



MEDP'S NewsFlash

JUNE 2011

www.macoupinpartners.com

MEDP Names Dean Plovich Young Leader of The Year

MEDP sells out first fundraising event

Carlinville – The who's who of Macoupin County made their way to the Gillespie Civic Center Thursday night for the first Macoupin Economic Development Partnership fundraising dinner. Two hundred and forty nine tickets were sold at the event originally planned for 100.

Gillespie Chief of Police, Dean Plovich, took top honors of the night. Plovich was named Macoupin Made Young Leader of The Year by current

MEDP President Julia Watson. He has been with the Gillespie Police Department since 2006. He is married to Cate Plovich. They have one son Matthew, 2, and he has one daughter Alex, 16. The family resides in Gillespie.

The Top 25, Under 45, chosen by an independent panel included Jenna Morrison of Carlinville, Pete Duncan of Gillespie, Barkley Hassard of Staunton, Rev. Jeremy Wood of Bunker Plovich, continued on page 4



MEDP Executive Director Shari Albrecht, Macoupin Young Leader of the Year Dean Plovich, MEDP President Julia Watson. Back Row: Featured Young Leader Pete Visintin, Event chairmen Don Boeckenstedt and Richard Schien.

Process Complete to Bring Poggenpohl Redi-Mix Business to Macoupin County

First business in the upcoming Macoupin County Business Park assumes ownership

Carlinville – In mid-March, the County Board unanimously approved the sale of just over 8 acres of property to Poggenpohl Redi-Mix along Illinois Route 4 north of Carlinville. Just this past week, the sale was officially completed and the property was closed on, giving Poggenpohl Redi-Mix ownership of the first property parcel and status as “anchor business” in the soon-to-be Macoupin

County Business Park.

The Macoupin County Board and the Macoupin County Economic Development Partnership (MEDP) continue their combined efforts to work toward the development and marketing of 2-3 additional sites surrounding the anchor property.

“The County Board saw this as an excellent opportunity to bring in a business that was

ready to create jobs and contribute ongoing revenue to our economy. The County Board and MEDP made the right decision to move forward with it,” said Manar. “We are thrilled Poggenpohl Redi-Mix decided to expand and that they committed to doing so here in Macoupin County.”

The overall project is expected to create 5 full-time jobs and will also contribute sales and

property tax revenue to County government. The company has already begun plans to move forward with a \$500,000-plus initial investment on the property.

“The County couldn't have asked for a better company to open their Business Park with than Poggenpohl Redi-Mix. They are a well established company, with a great reputation, continued on page 3

Legislative Reception Set for June 30

2011 Legislative Reception, hosted by Macoupin County Mayor's Council and Macoupin Economic Development Partnership. Thursday, June 30, Village of Brighton City Hall, 206 S. Main, Brighton, 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm.

Please join us to meet our officials. Invited: Senator Richard Durbin, Congressman Bobby Schilling, Congressman John Shimkus, Senator Sam McCann, Representative Jim Watson, Representative Wayne Rosenthal, Macoupin County board Chairman Andy Manar and Macoupin County Elected Officials.

Contact Shari Albrecht, Executive Director, MEDP for details or reservations. 217-556-8696 or shari @macoupinpartners.com

Web Advantage Seminar July 21

By attending this LIVE in-depth presentation, you will learn:

- Techniques of successful Internet marketing for small business
- How to generate traffic to your web site by creating an online marketing strategy
- Methods to improve the search ranking for your web site.
- Steps to generating brand awareness for your products and services using the web and mobile technologies
- The value of social networking with sites like Twitter, Facebook, YouTube and LinkedIn
- Practical domain name strategies - the benefits of owning multiple names and when alternative top level domains can make sense in branding

Thursday, July 21 6-8 pm, Gillespie Civic Center, 115 North Macoupin St in Gillespie. Space is limited call 217-556-8696 today. Sponsored by MEDP, BenGil Post and NewWave Communications

LCCC Offering Food Service Sanitation & Food Service Sanitation Review

Lewis & Clark is offering a two-day Food Service Sanitation course being held on Friday, August 5 and Saturday, August 6 from 9:00 am - 5:30 pm at the Lewis & 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 standard 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. Cost is \$104.

