

# MACOUPIN COUNTY REVOLVING LOAN FUND

## FEBRUARY 2012 REPORT

**REPORT DATE:** FEBRUARY 29, 2012

**INVOICE DATE RANGE:** THROUGH 2/15/2012 INVOICES

Invoice Date	RLF Loanee	Amount Paid	Due Date	Date Amount Remitted
9/15/11	159 Fitness	\$485.00	10/17/2011	10/17/2011
10/15/11	159 Fitness	\$485.00	11/17/2011	11/17/2011
11/15/11	159 Fitness	\$485.00	12/17/2011	12/16/2011
12/15/11	159 Fitness	\$485.00	1/17/2012	1/17/2012
1/15/12	159 Fitness	\$485.83	2/17/2012	2/17/2012
2/15/12	159 Fitness		3/17/2012	
<b>159 Fitness Initial Principal Balance/Current Principal Balance: \$50,000.00/\$43,796.18</b>				
9/15/11	All Type Hydraulics	\$478.40	9/28/2011	9/30/2011
10/15/11	All Type Hydraulics	\$478.40	10/28/2011	10/31/2011
11/15/11	All Type Hydraulics	\$478.40	11/28/2011	11/29/2011
12/15/11	All Type Hydraulics	\$478.40	12/28/2011	12/28/2011
1/15/12	All Type Hydraulics	\$478.40	1/28/2011	1/27/2012
2/15/12	All Type Hydraulics	\$478.40	2/28/2011	2/28/2012
<b>All Type Hydraulics Initial Principal Balance/Current Principal Balance: \$35,000.00/\$18,721.35</b>				
9/15/11	Connexus, Inc.	\$0.00	10/1/2011	UNPAID - See note Below
10/15/11	Connexus, Inc.	\$0.00	11/1/2011	UNPAID - See note Below
11/15/11	Connexus, Inc.	\$0.00	12/1/2011	UNPAID - See note Below
12/15/11	Connexus, Inc.	\$0.00	1/1/2012	UNPAID - See note Below
1/15/12	Connexus, Inc.	N/A	N/A	See Below / Agreement
N/A	Connexus, Inc.	\$250.00	Per Agrmt	Payment Made 1/10/12
N/A	Connexus, Inc.	\$250.00	Per Agrmt	Payment Made 1/31/12
N/A	Connexus, Inc.	N/A	Per Agrmt	Returned Check / Insuff. Funds
<b>Connexus Initial Principal Balance/Current Principal Balance: \$8,380.00/\$6,378.91***</b>				
9/15/11	R&A Enterprises	\$403.70	10/1/2011	10/11/2011
10/15/11	R&A Enterprises	see above	11/1/2011	see above (10/11/2011)
11/15/11	R&A Enterprises	\$201.85	12/1/2011	11/15/2011
12/15/11	R&A Enterprises	\$201.85	1/1/2012	12/8/2011
1/15/12	R&A Enterprises	\$201.85	2/1/2012	2/21/2012
2/15/12	R&A Enterprises		3/1/2012	
<b>R&amp;A Enterprises Initial Principal Balance/Current Principal Balance: \$25,000.00/\$13,708.60</b>				
1/15/12	Mercantile Center	N/A	1/1/2013	
<b>Mercantile Center Initial Principal Balance/Current Principal Balance: \$10,000.00/\$10,000.00</b>				
Legend: M=Missed; L=Received Late; (*)=see previous monthly reports for detail				

**Note1:** Certain balance figures may be slightly different due to not re-amortizing balances every month after an extra payment toward principal. Actual balances will be determined prior to final collection if necessary in any instance. Listed principal balances reflect amortization schedules.

**Note2:** As of the date of last month's report (1/31/2012), Connexus had entered into a verbal agreement with the State's Attorney's Office concerning repayment of outstanding debt to the Revolving Loan Fund. The current principal balance is an estimate based on principal being paid for due payments on 10/1/11 and 11/1/11 with remaining balance from two payments (1/10/12 and 1/31/12) going to interest and required late fees. Future payments will go toward fulfilling all required late fees, interest due, and principal until Connexus is current with 3/1/12 due payment. **UPDATE:** As of today's date, Connexus has not fulfilled all payments to gain currency going into March 2012. The most recent payment submitted on 2/23/12 was returned due to insufficient funds.

**Note3:** A \$10,000.00 loan at 3% interest / one-pay note to the Mercantile Center (formerly listed with a separate, current loan under R&A Enterprises) was approved by the County Board at its December 2011 meeting. Per terms of the note, the Mercantile Center is required to appear before the County Board's Economic Development Committee to provide appropriate financial updates and foreclosures in the event the loan has not yet been prepaid. Repayment of the single-pay note is due no later than January 1, 2013.



**PETE DUNCAN**  
**MACOUPIN COUNTY CLERK**  
**P.O. BOX 107 CARLINVILLE, IL 62626**

**NEW ELECTION RESULTS WEBSITE FOR MARCH 20<sup>th</sup> PRIMARY**

With the 2012 primary only days away, Macoupin County Clerk Pete Duncan recently announced that a new election result website would be rolled out for the March 20<sup>th</sup> primary.

The new website will give anyone interested more detailed information on election results than ever before in Macoupin County. Some of the new features include:

- The ability to select only the races the user wants to see results from instead of seeing all races.
- Breakdowns of which precincts have reported, how each precinct voted in a race, and whether each precinct's early votes have been counted.
- County maps showing precincts reporting, turnout as well as results of each race.

Duncan said of the new site, "While in the past voters had to come to the Courthouse for detailed results, starting this election, the Courthouse is coming to their house on election night. My staff and I are happy to provide this great tool to give every voter in Macoupin County the chance to see up to the minute results and information."

The new website, paid for through a grant, will be available at [www.macoupincountyil.gov](http://www.macoupincountyil.gov) and clicking 'Election Results – 3/20/12' on the right hand side of the screen. All interested voters are encouraged to visit the site before election night to become familiar with its features. While the Election Office can answer questions before the March 20<sup>th</sup> primary, they will not be available to provide website troubleshooting on election night.

Duncan urged voters to exercise their right to vote early or on March 20<sup>th</sup> and reminded them that if they have any election questions, contact the Election Office at (217) 854-3214 ext 707.

100 East Washington Street  
Springfield, IL • 62701



Phone • 217.528.3434  
Fax • 217.528.6545

February 2012

Dear County Board Chair:

I am writing to let you know that the Illinois Counties Association will again be awarding scholarships to Illinois students pursuing four-year degrees in the 2012-2013 academic year. We are particularly seeking individuals who demonstrate a dedicated pursuit toward a career in governmental, public service or public administration, as evidenced by involvement in course of study, work and volunteer service or internships in public, governmental, community and/or legislative environments.

Last year, we awarded \$25,000 in scholarships to 12 students from throughout the state. This year, we have again expanded the program and will provide up to 15 \$3,000 ICA scholarships to Illinois Freshman and one \$2,000 scholarship to a master's level student.

