"There she stands, proud in all her glory."

County Record Winter 2020



St. Francois County Courthouse Farmington, Missouri

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On the cover

St. Francois County

Dennis Weiser

Missouri Courthouses: Building Memories on the Square

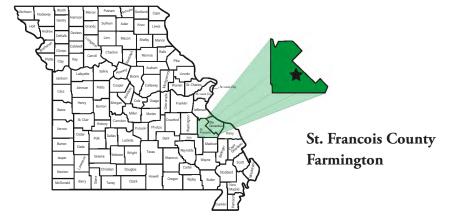
In 1823, the county built its first courthouse – a foursquare-style building – using money made from the sale of 52 acres of land that had been donated. To keep livestock from eating the grass, the county erected a five-foot high plank fence around the courthouse in 1845.

Three years later, the court ordered work to begin on a replacement courthouse – a two-story, rectangular, brick and stone building with a gable roof. In 1877, a grand jury condemned the building, but the county continued to use the building for business. It was not until plans were underway for a replacement building that the building

was razed in 1885.

The county's third courthouse featured a mansard roof, and used much of the brick from the previous courthouse. After 40 years of service, the courthouse began to show signs of age.

In 1925, voters agreed to authorize \$250,000 for construction of the current courthouse. Despite complaints about the architect's conduct and design similar to another county's courthouse, progress on the building continued until the court accepted the building in September 1927. This courthouse continues to serve the people of St. Francois County.



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Members of the Webster County team that developed the U.S. 60 Corridor Study & Master Plan pose with their MAC County Achievement Award. The team pictured includes: (Back row, from left) Steve Prange with Crawford, Murphy & Tilly; Northern Commissioner Dale Fraker; and Presiding Commissioner Paul Ipock. (Bottom row, from left) County Clerk Stan Whitehurst and Southern Commissioner Randy Owens.

Four counties receive MAC County Achievement Awards for 2020

Four counties earned a 2020 MAC County Achievement Award for their innovative programs. They were recognized during the association's first-ever virtual conference in November. Here are the winning counties and their submissions:

Webster County — U.S. 60 Corridor Study & Master Plan

The U.S. 60 Corridor Study was put forward by Webster County to develop a long-term vision for the southern Webster County transportation network to significantly improve safety, connectivity and resiliency.

In February of 2019, the Webster County Commission approved a contract with a local engineering consulting firm, Crawford, Murphy & Tilly (CMT), to initiate a comprehensive study of the 22-mile U.S. 60 highway and rail corridor. The objective of the study was to identify existing safety, connectivity, and resiliency issues and develop a master improvement plan for the corridor.

With numerous stakeholders having interest in the corridor, Webster County led the charge to build a project core team that was built on a collaborative process. Stakeholders included the BNSF Railway, MoDOT Southwest District, continued on page 4

continued from page 3

MoDOT Multimodal Department, and the Southwest Missouri Council of Governments (SMCOG). Additionally, the county was successful in securing project funding contributions from the project partners, reducing the cost burden on the county and taxpayers.

The planning study process came in under budget, pleasing the county commission. The commission ended up retaining CMT for services related to two federal grant applications that were inspired during the planning process. The total project cost, including the Master Planning Study and two grant applications, was \$270,485.83.

The plan identified eight interchanges, two overpasses, 21 rail crossing closures, 21 roadway intersection closures and over 25 miles of outer roads – all for an estimated cost of \$133 million, and a benefit-cost ratio of 1.53, resulting in a net positive return on investment.

Funds spent toward the study and funding applications resulted in securing federal funding for implementation of the project through the Federal Rail Administration's Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvement (CRISI) Program, yielding \$10.4 Million in Federal FRA Funding and an additional \$1.01 million in commitment toward future implementation.



Members of the Boone County team that put together the county's Mental Health Staffing of Defendants Program pose through Zoom with their MAC County Achievement Award.

The county also sought funding through the Department of Economic Development to obtain funding toward advancing the engineering design and environmental studies of an interchange and rail overpass at the first identified infrastructure improvement to improve corridor resiliency. The successful award notice resulted in leveraging approximately \$30,000 in county commitment to yield approximately \$128,000 in federal funding to advance engineering efforts toward implementation.

At the end of the study, the successful acquisition of federal discretionary funding has allowed for the implementation process to begin immediately, turning a vision into reality in a few short years.

Boone County — Mental Health Staffing of Defendants

Boone County's Mental Health Staffing committee reviews in-custody defendants with mental health issues. It moves cases while ensuring defendants' rights are protected and their needs met.

Through Boone County's Stepping Up leadership team, partners in the criminal justice system and the county commission undertook the task to implement a process to both help those in detention and alleviate pressures on the justice system, including a rising rate of those being held in custody and a related higher "out-of-county" bed usage at the county's detention facility.

continued on page 6





THE CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION **RECOMMENDS CLOTH FACE COVERINGS WHENEVER** IN PUBLIC TO LIMIT THE SPREAD OF COVID-19.

