

“There she stands, proud in all her glory.”

Missouri County Record

Fall 2012



Maries County Courthouse, Vienna, Mo

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Maries County

Missouri Courthouses: Building Memories On The Square By Dennis Weiser

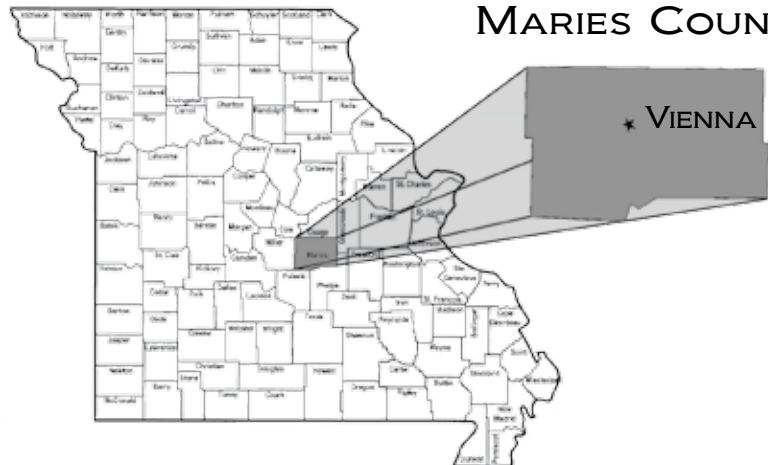
In 1856, Maries County built its first courthouse, a tidy, brick, two-story building that survived the Civil War, but nevertheless, burned in 1868 at the hands of an arsonist. In 1870, the court completed construction of a replacement courthouse. That building continued in use until it was time to make way for a 20th century replacement.

In 1939, Maries County officials put the question of whether or not to build a new courthouse to county residents. The Work Projects Administration had agreed to fund 55 percent of the construction cost of a new building, but the county was required to pass a levy to fund the

difference. The local newspaper editorialized in favor of passage of the bond issue, cautioning readers that the WPA grants might not be available much longer.

Voters heeded the prophetic advice and approved the bond issue January 1940. The building was completed in 1942. The [70 year old] courthouse continues to serve the citizens of Maries County.

Maries County, organized in March 2, 1855, from Osage and Pulaski Counties, was named for the Big and Little Maries Rivers. The county is 528 square miles, and has a population of 9,176 citizens.



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The Missouri Association of Counties, founded in 1972, is a nonprofit corporation and lobbying alliance of county elected and administrative officials who work to improve services for Missouri taxpayers. The board of directors meets on the third Wednesday of designated months in Jefferson City to promote passage of priority bills and monitor other legislation before the state General Assembly and the United States Congress. The Missouri County Record is produced four times annually by the association staff. Subscription rates for non-association members are \$15 per year prepaid. Rates for association members are included in membership service fees. All articles, photographs and graphics contained herein are the property of the association and may not be reproduced or published without permission. Advertising rates are available upon request.

MoDOT Projects No Growth Rate For FY 2013 CART Revenues

Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) officials project that for FY '13 each penny of the state gas tax is expected to bring in \$40 million. With the total gas tax set at 17 cents, that means \$680 million will be divided among the state, counties and cities for road and bridge maintenance and repair.

For 2013, the county share of the gas tax is projected to be approximately \$79.4 million. MoDOT also projects the county intake from the '13 motor vehicle sales/use tax will be \$13.6 million. Finally, they project vehicle fees for the new state fiscal year will net counties an estimated \$10.6 million.

Total county revenues from these three sources should be approximately \$103.6 million.

To compute your county's portion of 2013 County Aid Road Trust (CART) revenues, you may simply use the \$103.6 million times your new percentage share listed on this page.

Example #1 (for Adair County)

$$\$103.6 \text{ million} \times .0059 = \$611,240$$

If, however, you want to know the breakdown from each of the three sources that make up county CART revenues, use the following steps:

Example #2 (for Adair County)

Gas Tax Revenues

$$\$79.4 \text{ million} \times .0059 = \$468,460$$

Motor Vehicle Sales/Use Tax Revenues

$$\$13.6 \text{ million} \times .0059 = \$80,240$$

Motor Vehicle Fees

$$\$10.6 \text{ million} \times .0059 = \$62,540$$

The tally of these three figures will approximate the amount in Example #1 and provide your county's estimated CART revenues for the state's FY '13 year.

County Aid Road Trust (CART) Funds

CART Funds are apportioned to counties on the basis of two factors: one-half of the funds are credited to the county based on the ratio that its road mileage bears to the total county road mileage in the unincorporated areas of the state, and one-half is credited to the county based on the ratio that its rural land valuation bears to the rural land valuation of the entire state. Total 2012 Missouri county road mileage is 73,559.7. Total 2012 assessed valuation in the unincorporated areas is \$22,874,145,363.

The CART distribution percentages for 2013 (shown in the accompanying table) are based on these 2012 figures.

County CART Percents For 2013 Budgeting

Adair	.0059	Linn	.0056
Andrew	.0064	Livingston	.0050
Atchison	.0054	McDonald	.0066
Audrain	.0082	Macon	.0072
Barry	.0115	Madison	.0030
Barton	.0061	Maries	.0039
Bates	.0082	Marion	.0048
Benton	.0069	Mercer	.0035
Bollinger	.0049	Miller	.0079
Boone	.0147	Mississippi	.0034
Buchanan	.0057	Moniteau	.0047
Butler	.0108	Monroe	.0056
Caldwell	.0053	Montgomery	.0056
Callaway	.0141	Morgan	.0115
Camden	.0253	New Madrid	.0073
Cape Girardeau	.0086	Newton	.0104
Carroll	.0077	Nodaway	.0100
Carter	.0028	Oregon	.0045
Cass	.0123	Osage	.0051
Cedar	.0053	Ozark	.0060
Chariton	.0071	Pemiscot	.0052
Christian	.0124	Perry	.0053
Clark	.0045	Pettis	.0097
Clay	.0077	Phelps	.0078
Clinton	.0063	Pike	.0053
Cole	.0100	Platte	.0143
Cooper	.0050	Polk	.0081
Crawford	.0061	Pulaski	.0073
Dade	.0049	Putnam	.0045
Dallas	.0062	Ralls	.0048
Daviess	.0060	Randolph	.0076
DeKalb	.0052	Ray	.0069
Dent	.0057	Reynolds	.0061
Douglas	.0061	Ripley	.0038
Dunklin	.0074	St. Charles	.0360
Franklin	.0215	St. Clair	.0055
Gasconade	.0050	St. Francois	.0072
Gentry	.0046	Ste. Genevieve	.0064
Greene	.0318	St. Louis	.1095
Grundy	.0040	Saline	.0068
Harrison	.0067	Schuyler	.0025
Henry	.0070	Scotland	.0041
Hickory	.0041	Scott	.0045
Holt	.0042	Shannon	.0055
Howard	.0035	Shelby	.0048
Howell	.0103	Stoddard	.0095
Iron	.0034	Stone	.0111
Jackson	.0092	Sullivan	.0045
Jasper	.0123	Taney	.0111
Jefferson	.0369	Texas	.0086
Johnson	.0123	Vernon	.0086
Knox	.0042	Warren	.0066
Laclede	.0075	Washington	.0050
Lafayette	.0077	Wayne	.0049
Lawrence	.0093	Webster	.0083
Lewis	.0040	Worth	.0020
Lincoln	.0109	Wright	.0060

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No Veto Override Of Bill Restoring Lost Local Tax Revenue

The General Assembly's Veto Session convened and adjourned Sept. 12, leaving no hope for restoring lost sales tax revenue to counties and cities on out-of-state motor vehicle and marine purchases.

