

Developments

Editor Sandi Terford



■ TIMEWELL EXPANDS TO GOLDEN

C&L Tile/Timewell indicated plans to expand their business with the purchase of the former Methode Electronics facility in Golden. Brad Henry, Timewell vice president explained that Timewell will likely relocate the transportation division to the new Golden location. This could add as many as 25 jobs in the truck shop, fitting fabrication and storage departments.

“The 90,000 square foot facility is located just 10 miles from Timewell and is right down the street from our current rail spur location. Our plans for the building are currently not finalized, but will certainly include relocating some equipment and storage,” Henry said.

C&L Tile in Timewell manufactures plastic pipe for agriculture use, storm sewers and water retention. Henry said the business continues to thrive, “We actually applied for a rural economic development grant and

loan through USDA to build onto the site at Timewell. We got approved for that and plan to build in the next six months. We are growing like crazy. We are running out of space.”

GREDF facilitated the purchase and president Jim Mentesti says it's a positive sign of cooperation. “This opportunity was made possible thanks to business leaders in two different counties, working together to re-open a facility in Adams County and the Village of Golden,” he said. Mentesti noted the Village's commitment, several years ago, to provide fire suppression to the site which enhanced the sale.



■ CAPE AIR NOW PROVIDING QUINCY SERVICE

Travelers now have the option of affordable air service from Quincy to St. Louis. Cape Air began providing flights from Quincy's Regional Airport to Lambert Field on November 8th. Under the two-year Essential Air Service contract, Cape Air agreed to provide 36 trips per week to St. Louis. This will include both weekday and weekend flights.



The air carrier also secured a code share agreement with American Airlines which will ensure seamless connections by spring 2010.

The agreement is the result of U.S. Senator Dick Durbin (D-Ill.) and Congressman Jerry Costello's (D-Ill.) efforts to secure reliable air service in three downstate locales. “Reliable air service is a critical part of economic development and helps to maintain the quality of life,” Durbin said.

GREDF president Jim Mentesti emphasized the value of this service and the importance of local travelers utilizing it. “This is an opportunity, and we need to work together to consistently patronize it,” Mentesti said. “I often hear requests, from the business sector and those requiring personal travel, for this type of quality connection.”

■ EMERGENCY SHELTER SUSTAINED BY COMMUNITY

Due to construction of the new Kroc Center, the Quincy Salvation Army Emergency Shelter is temporarily located on the North campus of Quincy University. Heidi Prather, Emergency Shelter director says the organization is “blessed to exist in a community that continues to extend support and compassion in an economy that many categorize as dim at best. Area churches, civic groups, schools, volunteers, corporations and multiple individuals have stepped up to ensure the ongoing success of our vital mission.”



The former Inman building has been purchased across the street from the new Kroc Center with plans for it to become the new Emergency Shelter and Family Services location when funding is secured and renovations are completed. Army board member Jim Mentesti points out, “The shelter accommodations and the community center are two separate functions of the Salvation Army. While we're excited to see the center move forward, the new shelter location will still need community support to be completed.”



Members of the Quincy Salvation Army Advisory Committee gathered around the newly unveiled rendition of the Kroc Center after its groundbreaking November 2nd. Construction of the 90,000 sq. ft. center is expected to be complete in spring 2011. The multi million-dollar facility will include a worship center, a community room, fitness center, aquatic center, café, outside play area, gym and much more. Construction and operating costs are being funded by a generous donation from Joan Kroc, widow of McDonalds founder Ray Kroc.

■ COMMUNITIES HONORED WITH HOMETOWN AWARDS



Four Adams County towns were honored in the 2009 Governor's Home Town Awards program. Governor Pat Quinn awarded 46 statewide winners in a ceremony October 29th at the Executive Mansion in Springfield. Local communities that were honored include:

CAMP POINT was given the highest prize in the competition, a finalist for the Governor's Cup Award for the Community of Christ Assistance Center. The center operates a food pantry and thrift store as well as assisting with rent, utility bills and other expenses. Nearly two dozen area churches and countless individuals support the volunteer-run center.

