

AREA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT NEWS



Catch An Illinois Train...

Amtrak riders wanted! Amtrak had a very good year, with annual reports showing record ridership both nationally and in Illinois. Alex Kummant, president and CEO of Amtrak, announced last week that a record 25.8 million passengers used the rail service in the past year.

That's up 1.5 million passengers from the previous year. The Illinois Zephyr and Carl Sandburg have transported 41.4 percent more passengers than when there was only one daily round-trip. Amtrak improves Illinois by reducing our oil addiction, protecting our environment and connecting our region's economy. Established 37 years ago, Amtrak remains an important transportation option for the nation and the state. Because each individual rider strengthens the passenger rail network, you can improve Illinois by helping someone new "catch an Illinois train." Visit www.catchanillinoistrain.com for more information.

Enterprise Zone... Expansion on West

Jackson Street approved! We received notification from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) approving our recent application to expand the zone to include the Brenner Property on West Jackson Street.

FYI... The EZ Management Board meets bi-monthly. There are 7 members representing all three participating communities as well as the County: John Maguire, Dennis Moon and Dave Thompson (Macomb); Scott Schwerer and Norm Walzer (McDonough County); Mayor Steve Russell (Bushnell) and Mayor Joe Wetzell (Colchester). The next Management Board meeting is Monday, November, 19 (4PM) at the Western Illinois Business & Technology Center, 510 North Pearl Street, Macomb.

Eagle View Community Health

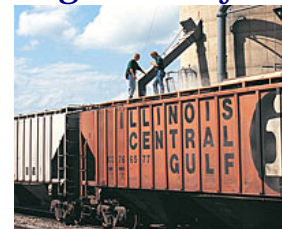
System... Located in the Carroll Street

Commons building at 1400 East Carroll Street, Macomb. The Eagle View CHS will house a full-time dental office as well as a part-time medical office. They will accept all insurance plans including Public Aid. For those without insurance, cost will be based on the family size and income. Office hours are tentatively 6:30AM to 4:30PM, Monday through Thursday. Opening is slated for mid December.



New 110-car BNSF grain shuttle to be constructed in McDonough County...

Growmark has partnered with three FS member cooperatives (Riverland FS, Two Rivers FS and West Central FS) to create Western Grain Marketing, LLC (WGM). WGM will strengthen the package of grain services offered to farmers in western Illinois.



Customers will have access to rail, river and processor markets via the 110-car grain shuttle loader being planned for eastern McDonough County. The shuttle will create 4-6 full-time jobs and will store up to 4 million bushels of corn and will feature two grain bins, each with a 1.5 million bushel capacity. WGM is the second regional grain marketing venture formed in Illinois between FS member cooperatives and GROWMARK.

Macomb/McDonough County Maps...

Complimentary maps are available for visitors and residents. The maps are a cooperative effort of MAEDCO, MAC&VB and the Chamber of Commerce. The City of Macomb is detailed on one side and the County is on the other. The 11" x 17" maps are in pads of 100 and can be picked-up at any of the three offices.

Buffalo Wild Wings... The steel is here!

If you've driven out East Jackson Street you'll see the construction has finally begun on the New York style "wing joint" and sports bar. Their initial opening was expected to be in November; however, the steel delay pushed that date back and they'll be open for business late January 2008.

Bushnell Banking Center Opens...

Raritan State Bank received over 100 applications! Ground breaking for the branch expansion was in October 2006, construction followed the next month and their Grand Opening was Saturday, November 03, 2007. The new bank is located at 360 South Green Street, Bushnell and has seven full-time employees. For more information call Mark Rodeffer, Branch Manager, at (309) 772-2345.

New MAEDCO Member... Senator John

Sullivan, District 47. Thanks for your continued support.

CATHY EARLY President ▪ DENNIS MORROW Vice President ▪ DAN CORTELYOU Secretary ▪ MIKE HILLYER Treasurer

DAVE THOMPSON Past President ▪ KIM PIERCE Executive Director ▪ MINDY FEATHERLIN Administrative Assistant