> The COVID-19 shutdown reduced gross domestic product in the U.S. by 17% between January and April.

Universal mask wearing in public could reduce the need for additional shutdowns and job losses.

The CDC recommends everyone wear a cloth face covering in public, especially when social distancing is not possible.

Mask wearing would help reduce spread and save lives.

Data: Goldman Sachs. (2020, June). Face Masks and GDP.











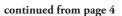








The new Cape Girardeau County Courthouse (above) is shown at night. The new courthouse was at the center of Cape Girardeau County earning a MAC County Achievement Award with their submission, "Using the Design-Build Process to Maximize Taxpayer Funds." At top right, the Common Pleas Courthouse in Cape Girardeau primarily focused on civil cases. At bottom right, the Jackson County Courthouse, constructed in 1908 primarily dealt with criminal cases.



Using a model developed by Johnson County, Iowa, and was referred to Boone County by NACo, a committee began meeting every other week to discuss individuals in custody who appeared to have been having mental health issues. The focus was two-fold: 1) discuss defendants and cases to see where sticking points in the justice system were; and 2) collaborate and work to move the case along or create better outcomes.

The "mental health staffing group" has been meeting since 2016 and has reviewed the cases of more than 270 detainees. The group continues to expand to include local mental health community providers and probation and parole personnel.

This staffing is at no cost and, since the committee meets over lunch, no time ordinarily spent on other work is delayed. During COVID, the meetings have occurred over Zoom.

Through this committee, the relevant stakeholders have learned

how to ensure that decision makers at the Department of Mental Health become aware of urgent cases in a timely fashion so that they can receive attention and thus have better outcomes once released.

Cape Girardeau — Using the Design-Build Process to Maximize Taxpayer Funds

The County of Cape Girardeau had two courthouse locations for the 32nd Judicial District Court to conduct proceedings since the 1800s. The Common Pleas Courthouse in Cape Girardeau was constructed in 1854 with some renovation and additions

done in 1959. This location primarily focused on civil cases. The courthouse in the county seat of Jackson was constructed in 1908 with criminal cases primarily conducted.





Operating two court buildings nearly 10 miles apart does not support good use of taxpayer funds or efficient operation of the state's courts. The age of the buildings brought about its own set of problems.

In 2013, the county began looking at building a courthouse facility to house the 32nd District Judicial Courts and options of repurposing existing buildings. The county partnered with a consultant to evaluate the entire county facility footprint of what is currently in use and what would be needed in the next 25 years.

continued on page 8

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A citizen advisory committee was formed in 2014 to review the facility needs and tour existing county buildings. The committee confirmed that new courthouse space was needed to improve and enhance efficiency, safety, and operational costs. In 2015, voters approved a use tax with funds collected to support constructing a new court facility. The county hired a financial advisor to review and determine options and a sustainable level of funding capacity. A budget of \$21 million was determined to be the suggested budget to design and construct courthouse space.

The county decided to pursue the "design-build" process as a solution. House Bill 2376, passed in 2015 by Missouri legislature, authorized political subdivisions to enter a contract with a design-builder for the purpose of furnishing architectural, engineering, and related design services and the labor, materials, supplies, equipment, and other construction services required for a design-build project.

The county, as required by HB 2376, hired a design-build procurement consultant to navigate the RFP process. The consultant assisted the county and the courts with identifying "needs and wants" for the new facility to develop an RFP.

Today, the new courthouse provides safe and adequate space for the entire courts and prosecuting attorney to have their operations be located under one roof. The Cape Girardeau Common Pleas Courthouse was released back to the City of Cape Girardeau, who is repurposing the building to be used as a new city hall. The county was able to provide a "state of the art" yet modest courthouse at a cost of \$255 per square foot by using the design-build process as allowed in HB 2376; well under the estimates of the traditional bid/design/build process.



Christian County Presiding Commissioner Ralph Phillips and Human Resources Director Amber Bryant show off the county's MAC County Achievement Award for their submission, "Human Resources: Best Practices."

Christian County — Human Resources: Best Practices

The most prominent issues the county faced going into 2019 were higher than normal health care cost, excessive workers' compensation/liability cost and litigation.

In November 2018, Christian County hired a Human Resources director, establishing an in-house Human Resource Department, which was previously outsourced. Through legal compliance to the various labor laws, newly drafted policies, procedures and communication with elected officials, the county now has a streamlined process for annual reviews, enrollment, recruitment and onboarding across all offices.