Please help us spread the word among deserving students in your county. Enclosed is a brochure that provides further details. Candidates may apply online at [www.illinoiscountiesassociation.org](http://www.illinoiscountiesassociation.org)

Please contact Kim Robinson or Nicole Palmisano at Illinois Counties Association at 217/528-3434 if you have questions or require additional information.

Sincerely,

Ruth Anne Tobias, President  
Illinois Counties Association





# ELIGIBILITY & OBLIGATIONS

THE ICA SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM IS OPEN TO ALL STUDENTS WHO HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED INTO AN ACCREDITED COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY.

THE FOLLOWING SCHOLARSHIPS HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED FOR THE 2012-2013 SCHOOL YEAR:

## ICA SCHOLARSHIPS

*(available to freshmen students)*

Up to 15 scholarships at \$3,000 each

## JOHN STROGER\* MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

*(available only to master's level students and above)*

1 scholarship at \$3,000

APPLICANTS FOR ANY OF THE ABOVE SCHOLARSHIPS MUST MEET ALL OF THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA:

- » Be a U.S. citizen and resident of the State of Illinois.
- » Be enrolled full-time (minimum 12 credit hours) at an accredited 4-year college or university.
- » Must continue the entire academic year without interruption.
- » Have a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or higher on a 4.0 scale.
- » Must demonstrate a financial need.
- » Applicants may only submit one application per year.

## AWARDS

Awards are not renewable and are for one year only. ICA scholarship funds are intended to assist students with the cost of tuition and fees. No funds can be used for housing or any other incurred expenses. Funds must be used for the regular school year and cannot be used for summer courses.

**NOTE:** Preferential consideration will be given to individuals demonstrating a dedicated pursuit toward a career in governmental, public service or public administration, as evidenced by involvement in course of study, work and volunteer service or internships in public, governmental, community and/or legislative environments.

## \* John Stroger

served as president of the Cook County board from 1994 until 2006, the first African American to do so. He was first elected to the Cook County board in 1970, making him Cook County's longest-serving board member. He served as president of the National Association of Counties Organization (NACO) board from 1992-1993. He passed away in 2008.



# REQUIRED MATERIALS CHECKLIST

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS MUST BE FILED ELECTRONICALLY WITH THE APPLICATION FORM. INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED OR RETURNED.

- ☐ RESUME OR LISTING OF WORK EXPERIENCE, VOLUNTEERISM, AWARDS, ETC.
- ☐ TWO (2) LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION INCLUDING ONE FROM THE APPLICANT'S PRINCIPAL, TEACHER OR GUIDANCE COUNSELOR.
- ☐ ENDORSEMENT STATEMENT FROM AN ILLINOIS COUNTY OFFICIAL
- ☐ PERSONAL STATEMENT ABOUT YOUR ACADEMIC GOALS (LIMIT 500 WORDS)
- ☐ ESSAY ON AN ISSUE FACING YOUTH IN YOUR COMMUNITY (LIMIT 300 WORDS)



Additionally, please send a sealed transcript from the high school or college most recently attended, to ICA Scholarship Committee, c/o Frontline Association Management, Inc., 100 East Washington Street, Springfield, Illinois 62701



## SELECTION & PAYMENT

ICA SELECTS FINALISTS ON THE BASIS OF ACADEMIC RECORD, DEMONSTRATED LEADERSHIP, PARTICIPATION IN SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES, HONORS, FINANCIAL NEED, WORK EXPERIENCE AND GOALS.

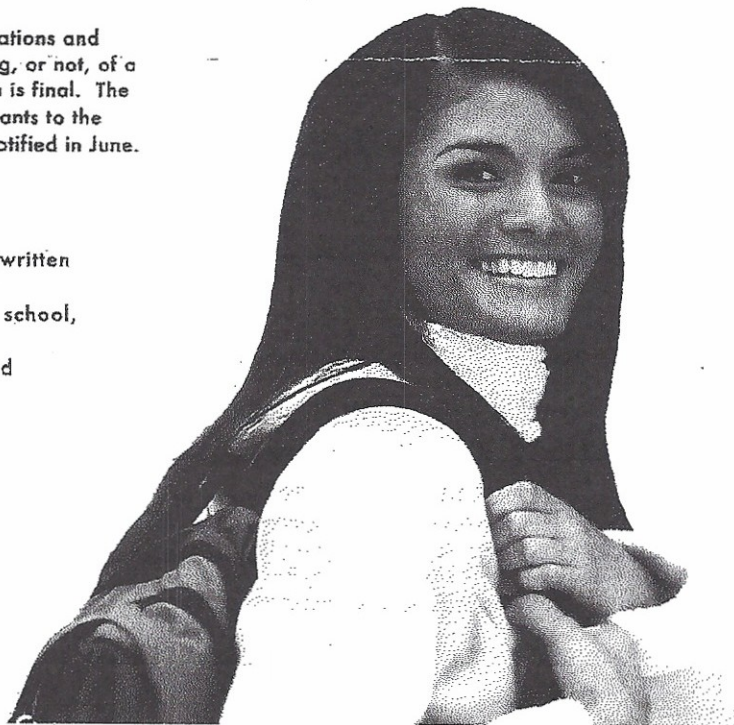
### SELECTION OF RECIPIENTS

The ICA Scholarship Committee reviews all submitted (complete) applications and selects finalists to be awarded scholarships. The selection and awarding, or not, of a scholarship is entirely at the discretion of the committee and its decision is final. The committee takes both need and merit into consideration. Not all applicants to the program will be selected as recipients. Scholarship recipients will be notified in June.

### PAYMENTS

The recipient must instruct the school he/she is attending to send a written statement of full-time enrollment status to the ICA office before any scholarships will be paid. The ICA office must be contacted by the school, in writing, before August 30, 2012. Scholarship funds will be paid directly to the school on behalf of the recipient. Funds must be used during the 2012-2013 academic year.

ICA reserves the right to review the conditions and procedures of this scholarship program and to make changes at any time, including termination of the program.



UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
POSTAL REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, DC 20268-0001

Before Commissioners:

Ruth Y. Goldway, Chairman;  
Nanci E. Langley, Vice Chairman;  
Mark Acton; and  
Robert G. Taub

Scottville Post Office  
Scottville, Illinois

Docket No. A2012-47

ORDER AFFIRMING DETERMINATION

(Issued February 23, 2012)

I. INTRODUCTION

On December 15, 2011, the Postal Service advised the Commission that it “will delay the closing or consolidation of any Post Office until May 15, 2012.”<sup>1</sup> The Postal Service further indicated that it “will proceed with the discontinuance process for any Post Office in which a Final Determination was already posted as of December 12, 2011, including all pending appeals.” *Id.* It stated that the only “Post Offices” subject to closing prior to May 16, 2012 are those that were not in operation on, and for which a Final Determination was posted as of, December 12, 2011. *Id.* It affirmed that it “will not close or consolidate any other Post Office prior to May 16, 2012.” *Id.* at 2. Lastly,

---

<sup>1</sup> United States Postal Service Notice of Status of the Moratorium on Post Office Discontinuance Actions, December 15, 2011, at 1 (Notice).



the Postal Service requested the Commission “to continue adjudicating appeals as provided in the 120-day decisional schedule for each proceeding.” *Id.*

The Postal Service’s Notice outlines the parameters of its newly announced discontinuance policy. Pursuant to the Postal Service’s request, the Commission will fulfill its appellate responsibilities under 39 U.S.C. § 404(d)(5).

