

September 18, 2009

MISSOURI COMMUNITY NEWS

DED Issues Final Request for Disaster Supplemental CDBG Housing Funds



The Missouri Department of Economic Development has issued a final Request for Proposals (RFP) for Disaster Supplemental CDBG funding, exclusively for Affordable Rental Housing projects in disaster

declared areas. Eligible applicants are units of local government (cities and counties) located in an area receiving a Presidential disaster declaration in 2008. Proposals for this supplemental funding must be postmarked no later than November 6. [Read more...](#)

Northwest Dedicates New Business Incubator

The Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship at Northwest Missouri State University was dedicated last week, with Gov. Jay Nixon, elected and university officials, business leaders and others present, as well as students and three tenant companies looking on. The new business incubator provides \$3 million in state-of-the-art equipment from which students can gain experience. Northwest has the only non-engineering-based nanoscience degree in the state. [Read more...](#)



Christian County, Utilities to Receive FEMA Funding



Christian County will receive \$1.2 million and two southeast Missouri electric utilities will receive a total of \$27.3 million in funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The funds will be used for storm repair work from damages caused by flooding on the Finley River in spring 2009. [Read more...](#)

Care to Learn Program Expands to OTC

Jim Morris and Springfield businessman Doug Pitt, both of the Jolie-Pitt Foundation, are expanding the Care to Learn program to Ozarks Technical Community College (OTC) in hopes of reaching the college population. OTC officials are hoping the program will allow students to attend college who couldn't otherwise afford the cost. [Read more...](#)



Cape Girardeau, Lake St. Louis Named in Top Places to Retire



Where will your retirement home be located? If you want the most bang for your buck with all the perks and amenities, check out *Money* magazine's Top 25 Best Places to Retire. Cape Girardeau and Lake St. Louis have been ranked in the top 25. [Read more...](#)

Missouri Metros Rank in Best U.S. Cities to Earn a Living

When taking into account the cost of living, strength of industry,

UPCOMING EVENTS

Missouri Partnership Events: Sept. - Nov. 2009
[Schedule of Missouri Partnership Marketing Events](#)

September 17 - October 13, 2009
["Outstanding Women of Missouri" Traveling Exhibit](#)
 1030 Main St.
 Lexington, Mo.

September 22 - 23, 2009
[Canada's Oil Sands Trade Show and Conference](#)

October 4 - 7, 2009
[IEDC Annual Conference: Renewable Communities - Leveraging Your Competitive Resources](#)

October 4 - 7, 2009
[AFCOM Data Center World® Conference](#)

October 6 - 9, 2009
[BioJapan 2009 World Business Forum](#)

October 8 - 9, 2009
[Missouri Economic Development Financing Association \(MEDFA\) Annual Conference](#)

economists' predictions for the future state of employment and, of course, salary, St. Louis and Kansas City ranked among some of the best U.S. cities in which to take home a paycheck. In *Forbes* magazine's recently released list of "Best U.S. Cities to Earn a Living," St. Louis ranked No. 6 and Kansas City ranked No. 9 in the top ten. [Read more...](#)



FOCUS ON MISSOURI

Gov. Nixon Releases Automotive Jobs Task Force Report during Visit to Ford Claycomo Plant



Gov. Jay Nixon visited the Ford Motor Company Assembly Plant in Claycomo last week to release the report of the Missouri Automotive Jobs Task Force. The task force was established to bring together leaders from across Missouri's broad automotive industry to outline policy initiatives that would spark new and continued investment in this vital

business sector. [Read more...](#)

Missouri Maintains 'AAA' Bond Rating from Fitch

Fitch Ratings recently graded \$600 million in Missouri's general obligation bonds with the top grade of AAA with a stable outlook. The agency noted the state's conservative approach to assuming new debts and repaying existing debts, as well as its record of balanced financial management.

[Read more...](#)



Missouri Celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month: September 15th to October 15th



In 1988, Congress expanded what was once a week-long observance to a month-long (September 15 to October 15) celebration of traditions and cultures that trace back to Spain, Mexico and Spanish-speaking South American countries. Approximately 189,700 Hispanics call Missouri home and will be celebrating their Hispanic descent. [Read more...](#)

Foreclosures Fall 33 Percent in Missouri

Missouri's home foreclosure activity decreased 33.5 percent in August compared with last year's numbers, according to RealtyTrac, Inc. The nation's foreclosure numbers rose 18 percent during this same time. [Read more...](#)



October 12 - 14, 2009

[CoreNet Global Fall Summit](#)

October 13 - 17, 2009

[Greater KC Chamber of Commerce Partnership Mission to Vancouver](#)

