

# AREA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT NEWS

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## LocationOne Information System

### LOIS...Helps communities promote buildings and sites.

LocationOne Information System (LOIS) is a real-time, on-line economic development/GIS-enhanced site selection engine. Member and associate organizations (authorized for use by members) enjoy customized websites that showcase the advantage of individual communities. Regardless of size, any community can participate in a robust database of buildings, sites and hundreds of business climate statistics. Visit MAEDCO's website at [www.maedco.org](http://www.maedco.org) and click on the LOIS icon.

**Strategic Planning...It's been 10 years since our last strategic planning session.** As times change we need to look at updating the strategic plan. The Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs is facilitating the process. We will meet from 4PM-7PM on June 05, 12 and 19 at Stipes Hall (room 501). If you're interested in participating please call the MAEDCO office.

### St. Louis Rams are looking to move training camp...Coach

**Scott Linehan wants to go "off-site" (from Rams Park) for its 2008 summer training camp.**

The Rams' first training camp (1995) was held at Maryville University followed-up with nine very successful years at Western Illinois University. Training camp has been held at Rams Park for the past three summers. Coach Linehan is considering a couple locations in Wisconsin as well as **Macomb/Western Illinois University.** Linehan wants to work as a team and hopefully scrimmage with another team for a few days prior to the opening of the preseason.

WIU is well positioned in this quest—besides top notch facilities (including four NFL-grade training fields) history speaks for itself—remember, Super Bowl XXXIV. Finally, WIU knows how to host a scrimmage. The Rams scrimmaged with the Bears and the Titans here as well as traveling to Champaign three times to scrimmage the Colts.

Linehan expressed that he likes the idea of "getting away" for camp and having to take away the comfort of home. Conversations have been taking place between the Rams, MAEDCO and WIU and we are set to host a site visit in April.



**Enterprise Zone...application to add territory was delivered to DCEO on Thursday, March 20.** The Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity has 90 days to review/approve the expansion request. The next quarterly EZ Management Board meeting will be Thursday, April 17—4PM at the WIBTC.

### Combined Annual Awards Reception...

**the new format was a huge success!** Over 130 people attended the event. The evening began with a social hour accompanied with hor d'oeuvres as well as a cash bar. Awards were presented by the Convention & Visitors Bureau, the Chamber of Commerce & Downtown Development Corporation, the Macomb Area Economic Development Corporation and Mayor Mick Wisslead. The evening wrapped up with a power point presentation highlighting events throughout 2007. The reception started at 5PM and concluded at 6:40PM. The overall comments received were positive and encouraging.



**Hampton Inn... Construction has started.** We continue to work with Hospitality Specialists to infill their remaining frontage lots. Plans are underway for a "topping-out" ceremony as the construction progresses. We'll keep you posted.

**Celebrating Town & Gown...At the Forum Friday, April 25<sup>th</sup> from 5:30PM-7:30PM.** Join WIU President Al Goldfarb, Macomb Mayor Mick Wisslead and the WIU Alumni Association as they celebrate another year of partnership between the western Illinois region and Western Illinois University. The cost is \$20/person. Call the WIU Alumni Association (309/298-1914) for more information.

**New MAEDCO Members...Representative Rich Myers, the Macomb Eagle, McDonough Telephone Cooperative and Schuyler State Bank.** Thanks for your continued support.



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[www.maedco.org](http://www.maedco.org)