Counties and cities have been collecting and relying on this revenue for well over half a century.

Earlier this year, the Missouri Supreme Court issued a decision prohibiting collection of local sales tax on these out-of-state purchases, as well as on purchases between individuals in-state. The decision took effect March 21.

State sales tax collections on motor vehicle and marine purchases were not affected because the state has a 4.225 percent "use" tax.

A "use" tax is the same as a sales tax, but it applies to purchases made out-of-state and brought back to be "used" in Missouri.

Only 39 Missouri counties are unscathed because their voters already passed a "use" tax equaling their local sales tax rates. Two counties who passed the "use" tax this summer are partially affected.

According to Department of Rev-

enue figures, the other 73 counties stand to lose 21 percent of 2012 tax collections on cars and boats (a combined \$18.3 million) that they should receive – this all due to the Supreme Court's *Street* decision!

Subsequently, the General Assembly overwhelmingly approved HB 1329, a legislative "fix" to stop the loss of local revenue on out-of-state motor vehicle or marine purchases.

Gov. Nixon, however, vetoed HB 1329 this summer saying it represented a new tax increase.

Both the governor and a coalition of statewide associations lobbied lawmakers religiously regarding a potential override of his veto.

In an end-August letter to lawmakers, the governor explained that overriding his veto of HB 1329 would result in retroactive taxes owed by 122,702 Missourians who have purchased vehicles since March 21. He maintained these taxes would be imposed without a vote of the people. Of the 122,702 affected Missourians, approximately 89 percent purchased those vehicles from friends, neighbors or other private individuals. Another 14,000 purchased those ve-

hicles from non-Missouri dealerships.

"It is unfair and punitive to retroactively tax at least 122,702 Missourians, particularly without a vote of the people," said Gov. Nixon.

Those with the opposite opinion, those in favor of an override of HB 1329, formed a Coalition To Protect Missouri Jobs.

Members of the coalition included MAC, the Commissioners, Auto Dealers, Marine Dealers, and RV Dealers Associations; the Missouri Municipal League; the Missouri Chamber of Commerce; the Missouri State Council of Firefighters; the Missouri Budget Project, and Associated Industries of Missouri.

In a letter sent to lawmakers the week of the Veto Session, the coalition said, "We realize that as legislators you have many tough decisions to make and the Supreme Court's recent decision has dismantled tax policy that has been on the books since 1949. We simply want to ensure that Missouri jobs are protected and local services, again, such as police and fire, are not jeopardized."

The coalition further questioned Gov. Nixon's assumption that language in HB 1329 states that its effect "is remedial and retroactive ... to the maximum extent permissible by law." Previous case law was cited in the letter that makes the retroactivity questionable.

The coalition further advised legislators to reverse "a court decision that has resulted in a tax policy that encourages Missourians to buy their automobiles, trailers, boats, RVs, and power sport vehicles in other states."

"The damaging impact of the court's *Street* decision and Gov. Nixon's veto is really only the tip of the iceberg," said MAC Executive Director Dick Burke. "A voter-approved 'use' tax protects all hometown businesses by making out-of-state vendors adhere to the same tax policy.

"I strongly urge counties to get the 'use' tax question on the ballot as soon as possible," he advised.

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Boone County Collector Pat Lensmeyer Receives National Award

The National Association of County Collectors, Treasurers and Finance Officers (NACCTFO) presented Boone County Collector Pat Lensmeyer with the prestigious Victor E. Martinelli Outstanding County Treasurer Award at its national conference on July 14 in Pittsburgh, PA.

Each year, NACCTFO, an affiliate of the National Association of Counties, presents this award to “a person who serves as a leader in their home state and as a professional of the highest caliber in the operation of their own county office” and has been an active member of the organization for at least two years. Lensmeyer was nominated by several of her peers based on her tireless efforts to meet the needs of both the citizens of Boone County and the county itself; her activism in her community, county and state; and her innovative approach to increasing the effectiveness and efficiency of the collection of revenue. Among Lensmeyer’s accomplishments are the significant reduction of delinquent taxes owed to Boone County and the implementation of a system to allow citizens to make payments online or through their banking system.

Lensmeyer’s collaboration with other financial officers through active involvement in NACCTFO, including both participation and leadership in committees, ensures that her innovations gain momentum and have a positive effect on other counties nationwide. This collaboration also allows Lensmeyer to learn from other financial officers, which she does readily in an effort to provide the best possible service to Boone County and its citizens. Lensmeyer also serves on the Missouri Association of Counties’ board of directors, elected to an at-large seat by representatives from across the state.

Lensmeyer was first elected to government office in November 1994. Prior to her election as Boone County collector, she worked for the Missouri Department of Revenue in administrative positions with both the Motor Vehicle/Driver Licensing and the Taxation Divisions. Her knowledge and experience with tax collections processing on the state level have been utilized to upgrade and streamline the processes and technologies for county tax collections.

Lensmeyer also served on the Missouri Association of Counties’ board of directors from 2002 through 2010 as a district director representing her 1st-class home county. In 2011 and 2012, she was elected/elevated by the entire association membership to serve as one of four at-large directors.

“When I hear the expression ‘think outside the box,’ I think of Pat. She has an innate ability to go beyond what’s tradition and think strategically about the future impact and benefit to our organization and our taxpayers,”



From Left: Martinelli Committee Chair and Haskell County, KS, Treasurer Nancy Weeks, Boone County Collector Pat Lensmeyer and then-NACCTFO President and Jasper County Collector Steve Holt

said Debbi McGinnis, Polk County collector and MAC past president.

“Many times I have shaken my head in awe at her suggestions and ideas, most often because she was able to erase the confines of ‘business as usual’ and find remedies to problems that have plagued many counties for years.”

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MAC Welcomes New Employee



Carah Bright has joined the team at the Missouri Association of Counties. Previously, she was employed with House Communications at the Missouri House of Representatives.

Bright has a strong background in writing, photography, design layout and Missouri politics.



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Association Celebrates *Milestone Anniversaries* In 2012

This year marks some milestone anniversaries for the Missouri Association of Counties.