For those who already have a Food Service Certificate, a review course is being held on Friday, August 5 from 9:00 am - 5:30 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. Cost is \$52.

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



NBS Systems Vice President of Marketing Linda Brown with Vice President of Operations Bill Gascon, Macoupin County Board Chairman Andy Manar, MEDP Executive Director Shari Albrecht and (back row) Macoupin County Board Members John Gay and Mark Dragovich.

NBS Systems Awarded BMC Grant Funds

NBS Systems located just outside of Mt. Olive, was approved and awarded Build Macoupin County Energy Efficiency Grant funds. The grant, announced in January, is available to assist businesses and commercial building owners located in Macoupin County to make needed improvements to their structures. Macoupin Economic Development Partnership administers the grant; focusing on both reduction of energy consumption and job creation. MEDP has identified energy costs as a major factor in business retention in Macoupin County. Grantees may receive up to 100% of the remaining project costs once all qualifications and guidelines have been met and approved.

"We now have 386 energy efficient fixtures in our building. Two hundred and sixty of those are new fixtures and they provide us with ample lighting to get our work done at a lower cost. We will be seeing a huge difference in our energy bill. Our machines each up a lot of energy, so this has been great for us," said Bill Gascon Vice President of Operations.

NBS was awarded \$5,000 for their lighting replacement project. Other qualifying projects

include HVAC, refrigeration upgrades and replacement of building window and doors. Businesses must be located in MEDP member communities as of October 15, 2010 or unincorporated Macoupin County. NBS Systems has been in operation for over 50 years. They specialize in multiple forms of checks, envelopes, statements, invoices, super bills and fulfillment services. They are located at 1000 South Old Route 66, Mt. Olive, 800-554-6277, www.nbschecks.com.

"NBS Systems relocated from California to Mt. Olive several years ago. The County is pleased to help extend this grant to our small businesses who retain employment in Macoupin County. Our goal with this program is to assist in making sure Macoupin County continues to be an affordable location for businesses to prosper," said Macoupin County Board Chairman Andy Manar.

MEDP will determine if projects meet the program requirements. Application and extended guidelines can be found at www.macoupinpartners.com/html/grant_funding.html.

For more information contact: Shari Albrecht, Executive Director 217-556-8696.

MAYOR'S UPDATE

- Mayor Raymond Chapman, City of Bunker Hill



Independence Day Homecoming at Bertagnolli Park Saturday July 2. Parade at 10 am. Homecoming celebration starts at 3 pm. Fireworks at dusk.

Vendors still welcome.

New Bunker Hill Farmers Market Monday nights beginning at 4 pm in the parking lot next to Short Stop.

House of Styles now hosts a new garden/market center next to their location on Warren St.

Seniors can still enjoy activities at the Municipal Building on Franklin St. every Tuesday starting at noon.

Congratulations to Andy Manar, Nick Wieseman, Rev. Jeremy Wood and Laura Dabbs who live or work in Bunker Hill for being named part of the Top 25, Under 45.



Back Row: Sheriff Don Albrecht, Chief Financial Officer Gabe Springer, Bruce Poggenpohl. Front Row: Executive Director Shari Albrecht, County Board Chairman Andy Manar and Russell Poggenpohl.

Park, continued from page 1
tion. MEDP and the County have continued to work to support expansion projects in Macoupin," said Shari Albrecht, MEDP Executive Director. "I am already working hard to find Poggenpohl some neighbors."

"We are very excited for our new location inside the Macoupin County Business Park. We like working in Macoupin and were glad to see this prospect turn into a reality," said Bruce Poggenpohl. "We would

like to thank the County Board and Macoupin Economic Development Partnership for all their help. We look forward to our new neighbors in the newly developed Business Park."