The efficiency of the annual review has increased with dedicated duties split between multiple people. The onboarding consists of a one-on-one sit downs, which encourages a more detailed question and answer time frame for new hires to fully understand

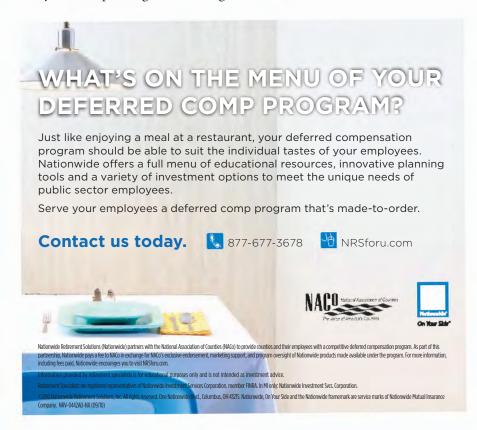
what the county offers to its employees. The department has been responsible for hosting a wellness and flu clinic each year that promotes preventive care for the Christian County employees. The county also has health insurance carriers competing for the county's health plan.

Through July 2017, Christian County was the second worst performing tax district, in terms of claims/losses out of nearly 200 districts within their broker's insurance pool. Now, the county is one of the best performing in the state. This change has led to multiple carrier options for the county whereas most carriers/pools would not even provide quotes in the past due to poor loss history and the lack of internal procedures and controls.

The county was able to save over \$225,000 in premium costs for the 2020/2021 policy year by moving carriers. The county's insurance underwriters believe this option and

savings is directly related to how the county is now operating. These changes

will have a long-lasting effect.





Graham elected to national leadership position in NACo

Audrain County Commissioner Tracy Graham was elected in July to serve on the National Association of Counties (NACo) Executive Committee as the Central region representative.

"It is a tremendous honor to be elected by my peers to represent counties throughout the Central United States," said Graham. "Not only am I excited to represent my peers across the region, but this position also provides Audrain County and Missouri with a national platform to advance our priorities."

During Graham's two-year term, he will help steer the overall direction of the association in concert with its Board of Directors. The Executive Committee is comprised of the association's top leadership – four officers and four region representatives, including Graham.

NACo's Central region encompasses counties in Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Ohio, Oklahoma and Wisconsin.

"NACo is a powerful voice in Washington. I look forward to working with county leaders across the region and the country as we lead NACo to the next level," added Graham.

Active in NACo for several years,



Graham also serves as a vice chair of the Information Technology Standing Committee. He is a member of both the Telecommunications and Technology Policy Steering Committee and the Rural Action Caucus RAC Steering Committee.

Missouri is also heavily represented at the national level with eight other county-elected officials sitting on different committees for NACo. Those county officials included:

Audrain County Collector Kate
Becker, who serves on the Arts and
Culture Commission; Immigration
Reform Task Force; Membership
Standing Committee; and Veterans
and Military Services Committee;

- Polk County Collector Debbi McGinnis, who serves on the Finance Standing Committee; and RAC Steering Committee;
- Scotland County Clerk Batina Dodge, who serves on the Finance, Pensions and Intergovernmental Affairs Steering Committee; and RAC Steering Committee;
- Boone County Associate
 Commissioner Janet Thompson,
 who serves on the Healthy
 Counties Initiative Advisory
 Board; and Justice and Public
 Safety Steering Committee;
- Callaway County Public
 Administrator Karen Digh Allen,
 who serves on the Justice and
 Public Safety Steering Committee;
 RAC Steering Committee; and
 Veterans and Military Services
 Committee;
- Franklin County Associate
 Commissioner Dave Hinson,
 who serves on the RAC Steering
 Committee;
- Atchison County Clerk Susette Taylor, who serves on the RAC Steering Committee;
- Greene County Presiding Commissioner Bob Dixon, who serves on the Broadband Task Force.





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NACo revamps its Live Healthy Program so counties can continue to save money

As county residents seek ways to save on healthcare costs, NACo is increasing access to savings through the Live Healthy Prescription, Health and Dental discount program provided to NACo member counties at no cost. Now more than ever, saving feels better.

The new Live Healthy discount program helps residents save valuable time and money. Residents in participating counties, boroughs and parishes now have access to:

- An average of 30 percent prescription savings at more than 66,000 participating pharmacies nationwide
- 10 percent savings (up to \$10) at MinuteClinic walk-in health clinics in select CVS and Target

locations

- 24/7 telemedicine access through the health discount program, providing unlimited calls with a clinician without co-pays, and
- Savings on dental services at more than 110,000 participating dentists across the country.

NACo has also removed administrative hurdles for counties to participate. NACo members can access information about the program and enroll simply by visiting NACo. org/health. Additionally, with a new online self-service portal that allows counties to order customized physical and digital Live Healthy materials, promoting the program is easier than ever, at no cost and with minimal time commitment for counties.



PRESCRIPTION, DENTAL AND HEALTH DISCOUNT PROGRAMS FOR RESIDENTS

Live Healthy discounts are provided to residents with no annual limits, no shopping around, no forms to complete, no waiting periods, no age or income requirements, no medical condition restrictions and no catch. Residents simply visit LiveHealthyCard.com to find participating locations and access savings.

