

FEBRUARY 2012

MORTON MATTERS

The Monthly Publication for Successful Morton Businesses

SAVE THE DATE

Feb. 2

YPO Networking Social @ Red
Rock Bar and Grille
5:00pm

Feb. 9

Women in Business: Heart Health
@ Terrace Room/Ashland House
7:00am

Feb. 16

Chamber 101 @ Chamber office
7:30am

Feb. 17

Business Connection @ Ashland
House
7:00am

Feb. 23

Business After Hours @ Coldwell
Banker Honig Bell
4:30pm

BUSINESS AFTER HOURS

Networking Social

February 23, 2012

**COLDWELL BANKER
HONIG BELL**

113 N. MAIN ST.

4:30 - 6:00 PM

Congratulations Dr. Roger Kilpatrick, 2012 DSA Winner

by Jennifer Daly, Executive Director and CEO



Paul Grethey of Johnson's Floral announced the 2012 recipient of the Morton Distinguished Service Award at the Chamber's Annual Dinner on January 21st. "Dr. Roger Kilpatrick, Superintendent of Morton Community Schools, is the winner," said Grethey. "We all remember the important teachers in our lives and Roger has been one of those to all of us and our community."

Dr. Kilpatrick, of Elmwood, graduated from Bradley University in 1986 and joined the Morton Community Schools in 2005 as Assistant Superintendent. During Kilpatrick's term as Superintendent, Morton 709 has been recognized as a School Search Bright Star Award Winning District and Morton High School has been named to Newsweek's Top 500 Public Schools list. "The reason I nominated him is he has brought the district to that next level," said Tom Neely, President of the Morton Board of Education. "We're in a good position financially and academically."

Kilpatrick is widely known within the School District and the community for his "quality leadership, astute creativity, and financial acumen," as stated by Craig Smock in his letter of support for the award. His dedication to his job and his service to our families, his staff, and the community has made Morton a better place.

Kilpatrick plans to retire at the end of the current school year. He and his wife Linda have two daughters and four grandchildren. "I think we'll finally have a little bit of time for ourselves, which will really be nice," said Linda.



Friday, February 17
7:00-8:30am
Ashland House
Tickets: \$15 each

Bring extra business cards when you join the Morton Chamber
Ambassadors for breakfast and speed networking!

Register Now!

[www.mortonchamber.org/
business-connection](http://www.mortonchamber.org/business-connection)



Chamber News

MORTONMATTERS

CHAMBER BOARD

PRESIDENT	KATIE VANDENBERG
VICE PRESIDENT	AARON MILLER
TREASURER/SEC.	TYLER PETERSEN
PAST PRESIDENT	JOHN FESER
	BILL AUPPERLE
	NICK GRAFF
	JENNA GRIMM
	ANDREW HONEGGER
	SHELLY HUNT
	MARY JANE JOHNSON
	DARREN MARTIN
	TOM MENOLD
	DAVID MILLS
	JANICE SHERMAN
	DAVID ZERN

EDC BOARD

PRESIDENT	MIKE WITZIG
VICE PRESIDENT	BRAD BRAKER
TREASURER	ANDREW HONEGGER
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	JENNIFER DALY
	NORM DURFLINGER
	NICK ESSER
	JOHN FESER
	STEPHEN NEWHOUSE
	CHRIS OBER
	STEVE ROESCHLEY

STAFF MEMBERS

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ALLISON VERSHAW
PROGRAM DIRECTOR
KIM UHLIG
BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR
MARTY KULL
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

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Welcome New Members

Maxine's on Main is open for dinner on Tuesday through Saturday from 5:00pm to the last seating at 8:30pm. They are a casual fine dining restaurant with a changing seasonal menu of many house made foods. Currently they are serving the winter menu that includes flights of appetizers and flights of desserts. A flight is a small portion of the same item prepared in three different ways. Entrees include at least one beef, chicken, pork, or fish item as well as a vegetarian dish. They also serve bottled craft beers, wine, martini flights, wine flights, specialty organic pops and flavored club sodas. The main dining room has a thirty person capacity and the enclosed porch can seat twenty. In addition, there are two upstairs rental rooms for small groups or meetings. They look forward to serving you!

Dr. James Jeff Baldi, Chamber Champion Associate Member

BlueStar Energy Solutions was recently named the #1 Fastest Growing Energy Supplier in the US by Inc. Magazine and is now the Preferred Service Provider of electricity for Morton businesses. Energy rates are typically 15%-25% lower than Ameren. For more information, contact Adon Navarette at 312-339-0801.

