



MEDP'S NewsFlash

JUNE 2010

www.macouponpartners.com

\$160,000 Awarded to City of Gillespie *MEDP Instrumental in process*

On Monday, June 7 the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity announced the City of Gillespie as a recipient of a \$160,000 Community Development and Assistance Program (CDAP) grant.

With these funds the city can now demolish buildings damaged by their 2009 tornado. Monday's event took place in front of Ageless Fitness Center, the most seriously affected building.

MEDP was involved every step of the way. Shari Albrecht, executive director, was

on site within hours to assist business owners with any immediate needs or concerns they had. Owners were later invited to a Small Business Workshop, hosted by MEDP, to offer further assistance.

MEDP member and Gillespie Mayor John Hicks was quoted in the South County News as saying, "This is going to help our area quite a bit. This grant represents the start of a process that is ongoing to revitalize the downtown area and help clean-up storm damage. No one likes to see such historic buildings



(L to R) Pete Visintin, general manager and head trainer of Ageless Fitness Center; John Hicks, Mayor of Gillespie; Dean Plovich, City of Gillespie; Janice Weidner, City of Gillespie; Jeff Toricelli, Senior Economic Development Advisor at DCEO; Patrick Davis, DCEO; Senator Deanna Demuzio; Guy Ottersberg, City of Gillespie; Shari Albrecht, Executive Director of MEDP and Kevin Polo, City of Gillespie. Photos by Bill Borklund.

demolished, but when the damage is so severe such as what we

have here, it's something that
Gillespie, continued on page 2

\$\$\$ \$\$\$ \$\$\$ \$\$\$ \$\$\$ \$\$\$ Illinois will have Sales Tax Holiday

The Illinois General Assembly passed Illinois' first-ever sales tax holiday. The holiday will run 9 days from August 6, 2010 to August 15, 2010. The State's Use Tax of 5% will be suspended on eligible items but the 1.25% rate (that portion of the 6.25% Use Tax that goes to local governments) will still be charged.

Eligible items include school supplies and clothing items. School supplies do not include items such as computers and computer supplies, PDA's cameras, etc. The holiday applies to clothing with a retail selling price of less than \$100. Discounts can push the selling price of an item below \$100.

IRS Provides Form to Claim Payroll Tax Exemption for Hiring New Workers Now Available

The IRS has posted on its website the newly-revised payroll tax form that most eligible employers can use to claim the special payroll tax exemption that applies to many new workers hired during 2010.

Designed to encourage employers to hire and retain new workers, the payroll tax exemption and the related new

hire retention credit were created by the Hiring Incentives to Restore Employment (HIRE) Act.

Employers who hire unemployed workers this year (after Feb. 3, 2010, and before Jan. 1, 2011) may qualify for a 6.2-percent payroll tax incentive, in effect exempting
IRS, continued on page 2



Mayor John Hicks speaks to the gathered crowd in front of Ageless Fitness Center.

Gillespie, continued on page 2 needs to be done for the greater good of the community.”

State Senator Deanna Demuzio and DCEO representatives Jeff Toricelli and Patrick Davis came out to support this positive step towards the revitalization of Gillespie’s downtown.

The city will acquire the vacant lots with hopes of attracting new businesses to Gillespie’s downtown.

MEDP Welcomes NEW Members

MAY

- * Village of Royal Lakes

JUNE

- * Virden Area Chamber of Commerce
- * Carlinville CUSD #1
- * Ken Snider
- * Bates Motor Company

Macoupin

Farmer’s Markets

Staunton, 8 am-12 pm

Every Saturday, May-Oct.

Location: Union & Mill Street

For info call: 618-635-8638

stauntonfarmersmarket@live.com

Virden, 4-7 pm

Friday Evenings, May - Oct

1240 N. Springfield St.

217-227-3256

No charge for vendors

Brighton, 4-7 pm

Schneider Park, Every Wed.

July 7- Labor Day

\$5 Vendor Fee

618-372-8860

Shop Local, Shop Macoupin

Lewis and Clark Community College Offering Food Service Sanitation and Food Service Sanitation Review

Lewis and Clark is offering a two-day Food Service Sanitation course being held on Friday, August 6 and Saturday, August 7 from 8:30 am - 5:00 pm at the Lewis and Clark Macoupin County Center each day. This course will study sanitation in relation to food preparation and service; including: sanitation chemicals, equipment, materials, regulations, and inspection standards necessary to ensure sanitary dispensing of food. The student prepares for and takes the Illinois Food Service Sanitation Manager Certificate examination. Please note: textbook is required on the first day of class.

