2009. Applications may be completed online by visiting the Ameren Web site (www.ameren.com) and selecting "IL Rate Relief Programs." It also will be available on the ActOnEnergy.com Web site. Applications also may be obtained by calling the Ameren Illinois Utilities: AmerenCILCO and AmerenCIPS – 1-866-629-2318 and AmerenIP – 1-800-287-8349.

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Funding for the Non-Residential Hardship Fund was established as part of the comprehensive legislative rate relief settlement.

The Ameren Illinois Utilities (AmerenCIPS, AmerenCILCO, AmerenIP) have been providing safe, reliable energy delivery service for more than a century. The Ameren Illinois Utilities deliver energy to 1.2 million electric and 840,000 natural gas customers in more than 1,200 communities within a 43,700-square-mile service territory.

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