

20 Under 40: Joseph Riley



Joseph Riley is assistant vice president and commercial loan officer at First Mid-Illinois Bank & Trust, 101 E. Main St. in Galesburg. He is a recipient of the "20 Under 40" award. LEWIS MARIEN/The Register-Mail

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GALESBURG — This week's recipient of the Young Professionals of Galesburg and the Galesburg Area Chamber of Commerce's "20 Under 40" award to be profiled is Joseph Riley, assistant vice president commercial loan officer at First Mid-Illinois Bank & Trust.

According to his nomination, Riley is a native of Galesburg and "has committed his professional career to giving back to his community as a banker. He concentrates on doing what is right for the client and has built strong business relationships. I have witnessed this first hand as I called on his clients as a competitor and now am watching him

bring those same clients to (the) bank.

"He is funny, a great conversationalist and has a wide network of friends of all ages. He is well respected not only by his peers, but the business community and his family. He works well in teams, collaborates with others and is a dedicated employee. He was a founding board member of the Young Professionals of Galesburg and believes in strengthening his community through active involvement and leadership."

Here's more about Riley in his own words:

Q. What do you do in your current position?

A. I am a Commercial Loan Officer. I currently service a wide range of business clients including restaurant/bars, light manufacturing, farming, lessors of residential and commercial real estate, many service industries, and auto repair including both body and mechanical.

Q. How are you involved in the community?

A. I serve on the United Way Finance Committee. I am on the board for Carver Community Action Agency and The Boys and Girls Club. I recently started serving as a board of director of Knox County Habitat for Humanity. I am a member of Galesburg Noon Lions Club. In the past I served on the board for Big Brother Big Sisters of Knox County and I was a founding board member of The Young Professionals of Galesburg. I have also proudly coached local sports for the last several years. This year I coached GYBL Rookie League and JFL Flag Football. Previously I coached GBYL Tball for three years and through the Knox County YMCA I have coached basketball and flag football.

Q. Of what achievement are you most proud?

A. I am very proud to be named a 20 Under 40. To think that someone thought highly enough of me for the nomination then to pass through a panel of my peers is truly a highlight of my career so far. Being thought of in such a way and receiving this award further inspires me to continue my work in the community as well my customer service and care.

Q. What advice do you have for other young professionals?

A. Be active. Getting involved in the community is extremely important. Our success is intertwined with that of the community we live in. The stronger our community is, the stronger our careers and personal lives will be. Be engaging. Just showing up is not enough, and sometimes even counteractive. Have fun. Make things enjoyable, it's contagious. Be sincere in the things you do and good things will happen.

Q. What's the most important thing people should know about your community?

A. Galesburg is not a community on the decline. This outside assumption is frustrating to hear and just wrong. There are many people striving daily to make this community better and it's working, taking shape right before our eyes. Sure, there are negatives but you will honestly find that anywhere. Galesburg is moving in the right direction and it's going to be a fun ride. The more people that are willing to be positive and the more people that are willing to help, the faster we will all get there. There are so many opportunities ahead.

Joseph M Riley; Age: 34, Residence: Galesburg, Profession: Assistant Vice President Commercial Loan Officer, First Mid-Illinois Bank & Trust, Education: Galesburg High School; Western Illinois University, Family: Wife, Heidi Riley is an ICU nurse with OSF St. Mary Medical Center; son, Caden Riley, a second grader at Silas Willard Elementary School.

About the award

The Young Professionals of Galesburg and the Galesburg Area Chamber of Commerce have launched the "20 Under 40" award.

This award honors 20 individuals under the age of 40 considered to be "movers and shakers" in the community.

Honorees will be profiled each week through Jan. 31, 2016, in The Register-Mail. They will be included in a special supplement in February 2016, in addition to being recognized at the chamber's annual dinner to be held in February 2016.

The 20 honorees are judged on their outstanding career achievements and community impact. A panel of judges evaluated each nomination on information provided in the following categories: Reason for nomination, career achievements/special awards and recognition, community involvement, volunteerism and community service leadership skills.