46th Annual Pumpkin Festival Theme Announced!



At the Morton Chamber of Commerce Annual Dinner last month, the theme and logo for the 46th Annual Morton Pumpkin Festival was revealed by Nick Graff, Chamber Board Member. "This year's theme is Peace, Love, and Pumpkins," said Graff. "It will be a tribute to the 60s, the decade when the Pumpkin Festival first began."

The theme logo, designed by Joani Ellis, Owner of Ellis Studios, was also unveiled during the event. "This theme received the highest number of votes from the public through our festival survey last year," said Chamber Executive Director Jennifer Daly. "Joani did an excellent job designing a fun and feel-good logo to go along with the theme."

The Morton Pumpkin Festival committees are already working on ideas for merchandise, decorations, entertainment, and activities that will celebrate this year's theme. For more information and regular updates on the Morton Pumpkin Festival please join us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/mortonpumpkinfestival.

**WOMEN
IN BUSINESS**

Calling ALL Working Women!

Join us for breakfast and education on Heart Health for Women. A special presentation by the American Heart Association. Be sure to wear red!

February 9 • 7:00-8:30am • Terrace Room/Best Western
\$25/ticket or \$120/series • www.mortonchamber.org/wib

series proudly sponsored by:



BodySound Massage Therapy



Chamber Business Briefs

Goodwill of Central Illinois is helping area youth succeed with the Goodwill® GoodGuides youth mentoring program. The effort is part of a national program that helps teens finish school and transition into productive careers through the guidance of trusted adults and peers. If you would like to volunteer to become a mentor or know of a youth who would benefit from this program, please call Elizabeth McCombs at 309-369-9884 or email goodguides@goodwillpeo.org.

Brides Night Out Morton is happening Thursday, February 16th from 5-9. It is hosted by **Adore Bridal, Floral Designs** and Imagine Artists. There will be vendors for all of your wedding needs and the best part is that you can plan your entire wedding right here in Morton! Come by and enter to win the grand prize drawing, totaling over \$8000!! For more information, go to www.bridesnightoutmorton.com.

Harriet McClellan is now a partial owner of the **Downtown Diner**, formerly Sidwells, located on Adam's Street in Downtown Morton. The Downtown Diner is open 7 days each week for breakfast and lunch.

Mama Rae's is now open on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday evenings for dinner. Thursday night is family night and kids eat for free. Stop in to taste their evening specials or breakfast menu, served anytime of the day.

Chamber Treats sponsored by The Confectionery

Feb. 7.....David Mills CPA
Grace Church

Feb. 14.....Tri County Cleaning
Stephens Electric

Feb. 21.....BodySound Massage Therapy
Old Smokeys

Feb. 28.....Music Together
Singsations



2012 Chamber Ambassador Leadership



President: Emily Jacob
VP, Foster Jacob



President Elect: Dan Schmidt
Deposit Counselor, MCB



Secretary: JoAnne Knapp
Coordinator of Deposits, MCB

Morton

Chamber of Commerce



YOUNG PROFESSIONALS WANTED!

Join the Morton Chamber Ambassadors for a special Young Professionals Organization networking social with the Greater Peoria chapter!

Thursday, February 2 • 5:00pm-7:00pm

Red Rock Bar & Grille—Morton

***Free for YPO members; \$5.00 for guests**

Be sure to bring plenty of business cards for a special speed networking event!



David Mills, CPA, LLC, hosted a ribbon cutting in January to celebrate his new location at 155 South Main Street.



Tim Whisler, owner of **The Whisler Agency**, held a ribbon cutting/open house the week of January 16th to celebrate his new location at 320 South Main Street.

Welcome 2012 Chamber Board Leadership and New Directors



Katie Vandenberg, President
Eli's Coffee Shop



Shelly Hunt, New Director
Morton Community Bank



Aaron Miller, Vice President
Realtor Broker, Coldwell Banker Honig Bell



Mary Jane Johnson, New Director
Alltrust Financial Management



Tyler Petersen, Treasurer/Secretary
Husch Blackwell LLP



David Mills, New Director
David Mills, CPA, LLC



John Feser, Past President
The Iona Group



David Zern, New Director
Kuhl & Company Insurance

March 8th
6:30 - 8:00 pm
Bertha Frank PAC

MEET THE
CANDIDATES

MORTON
FORECAST

Morton
Chamber of Commerce

Join us for breakfast and presentations on 4 key projects that could impact Morton's future!