On October 31, 2011, Mark Keeney (Petitioner) filed a petition with the Commission seeking review of the Postal Service’s Final Determination to close the Scottville, Illinois post office (Scottville post office).<sup>2</sup> The Final Determination to close the Scottville post office is affirmed.<sup>3</sup>

## II. PROCEDURAL HISTORY

On November 16, 2011, the Commission established Docket No. A2012-47 to consider the appeal, designated a Public Representative, and directed the Postal Service to file its Administrative Record and any responsive pleadings.<sup>4</sup>

On November 15, 2011, the Postal Service filed the Administrative Record with the Commission.<sup>5</sup> The Postal Service also filed comments requesting that the Commission affirm its Final Determination.<sup>6</sup>

On January 11, 2011, the Public Representative filed a reply brief.<sup>7</sup>

---

<sup>2</sup> Petition for Review received from Mark Keeney, Mayor of Scottville regarding the Scottville, Illinois post office 62683, October 31, 2011 (Petition). Attached to the Petition are several copies of the same form letter opposing closure, with a total of 139 signatures.

<sup>3</sup> The Commission is divided equally, 2-2, on the outcome of this appeal. In the absence of a majority, the Final Determination stands.

<sup>4</sup> Order No. 970, Notice and Order Accepting Appeal and Establishing Procedural Schedule, November 16, 2011.

<sup>5</sup> The Administrative Record is attached to the United States Postal Service Notice of Filing, November 15, 2011 (Administrative Record). The Administrative Record includes, as Item No. 47, the Final Determination to Close the Scottville, Illinois Post Office and Extend Service by Rural Route Service (Final Determination).

<sup>6</sup> United States Postal Service Comments Regarding Appeal, December 27, 2011 (Postal Service Comments).

<sup>7</sup> Reply Brief of the Public Representative, January 11, 2012 (PR Reply Brief).

### III. BACKGROUND

At the time the Postal Service issued its Final Determination, the Scottville post office provided retail postal services and service to 33 post office box customers. Final Determination at 2. There were no delivery customers served through this post office. The Scottville post office, an EAS-55 level facility, provided retail service from 11:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, and 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on Saturday. Lobby access hours were the same as retail access hours. *Id.*

The postmaster position became vacant on July 31, 2007 when the Scottville postmaster retired.<sup>8</sup> A non-career officer-in-charge (OIC) was installed to operate the post office. On October 21, 2011, the Postal Service suspended service to the Scottville post office because the OIC resigned. Administrative Record, Item No. 2. In a letter to its customers, the Postal Service stated that it was unable to find a replacement for the OIC and was, therefore, imposing an immediate emergency suspension of operations at the Scottville post office. Administrative Record, Item No. 3 at 1. Retail transactions average 24 transactions daily (28 minutes of retail workload). Final Determination at 2. Post office receipts for the last 3 years were \$8,617 in FY 2008; \$7,523 in FY 2009; and \$9,712 in FY 2010. There are no permit or postage meter customers. *Id.* By closing this post office, the Postal Service anticipates savings of \$30,644 annually. *Id.* at 8.

After the closure, retail services will be provided by the Modesto post office located approximately 6 miles away.<sup>9</sup> *Id.* at 2. Delivery service will be provided by rural route service through the Modesto post office. The Modesto post office is an EAS-13 level post office with retail hours of 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 1:30 p.m. to 4:15 p.m., Monday through Friday, and 8:30 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. on Saturday.

---

<sup>8</sup> The Administrative Record has conflicting dates for the postmaster's retirement. See, e.g., Administrative Record Item No. 3 (A letter to customers concerning the suspension of service at the Scottville post office indicated that the postmaster retired on February 29, 2009).

<sup>9</sup> MapQuest estimates the driving distance between the Scottville and Modesto post offices to be approximately 6.8 miles (9 minutes driving time).



Ninety (90) post office boxes are available. *Id.* The Postal Service will continue to use the Scottville name and ZIP Code. *Id.* at 6, Concern No. 1.

#### IV. PARTICIPANT PLEADINGS

*Petitioner.* Petitioner opposes the closure of the Scottville post office. Petitioner contends that rural route service will not provide Scottville residents with a maximum degree of regular and effective postal services. Petition at 1. Petitioner asserts that consolidating the Scottville post office with the Modesto post office will result in a loss of community identity for Scottville. Petitioner also questions whether the Postal Service will realize any economic savings. *Id.*

*Postal Service.* The Postal Service argues that the Commission should affirm its determination to close the Scottville post office. Postal Service Comments at 2. The Postal Service believes the appeal raises three main issues: (1) the effect on postal services; (2) the impact on the Scottville community; and (3) the economic savings expected to result from discontinuing the Scottville post office. *Id.* at 1-2. The Postal Service asserts that it has given these and other statutory issues serious consideration and concludes that the determination to discontinue the Scottville post office should be affirmed. *Id.* at 10-11.

The Postal Service explains that its decision to close the Scottville post office was based on several factors, including:

- the postmaster vacancy;
- a minimal workload and low office revenue;
- a variety of other delivery and retail options (including the convenience of rural delivery and retail service);
- minimal impact on the community; and
- expected financial savings.

*Id.* at 4. The Postal Service contends that it will continue to provide regular and effective postal services to the Scottville community when the Final Determination is implemented. *Id.*

The Postal Service also asserts that it has followed all statutorily required procedures and has addressed the concerns raised by Petitioner regarding the effect on postal services, the effect on the Scottville community, economic savings, and the effect on postal employees. *Id.* at 10-11.

*Public Representative.* The Public Representative contends that the Postal Service has followed applicable procedures, and that the Postal Service's decision to close the Scottville post office is supported by substantial evidence and is neither arbitrary nor capricious. PR Reply Brief at 5.

## V. COMMISSION ANALYSIS

The Commission's authority to review post office closings is provided by 39 U.S.C. § 404(d)(5). That section requires the Commission to review the Postal Service's determination to close or consolidate a post office on the basis of the record that was before the Postal Service. The Commission is empowered by section 404(d)(5) to set aside any determination, findings, and conclusions that it finds to be (a) arbitrary, capricious, an abuse of discretion, or otherwise not in accordance with the law; (b) without observance of procedure required by law; or (c) unsupported by substantial evidence in the record. Should the Commission set aside any such determination, findings, or conclusions, it may remand the entire matter to the Postal Service for further consideration. Section 404(d)(5) does not, however, authorize the Commission to modify the Postal Service's determination by substituting its judgment for that of the Postal Service.