For more information about the program, visit **NACo.org/health**.



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U.S. Flag Etiquette Program 5 Steps to Launch Your Initiative

Thanks to the partnership with National Association of Counties (NACo) and the Missouri Association of Counties, we're proud to provide a custom flag retirement box to every county in Missouri.

Here are 5 steps to launch your flag retirement program:

- ARRANGE FOR FLAG COLLECTION Many local organizations, like Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, veterans groups and sheriffs' departments, regularly hold flag retirement ceremonies. Identify and partner with a group to be responsible for emptying the flag box and retiring the flags in the proper manner.
- DISPLAY THE BOX Find a location for the flag disposal box that is both secure and easily accessible. The box is durable but recommended for indoor use.
- **ALERTTHE PUBLIC** Announce the box's availability and location to residents through local news, social media and other forms of communication. NACo has a press release template to help announce your flag retirement program, which can be accessed at www.naco.org/MOFlagRollout.
- PROMOTE PROPER FLAG RETIREMENT Ensure your residents understand the importance of U.S. Flag care. NACo offers more information on the U.S. flag code, social media posts and flag retirement promotion at www.NACo.org/flag.
 - **MONITOR THE BOX** Assign someone, either in the county or a partner, to regularly check the condition of the box. When the box is no longer suitable for use, it can be recycled.

Thank you for the partnership.

NACo delivers unmatched member value to America's 3,069 counties, boroughs and parishes.

To learn more about membership or if you have additional questions about launching your Flag Retirement Program, please contact flag@naco.org, or visit www.naco.org for resources and information.

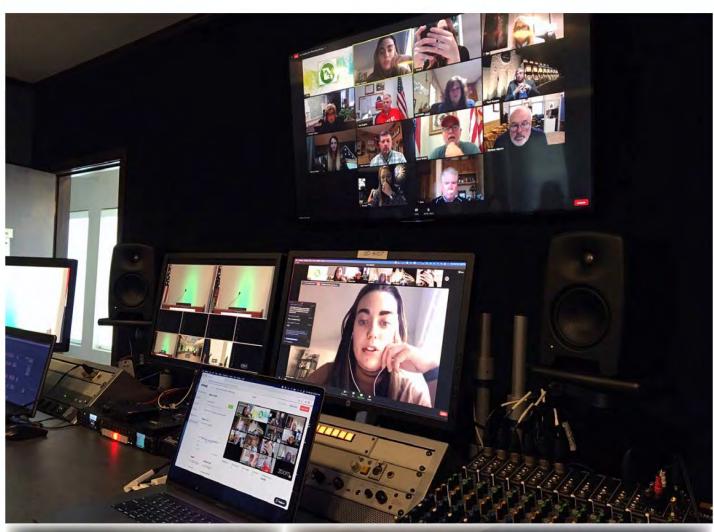




MAC's

Virtual Annual Business Meeting











MAC's

Virtual Annual Business Meeting

Thanks to all our sponsors who contributed to our first virtual event & we hope to see everyone in person next year

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Structuring Financings to Meet the Needs of Local Governments

Legislative priorities remain the same as last year due to pandemic

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, the Executive Committee of the Missouri Association of Counties agreed to retain the same legislative priorities as the members adopted in 2019 at the in-person Annual Conference. The committee also agreed to address any changes to the legislative priorities as they come up during the 2021 legislative session. For now, the six resolutions that will be the focus for the association during the 2021 legislative session include:

Support fully funding state mandates on county government

MAC respectfully requests that the Missouri General Assembly and the governor include in the state's Fiscal Year 2022 budget: (1) an increase in the appropriation for prisoner per diem reimbursement authorized under Sec. 221.105, RSMo.; (2) an appropriation to fully fund state assessment maintenance reimbursements; (3) an appropriation to fully fund any new obligations placed on the election officials of this state, including state payment of a proportional share of primary and general election costs;

(4) an appropriation to fully fund the reimbursement for the detention and care of neglected and/or delinquent juveniles, as well as the salaries of juvenile court personnel in singlecounty circuits; (5) an appropriation that would relieve counties of the cost of providing office space and certain utility expenses for the various state public defenders' offices; (6) an appropriation that would relieve counties from salary and retirement contribution increases for county prosecuting attorneys; and (7) request that the General Assembly continue to refrain from implementing the requirements of SB 711 relating to property tax enacted in 2008 until full state funding for the same is authorized.

Additionally, recognizing the difficult budgetary constraints that the state of Missouri may experience and the dim prospects for additional state appropriations for these programs and, as a partner with the state in the delivery of these services, MAC requests the governor and the Missouri General Assembly hold county governments harmless from any further state budget cuts in these areas.