For those who already have a Food Service Certificate, a review course is being held on Friday, August 6 from 8:30 am - 5:00 pm. This course will review the importance of sanitation in relation to food preparation. Topics emphasized are safe food environments, pest control, and local state and federal codes. Please note: textbook is required on the first day of class. Prerequisite: Food Service Certificate.

Anyone wishing to register or seeking more information should call the Macoupin County Education Center at 217-854-5400.

IRS Offers Details on New Small Business Health Care Tax Credit

The IRS issued new guidance to make it easier for small businesses to determine whether they are eligible for the new health care tax credit under the Affordable Care Act and how large a credit they will receive. The guidance makes clear that small businesses receiving state health care tax credits may still qualify for the full federal tax credit. Additionally, the guidance allows small businesses to receive the credit not only for regular health insurance but also for add-on dental and vision coverage. More information about the credit, including a step-by-step guide and answers to frequently asked questions, is available on the Affordable Care Act page, www.irs.gov

Health and Human Services Offers Health Care Law Information

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) will be charged with implementing and interpreting many aspects of the new health care law. HHS issued a first set of Questions and Answers (Q&As) in a document called “Answers for Families and Small Business.” These Q&As are available at www.healthreform.gov/about/answers.html.

IRS, continued on page 2

them from the employer’s share of Social Security tax on wages paid to these workers after March 18. This reduction will have no effect on the employee’s future Social Security benefits. The employee’s 6.2 percent share of Social Security tax and the employer and employee’s shares of Medicare tax still apply to all wages.

In addition, for each qualified employee retained for at least

a year whose wages did not significantly decrease in the second half of the year, businesses may claim a new hire retention credit of up to \$1,000 per worker on their income tax return. Further details on both the tax credit and the payroll tax exemption can be found in a recently-expanded list of answers to frequently-asked questions about the new law now posted on IRS.gov.

SBA Tools to Help Exporters Succeed

The U. S. Small Business Administration is offering free tools for new and established small business exporters to help them grow and succeed in international trade. Small businesses will now have access to six-part podcast series, an introduction to exporting You Tube video and an online training course.

The podcast series is available online at http://www.sba.gov/tools/audiovideo/Podcasts/INTL_TRADE.html and focuses on Growing Your Business Through Exporting; Developing an Export Strategy; Preparing for Global Markets; Conducting Market Research; SBA Exporting Loan Program; and a Small Business Success Story.

The introduction to exporting video is available at <http://www.youtube.com/user/sba#p/u/0/UFQIASzJWn4>, and the free, online exporting course, “Take Your Business Global,” is available at <http://web.sba.gov/sbtn/registration/index.cfm?CourseId=72>.

Macoupin Economic Development Partnership reaches 1 year milestone

Macoupin County – The Macoupin Economic Development Partnership (MEDP) recently celebrated its one year anniversary of providing Macoupin County and local businesses with economic and community development services. In the first year the partnership has grown from the three original members to over thirty local businesses, organizations, and communities.

During the first year of operation MEDP has opened offices in Carlinville and Staunton to best serve the entire county, established a community development program, and provided services such as business retention, recruitment and expansion, grant writing, and capital investment assistance to numerous communities and new and existing businesses. The partnership has also helped both businesses and communities apply for and receive state and federal funding for economic development projects, such as the recently announced \$160,000 Community Development Assistance Program (CDAP) grant to the City of Gillespie.

“The growth and success of the Macoupin Economic Development Partnership in just one year has already proven the organization to be a great asset and service to the people and businesses of Macoupin County,” said Andy Manar, Chairman of the Macoupin County Board. “As the Partnership continues to develop and expand so will the economic and community benefits received across the county.”

Beyond the regular programs and services offered, MEDP has also organized a variety of unique initiatives to better stimulate economic development in Macoupin County. MEDP created the Macoupin County Mayor’s Council which

meets to discuss and coordinate efforts among all the local communities. The partnership has also taken part in numerous round table discussions with local and state elected officials, state agencies, Chambers of Commerce, and community leaders to help bring jobs and business to the area.

“We are very proud of the early accomplishments of the Macoupin Economic Development Partnership,” said MEDP Chairman Sue Campbell. “This would not have been possible without the devoted efforts of the County Board, the local communities and the local businesses that joined because they believed that, with MEDP, we can make Macoupin County an economic success story.”

Already in the early months of its second year of operation, MEDP has already kicked off new initiatives like the county-wide Shop Local campaign and the Build Macoupin County community development program, along with new downtown development and energy efficiency efforts.

At the Annual Meeting held in March, the MEDP Board of Directors elected member Sue Campbell from Community Memorial Hospital as the new Chairman and member Bill Borklund from NBS Systems as the Vice-Chairman.

