



# RIVERVIEWS

NEWS AND VIEWS OF MILWAUKEE'S RIVERWORKS CENTER

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## 2008's First Group Completes RDC Workforce Development Training Course

Twelve committed individuals successfully completed the first training course of 2008. This group pulled together as a team and exemplified those characteristics that RDC looks for when training and placing its candidates.

This group must be commended for their skill attainment, attendance and overall commitment to their future success. This is definitely a group that is "in-it-to-win-it" and I am confident in referring these graduates for employment.

Each of the participants embraced RDC's progressive employment model and three of the graduates have already enrolled in MATC. Upon completion of this next phase of their training and education, these participants will be better positioned for employment requiring advanced technical skills.

Career orientation and advancement are at the very core of RDC's workforce development model and the organization is fully committed to helping our participants enhance their employability and quality of life. We also believe that the career development model will help us to fill some of the growing skills gaps that exist in today's manufacturing environments.

The Industrial Manufacturing Skills training provides the technical skills necessary for a solid foundation in manufacturing but the course is also designed to afford transferable skills that can be used in other employment sectors.

If you have or will have a need for trained and motivated individuals please contact Vanessa White at (414) 906-9650.

Riverworks Development Corporation is proud to congratulate Henry Brown, Quennetta Brown, Yolanda Cash, Sharla Cephus, Jason Farmer, Rebecca Neyz, Anthony Suber, Otis Thomas and Craig Ward  
IMS Graduates April 2008!



Message from the Executive Director

### *Greetings Friends and Supporters:*

It has been almost six years since the completion of the Capitol Drive Streetscape improvements by the Riverworks Business Improvement District 25 (BID) & the City of Milwaukee. The streetscape work has held up fairly well. Over the next two years, the BID will be upgrading and removing items to improve the aesthetics along Capitol Drive, with the goal of keeping the commercial strip a vibrant business district where companies and retailers want to locate and where people want to shop and eat.

We will be expanding the branding of the Riverworks Center from an industrial park to a thriving mixed-use district that supports an innovative mix of industry, technology and retail. We are encouraging projects in the area to use green building techniques and Leadership in Energy and Environment Design (LEED) guidelines to improve not only the environment but the business bottom line.

The Riverworks Commerce Center building recently received a financial incentive grant of \$42,500 from WE Energies to help pay for a solar electric energy system to be installed on our

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## Riverworks Center Featured Business



### RET Lounge

#### *Meeting the Entertainment Needs of the Community*

RET Lounge is a family owned business that has served the Riverwest and Harambee neighborhoods since its opening in 1996. L.C. and Betty Whitehead, the owners, have worked over the years to make their establishment, located at 3400 North Holton Street, a place for people to enjoy and relax with their friends, or meet new friends.

“Focusing on the Customer is what makes the difference and keeps them coming back” says L.C. Whitehead. “We want our customers to think of RET Lounge as Your Place.” The establishment offers a number of entertainment venues (live and jukebox music, TV-Movies, video games, etc.) and provides limited food to patrons as a way of saying thank you for supporting the business.

Besides serving their customers, RET Lounge also serves as a Good Neighbor to the surrounding community by working with other area businesses to keep the area clean and safe. Also, they will refer their customers, looking for specific services and goods, to other area businesses, like Lenas Food Market and Downtown Auto. They also sponsor a bowling team and have been exploring sponsorship of a golf team as well.

The establishment has done a number

### *Riverworks Center General Membership Meeting*

Please join us on Thursday, June 12, 2008 at 9:00 am for our next Quarterly Membership Meeting. Invited guests will include new alderwoman Milele Cogg's of the 6th District and Janice Grau from the City of Milwaukee Department of City Development. Ms. Grau will be presenting the final draft of the Riverworks Center area plan. Your suggestions and comments are very important to the future of the Riverworks Center.

of upgrades over the years, both internally and externally. They have taken advantage of the City of Milwaukee and Business Improvement District 36 Façade Grant Programs in order to do the very eye-pleasing entrance way shown in the picture. The internal work has included renovation of the seating area, adding various video and audio equipment, restroom improvements, and installation of smoke odor control systems.

RET Lounge supports the upcoming efforts of the Business Improvement District and City of Milwaukee to improve the old Beer Line Railway and the planned streetscaping aspects along Holton Street. “These projects will make a big difference around our establishment and support our efforts to better serve our customers and the surrounding neighborhood” says L.C. Whitehead.

*Executive Director, continued*

new building. The average monthly utility savings is estimated to be \$521.00. For more information about energy incentives from WE Energies please call 1.888.603.5519.

Compo Steel Products, the owner of the property on the corner of Keefe Ave and Richards Street, has graciously allowed the Riverworks Center to install a new gateway sign there. The Riverworks BIDs are focusing on businesses along Keefe Avenue and Holton Street to get them to apply for the façade grant program to make improvements to the exterior of their buildings or do landscaping around their facilities. If you have any questions about the program please call Chris Grandt at 906.9650.

*We truly want to thank two of our strongest supporters for their gracious contributions: United Way of Greater Milwaukee for \$94,000 and JPMorgan Chase Foundation for \$50,000. Their contributions will support two key programs – Partnership for an Employed Milwaukee and the Center for Family Prosperity.*

*Darryl Johnson*

Join us Monday June 23, 2008 for our

## Inaugural Golf Outing

**Brynwood Country Club  
6200 West Good Hope Road**

*Watch your mail and fax  
for registration and sponsorship  
opportunities*