



**Illinois**  
Department of  
**Agriculture**

Pat Quinn, Governor  
Thomas E. Jennings, Director

**Bureau of Animal Health and Welfare**

P.O. Box 19281 • Springfield, IL 62794-9281 • 217/782-6657 • TDD 217/524-6858 • Fax 217/558-6033

October 2, 2009

Dear County Officials:

Enclosed please find a copy of the 2009 Illinois Livestock Brand Book. The Department is statutorily required to supply a copy to each county clerk and sheriff in the State of Illinois.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact our office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark J. Ernst". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Mark" being the most prominent.

Mark J. Ernst, DVM  
State Veterinarian  
Bureau of Animal Health & Welfare

MJE:cd  
Enc.



# *MEDP NewsFlash*

**Macoupin Economic Development Partnership**

**Shari Albrecht, Executive Director**

**October 1, 2009**

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## **MEDP Adds Public Relations Coordinator**

MEDP is proud to announce the addition of Lee LoBue as the organization's Public Relations Coordinator. In this position, Lee will oversee the public relations and communication strategy of the MEDP and work to increase the public's awareness of the MEDP and its goals. He has agreed to perform the duties of the position on a voluntary basis and at no cost to MEDP.

Lee brings many years of public relations experience to the MEDP, including work in non-profit, corporate and governmental fields. He is a long-time resident of Carlinville and holds a Bachelor degree in Communications from the University of Illinois-Chicago and Masters degree focused on Media Relations from the University of Pennsylvania.

"I'm looking forward to working with the MEDP and all of its members in helping further develop the economic landscape of our county," said LoBue. "This is a great opportunity to give back locally by being able to apply my public relations background to such a worthy cause as economic development."

## **MEDP Announces Business Retention Program**

The cities of Bunker Hill, Carlinville, Gillespie, Mt. Olive, Modesto and Staunton, the Macoupin County Board and MEDP recently announced the implementation of a formal business retention program in Macoupin County. The group agrees that nothing is more important to Macoupin County's economy than the businesses that operate generating payroll, local spending and taxes. MEDP and its community leaders understand that the future of these companies will have a substantial impact on the growth of the area's economy.

MEDP, in conjunction with community members recently began a campaign to assess the health of the county's economic portfolio. In the coming months, MEDP will be contacting company officials to set up meetings to learn about each company, trends in their respective industry, their views of the community as a place to do business and other business trends.

MEDP is among a select group of leaders in economic development who are implementing this program in the state of Illinois. With the help of an innovative new tool provided by Ameren, MEDP is equipped with a resource for identifying and responding to the needs of Macoupin County's business portfolio.

### **CARLINVILLE ENTREPRENEURSHIP CENTER TO OFFER SIX-WEEK BUSINESS START-UP COURSE**

Are you an entrepreneur? Do you have a great business idea and don't know what to do with it? Do you know that you want to own a business, but don't know where to start? Regardless of what you want to do, planning is important before taking action. The Entrepreneurship Center in Carlinville can be your first stop if you want to plan for a business.

The Entrepreneurship Center in Carlinville will be offering a six-week program for people who want to start a business. The "Six-Week Start-Up" course will be held from 6-8:30 p.m. on six consecutive Thursdays beginning on October 15 at the Lewis and Clark Community College Macoupin County Education Center located at 18400 Shipman Road in Carlinville.

The course, which includes a total of 15 classroom hours, is a step-by-step program for starting a business, making money, and achieving specific business goals. Those attending the course will receive a manual that includes dozens of useful worksheets and weekly checklists to keep participants on track. Each of the six chapters includes several main accomplishments, each one broken down into a series of tasks.

The cost of the course is \$125, and includes the cost of the 280-page manual, electronic financial templates and other resources.

Seating will be limited for the course and advance registration is required. For more information about the business start-up programs or other center services, contact the Entrepreneurship Center at 217-854-9652 or [aknippel@millikin.edu](mailto:aknippel@millikin.edu).

### **CARLINVILLE ENTREPRENEURSHIP CENTER TO OFFER WORKSHOP ON SMALL BUSINESS GROWTH AND PROFITABILITY**

Where do you want your business to be in three years? Do you have plans to get there? Do you currently spend more time working “in” your business than working “on” the business? Here is your chance to think about the future—to think strategically.