Founded in 1972, MAC is celebrating 40 years of service to Missouri county governments. Its mission is to provide a conduit of service for its member counties in matters that pertain to local, state and federal government activities.

Oddly enough, prior to MAC's being established as a nonprofit corporation and electing officers and a board of directors, the founding founders held an annual conference to get the "start-up" ball rolling. That's why our November 18-20, 2012, Annual Conference & Expo at Tan-Tar-A is our 41st annual meeting. An annual conference preceded the 1972 beginnings.

The MAC Self-Insured Workers' Compensation Trust is celebrating its 25th anniversary. The Trust was formed in 1987 and had 27 participating counties.

Now with 99 members and a board of directors composed of county government elected officials, the Trust is specialized to workers' compensation only, so there is no division of effort. Its loyalty to its members has provided a stable presence through market fluctuations.

Please join us at Tan-Tar-A this November and help us celebrate these important milestones! It's you, the members, who are the driving force of our success!



40 Years



25 Years

MAC Board Endorses NACo Prescription Discount Card Program

The Missouri Association of Counties' (MAC) board of directors on Aug. 15 voted to endorse the National Association of Counties' (NACo's) Prescription Discount Card Program during the annual summer board meeting. The program, free to both the county and its residents, is provided in conjunction with CVS Caremark.

To help provide uninsured residents with some relief from the high cost of prescription medications, many Missouri counties are enrolling in the discount card program.

According to the 2010 census, there were over 852,600 uninsured individuals in the state of Missouri, excluding seniors. However, there is a way for the uninsured and Medicare Plan D participants who don't have prescription coverage to save money on their needed prescriptions.

Once a county has enrolled, all a resident has to do is obtain a card and present it at the pharmacy. There are over 65,000 participating pharmacies, and all major chains accept the discount card.

Since the NACo program began in December 2004, it has saved county residents nationwide more than \$482 million. Nearly 38 million prescriptions have been filled through the program, and the card can also be used for pet prescriptions and for incarcerated individuals.

Presently, 46 Missouri counties participate in the NACo program. According to the 2012 June report, over \$35,000 was saved in prescription costs in Missouri, and there were 4,059 prescriptions filled with the discount card. That averages to be \$8.63 savings per prescription.

The NACo program offers

an option for counties to receive a \$1 per prescription marketing reimbursement fee when the card gives the best price. Counties that do not want to receive the reimbursement can continue with the existing program and expect a 2 to 2.5 percent increase in savings to residents.

To take advantage of the program, counties must be a member of NACo.

For more information on implementing this program, please visit NACo's website at www.naco.org. Select "Solutions Center" from the top of the screen and click on the "NACo Prescription Discount Card Program" icon or any link to the program on the page. NACo membership staff can also be reached toll-free at 1-888-407-NACo (6226) and ask for "membership."

Help Your Residents Save on Prescriptions

And Help Your County's Bottom Line, Too!

NACo's Prescription Discount Card Program was launched in 2005 and county residents across the country have saved more than \$450 million over that period of time. Your residents can save, too! Savings can be up to 75%; the average savings rate is 24%. More than 65,000 pharmacies participate, including all the major chains. The program is free, easy to start and everyone is eligible.

The program can also help your bottom line. Your county can receive a marketing reimbursement fee for every prescription filled using the card. This funding could be used for specific programs or to balance your budget.

It's a winning program! It's a winner for residents and for counties. Sign up today!



Missouri Association of County endorsed program.

To learn more about the program, go to www.naco.org/drugcard or scan the QR code.

Operated by CVS Caremark.

This is NOT insurance. Discounts are only available at participating pharmacies.

Rev 04.12

NACo National Association of Counties
The Voice of America's Counties

MAC Investigates IT Solutions For “Tech-Challenged” Counties

In 2009, a need for the association's having an Information Technology Committee was brought to the forefront when it was discovered at least one-third of commissioners do not use e-mail.

Working with Cathilea Robnett, executive vice president of the Center for Digital Government and *Government Technology* magazine, local officials, in conjunction with the state, began roundtable discussion about the shortcomings of digital governance in Missouri.

Currently, approximately 61 of the state's 114 counties do not have basic websites. Many county officials still rely on fax and snail mail for communications.

MAC decided that in order to find solutions for bridging the technology gap, an IT committee should be formed to address the issues facing counties in the Digital Age.

The nine-member committee, which represented mainly 3rd-class counties that often face the most challenges, had its first meeting during the 2010 November annual conference to discuss the core problems counties face when implementing technology.

Cost and resources to implement and upkeep software, Web presence, and Information Technology in a courthouse are of primary concern. Ease-of-use poses another challenge, as does the rapidly changing digital landscape. Geographic challenges also face many counties with limited resources because many rural areas are likely to have restricted access to Broadband and Internet services.

The committee took several steps to address these difficulties. It worked closely with the University of Missouri Extension, the state of Missouri's IT Services Division, the Missouri Municipal League, as well as the Missouri School Boards Association for on-going assistance.

Plus, the Missouri Broadband

Now Initiative has been vital to expanding Internet access across the state, an area in which Missouri trails a majority of the country.

Most recently, MOREnet (a consortium of IT services and re-sources that provides affordable IT solutions for Missouri's educational institutions, libraries, and even some state agencies) has worked with MAC and the Municipal League to develop a package of services tailored to local governments at an affordable, feasible price point. MOREnet covers everything from website building and maintenance to network security; thus, there are many possibilities for local government solutions.

The MOREnet governing council

recently approved outsourcing services to Missouri counties and cities for a very reasonable price.

The next step is for MAC's board of directors to hear of the alliance during its October meeting.

Following that, more information will be disseminated at MAC's annual conference in November.

During the past year and while not in conjunction with MOREnet, Carroll County served in a pilot program for establishing a basic website.

"It was easier than we thought," said County Clerk Peggy McGaugh. "Smaller counties are afraid of the cost and time involved. But nowadays, embracing technology to build community support is critical."



Sandy Neal, SPHR
Vice President

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Review of 2011 Property Tax Rates

On the state auditor's website, all of your county's property tax rates can be found at www.auditor.mo.gov/press/2011-118.pdf. This could be a valuable resource.

Sec. 137.073, *RSMo*, requires the state auditor's office to annually review the local property tax rates of all taxing authorities in the state to determine whether taxing authorities levied taxes in accordance with Missouri law and adjusted property tax rates to keep property reassessments from affecting revenue.

Property taxes are the main source of revenue for many of Missouri's special purpose political subdivisions and county boards. The bulk of property taxes, however, fund public schools. General acceptance of these taxes is dependent on fair and equitable assessment practices and public

understanding and input regarding the setting of rates. If the tax burden is increased without voter

approval, confidence in the fairness and assessment practices is often eroded.