### A. Notice to Customers

Section 404(d)(1) requires that, prior to making a determination to close any post office, the Postal Service must provide notice of its intent to close. Notice must be given



60 days before the proposed closure date to ensure that patrons have an opportunity to present their views regarding the closing. The Postal Service may not take any action to close a post office until 60 days after its determination is made available to persons served by that post office. 39 U.S.C. § 404(d)(4). A decision to close a post office may be appealed within 30 days after the determination is made available to persons served by the post office. 39 U.S.C. § 404(d)(5).

The Administrative Record indicates the Postal Service took the following steps in providing notice of its intent to close. On May 16, 2011, the Postal Service distributed questionnaires to customers regarding the possible change in service at the Scottville post office. Final Determination at 2. A total of 43 questionnaires were distributed to delivery customers. Other questionnaires were made available at the retail counter. A total of 17 questionnaires were returned. On June 1, 2011, the Postal Service held a community meeting at the Scottville post office to address customer concerns. Twelve (12) customers attended. *Id.*

The Postal Service posted the proposal to close the Scottville post office with an invitation for comments at the Scottville and Modesto post offices from June 21, 2011 through August 22, 2011. *Id.* The Final Determination was posted at the same two post offices from September 27, 2011 through October 29, 2011. Administrative Record, Item No. 49.

On October 19, 2011, the Postal Service sent a letter to patrons of the Scottville post office explaining that the OIC had resigned and that services at the Scottville post office would be suspended. Administrative Record, Item No. 3. On October 21, 2011, service at the Scottville post office was suspended. Administrative Record, Item No. 2. The Postal Service contends that this temporary suspension was necessary in the absence of employees to run the facility. Postal Service Comments at 3.

Section 404(d)(4) states: "The Postal Service shall take no action to close or consolidate a post office until 60 days after its written determination is made available to persons served by such post office." At the time the Postal Service imposed its

emergency suspension, 35 days of the 60-day period mandated by section 404(d)(4) remained.

The Administrative Record clearly indicated that the Scottville post office was suspended as of October 21, 2011. See Administrative Record, Item Nos. 2, 3. Postal customers with little or no background in postal law cannot be expected to understand the implications of an emergency suspension for their rights under section 404(d)(4). As a matter of course, customers should receive timely notification of emergency suspensions, and an explanation as to how that suspension may affect appeal proceedings. In this case, the Postal Service contends that this temporary suspension was necessary in the absence of employees to run the facility. Postal Service Comments at 3, n.3.

Despite any concerns with the timing of the emergency suspension, based on the facts in the Administrative Record, the Postal Service satisfied the requirements of section 404(d)(4) in this case.

#### B. Other Statutory Considerations

In making a determination on whether or not to close a post office, the Postal Service must consider the following factors: the effect on the community; the effect on postal employees; whether a maximum degree of effective and regular postal service will be provided; and the economic savings to the Postal Service. 39 U.S.C. § 404(d)(2)(A).

*Effect on the community.* Scottville, Illinois is an incorporated community located in Macoupin County, Illinois. Administrative Record, Item No. 16. The community is administered politically by the Village of Scottville. Police protection is provided by the Macoupin County Sheriff. Fire protection is provided by the Scottville Modesto Rural Fire Protection District. The community is comprised of retirees, the self-employed, farmers, and those who work in local businesses or commute to work in nearby communities. *Id.* Residents may travel to nearby communities for other supplies and



services. See *generally* Administrative Record, Item No. 22 (returned customer questionnaires and Postal Service response letters).

As a general matter, the Postal Service solicits input from the community by distributing questionnaires to customers and holding a community meeting. The Postal Service met with members of the Scottville community and solicited input from the community with questionnaires. In response to the Postal Service's proposal to close the Scottville post office, customers raised concerns regarding the effect of the closure on the community. Their concerns and the Postal Service's responses are summarized in the Final Determination. Final Determination at 6-7.

Petitioner asserts that closing the Scottville post office will result in a loss of community identity. Petition at 1. The Postal Service contends that a community's identity comes from the interest and vitality of its residents and their use of its name. Postal Service Comments at 8. The Postal Service states that residents will continue to use the Scottville name and ZIP Code. *Id.*

The Postal Service has adequately considered the effect of the post office closing on the community as required by 39 U.S.C. § 404(d)(2)(A)(i).

*Effect on employees.* The Postal Service states that the Scottville postmaster retired on July 31, 2007 and that a non-career OIC has operated the Scottville post office since then until October 21, 2011. Final Determination at 8. It asserts that after the Final Determination is implemented, a temporary OIC will no longer be needed at the facility and that no other Postal Service employee will be adversely affected. *Id.*

The Postal Service has considered the possible effects of the post office closing on employees and has satisfied its obligation to consider the effect of the closing on employees at the Scottville post office as required by 39 U.S.C. § 404(d)(2)(A)(ii).

*Effective and regular service.* The Postal Service contends that it has considered the effect the closing will have on postal services provided to Scottville customers. Postal Service Comments at 5. It asserts that customers of the closed Scottville post office may obtain retail services at the Modesto post office located 6 miles away. Final Determination at 2. Delivery service will be provided by rural route service through the

Modesto post office. The Scottville post office box customers may obtain Post Office Box service at the Modesto post office, which has 90 post office boxes available. *Id.*

Petitioner contends that rural route service will not provide a maximum degree of regular and effective postal services. Petition at 1. The Postal Service asserts that the rural carrier will provide a maximum degree of regular and effective postal services. Postal Service Comments at 6-7.

For customers choosing not to travel to the Modesto post office, the Postal Service explains that retail services will be available from the carrier. Postal Service Comments at 5. The Postal Service adds that it is not necessary to meet the carrier for service since most transactions do not require meeting the carrier at the mailbox. *Id.*

The Postal Service has considered the issues raised by customers concerning effective and regular service as required by 39 U.S.C. § 404(d)(2)(A)(iii).

*Economic savings.* The Postal Service estimates total annual savings of \$30,644. Final Determination at 8. It derives this figure by summing the following costs: postmaster salary and benefits (\$30,704) and annual lease costs (\$2,400), minus the cost of replacement service (\$2,496). *Id.*

Petitioner questions whether the Postal Service will realize any economic savings from closure. Petition at 1. The Postal Service asserts that rural route carrier service will cost substantially less than maintaining the Scottville post office, and estimates that the total annual savings annual savings associated with discontinuing that post office are \$30,644. Postal Service Comments at 8-9.

