
NEWS

**Macoupin Economic
Development Partnership**
“Come grow with us.”

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Funding Forum Draws Strong Local Interest

Community leaders, civic organizations, business leaders, and citizens came together for a Community Funding Forum on August 25 at the Benld Civic Center to interact with state, federal and local representatives, network strategies with other community leaders and gain financing tools for local projects.

Forty-seven citizens attended from four counties with 19 agency representatives on-hand to distribute information. Senator Deanna Demuzio and Representative Betsy Hannig welcomed participants and interacted with citizens throughout the evening. Macoupin County Board Chairman and Chief-of-Staff to Senate President Cullerton, Andy Manar was the forum’s keynote speaker addressing “Leading in Difficult Times.”

“Don’t be afraid to set goals for your community and don’t be afraid of what may happen if you don’t meet those goals. I have learned that the criticism you may receive for not meeting a goal you have set is greatly overshadowed by the credit you get for setting a goal in the first place,” voiced Manar.

Participating agencies included Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity, Illinois Department of Transportation, Illinois Department of Natural Resources, West Central Development Council, Illinois Finance Authority, Farm Credit Services, Bernardi Securities – Fairview Heights, Treasure’s Office, Illinois Art Council, PGAV Planners – St. Louis, MO, Crossland Trimble Consulting – Springfield and USDA Rural Development.

“As an engineering consultant, the Forum allowed me to speak one-on-one with agency representatives, and I was able to pick up some new programs and ideas that our communities will benefit from, in regard to public infrastructure improvement projects. As a Board Member of the Jersey County Business Association, the Forum also provided me with an opportunity to see what positive strides Macoupin County and the MEDP are making for both communities and businesses. Overall, the Forum was very beneficial for me, both professionally and personally,” Bob Mann, Vice President Heneghan and Associates, P.C.

The forum was sponsored by Macoupin Economic Development Partnership and the Macoupin Mayor’s Council. It is the first educational workshop to be sponsored by the Mayor’s Council, a group that was formed a year ago last August and facilitated by MEDP. The council meets four times a year: two networking events, a legislative reception and an educational workshop.

MEDP’s mission is to drive economic growth in the county by conducting and sponsoring activities that help existing businesses prosper and grow, attract new businesses, and promote responsible development. To learn more about MEDP, visit www.macoupinpartners.com or email courtney@macoupinpartners.com.

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Cutline:

Macoupin County Board Chairman, Andy Manar, speaks to the good that can come out of difficult times.