Poggenpohl Redi-Mix is a generational, family-owned commercial/residential concrete company. The Carlinville site will be the second Macoupin County location for the company. The other is located in Virden.

Frank Bertetti Benld Public Library Receives "Business and Libraries Working Together" Grant

Benld, IL- The Frank Bertetti Benld Public Library is one of more than 60 Illinois public libraries selected to receive a "Business and Libraries Working Together" grant from Secretary of State and State Librarian Jesse White to assist local small businesses and entrepreneurs.

Mary Newman, Library Director said the grant will provide "business packages" that include equipment (laptop computers, DVD players, projectors, video cameras), software (planning and office functions) and training videos (office safety, sexual harassment, hostile workplace).

The Benld Library is pleased to have received the grant and to be able to offer this service to the businesses in Benld and Macoupin County. The library is looking forward to working with local communities and businesses.

"Public libraries like the Benld Public Library are cornerstones of our communities, and partnerships such as this between libraries, small businesses and aspiring employers can hopefully spur economic development and job creation in communities like Benld and Macoupin County said Secretary White. "Highly skilled librarians and library staff are extremely valuable and reliable sources of information for small businesses and entrepreneurs.

These business packages represent new tools that public libraries like (your library) can utilize to promote business development and entrepreneurship."

Funding for the business packages was obtained by U.S. Senator Dick Durbin (D-Illinois) through a \$300,000 appropriation to the Small Business Administration (SBA). The criteria for awarding the package included local unemployment rate; proximity to and cooperation with a Small Business Development Center, Service Corps of Retired Employees (SCORE) office, or chamber of commerce.

"Small businesses are key to our economic recovery," Senator Durbin said. "This funding will allow public libraries like the Benld Library to offer information and assistance to small business owners in communities across Illinois. With these new resources and continued support from local public libraries, businesses throughout Illinois will grow and local economies will improve."

Mary Newman, Library Director said local businesses and entrepreneurs interested in working with the library on the initiative should contact her at 217-835-4045 or email benldlibrary@gmail.com.

Thanks to our members who have renewed their membership for 2011

(May 19, 2011 - June 16, 2011)

Gina Gucciardo, CPA



Front Row Left to Right: Paige Wheeler; Erin Martin, Natalie Johnson, Dean Plovich, Laura Dabbs, Regina Byots, Keely Rucker. Middle Row: Lee LoBue, Jordan Garrison, Jeff Hunn, Louise Jett, Nick Wieseman, Rev. Jeremy Wood. Back Row: Andy Manar, Bart Hassard, David Cisler, Brian Zilm, Ryan Ocepek. Not Pictured: Jenna Morrison, Pete Duncan, Brad Skertich, Ronald Paul, Brad Ambuel, Lari Vanderpoel and Dr. Poonam Jain.

Plovich, continued from page 1 Hill, Brad Skertich of Staunton, Lee LoBue of Carlinville, Ronald Paul of Chesterfield, Natalie Johnson of Mt. Olive, Brian Zilm of Carlinville, Erin Martin of Brighton, Paige Wheeler of Divernon, Brad Ambuel of Carlinville, Jeff Hunn of Shipman, Andy Manar of Bunker Hill, Lari Vanderpoel of Carlinville, Ryan Ocepek of Staunton, Regina Byots of Gillespie, Jordan Garrison of Carlinville, David Cisler of Staunton, Laura Dabbs of Jerseyville, Dr. Poonam Jain of Staunton, Nick Wieseman of Bunker Hill, Keely Rucker of Staunton and Louise Jett of Carlinville.

Featured Young Leader, Pete Visintin of Gillespie spoke on the motivations of entrepreneurs saying, “The difference between entrepreneurs and everybody else is entrepreneurs believe something better is possible...and they have courage to take action.”