COATSBURG earned a first-place award in the Parks & Recreation category for new community playground equipment. The Coatsburg Lions Club took the lead in fundraising and installing the equipment.

FOWLER was named a winner in the Beautification category for their efforts to improve the overall appearance of their community including a town-wide clean-up and their creation of Beautification Awards.

QUINCY was awarded second-place for its massive volunteer sandbagging effort during the 2008 flooding of the Mississippi River. Approximately 1.3 million sandbags were filled by 8,000 volunteers during the community-wide effort.

As the year ends, GREDF would like to focus on some rural Adams County developments. As Jim Protexter, executive director of the Pierre Economic Development Corporation puts it, "With current technology, a lot of businesses can be located anywhere. Why wouldn't you choose blue skies, fresh air and all the recreation opportunities offered by a smaller community?"

■ RADC HELPS PROMOTE RURAL GROWTH

The Rural Adams Development Corporation (RADC) recently provided loans to several area businesses. These low-interest loans are pivotal to the creation or expansion of services in local communities. Loans were made to:



- 1) Huddleston's Garage in Liberty. This business has outgrown their facility and is installing a 1,920 sq. ft. addition for a paint booth and prep area.
- 2) Campbell's Forklift in Liberty needed additional space to accommodate their growing regional business. Their customer base has expanded to a 100-mile radius of Liberty, providing sales and service of man-lifts, forklifts and related material handling equipment.
- 3) North Adams Home in Mendon completed 12 new assisted/supportive living units thanks to a fundraising campaign coupled with an RADC loan. The new wing includes single suites with private baths, Wi-Fi service and small kitchenettes. The home plans to add couples suites in the future.
- 4) Bodyworks-N-Balloons opened in the former bowling alley in Camp Point. The business features a fitness center and sells balloons. They also rent tuxedos, issue hunting and fishing licenses and are a drop-off location for UPS.

The RADC is a partnership between seven rural financial institutions, Adams Electric, Adams Telephone, and GREDF. Since its inception in 1990, it has funded \$1.8 million. For more information on the types and terms of assistance available, visit www.gredf.org.

■ ANOTHER REASON "LIFE IS GOOD"

The Blessing Heart and Vascular Center donated Automated External Defibrillators (AED) to eight area organizations on September 29th. The lifesaving equipment was gifted to Payson Community Unit School District #1, Catholic Youth Organization, Quincy Family YMCA, Arrowhead Golf Course in Camp Point, Siloam Springs State Park-Wildwood Girl Scout Camp, Mississippi Valley Boy Scouts, Transition of Western Illinois and Quincy Notre Dame High School Athletic Dept. Over the summer 23 AEDs were donated to other area organizations, including one to Quincy Regional Airport which was used two weeks later on a heart attack victim.



■ VILLAGE VINEYARD & WINERY OPENS IN CAMP POINT

In November the area's newest winery opened in Camp Point. The Village Vineyard & Winery offers a tasting room, a banquet hall and a patio overlooking the vineyard. The winery offers 16 varietals to sample including Norton, Vignole, Traminette, Edelweiss and Frontenac. Several of the wines are named for local attractions. Open Friday-Sunday, the winery is located two blocks east of Bailey Park and 1/4 block south. Village Vineyard wines are also available at Pops Pizza in Quincy. For more information call 217.617.1159.

SEVEN NEW MEMBERS JOIN ADAMS/BROWN EXTENSION COUNCIL

Extension continually strives to identify people in the community who have leadership skills and a keen interest in helping local residents address practical problems to serve on the Extension Council.

According to County Extension Director, Carrie Edgar, "The Council provides a way for local people to reflect their views, opinions, and concerns regarding current issues and helps determine the direction for programming for the local Extension Unit."