BAND SHELL PROJECT

Jeff Keach, Morton Fine Arts Association

DOWNTOWN PLAN

Jennifer Daly, Morton EDC

INDOOR WATERPARK

Kim Uhlig, Morton EDC

Tuesday, March 6th

7:00 - 8:30 am

Ashland House

Tickets:

\$15 Members

\$20 Non-Members

Reservations:

www.mortonchamber.org

Economic Development News



Honeggers Receive 2011 Morton Venture Award

The Morton Economic Development Council recognized Jean Ann and Gordon Honegger as their 2011 Morton Venture Award Winner during their Annual Meeting held on January 13th. The award was presented by Bill Morton, last year's Venture Award winner. "It is an honor to recognize two such deserving people," said Morton.

Gordon Honegger joined Morton Community Bank in 1973 as the Executive Vice President when it operated from its original location with under 10 employees and under \$10 million in assets. Jean Ann soon joined him and is currently Co-CEO and Co-Chair. Today, Hometown Bankcorp has 40 locations in 25 communities and almost \$3 billion in assets. They employ over 500 people and are one of the largest and most profitable banks in downstate Illinois.

"Gordon and Jean Ann have not only created 500 jobs in Morton and the surrounding communities, but through banking philosophy to lend locally have helped preserve, create, and grow many successful businesses and have created thousands of new jobs in the area," said Tom Menold in his nomination letter. "The access they provide to the ESOP program for every employee has inspired performance throughout the organization."

The Morton Venture Award was launched by the Morton EDC in 2008 to annually recognize an entrepreneur who has made a significant impact on the community and the people they employ through their business leadership, growth, and innovation. Past award winners include Tom Menold, Katie VandenBerg, and Bill Morton.

Community China Trip Planned for October 2012



On January 13th at the Morton EDC Annual Meeting, Mayor Norm Durflinger invited attendees to join the Morton EDC on a planned trip to China, scheduled for October 4 - 12 of 2012. "You may never have the chance to take this type of trip again for this price," said Durflinger as scrolled invitations were distributed to the crowd of over 100.

Morton's 9 day China 2012 Trip will include stops in Beijing, Shanghai, and Tiantai, the Village's new sister city and home of Yinlun. At a total cost of \$2,270 per person (double occupancy) which includes all travel (flights from Chicago Ohare Airport), hotel, and many of the meals, the Morton EDC hopes that many local citizens and business professionals will join the delegation. "This is a great way to experience China and learn more about their people, culture, and business climate," said Jennifer Daly, CEO for the Morton EDC. "While much of the trip will include stops at popular tourist destinations including the Great Wall and Tiananmen Square, we will also tour Yinlun and organize several business-related meetings and tours for anyone interested in learning more about trade opportunities."

If you are interested in joining the Morton EDC China 2012 Delegation, go to www.mortonedc.org/china2012 or contact Jennifer Daly at 309-263-2491 or jdaly@mortonillinois.org.



The Morton Economic Development Council would like to welcome new board member Nick

Esser, Vice President & Market Manager, Heartland Bank and Trust.

Thank You Morton EDC Leadership Circle!



Tourism Association News by Susan Pyles



Like the weather around us, Morton is constantly changing. Morton Tourism has a new promotional piece under construction that will give us a tool to promote Morton as a place to visit.

The "Visit Morton" book will be a full color glossy 8.5 x 11- 36 page magazine. The object of the magazine will be to inform people about the Village of Morton's events, shopping, dining and attractions in the area. It will feature articles about the 20 different events that happen in Morton from April through November, lots of great photos, information on where to stay, eat and shop, and a local calendar of events. The 15,000 copies of the book will be distributed April through December at the local visitors' center in Peoria, Bloomington and in the Illinois state travel centers. It will also be in the hotels and restaurants in Morton. Businesses can place ads in the book at various costs starting at \$300. We would be happy to help you with ad design.

The goal of the new publication is to support the efforts of our local organizations that bring great events to our community and offer visitors some unique experiences in Morton. The MTA Board is in the process of calling on businesses to explain this opportunity. If you need more information or have questions, please call me at 573-1276.

Community Foundation News by Scott Witzig



The Morton Community Foundation considers grant requests from Not-For-Profit groups that benefit Morton residents. Grants given in 2010 totaled over \$30,000 and were divided between various non-profit organizations. For a complete list of all grants given in 2010, please visit our website at www.mortoncommunityfoundation.org and click on Grants/Scholarships.