The Entrepreneurship Center in Carlinville will be offering a six-hour hands-on workshop to assist entrepreneurs and businesses owners/managers by providing critical evaluation tools and action steps they need to reach their vision. “Listening to Your Business” will be offered on Wednesday, October 28, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The seminar will be held at the Lincoln Land Community College Southern Region Education Center located at 1 Lincoln Land Drive in Litchfield.

The workshop, is designed to improve the knowledge, skills and values that contribute to successful business growth. This workshop focuses on charting a three-year strategic vision, determining what stage of development a business is in today, identifying areas that can be strengthened to support rapid growth, and translating goals into action steps. When participants leave, they will have a plan developed through guided, thoughtful analysis.

The cost of the program is \$75 for the first participant from a business (\$50 if the participating business is a member of one of the region’s chambers of commerce or economic development organizations), with additional participants from the same business receiving a \$25 discount off the first participant’s registration fee. The fee includes workshop materials and lunch.

Seating will be limited for the workshop and advance registration is required by Friday, September 23. For more information about the “Listening to Your Business” workshop or other center services, contact the Entrepreneurship Center at 217-854-9652 or [aknippel@millikin.edu](mailto:aknippel@millikin.edu).

### **International Trade Center to Offer Export Seminar**

Illinois SBDC International Trade Center at SIUE, in partnership with Associated Bank, the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA), Export-Import Bank of the U.S. and the Illinois SBDC International Trade Centers at Kaskaskia College and Southern Illinois University Carbondale, are pleased to present the program:

#### **"ILLINOIS EXPORT FINANCE SEMINAR" *Two dates and locations:***

Date: Wednesday, October 7, 2009

Time: 12:00 noon - 6:00pm (11:30am registration / 12pm lunch / 5pm networking reception)

Location: Southern Illinois University **Edwardsville**

Morris University Center- Hickory/Hackberry Rooms (second level)

Date: Thursday, October 8, 2009

Time: 8:30am - 2:00pm (8am registration & continental breakfast / 12:30pm networking lunch)

Location: Southern Illinois University **Carbondale**

Dunn-Richmond Economic Development Center

***Extend Credit and Increase Sales with Help from the Experts.*** Participants will learn how to enter a new foreign market, increase your sales in existing markets, provide financing to international buyers, protect against non-payment by insuring your company's international receivables and improve your cash flow. These seminars will assist area businesses and lenders in taking full advantage of export lending and credit protection programs sponsored by the U.S. government. In addition, learn about trade finance and refresh your knowledge of the various methods of payment used internationally, including letters of credit. Each program will address the following topics:

- Pre-Export Financing
- Short-term Working Capital Loans for Exports
- Export Credit Insurance Programs
- Risk Protection
- Foreign Exchange
- International Payment Methods: Letters of Credit
- Success Stories in International Marketing and Financing

The fee for each seminar is \$65 (by September 23) and \$75 (after September 23). Fee includes meals, parking and all handout materials. Space is limited and registration is required. To register, please refer to the attached form and fax it to 618-650-2647 or send it via e-mail to [International-Trade-Center@siue.edu](mailto:International-Trade-Center@siue.edu). If you have any questions, please call the International Trade Center at 618-650-3851 or 618-650-2452. You can also visit our website at [www.siue.edu/ITC](http://www.siue.edu/ITC) under "Events".

## **Illinois Route 66 Heritage Project Announces Wayside Exhibit Grant Program**

Executive Director, Shari Albrecht and several MEDP members recently attended the announcement of the Illinois Route 66 Scenic Byway Wayside Exhibit Program. These exhibits are expected to be a useful communication tool for the Route 66 traveler. In addition, the exhibits will create a strong visual identity and heighten community awareness about the local stories of Route 66.

The program offers up to \$10,000 in funding for the purchase and installation of the wayside sign. The storyboards, located at key Route 66 icons, and attractions will be used to give visitors a 24/7 view of the historical and/or folklore of the site. For more information contact Jeanette Cowden, Wayside Exhibit Project Manager at [jeanette@illinoisroute66.org](mailto:jeanette@illinoisroute66.org).