The Scottville post office postmaster retired on July 31, 2007. Final Determination at 2. The post office has since been staffed by a non-career OIC who resigned during the discontinuance process. The postmaster position and the corresponding salary will be eliminated. See, e.g., Docket No. A2011-67, United States Postal Service Comments Regarding Appeal, October 24, 2011, at 13; Docket No. A2011-68, United States Postal Service Comments Regarding Appeal, November 2, 2011, at 10. Furthermore, notwithstanding that the Scottville post office has been staffed by an OIC for approximately 4 years, even assuming the use of the



presumably lower OIC salary, the Postal Service would have satisfied the requirements of section 404(d)(2)(A)(iv).

The Postal Service has satisfied the requirement that it consider economic savings as required by 39 U.S.C. § 404(d)(2)(A)(iv).

## VI. CONCLUSION

The Postal Service has adequately considered the requirements of 39 U.S.C. § 404(d). Accordingly, the Postal Service's determination to close the Scottville post office is affirmed.<sup>10</sup>

*It is ordered:*

The Postal Service's determination to close the Scottville, Illinois post office is affirmed.

By the Commission.

Shoshana M. Grove  
Secretary

---

<sup>10</sup> See footnote 3, *supra*.

## DISSENTING OPINION OF CHAIRMAN GOLDWAY

I would vote to remand this case because the Postal Service imposed an emergency suspension of operations at the Scottville post office for unconvincing reasons prior to the completion of the legal closing process. The Postal Service may not take any action to close a post office until 60 days after its determination is made available to persons served by that post office. 39 U.S.C. § 404(d)(4). The suspension of operations was, in effect, a post office closing for all practical purposes, and the closing was made without observance of the procedure required by law.

The situation in Scottville bears some resemblance to another case recently reviewed by the Commission. The Commission remanded a final determination to close the Monroe, Arkansas post office and was unable to conclude that the requirements of section 404(d)(4) were met when the post office had been suspended during the closure proceeding due to the resignation of the officer-in-charge (OIC), and the Postal Service provided no explanation of why, after a few days, no replacement for the OIC could be found. See Docket No. A2011-40, Nov. 18, 2011, Order No. 982.

In addition, the Administrative Record is inaccurate with regard to economic savings. As such, the Postal Service has not adequately considered economic savings as required by 39 U.S.C. § 404(d)(2)(A)(iv).

The Postal Service argues that savings should be calculated based on a full-time postmaster's salary. Yet the Scottville post office was, until it was suspended on October 21, 2011, operated by a non-career OIC since the former postmaster retired on July 31, 2007. On the one hand, the Postal Service argues that the effect on employees of this closing will be minimal because only an OIC will be eliminated; yet on the other hand, it argues that the savings should be calculated using a full-time postmaster position.

A non-career OIC was in place for more than 4 years. Given this extended period of time, and the Postal Service's current financial difficulties, it is clear that the



Postal Service has no obligation to maintain a full-time postmaster in small facilities such as Scottville. Upon closure of the facility, the Postal Service may, at most, avoid continuing to pay the OIC level salary.

The Postal Service already claims billions of dollars in savings from reducing labor costs. I believe the savings from substituting OICs in postmaster positions throughout the nation have already been included in those billions. There are inherent and blatant contradictions in the Administrative Record that must be corrected on remand.

It is not the statutory responsibility of the Commission to correct the Administrative Record for the Postal Service and certainly not to make its own surmise about what and/or whether there would be savings if accurate data were in the Administrative Record. Therefore, the decision to close should be remanded to the Postal Service to correct the Administrative Record and present a more considered evaluation of potential savings.

Moreover, the Postal Service recently announced a moratorium on post office closings. It is confusing and perhaps unfair to require some citizens whose post offices have received a discontinuance notice as of December 12, 2011 to gather evidence and pursue an appeal to the Commission, while others whose post offices were in the review process, but had not yet received a discontinuance notice by December 12, 2011, have the respite of a 5-month moratorium and the opportunity to have further consideration of alternatives by the Postal Service.

The citizens of Scottville, Illinois and their concerns regarding the loss of a neighborhood post office should be afforded the same opportunity to be heard and considered as the citizens of the approximately 3,700 post offices fully covered by the moratorium.

Ruth Y. Goldway

## DISSENTING OPINION OF VICE CHAIRMAN LANGLEY

On October 21, 2011, operations at the Scottville post office were suspended. The Postal Service states “[t]he suspension is necessary in the absence of employees to run the facility; however, its suspension is not tantamount to a permanent discontinuance, which is the subject of this appeal.” Postal Service Comments at 3, n.3. Therefore, in reviewing the Administrative Record, I find the Postal Service did not adequately consider the economic savings as required by 39 U.S.C. § 404(d)(2)(A)(iv). The Postal Service should take into consideration that a non-career postmaster relief (PMR) has been in charge of this facility since July 2007, not an EAS-55 postmaster, and reflect the PMR’s salary and benefits in its cost savings analysis.<sup>1</sup>

Furthermore, the current lease does not terminate until December 31, 2013 and does not have a 30-day termination clause. Administrative Record, Item No. 18 at 1. The Postal Service should note that any savings from the lease will not be realized for at least 22 months. As a government entity, the Postal Service should ensure that its cost/benefit analysis accurately identifies capturable cost savings and does not overstate savings.

In addition, customers should receive timely notification of emergency suspensions and an explanation as to how that suspension may affect appeal proceedings. Public perception is an important aspect of all discontinuance studies or emergency suspensions. The Postal Service and the customers they serve benefit by addressing all issues fully during such studies and suspensions.

---

<sup>1</sup> See Administrative Record, Item No. 44; Final Determination at 2; Postal Service Comments at 2.



I find that the Administrative Record evidence does not support the Postal Service's decision to discontinue operations at the Scottville post office and should be remanded.

Nanci E. Langley



U.S. POSTAL REGULATORY COMMISSION  
Washington, DC 20268-0001

Office of Public Affairs  
and Government Relations

January 27, 2012

Andrew W. Manar  
Chairman of the Board, Macoupin County  
PO Box 107  
Carlinville, IL 62626

Dear Mr. Manar:

Thank you for providing the Postal Regulatory Commission with a copy of the Macoupin County Board's Resolution No. 2012.04 regarding both the Postal Service's proposal on Mail Processing Network Rationalization Service Changes and the proposed closure of the Colonel John H. Wilson, Jr. United States Post Office Mail Processing Center in Springfield.

Your County Board's Resolution has been placed in our public commenter file in Docket N2012-1. All comments received by the Commission are available for viewing by the public in our Dockets section at the Commission during business hours.

The Postal Service's Proposal

The Postal Service plans to eliminate overnight service for significant portions of mail and would instead provide two-to-three day delivery service. The intent of these changes is to save money by consolidating the Postal Service's mail processing and transportation networks.