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Update: The Patient Protection And Affordable Care Act

By Jim McNichols, Attorney At Law, The Lowenbaum Partnership LLC

The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act and the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act were signed into law on March 23, 2010, and March 30, 2010, respectively (collectively, "PPACA" or "the Act"). Elements of PPACA include incentives and penalties to encourage employers to provide health care coverage to their employees, combined with incentives and penalties to encourage individuals to buy health coverage.

Many of the law's changes will not become effective for a few years. However, many of the required changes for coverage under both self-funded and insured plans have already taken effect.

1. New Requirements for Health Care Plans.

Some of the key changes that have taken effect already or will be in the near future, include:

- Plans that extend coverage to dependent children must allow such coverage to continue to age 26 for dependents (regardless of the dependent's marital status). For certain "grandfathered" plans described below, the continued dependent coverage applies for the period before 2014 only if the dependent is not eligible to receive benefits under another group plan (effective for plan years beginning on or after September 23, 2010).

- Plans may not impose lifetime limits on coverage for "essential health care benefits." Annual limits are also prohibited except that through 2014 certain "restricted annual limits" may be allowed according to regulations (effective for plan years beginning on or after September 23, 2010).

- Health plans cannot retroactively cancel coverage for enrolled participants except in case of fraud or intentional misrepresentation (effective for plan years beginning on or after September 23, 2010).

- Plans may not impose any pre-existing condition exclusions on children (those enrolled under the age of 19) for plan years beginning on or after September 23, 2010.

- Plans may not provide annual dollar limits on "essential health care benefits" (effective for plan years beginning on or after January 1, 2014).

- Plans may not impose waiting periods in excess of 90 days (effective for plan years beginning on or after January 1, 2014).

- Plans may not impose any pre-existing condition exclusions (effective for plan years beginning on or after January 1, 2014).

Additional limitations and rules apply to plans that are not "grandfathered." The definition of grandfathered health plan coverage means coverage provided by a group health plan or health insurance issues in which an individual was enrolled on March 23, 2010 (as

long as it maintains that status under the regulations). If certain changes are made to the plan, it loses its grandfathered status.

The new limitations on non-grandfathered plans include:

- Plans cannot impose cost-sharing for preventive services (effective for plan years beginning on or after September 23, 2010).

- Plans must provide participants with greater appeal rights including the right to an external independent appeal (effective for plan years beginning on or after September 23, 2010).

- Plans have to permit participants to choose their primary care physician from those physicians covered by the plan (effective for plan years beginning on or after September 23, 2010).

- Plans cannot require preauthorizations or referrals from obstetrical or gynecological care. Emergency care services must be provided without prior authorization and without regard to whether the provider is in-network or out-of-network (effective for plan years beginning on or after September 23, 2010).

- Plans cannot establish eligibility rules based on health status, claims experience, medical history, evidence of insurability or other health-status factors deemed inappropriate (effective for plan years beginning on or after January 1, 2014).

2. Employer "Play or Pay" Mandates and Excise Tax Penalties

The incentive for employers to provide health care coverage is provided for by an excise tax penalty imposed on certain employers who do not provide coverage to employees.

The Act will require "applicable large employers" to "play-or-pay." They will either "play" by making coverage available to "full-time employees" (those working 30 hours or more on average each week) or "pay" an excise tax penalty. Starting January 1, 2014, employers with at least 50 employees who do not offer their employees certain minimum levels of health coverage and have at least one employee receiving premium assistance from the federal government, will have to pay a monthly excise tax penalty of \$166.67 (namely, one twelfth (1/12) of \$2,000) per full-time employee (but excluding the first 30 full-time employees).

A different excise tax penalty is assessed if an employer offers health coverage but that coverage does not satisfy specific minimum levels. Generally, the specific minimums require: (i) the employee's cost for coverage to be less than or equal to 9.5% of the employee's house-

hold income, and (ii) the actuarial value of the benefits covered under the plan to equal or exceed 60% of the cost of the covered services. Employers who offer coverage that does not satisfy these minimums must pay a monthly excise tax penalty of \$250 (1/12 of \$3,000) for each full-time employee who receives federal premium assistance for coverage (with a cap on such penalty equal to \$166.67 times the number of the employer's full-time employees minus the first 30 full-time employees).

3. Subsidies for Employer and Employees

The Act has subsidies which encourage employers to provide health care coverage and to encourage employees to purchase health care coverage.

After 2013, employers offering minimum essential coverage for which they pay some of the cost will be required to offer "free choice vouchers" to eligible employees. An employee can use the vouchers to buy coverage from one of the state health care exchanges described below. "Eligible employees" to receive a voucher are the following: (i) employees whose required contribution for employer-provided coverage exceeds 8% but less than 9.8% of the employee's household income; (ii) employees whose household income is less than 400% of the federal poverty level; and (iii) employees who decline participating in their employer's health plan and instead enroll in a plan offered through an exchange. The voucher will equal what the employer would have paid to provide coverage to the employee under the employer's health care plan (effective for vouchers provided after December 31, 2013).

4. Health Care Exchanges

Effective in 2014, states must establish "health care exchanges" where certain individuals can purchase "qualified health plans." Also, states will be required to create "Small Business Health Options Programs Exchanges" to help small employers in buying group health plan coverage. Employers with less than 50 employees are not required to pay a fee for each employee who receives a tax credit for health insurance through a state exchange. "Qualified Health Plans" are plans that offer coverage meeting specific standards, including:

- The coverage must provide for "essential health benefits," which includes ambulatory patient services, emergency services, hospitalization, maternity and newborn care, prescription drugs, laboratory services, pediatric services, substance use disorder services and chronic disease services.
- The coverage must have limits on cost-sharing.
- The coverage must provide benefits that are actuarially equivalent to at least 60% of the full actuarial value of the benefits provided under the plan.

5. New Disclosure-- "Summary of Benefits and Coverage"

PPACA requires each group health plan to provide participants with a four page document, a "Summary of Benefits and Coverage." This is a "plain English" description of the health benefit options, deductibles, cost-sharing and coverage. The Summary of Benefits and Coverage ("SBC") will have to be provided beginning (Continued On Page 25)

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A tropical beach scene with several palm trees in the foreground and middle ground. The trees are green and their fronds are blowing in the wind. In the background, there is a sandy beach, turquoise water, and a blue sky with some clouds. The title "ISLANDS IN THE SUN" is written in a stylized, orange, outlined font across the top of the image.

ISLANDS IN THE SUN

**MAC's Annual Conference
November 18-20, 2012
Tan-Tar-A Resort
Osage Beach, MO**

Nov. 18-20 Annual Conference & Expo Offers Island Innovations

"Aruba, Jamaica – oooh, we wanna take you" to MAC's Islands in the Sun and tourists' "hot-spot" picks of the year!

This year's annual meeting promises informative sessions and lots of island entertainment.

Our featured speaker is Jeff Smith, former Missouri state senator, who will discuss ethical dilemmas in public life.