This year, the organization found seven new people to join the Council who fit that description. Brian Bradley, Roger Busen, and Mike Cochran will represent Brown County and Lil Keller, Sharon Tenhouse, Nikki Whitaker and Lynsey Whitaker will represent Adams County. They join current members Robert Bisser (Vice Chair), Curt Boylen, Marcia Cray, Patricia Estes, Renee Higgins (Secretary), Ryan Jansen, John Johnson (Chair), Lucinda Kunz, Dan Stupavsky (Finance Reporter) and Crystal Young.

Extension would also like to acknowledge the contributions of retiring members Journey Hemberger, Peggy Perry, Marilyn Seckman, Steven Stoll and Catherine Tracy.



CITY OF QUINCY RECEIVES 2009 COMMUNITY PARTNER AWARD

The City of Quincy Planning & Development Department was awarded the 2009 Community Partner Award presented by the Illinois Association of Community Development Extension Professionals. Chuck Bevelheimer, Director of

Planning & Development accepted the award on behalf of the Department at the November 2nd city council meeting.

The department partnered with Extension for five years in an effort to further develop the City's comprehensive plan and coordinate the

development of bike trails, green space and community recreation areas. They also partnered with the Extension horticulture program to provide educational opportunities for residents, community garden space, and to beautify downtown Quincy, the Amtrak station and other public areas.

In 2008, the Great River Economic Development Foundation received this award for their partnership with Extension. County Extension Director Carrie Edgar is proud to have award winners from Adams County for two consecutive years. "The Adams/Brown Extension Unit is extremely fortunate to have partners who are committed to working together for our community," she said.

EXTENSION PROFESSIONALS ATTEND TRAINING



Jenny Sousa



Karla Metz

Jennifer Sousa and Karla Metz, with University of Illinois Extension – Adams/Brown Unit, recently completed year one of training with the Midwest Community Development Institute (CDI). The CDI provides top-notch instruction for development professionals, community leaders, public officials, or anyone who is actively engaged in building a vibrant and better community.

CDI training takes place in an intensive five-day session held annually in Moline, Illinois. Participants advance through three levels of training offered concurrently. The curriculum offers a core body of knowledge and skills in community and economic development. CDI provides one step toward certification as a Professional Community and Economic Developer.

2010 ADAMS COUNTY PLAT BOOKS AVAILABLE

The Adams/Brown 4-H Program is proud to announce that the 2010 edition of the Adams County Plat Book is now available. Copies can be purchased at the University of Illinois Extension Office at 330 S. 36th Street in Quincy. An additional charge will be added for online orders to cover postage. Proceeds benefit the Adams/Brown 4-H program. For more information, please contact Adams/Brown Extension at 217.223.8380 or cmorey@illinois.edu.



■ WESTERN ILLINOIS LEADERSHIP ACADEMY 2010

Are you interested in becoming more involved in your community? Would you like to learn how to incorporate leadership skills into your paid and/or volunteer positions to make your community even better? Western Illinois Leadership Academy (WILA) brings together highly motivated individuals who want to improve their leadership skills and knowledge of important community issues. The program structures a system for participants to learn from – and communicate with – current leaders from all sectors of the community.



Participants acquire a broad understanding of the complex issues and tasks facing them as leaders, sharpen their leadership skills, and build relationships necessary to resolve the challenges ahead. Due to the regional approach, an outcome is future leaders knowing their counterparts in areas outside of their own community and even their own county.

Beginning Friday, January 15th, the Academy will consist of eight tailored sessions addressing major issues important to western Illinois, particularly for the four counties which collaborate to present this annual training (Adams, Brown, Hancock and Pike).

The sessions will take place every other Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Sessions will be held at a different location each week within the collaborating counties and will feature local leaders from various fields as presenters. Participants will gain a regional understanding of Community & Economic Development, Entrepreneurship, Healthcare, Non-profits, Social Services, Education, Workforce, Infrastructure, Public Safety, Security, Agriculture, Tourism, Local Government, and Social Media.