Support a transportation funding package that addresses the state's dire infrastructure needs

Missouri's agricultural industry, a strong economic factor for the state, heavily relies on the state's roads and bridges to transport livestock and crops. However, there is no new state funding beside the current system. Missouri has the seventh largest system in the nation and ranks 47th in funding. Missouri currently has the ninth highest number of obsolete bridges in the

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nation. MAC respectfully requests the General Assembly support a new package that will address Missouri's dire infrastructure needs without the conveyance of any state-owned lettered highway or route to county government.

Oppose pre-emption of local authority

Missouri's county officials have expressed their opposition to the erosion of local authority, allowing counties greater flexibility to deal with local issues and problems. County officials believe in protecting the citizens they represent from large scale developments that infringe on their lives, and oppose the weakening or repeal of Section 229.100 RSMo., which requires county commission approval of utility easements through, across, or under public roads or highways. MAC respectfully opposes the pre-emption of local authority, but does support the repeal of Missouri's prevailing-wage law.

Oppose legislation that erodes the local tax base and calls on the General Assembly to address Missouri's antiquated tax structure

In response to annual increases for the cost of county services, MAC will be calling upon the General Assembly to limit legislation that would have a negative budgetary effect on local governments without guaranteed replacement revenue. Additionally, MAC will request the General Assembly to address Missouri's antiquated tax code, especially as it relates to sales tax and the South Dakota v. Wayfair ruling, so that both state and local governments are well-positioned in the future to meet the increasing service needs of their citizens. Local governments are losing billions of dollars because of the lack of enforcement for "use" tax collections, which puts local businesses

at a competitive disadvantage. MAC also supports changes in legislation that standardizes the local assessment of wind in power generation and transmission regardless of ownership, as well as supporting legislative changes that ensures local assessment of solar and coal in power generation and transmission with all tax related revenues to be taxed and distributed at

the local level.

Support the full repeal of prevailing wage

Missouri county officials are charged with ensuring taxpayer money is being used wisely when bidding for public work projects. However, Missouri's current prevailing-wage law, despite being reworked in 2018,

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still can be a burden on the budgets of local governments. With the costs of construction projects fluctuating from year to year, MAC supports a full repeal of Missouri's prevailing wage in an effort to lessen the burden on what local governments spend on public work projects, as well as make the bidding process for those projects more competitive.

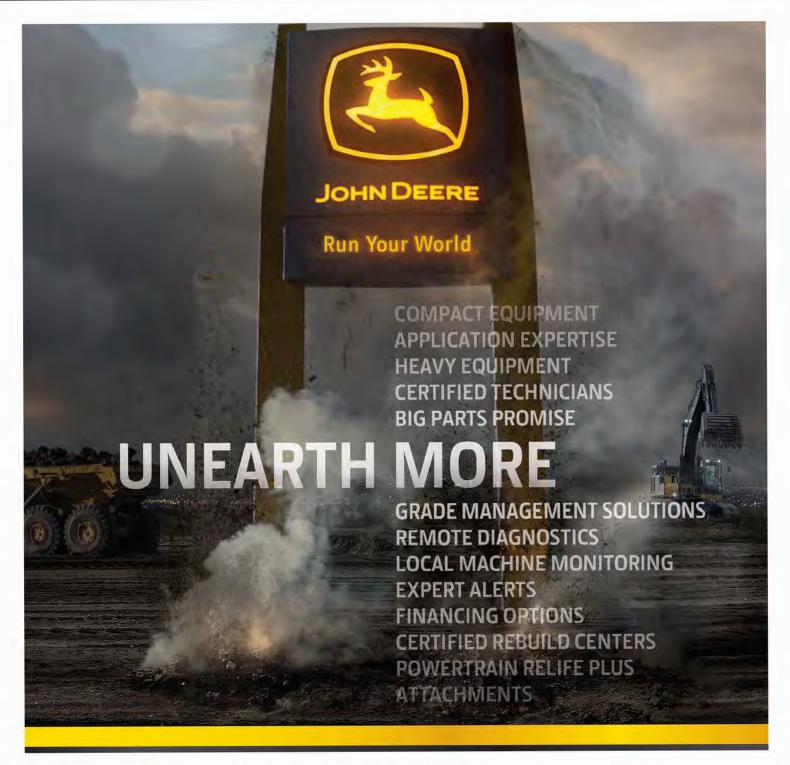
Support the expansion of financial statement publishing options for counties

Missouri counties are required by law to prepare and publish their annual financial statement in some newspaper defined by law or in 10 places within the county. Over the years, many Missouri communities have lost their local newspapers or readership has declined, meaning that citizens may not be able to see or locate the financial statements of their counties. By expanding the posting options to

include a designated county website or news website, more county citizens will have access to county financial data. Therefore, MAC fully supports the expansion of publishing options for counties of the second, third or fourth classification to publish their financial statements.