The 2011 Grant Cycle opens on Friday, February 25. Application guidelines are available on the Foundation's website... www.mortoncommunityfoundation.org. Completed grant applications are due at the Morton Community Foundation by 4:00pm, Friday, March 18, 2010. Grant recipients will be announced at our Business After Hours event at the Bertha Frank Performing Arts Center on Thursday, April 28, 2011.

Realize Your Charitable Dreams with a Donor Choice Fund™. The Morton Community Foundation presents a relatively new offering to its many charitable fund options. This fund type, called a Donor Choice Fund allows the donor to make a gift, often of appreciated stocks or property, to the Foundation, and receive a tax deduction to the fullest extent of the law at the time of the gift. The donor may immediately begin to make recommendations for charities to receive grants from the fund over the coming year or longer. The fund is started with a minimum \$10,000 tax-deductible donation and a one-time \$250 set-up fee. The donor can then make an unlimited number of grant recommendations throughout the year (minimum \$250 ea.), keeping a balance of at least \$5,000 in the fund.

Are you over 70 ½ and facing required minimum distributions from your IRA? The IRA Rollover provision has been extended, and distributions to the Morton Community Foundation's Unrestricted Fund, Operational Endowment, or any other field of interest or designated fund might be a consideration. Talk with your professional advisor or call the Foundation to learn more.

If you are interested in knowing more about the Donor Choice Fund™, the IRA Rollover provision or anything else about the Morton Community Foundation, contact Scott Witzig at 309.291.0434 or e-mail: switzig@mortoncommunityfoundation.org.



Congratulations to Dan Schmidt, of Morton Community Bank, the recipient of the 2012 Chamber Volunteer of the Year award.