October 18 - 19, 2009

[46th Annual MCB Conference](#)

Capitol Plaza, Jefferson City

October 21 - 24, 2009

[Taiwan International Green Industry Show \(TiGiS\) 2009](#)

October 22 - 23, 2009

[AIM's 2009 Missouri Tax Conference](#)

October 28 - 30, 2009

[MEDC Fall Conference Columbia](#)

November 3 - 4, 2009

[China Overseas Investment Fair \(COIF\) 2009](#)

[Trade Show Commitment Form](#)

November 4 - 6, 2009

[2009 Statewide Historic Preservation Conference: Protecting the Irreplaceable](#)

November 4 - 6, 2009

[North America Works + National Forum on Trade Policy 2009 Conference](#)

PAST ISSUES

[Missouri Focus September 11, 2009](#)

[Missouri Focus September 4, 2009](#)

[Missouri Focus August 28, 2009](#)



DED Grants Enhanced Enterprise Zone Designation to Belton
The Missouri Department of Economic Development (DED) has announced approval of Enhanced Enterprise Zone (EEZ) designation for the city of



St. Louis Career Centers New "Job Angels"
Members of the St. Louis-area workforce system have begun a partnership to connect local job seekers in the IT field with a new social media resource for finding



DED Awards \$156,716 in EEZ Tax Credits to Deerfield Business for Creation of 40 New Jobs, New Investment
A Deerfield business has been approved for \$156,716 in state tax credits under the Enhanced

Belton. This designation will allow city officials to continue to move forward with economic development efforts. [Read more...](#)

Fulton Awarded \$199,000 Public Needs CDBG for Demolition of Structures

An abandoned power plant in Fulton, which has been deemed a high-risk hazard to community children, will be demolished and all hazardous substances removed as city officials utilize a \$199,000 public needs grant under the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program from the Missouri Department of Economic Development (DED). [Read more...](#)

Adair County Awarded \$191,100 Public Needs CDBG for Bridge Replacement Project

Adair County has been approved for a \$191,100 public needs grant under the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program that will be utilized for a small bridge replacement project, according to the Missouri Department of Economic Development (DED). [Read more...](#)

DED Grants Enhanced Enterprise Zone Designation to Sullivan County

The Missouri Department of Economic Development (DED) has announced approval of Enhanced Enterprise Zone (EEZ) designation for Sullivan County that will allow county officials to continue to move forward with economic development efforts. [Read more...](#)

Monroe County Awarded \$123,110 Public Needs

employment. Frank Alaniz, Career Center Supervisor with the St. Louis County Career Centers is working with [BounceBack St. Louis](#) to join [JobAngels](#), an organization that uses Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn social networking Web sites to bring people together and help them find gainful employment. Once the system is activated, Frank will feed IT job openings found in [MissouriCareerSource.com](#) into the site, opening up members to thousands of new contacts. Alaniz said, "As we look at ways to become more innovative in the way we integrate social networking into career assistance services, this seemed an ideal way to attract more individuals within the IT industry."

Report: Bachelor's Degree Not Key to All Hot Jobs

USAToday chronicled a new report, "A Matter of Degrees: Tomorrow's Fastest Growing Jobs and Why Community College Graduates Will Get Them," that showed the four sectors that will produce the "hottest jobs" between now and 2016. Those industries are health care, education, information technology and clean energy. The report also supported the findings of other studies that many of these fast-growing, higher-paying careers can be accessed with possession of an associate's degree and/or vocational training. While the health care industry will produce the most jobs over the period - some 3 million - the highest-paying careers will be in information technology. Learn more

Enterprise Zone (EEZ) program to assist in the creation of new jobs and investment, the Missouri Department of Economic Development (DED) has announced. [Read more...](#)

Ameren Teams up with Fred Weber for "Methane to Megawatts"

AmerenUE and Fred Weber Inc. are partnering on a multi-million-dollar project to install electricity-generating turbines that burn methane gas from Fred Weber's landfill in Maryland Heights. The "Methane to Megawatts" project is expected to be operational in 2011 and will be the largest landfill gas-electric facility in Missouri and one of the largest in the nation. [Read more...](#)

SBA Launches New Online Training Course: "How to Win Federal Contracts"

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) has announced a new online training course that is perfect for small businesses interested in competing for federal contracts. "Recovery Act Opportunities: How to Win Federal Contracts," is part of a federal government-wide initiative announced last month by President Obama and being led by SBA and the Department of Commerce. [Read more...](#)

Grant Funding Results in Education Assistance for Small Business Disaster Victims

