

AREA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT NEWS

..... Welcome to our first electronic newsletter and watch for others throughout the year.....



Buffalo Wild Wings...

Dirt is being moved for one of the country's 10 fastest-growing restaurant chains. The New York style "wing joint" and sports bar will offer 14 signature sauces as well as a

full menu featuring everything from salads to appetizers to burgers, and a variety of specialty items. Expected opening is November 2007.

Projects, Suspects and Updates...

We are currently working 19 projects. Of these 14 are active and viable. There are three active suspects for the former Zeta property—all are manufacturers and will create a lot of jobs. In fact, one of the prospects made a site visit earlier this year. We have also been working with developers in the retail, agri-business and amusement sectors. We hope to make announcements by the end of 2007.

Enterprise Zone...

Since the zone was expanded into Bushnell the total investment \$\$\$ for projects has exceeded one million dollars. The City of Colchester has had \$75,000 invested and the City of Macomb has had over \$17,666,373 invested.

Ground-breaking for Assisted Living in Bushnell... Petersen Healthcare (a Peoria-based company) has broke ground for a 40 unit assisted-living health care facility.

Courtyard Estates is located on the north side of Bushnell on US Rte 41. In addition to the assisted living units Petersen is building two duplexes for those interested in independent living accommodations. The facility should be ready for occupancy by summer 2008.

Il Spazio... The downtown's (Macomb)

newest restaurant is slated to open early September. Owners Jeff Newton and Steve Collins have been working all summer renovating the former Winslow Antiques building—check their website for more information: www.ils spazio.com

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS)...

The Western Illinois Regional Council (WIRC) is in the process of updating the CEDS for the Economic Development Administration.

A six-county area encompassing Fulton, Hancock, Henderson, Knox, Warren and **McDonough** was designated as an Economic Development District in 2001 by the EDA. The CEDS is essentially the roadmap for economic development for the "District" and is the driving force behind potential federally fundable projects.

Representatives of the strategy committee have been meeting since April and are comprised of individuals who represent the main economic interests of the six counties including private sector, public officials, community leaders, workforce boards, economic developers and education. The final CEDS is due to be submitted for review by September 15.

Hampton Inn...

The proposed hotel is part of the Hilton Hotels

Corporation. The four-story facility located on East Jackson Street will have 80 rooms plus 1200 square feet of meeting space. Flat work has already begun and construction should be complete by September 2008.



MAEDCO Leadership... There are

currently 32 Directors on the MAEDCO Board. Both Institutional and Regular members automatically hold seats on the Board. Associate and Sustaining members are elected annually from their constituency and serve staggered terms. The President's term is two years; all other officers serve one year with the opportunity to serve two, if desired. Additionally, the President appoints two members to serve concurrently with his/her presidency.

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