Other sessions will focus on the impact of federal healthcare reform on counties, violence in the workplace, planning and zoning basics, the local-option "use" tax, MAC's Ambassador Program for newly elected officials, correctional healthcare, courthouse energy efficiency, railroads and economic development, surplus property, tax collections involving bankruptcy, embracing technology

to build community support, maintenance-of-effort and county funding of juvenile budgets, workforce development boards, investment strategies, the state's funding crisis with 9-1-1 emergency coverage, and much more.

Meet with over 100 vendors in the exhibit hall who will be showcasing their companies' tropical treasures.

Aside from affiliate and committee meetings, we will be establishing 2013 Missouri county government legislative priorities.

Elections will be held to fill the vacancies of MAC treasurer, as well as at-large and district directors.

During our banquet, we'll be celebrating the association's 40th anniversary and moving on into a late-evening Beach Blanket Bingo Party.

One of the most popular events at our annual meeting is the trip giveaway. Someone will be lucky

enough to win a 5-day/4-night trip to Sanibel Island, FL.

"Bermuda, Bahamas, Key Largo, Montego ... that's where we want to go, way down to Kokomo, to get away from it all!"

Mail or fax in the registration form below to your MAC travel agent (573-634-3549) and claim your beach-front spot today!



Mail this form (one per county official) with payment to MAC Conference, PO Box 234 Jefferson City, MO 65102-0234

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___ (X) County Officials' Late or At-Site Registration after Nov. 8 = \$140

___ (X) Spouse's Early Registration by Nov. 8 = \$60 (payment must accompany registration)

Spouse's Name (If attending) _____

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For hotel accommodations call, Tan-Tar-A Resort, Osage Beach, MO at 800-826-8272 or 573-348-3131. You can also book online at www.tan-tar-a.com (Code MACR). Reservation requests must be received no later than Oct. 27

to guarantee accommodations. However, reservations may be accepted and confirmed up to the opening day of the conference (providing accommodations are still available), but the group rate is not guaranteed. The group rate is \$89, plus 3% lodging tax. If your county is tax-exempt, please provide a letter indicating your status upon check in.

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Our Nation's Flag

This information was published by the National Association of Counties and produced with information from the National Flag Foundation.

National Flag Foundation

The information presented in this article is directly compiled with permission from guidelines and facts published through the National Flag Foundation, a nonprofit, educational organization that answers questions worldwide concerning flag etiquette and protocol and encourages frequent and proper display of the United States Flag.

Their brochure, *Our Flag*, can be ordered online, and more detailed information can be referenced on their web site at www.american-flags.org.

The flag of the United States is a living symbol that calls to our spirit, reminding us of the greatness of America. We cherish and uphold it because it is the standard of honor under which we live.

We view the flag with devotion, for it represents our national heritage of noble deeds, splendid accomplishment, and untold sacrifices which combined to establish the moral character of our country. It signifies a people dedicated to liberty, justice and freedom for all.

The customs and traditions which surround the display and use of our flag are guides to the means by which we as proud and grateful citizens may demonstrate the ultimate respect for the flag of our nation. In honoring and saluting our flag we demonstrate affection for our nation, fellow citizens and the proud future we share.

The U.S. Flag Code

The United States Flag Code, first adopted in 1924 and amended through the present, prescribes flag etiquette for a variety of circumstances ensuring that our national symbol is treated properly.

This article should not be treated as regulatory ... it is a guide for civilians and civilian groups who wish to properly honor the United States of America's principle emblem.

It should also be noted that each military branch has its own flag code of military etiquette; therefore, on matters concerning military flag etiquette, we recommend that you consult the specific branch code.

Saluting The Flag

The U.S. flag is saluted as it is hoisted and lowered. To salute, all persons not in uniform salute by placing their right hand over their heart, and men with head cover hold it to the left shoulder.

The salute is held until the flag is unsnapped from the flagstaff, or through the last note of the *National Anthem*, whichever is the longest.

The salute to a flag in a moving column should be rendered at the moment the flag passes. The members of organizations in formation should salute upon command from the person in charge.

Care And Respect

The U.S. flag should always be treated with the utmost care and respect. Remember, the flag represents a living country and, as such, is considered a living symbol.

- The flag should never be dipped to any person or thing.
- Always display the flag with the blue union field up - never display the flag upside down, except as a signal of extreme distress.
- Always carry the flag aloft and free - never carry it flat or horizontally in processions or parades. The exception to this is carrying very large flags in a parade that are too big to be flown from a staff or pole.
- The flag should never be used as a receptacle for receiving, holding, carrying or delivering anything.
- Always keep the flag clean. Keep it safe from those who would not respect it, or do not know enough to do so, such as young children.
- When the flag is lowered, no part of it should touch the ground or any other object.
- The flag should never be used for advertising purposes or printed on items designed for temporary use and discarded. It should not be used as part of a costume or athletic uniform.

Displaying The Flag

The flag is a symbol of us all-- of all America. It is not a political symbol. It is a symbol that each American should respect, for it represents the honor, courage and sacrifice of those who struggled to preserve the ideals upon which our country was founded: freedom, justice and opportunity for all.

The Colors Of The Flag:

Red is for courage White is for purity Blue is for loyalty



Across A Street

When the flag is hung on a wire or cable across a street, it should be hung vertically with the union (stars) to the north or east.

If the flag is suspended over a sidewalk and hung from a wire extending from a structure to a pole at the outer edge of the sidewalk, the flag should be displayed with the union farthest from the building.



From A Staff

When the flag is displayed from a staff projecting from a window, balcony, or a building, the union should be at the peak of the staff.

Flags On Vehicles

The flag should not be draped over the hood, top, sides, or back of a vehicle, a railroad train, or a boat. When the flag is displayed on a motorcar, the staff should be fixed firmly to the chassis or clamped to the right front fender. Thus it is recommended that the flag be attached to the right (passenger) side of a vehicle, and that the flag be removed from the vehicle at night since it cannot be properly illuminated.

Indoor Display

When the flag is suspended across a corridor or lobby in a building with only one main entrance, it should be suspended vertically with the



union of the flag to the observer's left upon entering. If the building

has more than one main entrance, the flag should be suspended vertically near the center of the corridor or lobby with the union to the north, when entrances are to the east and west or to the east when entrances are to the north and south. If there are entrances in more than two directions, the union should be to the east.

Parades

The flag should be in front of the marchers. At the moment the flag passes in a parade or procession, all persons should show respect by standing at attention facing the flag with their right hand over their hearts. Military personnel or veterans should face the flag and render their military salute. Veterans may place their hand over their heart instead. During a parade it is appropriate to salute only the first U.S. flag. When other flags are included, the United States flag should be centered in front of the others or carried to their right.

In a parade, passing review, color guard or any other setting, it is never appropriate to dip the American flag.

Platform Or Floor

When displayed on the floor or on a platform, the flag is given the place of honor, always positioned behind the speaker and to the speaker's right, and to the left of the audience. Other flags, if any, are positioned to the on the wall right of the U.S. flag as seen by the audience.