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What Missouri owes after FY 2021 second quarter payments

Missouri owes its counties and the City of St. Louis nearly \$18.7 million in jail reimbursement after making the second quarter payment for FY 2021 on claims that have been audited by the Missouri Department of Corrections (DOC). This amount only includes bill of costs claims and does not include any claims made for transportation and extradition.

Missouri reimburses county jails for detaining state prisoners for the number of days they spend in county jails while their court cases are processed. If convicted and sentenced to serve time in the DOC, Missouri counties will be reimbursed for the number of days an inmate spent being detained before being transferred to the custody of the DOC.

The state appropriated \$38.5 million for jail reimbursements in FY 2021, along with an additional \$9.7 million for bill of cost requests received before July 1, 2020. After FY 2021 first quarter payments were made, the state owed more than \$19.8 million as of Sept. 30, 2020.

The DOC pays claims after they have been audited and when funds are released, which occurs on July 1, Oct. 1, Jan. 1 and April 1.

The board rate for jail reimbursement in FY 2021 is \$22.58 per day, per inmate.

Information about jail reimbursements, including instructions and forms for making a claim can be found the DOC's website at https://doc.mo.gov/divisions/human-services/county-reimbursement.

County	Total outstanding as of Dec. 31, 2020	County	Total outstanding as of Dec. 31, 2020
Adair	\$158,925	Livingston	\$99,722
Andrew	\$0	Macon	\$25,666
Atchison	\$0	Madison	\$51,101
Audrain	\$136,391	Maries	\$16,882
Barry	\$79,234	Marion	\$201,615
Barton	\$28,769	McDonald	\$89,386
Bates	\$0	Mercer	\$0
Benton	\$19,187	Miller	\$123,836
Bollinger	\$0	Mississippi	\$85,223
Boone	\$1,078,220	Moniteau	\$66,462
Buchanan	\$375,783		\$0
Butler	\$364,609	Montgomery	\$58,805
Caldwell	\$0	Morgan	\$222,492
Callaway	\$304,127	New Madrid	\$135,970
Camden	\$46,202	Newton	\$165,274
Cape Girardeau	\$205,791	Nodaway	\$61,252
Carroll	\$3,713	Oregon	\$22,512 \$924
Carter	\$11,255	Osage	\$924
Cass	\$276,782	Ozark Pemiscot	\$101,713
Cedar	\$19,791		\$183,814
Chariton	\$15,415	Perry Pettis	\$308,373
Christian	\$0	Phelps	\$184,710
City of St. Louis	\$811,070	Pike	\$49,474
Clark	\$27,321	Platte	\$388,648
Clay Clinton	\$540,374 \$0	Polk	\$195,672
Cole	\$254,842	Pulaski	\$182,442
	\$65,132	Putnam	\$0
Cooper Crawford	\$10,990	Ralls	\$0
Dade	\$9,046	Randolph	\$99,166
Dallas	\$170,499	Ray	\$87,395
Daviess	\$48,301	Reynolds	\$27,969
DeKalb	\$41,040	Ripley	\$86,416
Dent	\$50,850	Saline	\$74,823
Douglas	\$27,470	Schuyler	\$7,632
Dunklin	\$250,728	Scotland	\$0
Franklin	\$309,063	Scott	\$328,347
Gasconade	\$1,484	Shannon	\$0
Gentry	\$6,700	Shelby	\$19,963
Greene	\$2,193,341	St. Charles	\$520,200
Grundy	\$16,314	St. Clair	\$36,189
Harrison	\$0	St. Francois	\$405,238
Henry	\$71,054	St. Louis County	\$1,107,130
Hickory	\$0	Ste. Genevieve	\$10,104
Holt	\$19,817	Stoddard	\$183,373
Howard	\$23,639	Stone	\$19,195
Howell	\$131,964	Sullivan	\$0
Iron	\$115,523	Taney	\$425,813
Jackson	\$1,395,472	Texas	\$111,436
Jasper	\$707,278	Vernon	\$152,000
Jefferson	\$324,531	Warren	\$152,080
Johnson	\$161,992	Washington	\$188,963 \$65,455
Knox	\$5,174	Wayne	\$65,455 \$113.901
Laclede	\$220,309	Webster	\$113,901 \$0
Lafayette	\$218,858	Worth	
Lawrence	\$94,340	Wright	\$87,543
Lewis	\$6,441		
Lincoln	\$26,427		
Linn	\$27,060	Total	\$18,688,938

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Christian County deputy sheriff earns state's Medal of Valor for his heroics in 2019

Deputy Sheriff Thomas M. Buchness from the Christian County Sheriff's Office was presented with the Missouri Medal of Valor at a presentation in October in Jefferson City.