Bob Schwartz, President of Madison Communications, Paul Boente, Head Salesman of Cubby Hole and Donna Yokley, Owner of Taylor & Soapes were the highlighted business leaders who conducted the business panel: “Entrepreneurship: A Road Less Traveled.”

MEDP Annual Dinner Event Sponsors included: Ameren

Services, Carlinville Area Hospital, Carlinville National Bank, First Congregational Church, Frontier Communications, John Hicks Maytag-City of Gillespie, Karmak, Laborer’s Union Local 338, Lewis & Clark Community College, Macoupin County Housing Authority & The Village at Morse Farm, Madison Communications, Richard Schien, Senator Deanna Demuzio, Sheriff Don Albrecht, Shipman Elevator Company, TwinnCo Real Estate, Ltd., Village of Brighton and Watson Law Office. To see more photos from the Annual Dinner go to www.flickr.com/photos/comegrowwithus

MEDP’s goal is to attract new business and development that brings good paying jobs, contributes significantly to the tax base, and overall helps strengthen and diversify the economy. To learn more about MEDP visit www.macoupinpartners.com.

MEDP Welcomes NEW Members

JUNE
Mary Beth Bellm
Carlinville, IL

Community Memorial Hospital in Staunton Donates to the City of Benld



Benld Mayor Jeff Hendricks and CMH CEO Sue Campbell.

Sue Campbell, CEO of the hospital, says that “CMH Board of Directors has evaluated the proposed use for this Benld property and has decided to deed the land to the City of Benld for the Build Benld Committee’s proposed gazebo/ pergola park project.”

Mayor Jeff Hendricks states “this property is the proposed site for the Build Benld Committee to construct a gazebo or pergola park in the near future. Building start for the site is targeted during calendar years 2011 and 2012 by the Build Benld Committee. It’s a great prospect for the beautification of downtown Benld.”

At a recent City Council meeting, Mayor Jeff Hendricks presented the proposal to the City Council. The land and the BBC proposal for its use were accepted by the Council. “Once a plan for the structure is finalized and the budget is set, the BBC and the Beautification Team will present it to the City Council for their approval. BBC and local volunteers will then begin construction and landscaping on the site. The City of Benld and BBC are very grateful to Sue Campbell and the Community Memorial Hospital in Staunton for their generous donation,” said Hendricks.

“As part of the BB Beautifi-

cation Action Team’s plan, the gazebo/pergola structure will make our City of Benld and Central Ave. more attractive, provide a restful walking or bike-riding destination and will be used by the Benld Library for summer reading programs and many other local events,” said Co-Chair Lynn Fraelle. “We have received numerous, generous donations dedicated to this project by current and former citizens of Benld.”

When Build Benld’s Beautification Team (Andrea Costley, Chairperson) first suggested the idea of a gazebo/pergola park, the team looked at and evaluated lots that might be available on East Central Ave. The property described as lots 17 & 18, block 42, next to the Staunton Community Memorial Hospital Clinic in Benld on East Central was chosen as the best possible site.

The BBC posed the question of the disposition of the lots with Sue Campbell, CEO (CMH of Staunton), who brought this to the Hospital Board for discussion. After several months of investigating and evaluating the BBC project, the Community Memorial Hospital in Staunton graciously decided to deed the land to the City of Benld for the gazebo/pergola park project. Once funding has been raised to complete a structure of this type, Build Benld Committee members and local volunteers will undertake construction.

Please support BUILD BENLD events to help us all reach this goal. Thank you!

Donations may be made to Build Benld, PO Box 5, Benld, IL 62009

Website: <http://gillespieil.com/benld/buildbenld.html>

email: BuildBenld@gmail.com

Build Benld is the leadership team formed by the Build Macoupin County Program facilitated by MEDP.

MEDP Member Benefits

Friend - \$50+

- Business listing
- Business referrals
- Receive publications and event invitations
- Attend board meeting and serve on committees
- Receive MEDP’s NewsFlash newsletter
- Window decal

Bronze – \$250+

- All of the above benefits
- Three available board seats, elected position
- Two additional lines with business listing
- One ticket to events, workshops and seminars
- Access to membership contacts
- Networking Opportunities
- Access to membership tools: demographics, business stats, etc.

