

AREA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT NEWS

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Six-Screen Movie Theatre Coming...

“Project MAC” was revealed at the MAEDCO press announcement on Friday, January 30.

Melody and Larry McGrath of Charleston, Illinois announced their plans to renovate the vacant portion of the CVS Pharmacy/ Sears shopping plaza into a multi-screen movie theatre. The Rialto will be up and operating within five months. Each theatre will



have stadium style seating with digital sound and projection. The facility will seat approximately 700 and will house a party room for children's birthday celebrations.

The announcement of the Rialto is a culmination of months of negotiations and would not have been possible without the participation and cooperation of the City of Macomb, the Western Illinois Community Development Corporation, MAEDCO, Prairie Hills Resource Conservation & Development and the Western Illinois Regional Council. This consortium of agencies packaged a low-interest revolving loan in the amount of \$250,000. The McGraths, who are in the waste disposal business, own theatres in Olney and Mehlville, Missouri, South St. Louis County and a drive-in theatre in Newton, IL. For more information visit www.earlann.net.

Mark your calendar...Annual Combined Awards & Reception...

Join us at 6PM on Tuesday, March 10 in the Lamoine Room at the WIU Union. Awards will be presented by the Macomb Area Convention & Visitors Bureau, Macomb Area Chamber of Commerce and the MAEDCO.

Quick Updates...

- **AmerenCIPS**—the construction of their proposed data operations center has been put on hold indefinitely.
- **Hampton Inn**—Call (309) 837-6000 for reservations. Hoping to be open by May 15, 2009
- **Village at Wheeler**—anticipates a spring 2009 completion.

2008 Annual Business meeting...

Twenty-six members attended MAEDCO's Annual Business meeting that was held at the Red Ox Restaurant on Wednesday, February 11. All Charter and Premier members were certified "in good-standing" and eligible to serve on the FY2009 Board of Directors. Certificates of Appreciation were presented to retiring directors: Jeff Calhoun, Dennis Moon and Bruce Biagini. Ballots were cast by the Associate and Sustaining members whom re-elected both Biagini and Moon to serve on the Board. FY2008 Annual Reports were mailed to all members.

Highway Improvement Study:

Measuring the Economic Impacts of Upgrading 336 and 67 to Four Lanes through Illinois...

MAEDCO and the Macomb Area Chamber of Commerce are collaborating on this project. The Illinois Institute of Rural Affairs has been contracted to design and implement the study. Specific topics to be covered will include land development, fiscal impacts, economic activity/competitiveness and environmental and social outputs. Data will be collected through surveys, secondary data sources and from regional case studies. Final reports can and will be tailored to suit communities and other stakeholders. The study will take approximately 12 months.



Proposed Bi-County Wind Farm Moving Forward...



EcoEnergy is moving forward with the development of a bi-county wind farm in northern McDonough and southern

Warren Counties. EcoPoint will stretch over approximately 8,000 to 10,000 acres of farmland and involves up to 30 landowners. The \$500 million, 200 megawatt farm (134 turbines) will create 200+ construction jobs and when construction is complete will create six to 12 full-time employees. EcoEnergy is requesting enterprise zone status for the sales tax benefit only.

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