The Commission's Process

The Commission provides a forum for all interested people to participate in various postal issues. By law, the Postal Service is required to ask the Commission for an Advisory Opinion on proposed nationwide changes in mail service. The Commission will review the changes proposed by the Postal Service to determine if they satisfy the requirements of the law. The Commission will also examine the cost savings estimates contained in the proposal, and how the service changes will affect both senders and recipients of mail and the ongoing provision of universal service.

Information on this case is available on the Commission's website, [www.prc.gov](http://www.prc.gov) by checking Docket N2012-1, listed towards the bottom of the home page under "Active Cases."

*Note: the Commission does not decide whether an individual mail processing facility will remain open or be closed. This is a decision made only by the Postal Service. Therefore, comments on an individual mail processing facility are best directed to the Postal Service rather than to the Commission at:*

John G. Boeger  
Consumer & Industry Contact Office  
US Postal Service  
1720 Market St, Rm 1011  
St. Louis, MO 63155-9511



### Public Participation

The Commission's procedures provide for public hearings to review the Postal Service's proposal and supporting evidence. The Commission also solicits public participation through its website. To learn more about Commission procedures, please follow the link at the bottom of the homepage on the Commission's website, [www.prc.gov](http://www.prc.gov) entitled "Commission Rules of Practice", and select subchapter 3001 to view the rules of practice and procedure.

Anyone wishing to participate formally in this case must file a notice of intervention or a notice of limited participation. To do this, and to file documents to be included in the formal record, click the "Filing Online" tab and follow the appropriate instructions. If you have questions about online filing, you can contact the Dockets Office by calling 202-789-6800.

The Commission appoints a Public Representative to represent the interests of the general public in each of our proceedings. Should you wish to communicate with the Public Representative assigned to this Advisory Opinion docket, Mr. Chris Laver may be reached at 202-789-6800.

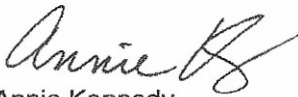
### The Postal Service's Obligations

By law, the Postal Service is prohibited from closing or consolidating any processing or logistics facilities without providing public notice and gathering public comment. Specifically, the Postal Service must:

- Provide adequate public notice to potentially affected communities by a proposed closing or consolidation;
- Make available information regarding any service changes in the affected communities, any other effects on customers, any effects on Postal Service employees, and any cost savings;
- Offer affected persons ample opportunity to provide input on the proposed decision; and
- Take such comments into account in making a final decision.

On behalf of the Commission, I thank you for offering your point of view as we consider the impact of these very important potential changes in the Nation's fundamental communications infrastructure.

Sincerely,



Annie Kennedy  
Consumer Relations Specialist



401 N. Michigan Avenue  
Suite 700  
Chicago IL 60611  
312.836.5200  
312.836.5222 TDD  
www.ihda.org

February 9, 2012

Andrew Manar  
Chairperson of the Macoupin County Board  
215 S. East St.  
Carlinville, IL 62626

Pat Quinn, Governor

**RE: Public Notification of Proposed Project**

To Andrew Manar,

The proposed project below has requested funding under the Illinois Housing Development Authority's HOME Program. The HOME Program was created under Title II of the National Affordable Housing Act of 1990 to expand the supply of decent and affordable housing for low- and very low-income persons.

If you have any comments regarding this proposed project, please submit a written statement to the Homeownership Department within 30 days of the date of this letter. Please refer to the name of the proposed project and the HOME Program number in your written statement. Please note that the project details are those submitted in the project grant application and are subject to modification at the discretion of the Authority.

**Name of Program:** Single Family Owner-Occupied Rehabilitation Program  
**Applicant:** City of Mount Olive  
**Administrator:** Kolis Consulting  
**Address:** 200 E. Main Street  
Mount Olive, IL 62069

**Program #:** HO-50533  
**Project Area:** City of Mount Olive, Macoupin County  
**Project Description:** The applicant proposes to assist with the rehabilitation of 7 homes.

**HOME Funds Requested:** \$290,000.00

Sincerely,

Tara Pavlik  
Director, Homeownership Programs





401 N. Michigan Avenue  
Suite 700  
Chicago IL 60611  
312.836.5200  
312.836.5222 TDD  
www.ihda.org

February 9, 2012

Pat Quinn, Governor

Andrew Manar  
Chairperson of the Macoupin County Board  
215 S. East St.  
Carlinville, IL 62626

**RE: Public Notification of Proposed Project**

To Andrew Manar,

The proposed project below has requested funding under the Illinois Housing Development Authority's HOME Program. The HOME Program was created under Title II of the National Affordable Housing Act of 1990 to expand the supply of decent and affordable housing for low- and very low-income persons.

If you have any comments regarding this proposed project, please submit a written statement to the Homeownership Department within 30 days of the date of this letter. Please refer to the name of the proposed project and the HOME Program number in your written statement. Please note that the project details are those submitted in the project grant application and are subject to modification at the discretion of the Authority.

**Name of Program:** Single Family Owner-Occupied Rehabilitation Program  
**Applicant:** City of Brighton  
**Administrator:** Kolis Consulting  
**Address:** 206 S. Main  
Brighton, IL 62012

**Program #:** HO-50549  
**Project Area:** City of Brighton, portions of Macoupin and Jersey Counties  
**Project Description:** The applicant proposes to assist with the rehabilitation of 7 homes.

**HOME Funds Requested:** \$290,000.00

Sincerely,

Tara Pavlik  
Director, Homeownership Programs

**Andy Manar**

---

**From:** noreply@ilga.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 21, 2012 12:06 PM  
**To:** Andy Manar  
**Subject:** Witness Slip Confirmation for State Government Administration Committee on 2/22/2012...

**HR 685**

**BILL OR RESOLUTION  
NUMBER**

**RECORD OF COMMITTEE WITNESS  
ILLINOIS HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**Committee:** State Government Administration  
Committee  
**Date:** Wednesday, February 22, 2012 2:00 PM  
**Other (Subject Matter):** Unavailable

**I. IDENTIFICATION**

---

<b>Name</b>	Macoupin County Board Chairman Andy Manar	<b>Firm/Business or Agency</b>	Macoupin County Board
		<b>Title</b>	Chairman
<b>Address</b>	215 South East Street	<b>Phone</b>	217 - 854 - 3341
<b>City</b>	Carlinville	<b>Fax</b>	217 - 854 - 6015
<b>State</b>	IL		
<b>Zip</b>	62626		
<b>Email</b>	<a href="mailto:chairman@macoupincountyil.gov">chairman@macoupincountyil.gov</a>		

**II. REPRESENTATION**

---

Macoupin County Board

**III. POSITION**

---

Original Bill      ☒ Proponent      ☐ Opponent      ☐ No Position On Merits

**IV. TESTIMONY**

---

☐ Oral      ☐ Written Statement Filed      ☒ Record Of Appearance Only





# MEDP'S NewsFlash

MARCH 2012

[www.macoupinpartners.com](http://www.macoupinpartners.com)

## MEDP Reveals New Business Development Program

February 28 marked the first official revealing of MEDP's top priority for 2012. The organization's new business development program, titled Build Macoupin County was presented Tuesday to the City of Carlinville, Carlinville's Chamber of Commerce and Carlinville's Shop Local First. The program's aim is to assist Macoupin businesses at every phase (see chart below). Launching in Carlinville,

Staunton and the Coal Country area, MEDP will begin its program adding additional member communities as the program gains momentum.