Silver - \$500+

- All of the above benefits
- Six available board seats, elected position
- Member’s link added to website
- One additional ticket to events, workshops and seminars
- Inclusion in business spotlight section of newsletter
- Free use of meeting space

Gold – \$1,500+

- All of the above benefits
- Board seat
- Logo added to website
- One additional ticket to events, workshops and seminars
- Business Recognition at events
- Access to network of municipalities
- Free posting of open positions on website

Platinum - \$3,000+

- All of the above benefits
- Three lines, link and logo in display ad form on website
- VIP seating at events

To join today, go to www.macoupinpartners.com, click on About MEDP and select Join Us.



Executive Director Shari Albrecht, County Board Chairman Andy Manar, Area Diesel Owner Val Leefers and son Von.

Area Diesel Awarded BMC Grant Funds

Area Diesel located just outside of Carlinsville city limits, recently was approved and awarded Build Macoupin County Energy Efficiency Grant funds. The grant, announced in January, is available to assist businesses and commercial building owners located in Macoupin County to make needed improvements to their structures. Macoupin Economic Development Partnership administers the grant; focusing on both reduction of energy consumption and job creation. MEDP has identified energy costs as a major factor in business retention in Macoupin County. Grantees may receive up to 100% of the remaining project costs once all qualifications and guidelines have been met and approved.

"We replaced over 500 inefficient lighting units in our entire facility and we plan to add more. We put \$10,000 back into the County from the labor

it took to complete the project," said owner Val Leefers.

Area Diesel was awarded \$5,000 for their lighting replacement from Build Macoupin County. Businesses must be located in MEDP member communities as of October 15, 2010 or unincorporated Macoupin County. Since 1973, Area Diesel has been working on diesel engines and fuel systems on agricultural and heavy equipment applications as well as diesel pickups. They have the Midwest's largest new and remanufactured turbocharger inventory. Visit them at www.arediesel.com.

"Area Diesel provides great agricultural and automotive components both locally and internationally. The County is pleased that it is able to one of our large area employers in whatever way possible to retain jobs and reinvest in our local economy," said Macoupin County Board Chairman Andy Manar.

Thoughts From Our MEDP President



age and human tragedy. To top it off, now there is some sort of a computer connection that is called the "Cloud."

And then there is the old saying, "Well, he has his head in the clouds." This was really not much of a compliment and indicated that a person was not realistic and didn't have a complete understanding of the situation.

Have you noticed how much attention is being given to clouds these days? When I was a young girl I used to lay in our backyard and try to see figures and images in the clouds. And then we were told that thunder was caused by two clouds crashing together. That is pretty much the extent of what I thought about clouds over the years.

Nowadays great attention is given to clouds, and according to the weather people on TV there are a great variety of clouds - some friendly and some not so friendly. Some clouds are credited with being the forerunners of these terrible tornadoes that have struck our area and caused so much dam-

But when you stop to think about it, every business venture that ever started commenced with someone having a dream or an idea - that is "having his/her head in the clouds." But it is because of hard work and having the determination and fortitude to follow up on that dream or idea that is important to the economy of our cities, villages and county.

MEDP wants to hear from all you people with your dreams and ideas - especially those of you with your "head in the clouds." Let us help you make all those clouds go away and your business become a reality. This is how we can grow the economy of Macoupin County.

Julia H. Watson
President

Calendar of Events

- No June MEDP BOD Meeting
- June 30: 2011 Legislative Reception, Brighton Community Center, 7:00 PM
- July 19: MEDP Executive BOD Meeting, 6 pm
- July 21: Web Advantage Seminar, 6-8 pm Gillespie Civic Center - Sign up today!



MEDP'S NewsFlash

For more information about
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or newsletter submissions
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courtney@macoupinpartners.com