If there is a flag at an exit of an assembly room, it should be placed to the left of the door, which positions it to the viewers left when leaving the room.



On The Wall

When displaying the flag against a wall either vertically or horizontally, the flag's union should be at the top, to the flag's own right, and the observer's left.

Illumination

If displayed at night, the flag must be properly illuminated. Proper illumination means that the stars and stripes can be seen readily from a reasonable distance.

Flags on poles generally require a dedicated light. Flags on a residential porch may require only ambient lighting, such as a porch or street light.

No other flag should be placed above the U.S. flag with the following three exceptions:

- at the United Nations Headquarters where the United Nations Flag may be flown above flags of all nations; and
- during award ceremonies at the Olympic Games where it is a tradition that the flags of other nations may fly above the U.S. flag.

Grouped With Other Flags

When flown with flags of states, communities, or societies on separate and adjacent flagpoles that are of the same height and in a straight line, the flag of the United States is always placed in the position of honor — to its own right.

When flown on adjacent flagpoles with other flags, or pennants of states, communities or societies of the United States, the U.S. flag is always the first flag to be raised and the last to be lowered.



(Continued On Page 22)

McGinnis Elected Secretary Of National Association

Debbi Roberts-McGinnis, Polk County collector and MAC past president, was elected in July as secretary of the National Association of County Collectors, Treasurers and Finance Officers (NACCTFO). She will assume the presidency in 2017-2018.

McGinnis is currently completing her 18th year as Polk County collector and was elected in 2010 to serve a 5th term in office.

No newcomer to association work on both the state and national levels, McGinnis was originally elected to the Missouri Association of Counties' six-member executive committee in 2008, where she ascended through the ranks to the presidency in 2011.

Also active on the national level, McGinnis serves as subcommittee vice chair of the National Association of Counties' Agriculture & Rural Affairs Steering Committee. She was recently appointed to

the Rural Action Caucus and served previously as vice chair of the Finance & Intergovernmental Affairs Steering Committee.

In NACCTFO, she will have a voice in federal legislation and regulations that affect county government, tax collection, and treasuries.

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Our Nation's Flag *(Continued From Page 19)*

When grouped in a semi-circle, the U.S. flag should be at the center and at the highest point. The U.S. flag is always the first flag raised and the last to be lowered.



With Flags

Of Other Nations

When national flags of other countries are flown in a group setting, each flag must be displayed from a separate pole of the same height. Each flag should be the same size or nearly so and arranged in alphabetical order to the left (observer's right) of the U.S. flag. They should be raised and lowered simultaneously because the flag of one nation may not be displayed above that of another nation. The exception is at the United Nations Building in New York, where the U.N. flag is flown above the flags of all nations.

Flags On The Same Pole

When several flags are flown from the same flag pole, the U.S. flag should always be at the top — with the exceptions listed on the previous page.

Flags of sovereign nations should not be flown on the same pole as the United States flag but from separate poles.

The flag should be flown high enough that it can't be reached by people standing beneath it.



Crossed Staffs

When another flag is displayed with the U.S. flag and the staffs are

crossed, the flag of the United States is placed on its own right with its staff in front of that of the other flag.



Raising and Lowering

The flag should be raised briskly and lowered slowly and ceremoniously.

Funerals Covering

A Casket

When used to cover a casket or coffin, the flag should be placed with the blue field covering the head and over the left shoulder. The flag should not be lowered into the grave or touch the ground at any time. The flag should never be used as the covering for a headstone or other statue or monument.

When taken from the casket, the flag should be formally and properly folded as a triangle with only the stars showing. Subsequently, the flag may be displayed in a storage case or it may be unfolded and flown.

Retiring The Flag

"The flag, when it is in such condition that it is no longer a fitting emblem of display, should be destroyed in a dignified way, preferably by burning." (The United States Flag Code)

In many American communities, one or more organizations render an important community service by collecting and overseeing the proper disposal of old, worn, tattered, frayed and/or faded U.S. flags.

For information on flag disposal in your community try the Boy Scouts of America, Veterans of Foreign Wars, or the American Legion.

Mourning or Half-Staff

By order of the president, the flag shall be flown at half-staff upon the death of principal figures of the United States Government and the governor of a state, territory, or possession, as a mark of respect to their memory. In the event of the death of other officials or foreign dignitaries, the flag is to be displayed at half-staff according to U.S. presidential instructions, or in accordance with recognized customs.

In the event of the death of a present or former official of the government of any state, territory, or possession of the U.S., the governor of that state, territory, or possession may proclaim that the national flag shall be flown at half-staff.

The flag shall be flown at half-staff for 30 days following the death of the president or a former president; 10 days following the day of death of the vice president, the chief justice or a retired chief justice of the United States, or the speaker of the House of Representatives; from the day of death until interment of an associate justice of the Supreme Court, a secretary of an executive or military department, a former vice president or the governor of a state, territory, or possession; and on the day of death and the following day for a member of Congress. The flag shall be flown at half-staff on Peace Officers Memorial Day, unless that day is also Armed Forces Day.

To position the flag at half-staff, first raise the flag to the peak of the staff for an instant and then lower it to the half-staff position — roughly halfway between the top and bottom of the staff. Before lowering it for the day, raise the flag again to the peak of the pole for a moment.

These procedures pertain to government buildings; however,



private citizens can follow them too.

In a case where the flag is fixed to the pole (often in residential situations) it cannot be flown at half staff. In this instance, it is proper to attach two black ribbons to the end of the pole (not the flag) to show respect.

Folding The Flag

To properly fold the U.S. flag, follow these steps:



Two people face each other, each holding one end of the flag. Stretch the flag horizontally at waist height and fold in half lengthwise.



Fold the flag in half lengthwise again; the union (stars) should be on the top.



One person holds the flag by the union while the other starts making triangular folds at the opposite end.



Continue to fold the flag in triangles from the stripes end until only the blue field with stars is showing.



Days To Honor The Flag

The flag may be displayed from sunrise to sunset on all days, but especially on the following national and state holidays:

- New Year's Day — January 1
- Martin Luther King Day — Third Monday in January
- Inauguration Day — January 20
- Lincoln's Birthday — February 12
- Washington's Birthday — Third Monday in February
- Easter Sunday (date varies)
- Mother's Day — Second Sunday in May
- Peace Officers Memorial Day (half-staff) — May 15
- Armed Forces Day — Third Saturday in May
- Memorial Day (half-staff until noon) — Last Monday in May
- Flag Day — June 14
- Father's Day — Third Sunday in June
- Independence Day — July 4
- National Korean War Veterans Armistice Day — July 27
(added January 6, 2009)
- Labor Day — First Monday in September
- Patriot Day (half-staff) — September 11
- Constitution Day — September 17
- Gold Star Mothers Day — Last Sunday in September
- Firefighters Memorial Day (half-staff) — Sunday before or on
October 9
- Columbus Day — Second Monday in October
- Navy Day — October 27
- Election Day — First Tuesday in November
- Veterans Day — November 11
- Thanksgiving Day — Fourth Thursday in November
- Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day (half-staff) — December 7
- Christmas Day — December 25
- State Birthdays

... and other days as may be proclaimed by the President of the United States.