Buchness was one of six public safety officers to receive the state's highest award for their role in exhibiting exceptional courage, extraordinary decisiveness and presence of mind, and unusual swiftness of action, regardless of his or her personal safety, in the attempt to save or protect human life.

Buchness earned the award for his actions on June 18, 2019, when he responded to a call in the Sparta area for a young woman clinging to a large log in the Finley River with swift water conditions.

She was suffering a panic attack and struggling to breathe. Buchness traveled through a wooded area and found the victim's condition worsening. He threw her a long, heavy-duty extension cord and directed her to secure herself to the log. The woman was disoriented and losing consciousness. She had been desperately holding on for some time and needed immediate attention. Buchness removed his duty gear, descended a steep embankment, and carefully climbed out onto the log. Once he reached the victim, he reassured her she would be okay. As fire service personnel began to assemble at the riverbank, the victim was provided with a life jacket, and the extension cord was used as a rescue rope for the victim and Buchness to safely get to the riverbank.

The victim was treated by EMS. During an extremely tense situation, Buchness exhibited calm, decisive action and resourcefulness, which facilitated the rescue of a woman in imminent danger of drowning.



Photo courtesy of the Governor's Office

Deputy Sheriff Thomas M. **Buchness from** the Christian County Sheriff's Office shakes hands with Governor Mike Parson during the Missouri Public **Safety Medals** ceremony in October in Jefferson City. **Buchness** received the Missouri Medal of Valor for his actions in 2019.



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NACo High Performance Leadership Academy offers discounts for member counties

The NACo High Performance Leadership Academy is an innovative, completely online 12-week program created to equip frontline county government professionals with practical leadership skills to deliver results for counties and communities. With a robust curriculum developed by the Professional Development Academy in partnership with Fortune 1000 executives, public sector leaders, world-renowned academics and thought leaders HPLA was designed specifically for the unique challenges and opportunities of serving in county government.

What makes HPLA innovative?

Unlike other webinar-based distance learning programs that emphasize solo learning, HPLA is built around interactivity and community, while retaining the convenience of self-paced learning. The program is guided by an expert moderator to help keep participants on track, and a world-class faculty of prominent public, private and academic sector leaders deliver engaging and though-provoking sessions.

HPLA focuses on five practical skills:

 Lead: engage teams and stakeholders to foster positive climates and exceed common expectations

- Organize: plan, lead and execute organizational change more effectively and consistently
- Collaborate: establish alignment and strong partnerships through building stronger relationships
- Communicate: create clarity, confidence and community
- Deliver: measure projects and processes to deliver results aligned with county and community priorities

A world-class faculty of prominent public, private and university sector leaders will deliver each course. All module content is guided by an expert moderator.

Who should participate?

Anyone in county government can participant, but HPLA is designed for entry- to mid-level county professionals, particularly those who manage teams or are preparing to in the future.

What is the time commitment?

HPLA is built to accommodate busy work schedules with self-paced learning. Each 12-week HPLA course is divided into four, three-week modules. Each module includes a one-hour live webinar and onehour breakout discussion, plus daily assignments ranging from three to 35 minutes.

When is the next cohort?

NACo has cohorts scheduled for April, August and September 2021.

What is the cost?

The retail prices is \$2,495. A scholarship available to all NACo member county participants is \$800. The NACo member county cost per enrollee is \$1,695. Additional scholarships and discounts may be available such as:

- First Enrollee from any NACo member county discount is \$2,495 and therefore the enrollee cost is \$0*
- When any NACo member county enrolls a second enrollee at \$1,695 the third enrollee is free based on availability of funding from NACo Scholarship Fund
- Discounts off the \$1,695
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For more information about the academy, visit www.naco.org/resources/education-and-training/naco-high-performance-leadership-academy.





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THE ACADEMY FOCUSES ON FIVE ESSENTIAL SKILLS:



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LEAD:

Engage teams and stakeholders to foster positive climates and exceed common expectations

ORGANIZE:

Plan, lead and execute organizational change more effectively and consistently

COLLABORATE:

Establish alignment and strong partnerships through building stronger relationships

DELIVER:

Measure projects and processes to deliver results aligned with county and community priorities

COMMUNICATE:

Create clarity, confidence and community

The NACo High Performance Leadership Academy empowers frontline county government professionals with fundamental, practical leadership skills to deliver results for counties and residents.

With a curriculum developed by *General Colin Powell* and public and private sector leaders, NACo High Performance Leadership Academy gives students the opportunity to learn from world-class faculty. All content is guided by an expert facilitator.

Find out more at NACo.org/Skills



What does it mean to be a Missourian?

By Gary R. Kremer

Executive Director, State Historical Society of Missouri

The year 2021 marks the 200th anniversary of statehood for Missouri—Aug. 10, to be exact. Almost seven years ago, the 97th Missouri General Assembly put the State Historical Society of Missouri

in charge of planning statewide commemorations of the bicentennial. Since that time, we have visited Missourians in each county in the state, listening to



how their communities would like to celebrate this milestone in Missouri's history. Now, this momentous year is almost upon us.