The Missouri State University (MSU) Small Business & Technology Development Center (SBTDC) has received a supplemental grant from the U.S. Small Business Administration, to assist

[Missouri Focus](#)
[August 21, 2009](#)

[DED PRESS RELEASES](#)

[QUICK LINKS](#)

[Dept. of Economic Development \(DED\)](#)

[State of Missouri](#)

[Missouri Business Portal](#)

[Missouri Women's Council](#)

[Missouri Women Owned Business Network](#)

[Missouri LocationOne](#)

[MissouriCareerSource.com](#)

[MOSourceLink](#)

[Missouri Workforce Investment Board](#)

[MERIC](#)

[Division of Tourism](#)

[Missouri Development Finance Board](#)

[Missouri Community Betterment](#)

[Missouri Community Service Commission \(MCSC\)](#)

[Missouri Partnership](#)

[Missouri Main Street Connection](#)

[Missouri Arts Council](#)

[Economic Development at Mizzou](#)

[University of Missouri Extension](#)

[Missouri Procurement and](#)

CDBG for ADA Improvements

Restrooms and the main entry of the Monroe County Courthouse will be modified to become Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant, thanks to a \$123,110 public needs grant under the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program awarded recently by the Missouri Department of Economic Development (DED). [Read more...](#)

from MERIC's report on [Missouri's Hot Jobs](#), [Read more...](#)

area businesses that were impacted by a natural disaster in 2008. The MSU SBTDC grant award of \$16,445 will be distributed on a first-come, first-served basis, in the form of the center's Small Business Certification program of training seminars and/or fisCal® financial analysis packages. [Read more...](#)

World Wide Technology Acquires Server Centric

World Wide Technology Inc. has purchased St. Louis-based Server Centric Consulting, an information technology services company with about \$3 million in revenue last year. Server Centric will take on the World Wide Technology name. [Read more...](#)

GLOBAL NEWS

North America Works + National Forum on Trade Policy 2009 Conference

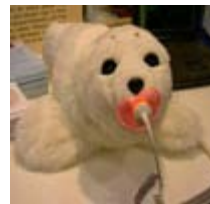


The North America Works + National Forum on Trade Policy 2009 Conference, "Enhancing North America's Competitiveness in a Changing World," will be held

November 4–6, 2009, at the Kauffman Foundation Conference Center in Kansas City. The conference brings together experts on trade and transportation from the U.S., Canada, and Mexico to explore pressing issues facing North America. [Read more...](#)

Japan Robot Night - October 15

The Japan America Society of St. Louis, in cooperation with the Center for International Studies, University of Missouri-St. Louis (UMSL), the St. Louis Regional Chamber & Growth Association (RCGA) and JETRO Chicago, are presenting Japan Robot Night, October 15, at UMSL. Japan Robot Night will feature a lecture by Dr. Takanori Shibata, the inventor of PARO and Senior Research Scientist at the National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science & Technology (AIST), entitled "PARO the Seal Robot: Improving and Enriching Human Lives through Robot Technology." This program also includes a presentation on service robotics trends in Japan by Yasushi Sumitani, Director of Technology, JETRO Chicago. For the first time in the state of Missouri, the PARO robot will be on display and additional information on Japanese service robots will be available.



[Read more...](#)

Stratus Building Solutions Expands to Europe

Stratus Building Solutions, the St. Louis-based franchisor of branded building service and maintenance operations in the U.S. and Canada, has established a footprint for growth in Europe by awarding a new Master Franchise in Kaunas, Lithuania, that nation's second-largest city. Founded in 2004, the company currently has U.S. operations in

[Technical Assistance Centers \(MO PTAC\)](#)

[Missouri Business Development Program](#)

[Missouri Small Business & Technology Development Centers \(SBTDC\) {SBTDC training seminars at MSU}](#)

[Missouri Economic Development Council \(MEDC\)](#)

[International Economic Development Council \(IEDC\)](#)

[Associated Industries of Missouri \(AIM\)](#)

[Missouri Enterprise Business Assistance Center](#)

[Missouri General Assembly](#)

[Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry](#)

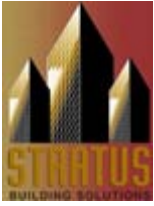


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**Questions or Comments?
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21 states and established Stratus Building Solutions of Canada in May 2009 to serve all 10 provinces in that nation. [Read more...](#)

Zoltek Enters Agreement with Dutch Company

Zoltek Cos. Inc. has entered into a technology and marketing partnership with Global Blade Technology of Utrecht, the Netherlands. The companies are teaming up to accelerate the design and manufacture of advanced wind turbine blades using Zoltek carbon fibers. [Read more...](#)



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