In addition to Albrecht, MEDP Board members, Sherry Brianza, Don Boeckenstedt and Beth Toon also attended, as well as representatives from Virden, Girard, Carlinville, Benld, Mt. Olive and Staunton.

## **JOIN NOW! MEDP Memberships are Always Available**

Macoupin Economic Development Partnership is a public-private organization devoted to providing Macoupin County with economic growth and assist existing businesses in expansion opportunities. MEDP is a membership based organization.

Investing in our partnership will provide members with the opportunity to access the following benefits:

Business Retention and Expansion Services  
Site Development  
Financing Assistance  
Networking Opportunities  
Legislative Support  
Business Referrals  
Heightened Business Visibility

We have affordable membership rates at every level. Please contact Shari Albrecht, Executive Director to discuss how you might become involved. Shari can be reached at 217/556-8696 or [slalbrecht1979@yahoo.com](mailto:slalbrecht1979@yahoo.com)

*Come Grow With Us!*

# Macoupin Economic Development Partnership

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## Semi-Annual Report

September 15, 2009



Through the work of the four county regional economic development effort, the Macoupin County Board, Staunton Economic Development and the Carlinsville CCI Committee came together to create a unified, proactive economic development organization that will serve the needs of the entire county. Representatives of these organizations realize that through cooperation and planning, Macoupin County can capitalize on its strengths and diversify its economic base. A task force was formed to develop the framework of the Macoupin County economic development program contained in this document.

# **Macoupin Economic Development Partnership, NFP**

*A public-private partnership dedicated to improving the economic well being of  
Macoupin County and all of its residents.*

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**The Macoupin Economic Development Partnership is intended to be a  
501(c)6 not-for-profit organization, using both public/private funding.**

## **Founding Partners**

**Macoupin County Board  
City of Carlinville  
City of Staunton**

## **Charter Members**

**Macoupin County Board  
City of Carlinville  
City of Gillespie  
City of Staunton  
Ameren  
Brianza Sales & Marketing  
Carlinville Area Hospital  
Carlinville National Bank  
Community Memorial Hospital  
H&H Construction  
Karmak, Inc.  
Lewis & Clark Community College  
Madison Communications  
NBS Systems, Inc.  
Prairie Farms  
Shipman Elevator Company  
United Community Bank  
Watson Law Office**

## **Members**

**Verticchio Law Office  
City of Bunker Hill  
City of Mount Olive  
Village of Modesto  
Frontier Communications  
New Wave Communication  
MJM Electric Cooperative**

# Macoupin Economic Development Partnership, NFP

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## Mission

It is the mission of the Macoupin Economic Development Partnership to provide Macoupin County with an organization to drive economic growth and assist existing businesses in expanding opportunities that may arise as a result.

## Primary Goals

(Based on results of the Macoupin County MAPPING public meetings)

\*These goals are intended to establish a climate within which the success of a strategic plan can be assured.

- Business Retention and Expansion: Advance the diversification of the tax base from a traditional coal mining based economy to an economy with diverse interests.
- Capital Investment: Promote and provide a comprehensive capital economic development program to increase the property tax base in Macoupin County.
- Business Recruitment: Serve as a catalyst for long-term economic diversification in Macoupin County and to expand and diversify the employment base of the area.
- Entrepreneurial Development: Increase the amount of private sector investments in Macoupin County through the support and expansion of the area's micro-business community.
- Workforce Development: Increase employment opportunities in Macoupin County and to provide employers with a well-qualified workforce.
- Retail Development: Increase the sales tax base of Macoupin County through retail expansion.
- Leadership Development: Advocate cooperative leadership efforts and solutions to issues common to communities in Macoupin County.
- Community Development: Enhance the quality of life in Macoupin County through the creation of programs focusing on community development.

Report on First Annual Program of Work  
September 15, 2009

I. Organizational Structure:

- Establish the Macoupin Economic Development Partnership office location and hire staff.