The year, 2020, leading up to our 200th year has certainly been a memorable one, as our world fights a deadly pandemic. One hundred years ago, Missouri celebrated its centennial that came a few short years after another lethal virus, the 1918 Flu Pandemic, infected about 500 million people. The world was also recovering from a war that took the lives of 40 million soldiers and civilians.

Resiliency is a word that quickly comes to mind as we look back in history while trying to chart a course for tomorrow. And, we find this inner strength by looking no further than the place we call home.

In his book, Following the Equator, published in 1897, one of Missouri's most famous sons, the inestimable Mark Twain, wrote: "All that goes to make the me in me began in a Missouri village ..." I feel the same way.

Missouri is a place that I have always

called home, as have four generations of my family who preceded me here. It is a place that has alternately confounded and comforted me, which has both excited and exasperated me. Most of all, it is a place that has endlessly intrigued me.

One of the things that intrigues me most about Missouri is its diversity. To understand this point, one need look no farther than the multiple landscapes our state offers: the delta of southeast Missouri, the Ozarks hills of the southwest, the prairie lands of the state's western border, and the rich farmland of the rolling hills north of the Missouri River. These regions are as different as the people who occupy them, as different as the people they have produced. St. Louis and Kansas City may both be major Midwestern urban centers, but they are as different as night and day. We, Missourians, embody and exemplify the complexity and diversity of this great nation; our diversity is an attribute meant to be celebrated.

There is much to celebrate and to commemorate in calling to mind our rich collective history over the span of two centuries. The bicentennial offers an opportunity for exploring and promoting the rich history and multiple cultures of Missouri's local communities, counties and regions, while simultaneously preparing a dynamic economic, social, and cultural future for the people of this state. It is our intent that the bicentennial commemoration become a path to a "usable past," one which guides our citizens' decision-making in the present and into the future.

There is a basic question that we hope Missourians will address over the course of the upcoming bicentennial year: what does it mean to be a Missourian, AND, how has that meaning changed over time?

The simple answer to that question, of course, is, "It depends!" It depends on where you lived, and when, and how you made your living. It depends on whether you were male or female, and what your race, ethnicity, religion and level of education was. It depends on whether you lived on a farm, in a mining camp or a village, or in a city.

That is why our state's bicentennial commemoration is a truly statewide, grassroots series of events that involve Missourians from all 114 counties and the independent City of St. Louis. We must somehow capture all of these different "Missourees" and "Missourahs" as we move to celebrate. So far, more than 100 local, regional, and statewide projects are underway to commemorate our 200th birthday. We continue to encourage and invite individuals, communities, and organizations to take part in this oncein-a-lifetime opportunity. Please visit our website Missouri2021.org to learn about the variety of activities, up-todate calendar of events, and how you can be involved.

Missouri is our home, a place that has shaped who we are, a place that has, in return, given us the means to shape its future, and our own. The year 2021 will be an important time to be a Missourian and if we see an end to the COVID-19 Flu pandemic, which we hope with the distribution of vaccines, it will give Missourians a chance to come together in celebration.

Gary R. Kremer is the Executive Director of the State Historical Society of Missouri, which is in charge of coordinating Missouri's bicentennial in 2021. Visit Missouri2021.org to learn more about the projects and events to commemorate Missouri's 200th anniversary of statehood.

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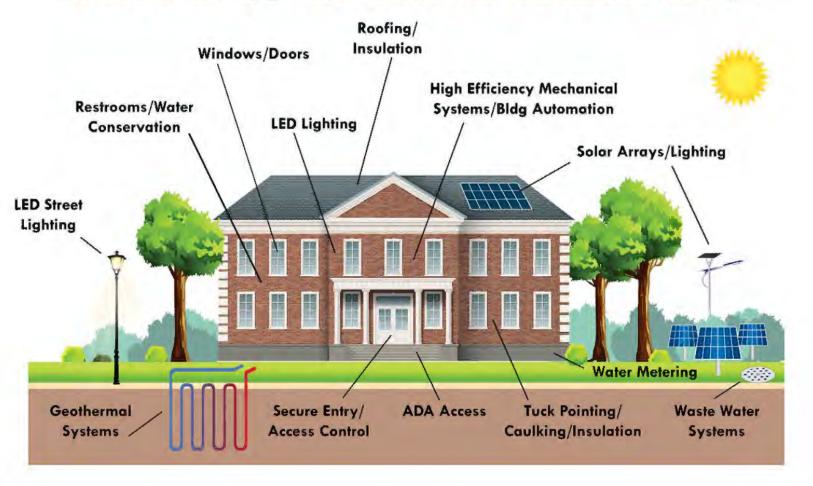
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