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(Continued From Page 15)

ning on the first day of the first open enrollment period which begins on or after September 23, 2012. For participants and others who enroll other than during open enrollment, the SBC must be provided on the first day of the first plan years that begin on or after September 23, 2012. There is a sample of an SBC available on the Department of Labor website.

6. Automatic Enrollment of Employees

PPACA includes a new requirement that employers with more than 200 employees must automatically enroll new full-time employees in health plan coverage with an option to elect out of coverage. However, in February 2012 the Department of Labor announced that automatic enrollment guidance will not be ready to take effect by 2014. Until final regulations are issued, employers are not required to comply with the automatic enrollment rule.

7. Notice to New Employees About Health Care

Effective March 1, 2013, when an employer hires a new employee, the employer must notify the employee about the health care exchange and the availability of premium assistance for insurance purchased through the exchange if the employer provides less than 60% of the cost of coverage in its plan.

8. Reporting the Cost of Health Care Coverage on Form W-2

PPACA requires that employers must report the cost of employer-provided health care coverage on an employee's W-2 for informational purposes only. In the case of the 2012 Forms W-2 (and Forms W-2 for later years) unless and until further guidance is issued, an employer is not subject to this reporting requirement if the employer was required to file fewer than 250 forms W-2 for the preceding calendar year.



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Callaway County Develops Community Partnership With Rural Rwanda

Every day we take for granted the basic amenities that are offered to us, but the truth is millions around the world don't receive health care or have access to clean water. However, Callaway County and the city of Fulton are working to increase awareness and aid the poverty-stricken population of Rwanda, Africa.



It started when Dr. Bob Hansen, executive director, Emerson Center for Leadership & Service for the Churchill Institute at Westminster College, became involved with Humanity for Children, a non-profit organization dedicated to forming partnerships between communities and remote areas in East Africa including Kenya, Uganda and Rwanda. The group has not only aided in making health care more available to certain remote areas, but has also financed micro loans, established church-to-church and school-to-school partnerships, and developed new fair trade concepts.

In 2007, Hansen visited East Africa to identify where children and mother health centers were most needed. He returned in 2008 with a group of Westminster students to conduct a health needs assessment in Rwanda's Eastern Province, specifically the Ngoma District. After a number of potential sites were selected, Hansen approached Callaway County commissioners and the Fulton mayor to encourage a community partnership with the Ngoma District/Kibungo Town. Officials

eagerly accepted and the community-to-community partnership, The Rwanda Community Partnership, was formalized in May of 2008.

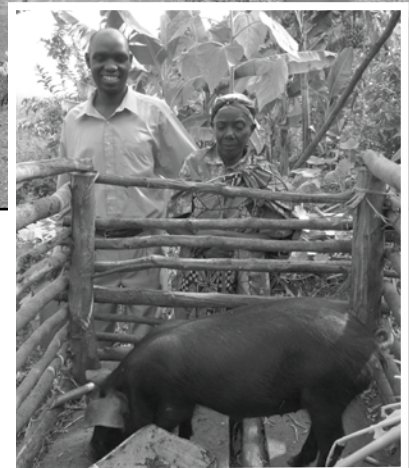
The Rwanda Community Partnership's first priority was to build

has grown an understanding of global unity and what happens across the world does affect them.

"There is a new appreciation for what we have in common with the people of our partner community,"



Left: Dr. Hansen, Callaway County Associate Commissioner "Doc" Kritzer, Callaway County Associate Commissioner Gabe Craighead, and Hannah Minchow-Proffitt Center: Health Clinic in Gashanda, Rwanda Right: Jean Claude, a representative who coordinates many of the microloan projects and Rwandan woman microloan recipient.



a health center in a remote area of Ngoma District – a sector that loses two of every five children under the age of five to treatable, preventable, and sometimes curable diseases. Dr. Hansen said that despite economic hardships, Callaway County raised over \$100,000 to fund the health center, and with 90 percent completed, they hope that the health center opens in the next six to 10 months.

The people of Rwanda in the Ngoma District weren't the only ones to benefit from the partnership. Hansen said Callaway County

said Hansen. "We have young kids that can show you where Rwanda is on a world map or globe; they can tell you about what people there eat and what their houses look like; and they can tell you how so many families struggle for clean water, sufficient food, accessible health care, and economic opportunity."

The organization and partnership have microfinanced several initiatives where entrepreneurial projects have been proposed by individuals and small groups in the rural Ngoma District. These have ranged from raising chickens, to starting a

village pig project (15 female pigs to 15 families, with the first female offspring going to another village family), to selling clothes at the weekly outdoor market.

"The results of these micro-loans have been so successful that we are hoping to triple the number of projects funded this coming year," said Hansen. "When the loans are paid back (with interest), the money is reinvested in another village business venture. We don't see this as charity or a hand-out; our efforts are focused on providing a hand-up, empowering them to pull themselves out of poverty. We want to be very respectful. Nobody wants to be pitied, and we appreciate the assets that they have. They are unbelievably industrious people; they are smart, hardworking, creative, and resilient."

Other Callaway County initiatives include a Youth in Rwanda after-school program for middle school students, sponsoring a Rwandan student to attend graduate school at Mizzou, and inviting the "Desmond Tutu of Rwanda," Rev. Antoine Rutayesire, to speak at Westminster College's annual symposium.

Dr. Hansen and Callaway County are encouraging other counties to get involved with the Rwanda Community Partnership Project and become a partner community or start up a new partnership with a less fortunate community. Future projects might include establishing the second public library in the entire country of Rwanda, helping create a women's counseling center, and establishing a Rotary Club or other service organization in Kibungo.

"These events have brought together people from across the county to celebrate the partnership, people of different political persuasions, religious orientations, educational levels, and level of knowledge about the world. We have linked students in our county with students in Rwanda who, through email and skype, are teaching each other French and English. We have sent many of our community

members and students to Rwanda where they have had life-changing experiences. The partnership has given us an opportunity to focus our attention and energy on one area -- this gives us reassurance that our resources are going directly to where they are needed. It's a win-win for sure."

To learn more please contact Dr. Hansen and the Rwanda Community Partnership Project at 573-592-5041 or email bob.hansen@westminster-mo.edu.

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Sign Up Now For MAC's New Ambassador Program!

Do you remember winning your election for the first time and the thought crossed your mind – “How long is it going to take me to understand all this?”

Well, the newly elected commissioners in November will be asking themselves the same question and you can help them find the answers. MAC is beginning a new program designed to help newly elected commissioners by linking them with tenured commissioners who can share their experiences.