*The MEDP home office, located at 18400 Shipman Road, Carlinville was established on February 16, 2009. The office is currently staffed by Shari Albrecht, Executive Director. Shari began her career with MEDP on February 16, 2009, having previously served as Regional Manager for DCEO Opportunity Returns.*

- Achieve 90 % funding level of organizational budget.

*2009 Approved Budget: \$150,000.00*

*Income as of September 15, 2009: \$113,003.00 (75.33%)*

- Develop a strategic plan based on the results of the Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs MAPPING results, including an action agenda which gives an overview of the steps necessary to achieve the organization's primary goals and a time frame for completion.
  1. *MEDP Strategic Planning Task Force was formed on April 21, 2009. Tom Wunderle, Dir. Institutional Research and Planning, Lewis & Clark Community College is leading the strategic planning effort. Mr. Wunderle's services are a gift from LCCC. The Task Force purpose is to recommend an organizational strategy that will reaffirm MEDP's mission and purpose, create a 10-year vision, and define MEDP strategic priorities (5-10 yr. goals).*
  2. *Plan is expected to be approved in November, 2009.*
- Macoupin Economic Development Partnership will cooperate with member communities and local and state officials to develop a long-range infrastructure plan for Macoupin County.
  1. *Macoupin County Lobby Day held May 13, 2009.*
  2. *MEDP Board of Directors voted to establish a cooperative capital funding campaign, for member community's infrastructure projects on July 21, 2009.*
  3. *Infrastructure inventory presented to MEDP Board of Directors on August 18, 2009.*

II. Business Retention, Expansion & Recruitment:

- Macoupin Economic Development Partnership will initiate a local business retention and expansion program.
  1. *Business Retention Committee established April 21, 2009.*
  2. *Ameren Business Retention Program was adopted by MEDP Board of Directors on May 19, 2009*
  3. *MEDP Letter of Understanding was signed with Ameren – June, 2009.*
  4. *Executive Director received Synchornrist Business Retention training during July, 2009.*
  5. *Business Retention visits began – August, 2009. Goal: 25 visits per year.*

- Macoupin Economic Development Partnership will provide support for new and existing small businesses and self-employed by helping them to define their role in the Macoupin County economy.
  1. *February, 2009: Assisted DCEO Community Development in choosing Carlinville as one of eight pilot communities for downtown development program, supporting small business.*
  2. *April, 2009: Hosted Historic Tax Credit Workshop in Gillespie.*
  3. *May, 2009: Established quarterly Macoupin County Chamber meetings.*
  4. *May, 2009: Hosted four Small Business Owners' Roundtable events*
  5. *June, 2009: Provided SBA Federal Stimulus Loan Program to Macoupin County Auto Dealers.*
  6. *July, 2009: Provided SBA ARC Loan Program to member communities and Macoupin County chamber organizations.*
  7. *Current: Working with DCEO, and Rt. 66 Scenic Byways, to establish county-wide downtown development program.*
  8. *Current: Actively involved in support for Carlinville E Center.*
  9. *Current: 16 small business retention/expansion visits to-date.*
- Macoupin Economic Development Partnership will work with the local business community and educators to create a prepared workforce in order to meet the employment needs of member businesses and meet business recruitment needs.
  1. *Executive Director serves on West Central Workforce Development Board of Directors.*
- Macoupin Economic Development Partnership with local communities and Chamber of Commerce organizations to support and promote designated areas for retail, manufacturing, industrial, and professional service development/expansion.
  1. *Currently working with City of Bunker Hill to establish local TIF district.*
  2. *Currently working with DCEO, Rt. 66 Scenic Byways, to establish county-wide downtown development program.*
  3. *February, 2009: Assisted DCEO Community Development in choosing Carlinville as one of eight pilot communities for downtown development program.*
  4. *June 2, 2009: Completed introductory tour of Macoupin County, with Ameren's assistance, for suitable industrial development sites.*
- Macoupin Economic Development Partnership will develop an industrial site development plan.

### III. Community Development:

- Macoupin Economic Development Partnership will provide assistance to local communities and organizations with assistance on issues affecting their quality of life.
 