"We wanted to test our program in four of our larger member communities instead of tackling all our communities at once," said Executive Director Shari Albrecht. "We will still be available to answer any business development or marketing questions a business located in

a member community might have, we just needed to determine a region to focus on during this crucial first stage.

Business 'welcome packets' will include: how to start a business checklist, local government information, local business organizations' info., Shop Local info., the community's State profile, the County's Revolving Loan Fund info. along with TIF, SBD info if applicable to the specific com-

munity. These packets will be distributed throughout targeted communities in locations most new business owners frequent.

"Our hope is to gain the participation at each selected location to help us distribute this valuable information to prospective business owners looking at Macoupin County," said Albrecht.

MEDP's NewsFlash will break down the program into a three-part series. Starting first with BUSINESS START-UP and continuing around the circle.

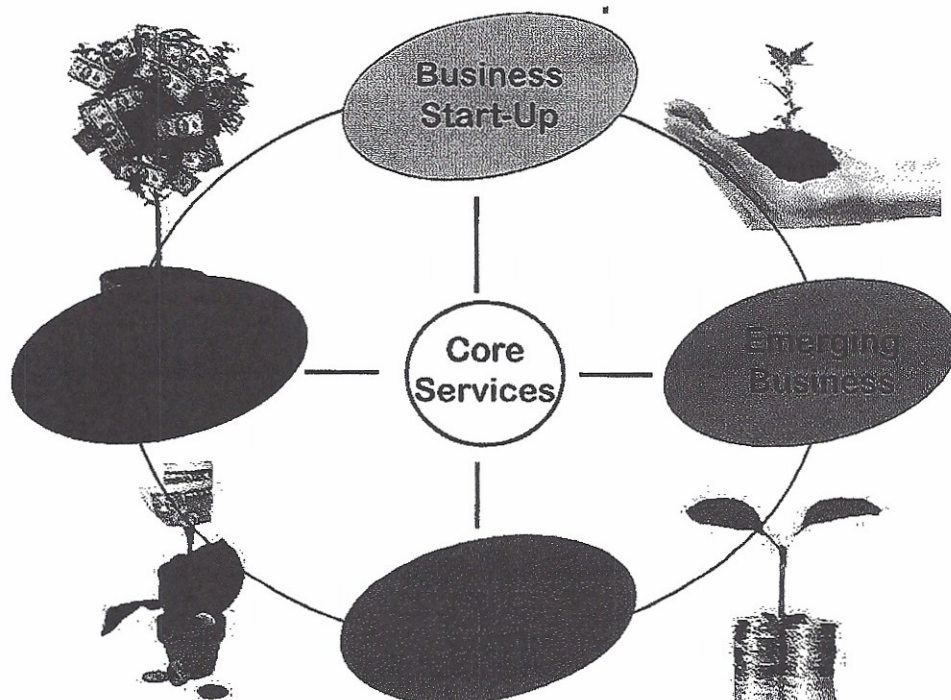
### BUSINESS START-UP

1. Macoupin Made Products  
– Identify, Enhanced Shop Local, Marketing

Macoupin Made Products is an enhanced shop local marketing effort to promote (both inside and outside Macoupin County of those entities who create, manufacture, distribute and grow products/goods in Macoupin County. A goal is to eventually assist home-based businesses into storefronts.

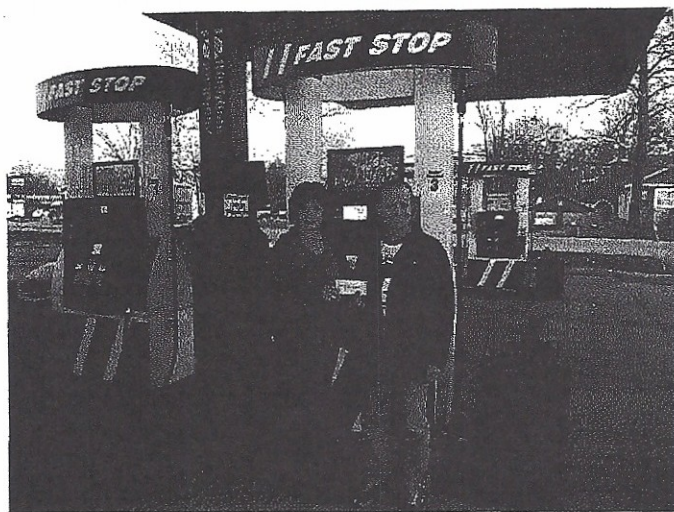
2. Mentoring/Consulting/  
Assistance – Marketing,  
Merchandising, Accounting/  
Tax, Manufacturing, Legal,  
IT, Business Planning,  
SCORE

BDP, continued on page 3





## \$188,315.56 Impact from MEDP Grant



*MEDP Executive Director Shari Albrecht with Short Shop Owner Mike Howald; the last Build Macoupin County Energy Efficiency grant recipient.*

Short Stop in Bunker Hill was recently approved and awarded the remaining Build Macoupin County Energy Efficiency Grant funds. The \$2,779.03 presented to Short Shop, to improve its lighting, ends the highly successful program administered by Macoupin Economic Development Partnership. The grant, announced in January of 2011, was made available to assist businesses and commercial building owners located in Macoupin County to make needed improvements to their structures. Reduction of energy consumption and job creation were the focus of the grant.

MEDP identified energy costs as a major factor in business retention in Macoupin County. Grantees were eligible to receive up to 100% of the remaining project costs once all qualifications and guidelines had been met and approved. The Macoupin County program worked in conjunction with Ameren Illinois' Act on Energy program.

MEDP was awarded \$75,000 from the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity to conduct its own Energy Efficiency grant program to businesses located in its member communities. These funds

contributed to projects totaling \$188,315.56 throughout Macoupin. Recipients included: Unincorporated Macoupin County: Area Diesel, NBS Systems, Shipman Elevator Company, Sievers Equipment Company, Sievers Truck Service; Staunton: Bill's IGA, Duda Ace Hardware, Bulldog Rentals, TDS Transport; Brighton: Joseph F. Boente & Sons; Gillespie: John Hicks Maytag, Lumpy's Restaurant; Mt. Olive: The Bodie Shop, From My House to Yours; Bunker Hill: Meehan's IGA, MRH Corporation-Short Stop, and Benld: Ken Snider.