2012 Chamber Membership Renewals as of 12/26/11

1st Farm Credit Services	Desserts Unlimited	Knapp Johnson Funeral Home	Pepsi Beverages Co.
A Perfect Promotion	Donald Baker MD	Koch Konstruktion	PNC Bank
Aaron Miller, Realtor	Durlinger Enterprises	Koener Electric Inc.	Proctor First Care
Ackerman Farms	Edward Jones Investments-	Kreiling Roofing Co.	Pro Fab
Adore Bridal & Speciality	Allan Hart	Kuhl & Co. Insurance	Pumpkin Glass Gallery & Studio
Advanced System Designs	Elite Signs & Graphics	Kurt Ehling DC	R.A. Cullinan & Son
AFLAC	Embassy Suites of East Peoria	L & F Electric	Randall Grieder CPA
Agape Counseling	Engineering Design & Development	LaFiesta Mexican Restaurant	Rejuv
Alltrust Financial Management	Epic Shave	Laurus Strategies Financial Services	Rev. Wayne Brinkman
Ameren	Eric C. Opperman DMD	Lawn Doctor of Morton-Bloomington	RHMA
American PC Solutions	Farm & Fleet	Leaves 'N Beans	Riverview Senior Living Community
Ameriprise Financial-Greg Nichols	Farnsworth Group Inc.	Leman Property Management	RMH Foods
Apostolic Christian Counseling & Family Services	First Presbyterian Church	Lighthouse Automotive	Robert Schnarr
Apostolic Christian Home for the Handicapped	FJT Office Supplies	Littlefield & Lovell Orthodontics	Roecker Consulting Engineers
Apostolic Christian Restmor	Fliginger's Outdoor Power	Lulu's on Main	Rotary Club of Morton
Aupperle Construction	Floral Designs	Marie Fisk, Realtor	S.A. Moreland Landscapes
Barbara Heer, Realtor	From the Field Culinary Center	MarketGuide Magazine	Safari Bowl
Baymont Inn	Focus on Eyes	Markey's Pest Elimination Services	Sam Leman Chrysler-Jeep-Dodge
Benckendorf & Benckendorf PC	Four Seasons Gutter Protection	Mary Kay Cosmetics-Judy Bjerke	Schaffnit Financial Group
Bethel Lutheran Ministries	Frontier Communications	Matcor Metal Fabrication	Schooner's of Morton
Billy Daniel Excavating	G&D Integrated	McDonald's of Morton	Soderstrom Skin Institute
Binkley Jewelers	Gold's Gym	McGladrey & Pullen LLP	Stephens Electric
Bob Grimm Chevrolet	Goodwill Industries of Central IL	Merlin Birky	Taco Bell
Brandon Wood Retirement Center	Grace Church	Midstate College	Tazewell Floor Covering
Brian Hensley	Great Clips	Midwest Engineering Professionals	TCRC
C P Directions Studio	Grimm Bros. Trucking	Midwest Hearing Center	The Avenue Kitchens & Baths
Care Solutions Home Healthcare	Grimm Interiors	Mike Murphy Ford	The Center for Prevention of Abuse
Carius DQ & Root Beer Stand	Heartland Bank & Trust	Millennia Professional Services	The Confectionery
Casey's General Store	Heartland Chiropractic	Miller Paint Shop	The Iona Group
Caterpillar Logistics Services Inc.	Heartland Veterinary Clinic	Miracle Method Surface Restoration	The Pet Pantry
CEFCU	Henry W. Rapp, Jr.	Mission Mart	The Prassas Co.
Central Illinois Business Publishers	Hometown Media Solutions	Modern Methods	The Quilt Corner
Champion Fitness Physical Therapy	Hometown Title Inc.	Mohr & Kerr Engineering & Land Surveying	The Whisler Agency
China Dragon	Hopedale Medical Complex	Morton Animal Hospital	Thomas A. Krieg, Attorney at Law
Chuck Hay Insurance Agency	Hurckes-McCord Financial Mgmt.	Morton Collision Repair	Thomas Davies, PC
Churchill Wealth Management	Husch Blackwell LLP	Morton Community Bank	Todd Paluska Plumbing
CliftonLarsonAllen	Investment Services	Morton Community Foundation	Totally Kreative Video
CMFS Group	Iron-A-Way	Morton Dental Center	Truck Centers
Colby Natural Health	J.J. Braker & Sons	Morton Development LLC	Kroger
Coldwell Banker Honig Bell	Jay Fox Insurance Agency	Morton Machining LLC	Training Domain
Community Harvest	JH Car Wash	Morton Mini Storage	Tri County Cleaning
Community United Church of Christ	Jim Yordy	Morton Public Library	V Gallery
CORE Construction	Jimmy John's of Morton	Morton Times News	Village of Morton
Cornerstone Architectural	Johnson's Floral	Morton Township Road District	Vintage Optical
Country Financial	Joseph C. Zimmerman III DDS Ltd.	Morton Unit School Dist. 709	WBNH Radio
Courier Newspapers	Journal Star	Morton Villa & Morton Terrace	We Care Inc.
Creekwood Apts.	Joy's Hallmark	Morton VFW Post 5921	William C. Johnson, DDS
Culver's of Morton	Kaiser Electronics	MTCO Communications	Wines 'N More
CSE Software	KCM Truck & Equipment Repair	Multax	Yogi's Super Liquors
David W. Kinsinger, DDS	Keach Architectural	NCI Business Systems	Zeller Electric
David Mills CPA, LLC	Keith Engineering Design	Niche Networking Computers	Zimmerman Autobody
David Zimmerman	Keith Sommer, State Rep.	Oak Lawn Mobile Estates	Zobrist Construction
Day's Inn of Morton	Keller Williams Premier Realty	Old Smokey's BBQ	
DeJure Formal Wear & Bridal Palace	Kennel Lake Sportsmen's Club	Otto Baum Company	
	Klean Wash	Parker Fabrication	
	Kmart		

* orange denotes 150% Club

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Chamber and EDC Calendar

February 2012

Wednesday, February 1

Leadership Morton, 7:00am

Thursday, February 2

YPO Social @ Red Rock Bar and Grille, 5:00pm

Tuesday, February 7

MEDC Bear meeting, 7:30am

COC Business Assistance meeting, 8:00am

Wednesday, February 8

Leadership Morton, 7:00am

MEDC Downtown Development meeting, 7:30am

Thursday, February 9

Women in Business @ Ashland House, 7:00am

Friday, February 10

MEDC Organization meeting @ LaFiesta, 11:30am

Wednesday, February 15

Leadership Morton, 7:00am

Thursday, February 16

Chamber 101, 7:30am

MEDC Retail Recruitment meeting, 8:00am

Friday, February 17

Business Connection @ Ashland House, 7:00am

Tuesday, February 21

Chamber Board Meeting, 7:30am

Wednesday, February 22

Leadership Morton, 7:00am

MEDC Board meeting, 7:00am

COC Ambassador meeting @ Red Rock Bar and Grille, 4:00pm

MEDC Business District Commission @ Freedom Hall, 4:00pm

Thursday, February 23

Business After Hours @ Coldwell Banker Honig Bell, 4:30pm

Tuesday, February 28

COC Government Affairs meeting, 7:15am

Wednesday, February 29

Leadership Morton, 7:00am



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