*MEDP is currently assisting with thirteen community development projects in five communities including Bunker Hill, Carlinville, Gillespie, Modesto and Staunton. MEDP is also involved in two projects located in unincorporated Macoupin County and three county-wide projects.*

# Talking Points

*Illinois  
county news  
& views*



A member service of the Illinois Association of County Board Members

October 2009

## **Technology partnership in Macoupin and Montgomery Counties**

A first-of-its-kind public-private partnership between the State of Illinois, local governments, Norlight Telecommunications, Motorola, and Royell Communications will bring high-speed, affordable broadband Internet service to the counties of Macoupin and Montgomery. As part of the Vince Demuzio Broadband Initiative, underserved rural communities will have the access they need to stimulate economic development and job growth. The Demuzio project partnership represents the first of many more like it in Illinois, thanks to an unprecedented \$7.2 billion national investment in broadband technology, made possible through the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

## **Major struggles in Alexander County**

Alexander County is facing a serious budget deficit and the county commissioners are being forced to make some tough decisions. The Sheriff's Office has laid off 11 employees, or three-quarters of its staff, along with allowing 5 of its police cruisers to be repossessed for defaulting on the loans. Governor Quinn stepped up by giving the county a state surplus SUV and the Illinois State Police have been assisting with emergency response efforts. High utility rates, job scarcity, and population decline are some of the factors thought to have led to the deficit in the southern county.

## **Vermilion County Assessor appointed to state position**

Vermilion County Supervisor of Assessments Don Crist has been appointed by Governor Pat Quinn to the chairman position of the Illinois Property Tax Appeal Board. Due to a conflict of interest, he resigned as the SoA which is a position he has held for 11 years. Crist states, "I want to thank the people of Vermilion County for the confidence they have shown me throughout these almost 19 years as one of their elected representatives." Crist began his new position on October 1.

## **LaSalle considers privatizing nursing home**

A referendum has been proposed in LaSalle County to privatize the nursing home that is currently subsidized at \$1.3 million dollars annually. Board member Jeff Myers stated, "In every county where this has been put before voters, the voters have supported their county nursing home." The prevailing rates for nursing homes in the county are between \$135 and \$146 per day which is slightly higher than the current subsidized rates. In other news, a proposal to reduce the number of committees from 22 to 17 received a favorable review by the Committee on Appointments. A final action has yet to be taken, but Chairman Jerry Hicks said the changes could be implemented by the new fiscal year in December.

## **Mercer County elects first woman board chair**

After 10 years of service on the Mercer County Board, Chairman Tom Harris resigned due to health reasons. "I've thoroughly enjoyed the time that I've been on the board and the interaction with my colleagues, friends, and constituents, but right now I have to focus on quality time with my wife and family," Harris said. We thank him for his many years of public service and wish him well. "Tom was an optimist and always has a smile on his face," said Kelly Murray, executive director. "His presence will be missed at our meetings, however, he left us and the county in good hands." Maxine Henry filled the seat vacated by Harris and is the first woman to chair the Mercer County Board. Floyd Utz was elected as the vice chair and David Maynard of Viola will fill Harris' seat on the board.

## DuPage first to ban video gambling

The DuPage County Board approved an ordinance in August that will ban video gambling machines in unincorporated DuPage County, making DuPage the first county in Illinois to enact such a ban. The new ordinance, which takes effect immediately, was drafted and brought forward by board member Brian Sheahan (District 2) and will affect 35 establishments in unincorporated DuPage County. "I brought this initiative forward because I believe video gambling would have an adverse effect on county government and our citizens," said Sheahan. Under Section 27 of the Video Gaming Act, which was enacted on July 13, 2009, "a county board may, for the unincorporated area of the county, pass an ordinance prohibiting video gaming within the unincorporated area of the county."

## Landfill fees used to balance budget

In an 18-5 vote, the Ogle County Board has approved a proposal to use landfill fees to help balance the 2010 budget. The transfer of funds from the Solid Waste Fund to the General Fund will be considered a loan to be paid back in 5 years only if the unions agree to no wage increases in 2010 in addition to identifying cuts equivalent to a 3 percent wage reduction and five furlough days. According to County Administrator Meggon McKinley if the \$250,000 needed in spending cuts can be found another way, then employees will not need to take wage cuts or furlough days.