By serving as an ambassador, you can help new commissioners avoid the land mines that come with holding public office, discuss creative solutions to county issues, and share with them the value and importance the Missouri Association of Counties has had on your tenure.

We're beginning our Ambassador Program by focusing on the largest group of new county govern-

ment officials to be elected in November – associate commissioners. If it proves to be popular and successful, we plan to extend it to other officeholders in coming years.

Because county commissioners immediately jump into wrestling with the entire county budget process with little or no training, we are hoping to connect commissioner to commissioner in the same classification of county, as well as in the same geographical area. Those of you seasoned veterans who have been in office for some time understand the challenges they will face throughout the year.

We ask that, as an ambassador, you reach out to them at least twice a month for the next six months after the elections, and then periodically thereafter. This could be comparable to educational 101 courses in budgeting, the Sunshine Law, technology, economic development,

the importance of having a “use” tax, planning and zoning – and the list goes on!


Don't wait until November to volunteer as a MAC ambassador for newly elected commissioners. Call Carah Bright, MAC communications assistant, at 573-634-2120 or cbright@mocounties.com to let her know of your willingness to participate. After the elections, MAC will match you with a new commissioner and provide all the necessary contact information.

Once the colleague-to-colleague assignment is made, we ask that you strongly encourage their attending MAC's Nov. 18-20 Annual Conference & Expo at Tan-Tar-A. You already know the value of the informational sessions and of meeting prospective vendors in the exhibit hall! We're confident your guidance will be greatly appreciated!



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Boone County Named Top Ten By Center For Digital Government

For the third year in a row, Boone County earned recognition for successful outcomes through strategic use of information and communications technology. On July 16, the Center for Digital Government announced the top 10 counties in each of four population categories, including Boone County, which ranked in ninth place among counties with a population between 150,000 and 249,999. Boone County has been ranked in the top 10 among counties of similar population for seven of the past eight years.

The 10th Annual Digital Counties Survey, which is open to all U.S. counties, is conducted by the Republic's Center for Digital Government and the Digital Communities program, in partnership with the National Association of Counties. The self-report survey offers counties an opportunity to share the

outcomes they have accomplished through the strategic use of technology. The panel of expert judges looks not only at these outcomes,



Boone County IT Department accepts award.

but also at the achievement of progress from the previous year, alignment of outcomes with the county's priorities, commitment to collaboration both within and outside their organization, and demonstration of innovation.

Boone County's innovations in technology provide efficient, stream-

lined approaches to previously cumbersome processes, which increases effectiveness while decreasing cost. Among the accomplishments of

Boone County are the redesigned online employment application process, the Sign Asset Review and Approval Program (SARAP) utilized by both Public Works and Resource Management, and internal management applications developed for supervisors to see the work flow of his/her department. All of these show the innovation and collaboration necessary for Boone County to be a leader in the field of digital government. Commissioner Karen M. Miller accepted the award on behalf of Boone County at the 2012 NACo Annual Conference and Exposition. It was presented to Boone County Information Technology staff at the commission meeting in July 26 in the commission chambers.

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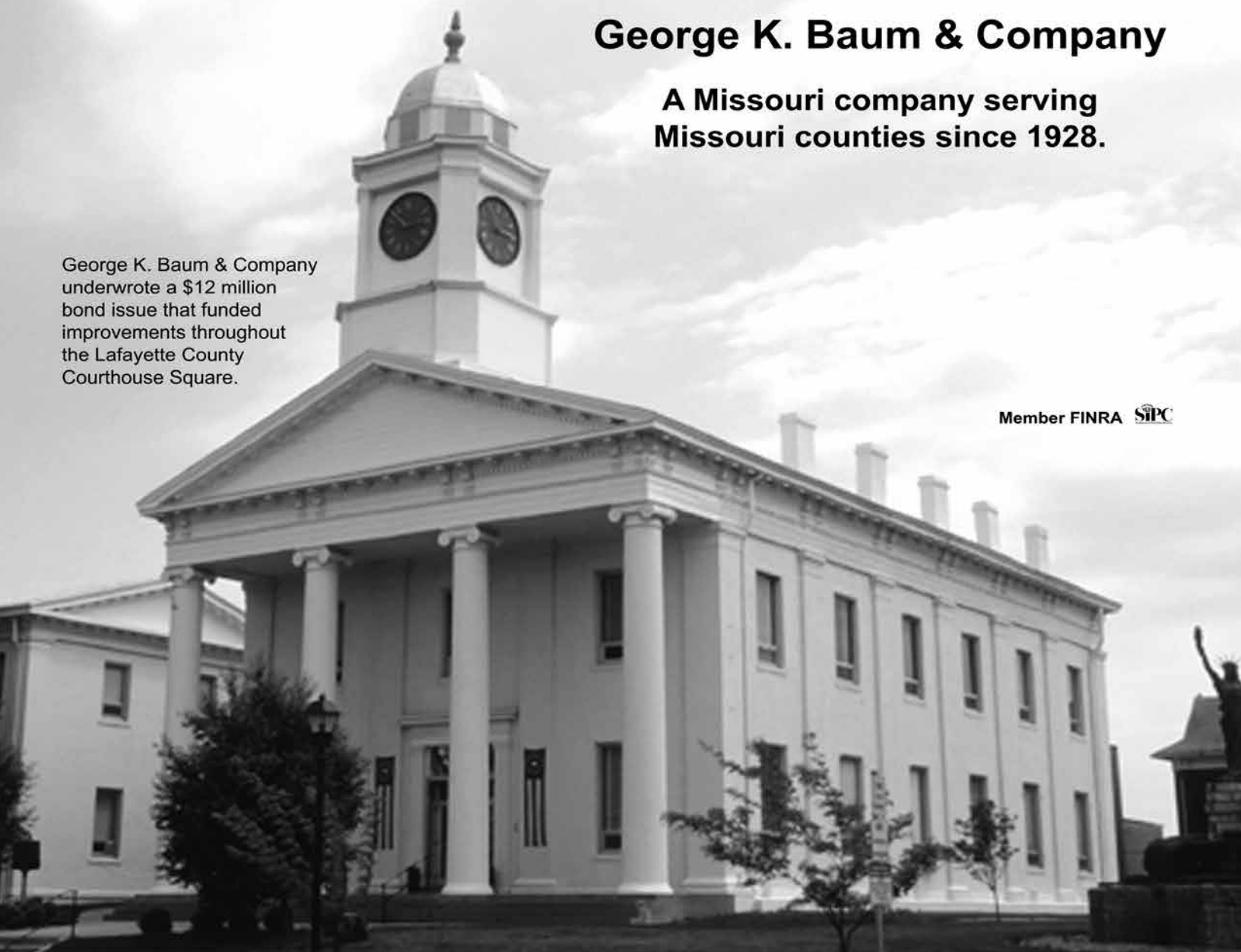
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