"I am extremely happy with the economic impact our energy efficiency grant program was able to produce," said MEDP Executive Director Shari Albrecht. "Our substantial figures do not even reflect the trickle-down effect of funds paid to local electricians to perform the work, or money spent by the electricians themselves locally. We would have loved to have assisted everyone who applied, but I assure you MEDP continues to look for ways to support its business community."

For more information on MEDP, visit [macoupinpartners.com](http://macoupinpartners.com).

## Karmak to exhibit at The Work Truck Show

We're proud to be exhibiting at THE WORK TRUCK SHOW. Be sure to visit us in booth number 4676, where we'll be highlighting this exciting offering, among others: Karmak Velocity™

It's the year of innovation at Karmak and leading the way is Karmak Velocity™. The Karmak Velocity product is a new, simple to use business management system designed for the lean and growing repair shop ready to leverage the next level of technology to improve the bottom line.

Register today for your complimentary trade show badge and an opportunity to attend one concurrent session for free – courtesy of Karmak, Inc..

THE WORK TRUCK SHOW, held in conjunction with the annual NTEA Convention, is the must-attend industry event featuring the newest products, dozens of intensive training programs and technical engineering support from hundreds of exhibitors.

## Tax Credit for Low-Income Workers

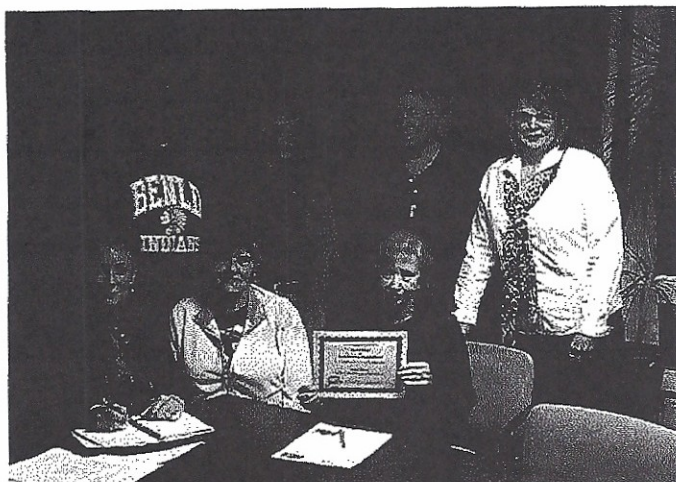
On January 10, Governor Quinn signed Senate Bill 400, which will double the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) over the next two years for low-income workers. This will provide the largest increase in Illinois' EITC since its inception 2000 by phasing in a 5 percent increase over two years, and will put more money in the pockets of working families and stimulate the local economy. More than 2.5 million state residents benefitted from the Illinois EITC in the 2010 tax year. For more information on the EITC visit the Department of Revenue website at [www.revenue.state.il.us](http://www.revenue.state.il.us).

## Local Food, Local Farmers

Illinois is increasing markets for local foods. By creating "food hubs," or processing and distribution centers where independent, local farmers can market their products to larger entities (schools, government agencies), making locally-grown food more widely available. To help meet food demand, the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) has partnered with the Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDOA), FamilyFarmed.org, and the University of Illinois' Business Innovation Services to create a guidebook, "Building Successful Food Hubs: A Business Planning Guide for Aggregating and Processing Local Food in Illinois."

The guidebook will serve as a resource on how to establish food hubs. DCEO has already invested in several early food hub projects around Illinois. DCEO Director Ribley also announced a new website to help farmers find the way to larger market channels. For more information about the website, please visit <http://isupply.illinois.edu/>. The guidebook is also available to download for free at [www.FamilyFarmed.org](http://www.FamilyFarmed.org).





*Build Benld leadership team: Front Row (L to R) Lynn Shehorn, Cathy Petrak, Chairman Lynn Fraelle. Back Row (L to R) City Alderman Mickey Robinson, Gloria Sidar, Norm Emmons, Kellie Vesper.*

### MEDP's Pilot Program Completes Stage 3

"Build Benld" Leadership Team and the City of Benld have completed stage three of five stages of development with the Macoupin Economic Development Partnership's Build Macoupin County Program. Stage three, labeled Prepared, requires that short & intermediate term goals be identified, written Action Plan be completed, Community Action Plan be unveiled, a Resolution of Support be adopted and an Action Plan implementation be underway.

"This leadership team is moving full steam ahead. Opportunities for them to partner with the city to complete their identified goals are being pre-

sented. Ways to take advantage of Benld's uniqueness continue to be identified," said BMC facilitator and MEDP Executive Director Shari Albrecht. "Build Benld and the City's cooperative efforts are a great example of what pro-active attitudes can do to improve quality of life in a community."

Build Macoupin County is a program based on the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity Competitive Communities Initiative model. This model builds a community's ability to achieve goals while improving the quality of life for residents, while fostering leadership.

## Madison Communications partners with Charter Media

Madison Communications announced in February that it has entered into a partnership with Charter Media to provide Cable Advertising Sales Services. Madison will continue to provide cable, Internet, and phone services while Charter Media will provide advertising insertion services. With Charter you'll have access to insert your ads in 20 of the most popular, high profile networks available, enabling you to target viewers in surrounding regions like Edwardsville, Alton, Mt. Vernon and the greater St. Louis area, you'll be tapping into a broader

market area than ever before!

Charter Media will provide first class, state-of-the-art video production, so that your business can look its best...whether seen on TV, your web site, Facebook, Twitter, e-mail blasts or whatever the video content takes you!

Feel free to contact us with any information requests you might have. You may reach Madison business office by dialing 1-800-422-4848 or Charter's local ad sales manager, Mike Pieper, by dialing 618-222-2542. We look forward to hearing from you and to helping your business grow!

### BDP, continued from page 1

MEDP has access to 'experts' in each of the listed areas above to help start-up business owners. MEDP has partnered with SCORE this past month to offer its Simple Steps Series Workshop: Is Starting a Business Right for You? They will also provide mentoring services to business owners needing individual attention.

Next month we will cover EMERGING BUSINESS and BUSINESS GROWTH phases. For more information on the Build Macoupin County BDP please contact Shari Albrecht 217-556-8696 or [macoupinpartners.com](http://macoupinpartners.com). You'll find our complete list of program offering under BDP on the home page.

## MEDP Membership Renewals

**Thank you to our members who have renewed for 2012**  
(January 27 - February 23, 2012)

Shipman Elevator

Carlinville Community Chamber of Commerce

John Hicks Maytag

Watson Law Office

Lewis & Clark Community College

Community Memorial Hospital

Prairie Farms

Village of Royal Lakes

Carlinville Area Hospital

## MEDP Welcomes NEW Members

Little White Shed  
Carlinville, IL

PGAV Planners  
St. Louis, MO



# MEDP'S NewsFlash

For more information about Macoupin Economic Development Partnership or newsletter submissions

contact:

[shari@macoupinpartners.com](mailto:shari@macoupinpartners.com)  
[courtney@macoupinpartners.com](mailto:courtney@macoupinpartners.com)