## St. Clair County receives GIS award

A Special Achievement in Geographic Information System, or SAG, has been awarded to St. Clair County by the ESRI International User Conference in San Diego. GIS combines computer hardware, software, and data to collect, manage and analyze geographic information. Chairman Mark Kern was honored for the county to be recognized and stated, "The accelerating use of GIS has provided more efficient ways for the residents and other units of government to access the most accurate and updated information available."

## Circuit Clerk moves to Appellate Court

Carla Bender, the Logan County Circuit Clerk, has accepted a position as the clerk of the 4th District Appellate Court. Justice Sue Myerscough called her a "stellar" choice in fulfilling the position. Bender will replace long-time appellate court clerk Darryl Pratscher who passed away in July. Bender started her new job on October 1.

## Independent health department benefits Monroe

Monroe County has split off from Randolph County to form its own county health department. Monroe County Chairman Delbert Wittenauer stated that the health department can now be more efficient and tailored to the needs of the county. According to Wittenauer the local taxpayers association approached him immediately after taking office in 2006 to begin looking into the split. Compared to previous fiscal years, the county is expected to save around \$35,000.

## Effingham looks to complete codification

Effingham County hired Frank Heiligenstein of Illinois Codification Services (ICS) several years ago to compose a county code. The process was essentially halted and ICS is now looking to finish the job. The county is considering putting the funds together to complete the work already gone into the code. According to Heiligenstein, more than 300 pages of the code has been completed, but without a finished product the county would not have laws covering some vital functions. States Attorney Ed Deters says he does not expect any substantive changes or the code would have been more of a priority.

## County surpasses 1 million pound mark in electronics recycling

Will County officials are celebrating passing an important milestone – having collected more than 1 million pounds in electronic recycling in just a little more than two years. In July 2008, the county opened four permanent recycling sites and today have eleven sites open. An estimated 25,125 people have used the sites. As of July 31, the County has spent \$137,000 or about 14 cents per pound to recycle its collected electronics. The funding comes from the County's Prairie View Landfill, managed by Waste Management.

## **Sangamon County overhauls medical care for inmates**

After the urging of a consultant brought in to assess the quality of medical care in the Sangamon County Jail, the county took "appropriate actions we needed to take," according to superintendent Terry Durr. A nurse practitioner has been hired and a contract with Health Professionals Ltd. with less than a year into a three year deal has been terminated. The consultant was brought in after the death of three inmates in the Fall of 2007. Sangamon County has since hired a new company, Advanced Correctional Healthcare Inc., to handle the facility's medical care needs.

## **St. Clair backs flood insurance rate freeze**

A resolution has been approved in St. Clair County to support federal legislation to freeze flood insurance rates for property owners living along the Mississippi River flood plain. If the bill is passed, it will prevent federal flood insurance rates from changing in counties like Madison, St. Clair, and Monroe where efforts are underway to fix flood levees. After the new flood maps are published in 2010, around 150,000 property owners will be forced to buy flood insurance and high rates could halt development in the metro-east area.

## **Winnebago County to pay 15.5 million settlement**

A \$15.5 million dollar settlement in Winnebago County has been reached in a tragic accident caused by a sheriff's deputy that resulted in the death of two people and severe brain damage to a third. Board Chairman Scott Christiansen stated, "I think it is a fair settlement to the Bachman family and the taxpayers of Winnebago County...It makes the best of a bad situation." The county will have to find a way to raise \$10.5 million due to the insurance policy at the time only covering up to \$5 million.

## **County cuts mileage reimbursements**

An increase to the county employee mileage reimbursement when gas prices were well over \$3 a gallon in Lee County has been cut back from 50 cents a mile to 35 cents. According to board member David Higgs, "When the economy is good is the time to spend... When it's bad, you cut back." The board is also considering a policy that would make the starting wage of any county employee the same as paid in the clerk's and treasurer's offices.

## **Kane County may approve mini wind turbines**

The Kane County Board is considering allowing personal mini wind turbines to be placed at homes and businesses. The turbines would only produce enough energy to power an individual home or business. Studies have shown that adding wind turbines to residences have resulted in an increase or no effect on local property value. Some of the concerns discussed were aesthetics and noise pollution. The board plans to investigate further before developing zoning requirements to regulate the turbines.