The local municipalities and community organizations that have joined as members for the current year include Benld, Bunker Hill, Carlinville Cham-

ber of Commerce, Gillespie, Modesto, Mount Olive, Palmyra, Staunton, Royal Lakes, and the Virden Area Association of Commerce. The remainder of MEDP is made up of various local businesses and the Macoupin County Board.

Any business interested in becoming a member of the Macoupin Economic Development Partnership or who would like additional information about the organization are encouraged to visit the website www.macoupinpartners.com, contact the MEDP office at (217)556.8696 or visit the Carlinville office at 18400 Shipman Road (Lewis and Clark building) or the Staunton office at 111 W. Main Street.

Membership Application



Platinum

Gold

Silver

Bronze

Friend

Individual/Organization Name _____

Contact Person _____

Address _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip _____

Email _____

Website _____

Referred by: _____

I am interested in volunteering

Payment enclosed

Please return this application, with fees to
Shari Albrecht, MEDP Executive Director
18400 Shipman Rd., Carlinville, IL 62626

Thank you for your support!

For more information: 217.556.8696 or shari@macoupinpartners.com

County Board & T.A.I.L.S Sign Agreement to Pave the Way for a New Animal Control Facility

County News: JUNE 15, 2010: Macoupin County - Macoupin County Animal Control and the non-profit group Macoupin T.A.I.L.S. have signed an agreement that will help pave the way for a new County Animal Control and Adoption Center to serve all communities in Macoupin County.

The new facility will be a joint effort between the Macoupin County Board and T.A.I.L.S, the volunteer group formed to support Macoupin County Animal Control.

In addition to pledged financial support from T.A.I.L.S, State Senator Deanna Demuzio recently announced a \$50,000 grant to Macoupin County through the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity toward to construction of the new facility.

"With the help of the dedicated volunteers of T.A.I.L.S, the new facility will more adequately fulfill the needs of the County as well as the needs of our municipal governments," said County Board Chairman Andrew Manar.

Macoupin County Animal Control Administrator Buzie Bertagnolli said that the current facility has only 14 dog kennels and has severe structural problems. The new facility will have enough dog kennels to serve the County as well as a room for cats, an adoption room to promote responsible

adoption of abandoned animals, a veterinary care room, a reception area and a garage for storage.

"This is an exciting time for everyone who has worked hard to make the new facility a reality. Senator Demuzio has been a big help and we appreciate her support of our efforts," said Bertagnolli.

The new facility will be located on IL Route 4 just north of Carlinville near the Macoupin County Highway Department.

The Macoupin T.A.I.L.S. organization was formed to support the Macoupin County Animal Control Department financially as well as through volunteers who will help with the adoption and education programs that are being planned, according to Chairman Manar.

Manar said that the new facility is in its final design state and will be going out for bid in the very near future. Plans are to build a facility that is energy efficient and will meet the needs of the County for many years.

"This has been a true partnership of efforts. The County couldn't have progressed this far without the support of the dedicated volunteers of T.A.I.L.S. My thanks go out to T.A.I.L.S. President Betty Scheldt and everyone who supports and volunteers for this organization dedicated to promoting the adoption of animals," said Manar.



Sharon Adkins (right) addresses her fellow Build Macoupin County – Benld Leadership Committee Wednesday night with her ideas to better Benld. From left to right: Facilitator and Executive Director of MEDP Shari Albrecht, Lynn Fraelle, Rita Fraser, Mary Newman, and Kellie Vesper.

Build Macoupin County - Benld, IL

Ten Benld residents came together Wednesday, June 16 at the request of MEDP member Lynn Fraelle to participate in a MEDP facilitated community development program titled Build Macoupin County.

Benld is the first community MEDP has reached out to partake in this team-building effort to increase local leadership and improve quality of life.

The program's concept is based on the DCEO Competitive Communities Initiative model, which provides the tools to help communities help themselves.

The BMC Benld Leadership Committee's next step will be to hold a community meeting to strength Benld's vision for the future.

Calendar of Events

- June 22: Mayor's Council Legislative Reception, Terry Park Golf Course 6:30-8:30pm
- June 30: Chamber Mtg - Shop Local, 3pm
- July 9: Small Business Roundtable, Carlinville LCCC center, 8-10 am (Invite Only)
- July 20: MEDP Monthly Mtg, Carlinville LCCC Center, 6 pm
- August 25: Community Funding Forum, Benld Civic Center, Time TBA



For more information about Macoupin Economic Development Partnership or newsletter submissions contact:
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