## **Multicounty detention center suggested**

A suggestion has been made by the Sauk Valley News Editorial Board to create a multi-county detention center to solve the overcrowding and aging problems in both Ogle and Lee County Jails. The two counties are suffering from relatively similar problems and it has been recommended by the National Institute of Corrections that they both build a new jail. Given the close proximity of the counties, a combined detention center could make economical sense if pooling resources could create a better, longer lasting facility.

## **Robot to protect deputies in bomb disposal**

The DuPage County Sheriff's Office Hazardous Device Unit has been granted a new bomb disposal robot to help protect the citizens of DuPage County. The Illinois Terrorism Task Force provided an equipment grant and the funds to purchase the Remotec Andros F6A Bomb Disposal Robot came from Federal Department of Homeland Security. The robot, valued at \$150,000, can remotely render an item safe without having to send a bomb unit member to approach the bomb. It is able to climb stairs and operate in any terrain. The robot has four cameras with infra red technology for low light operations, 2 way communication, and light attachments that allow for safer searching and examination.

## Governor rescues public safety program

Gov. Pat Quinn made a commitment to ensuring public safety by restoring \$16 million in funding for probation services in Illinois. The restored funding, which was cut earlier this year by the General Assembly, will allow Illinois probation departments to avoid many layoffs and maintain probation officer staffing levels. Earlier this year the General Assembly funded the Illinois Supreme Court's budget for operational expenses and grants at only 56 percent of the Court's request. Gov. Quinn used his lump sum appropriation authority to increase the Court's funding level to 82 percent of its fiscal year 2009 appropriation – a partial restoration. In 2008, Illinois' probation officers supervised more than 103,000 adults and nearly 16,000 juveniles. They also conducted more than 66,000 investigations and staffed 16 juvenile detention centers with an average daily population of 498.

## Nuclear waste idea unpopular in Iroquois

A suggestion that Iroquois County look into developing a low-level radioactive waste facility has been met with intense scrutiny and brought 65 people to last month's County Board meeting. The committee has not even heard a real proposal, and only the idea had been suggested and that was enough to incite major opposition. Board Chairman Ron Schroeder said it's "the biggest non-story I have ever heard." Vice Chairman Harriett Mowrey said she does not think a proposal will go through after hearing about the negative impacts of developing a nuclear waste facility.

## McHenry request public feedback on video gaming

An October 6 meeting has been tentatively scheduled in McHenry County for the public to weigh in on the issue of video poker. The county has been torn on the issue ever since the state passed legislation allowing for video poker in drinking establishments. Banning the video gaming could cost the county millions of dollars in construction revenue and allowing it could cost the county its "family friendly" reputation. Any action the county takes will only effect unincorporated areas of the county.

## Bike path connects county to north and south neighbors

For the first time, you can now bike to and from Wisconsin and Cook County without ever leaving a bike path! The Lake County Division of Transportation extended the Skokie Valley Bike Path more than one mile to the north where it now connects with the North Shore Bike Path at Illinois Route 176. This bike path project is a great example of the Lake County Board, Division of Transportation, and several other government agencies working together to provide safety and convenience to county residents.

## Macoupin County court cases available online

The Macoupin County judicial system has developed an online database accessible to the public at [www.judici.com](http://www.judici.com). The database will contain information about criminal and civil cases that is searchable by name or case number. Other information contained on the website includes new case filings and court dockets, but are only available with a paid subscription. "This service is paid through court user fees, rather than an additional tax burden," according to County Clerk Mike Mathis.



Former Shelby County Board Chairman George Frazier, 75, passed away at his home in Shelbyville on August 18. Frazier was elected to the county board in 2000 and served as Chairman from 2002-2008. He was the owner of *The Daily Union* newspaper prior to his retirement in 1999. "To say that he was a wealth of knowledge does not catch the scope of it," said Mid-Illinois Red Cross Service Manager Glenda Plunkett. "He is the only man I knew who could explain the most difficult concepts for the rest of us commoners with grace and ease. I remember how transparent he made the murky tax cap issue, just one of many examples of his talent." Our condolences to his friends and family.