The registration fee is \$199, which may be paid by the participant, a sponsoring employer or organization, or any combination arranged by the applicant. The fee covers program materials, lunches, and a graduation banquet.

WILA is a program of University of Illinois Extension, Adams/Brown, Pike, and Hancock County Units. Online registration is now available for WILA 2010! The link is available at www.extension.uiuc.edu/adams under Program Registrations. If you have trouble registering or would like more information, please contact Shelby Crow or Laura Hyde at 217.223.8380.

■ BUILDING COMMUNITIES WEBINAR SERIES

The University of Illinois Extension – Adams/Brown Unit is again hosting a Building Communities Webinar Series. The series began in November and will continue through June 2010. The sessions will be broadcast from 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. the third Tuesday of each month at the Extension office on 330 S. 36th in Quincy. The focus this year will be “Community Development in a Difficult Economy...Readying for the Rebound.”

There is no charge to attend but participants must register. Registration is available online at webs.extension.uiuc.edu/registration/?RegistrationID=3715.

January 19, 2010 “Broadband and E-Commerce: Putting the “E” in Community and Business” Historically communities developed along important waterways, then roads and highways. Why? This is where people accessed the markets. Where is the nearest on-ramp to the world-market now? It’s the Internet. Successful businesses in upcoming years will be those that tap into this huge potential. Successful communities will be those that bring in this essential infrastructure. Learn why broadband matters and how to foster a vibrant community network from Community Development Specialist Andy Lewis, University of Wisconsin-Extension Center for Community & Economic Development and Business & Community Development Educator Connie Hancock, University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension, Kimball-Banner-Cheyenne Counties.

February 16, 2010 “Retaining and Attracting People as an Economic Development Strategy” According to “Live First, Work Second” author Rebecca Ryan, 3 out of 4 Americans respond that a cool city is more important than a good job. But that doesn’t represent us, right? Michigan’s Cool Cities Survey found nearly 7 in 10 recent college graduates agreed as did almost 75% of young people in Iron County, Wisconsin (pop. 6,197) and Gogebic County Michigan (pop. 16,043). Learn why retaining and attracting young professionals may be one of the most important community building strategies you employ – and why being a “cool city” may be even more important in your community than Seattle or St. Paul. Session led by Community Development Educator Will Andresen, University of Wisconsin-Extension Iron County.

March 16, 2010 “Housing and Other Critical Sectors: Assessing and Building Our Economy” We’ve all read the terrible statistics about the housing crisis, plant closing and job losses, and the declining tax base. But what do we really know about our community and how it is performing? How have things truly changed over time and how do they compare to similar markets? Perhaps of even more importance, what lessons can we learn from these assessments and how can we use them to make our communities stronger? Learn about practical tools you can use to measure your community’s economic performance and how to use this information to help shape policies for growth from Community Development Specialist Matt Kures, University of Wisconsin-Extension Center for Community & Economic Development and Economics Associate Professor Russ Kashian, University of Wisconsin-Whitewater Fiscal and Economic Research Center.

Watch for additional classes in the spring.

■ The Adams/Brown Extension Office Provides Information Around the Clock



There were more than 15,000 hits on the Adams/Brown Extension website in October. Residents are registering for programs, following blogs, and accessing information on farming, gardening, nutrition, community development and more. Adams/Brown Extension is also on Facebook and Twitter. Find the organization on the web at www.extension.uiuc.edu/adams.

NEW PROGRAM MAINTAINS ORIGINAL IDEA

GREDF is pleased to partner with Quincy University's radio station WQUB in creating "Profiles in Excellence." The program will air the first Monday of each month at 6:00 p.m. on 90.3 FM. The show will feature local professionals who make a difference in their business and communities.



This new radio format revamps the cable TV program, "Corporate Profiles" hosted by the late John Tripp. Tripp was a Culver-Stockton alumnus as well as instructor with an extensive professional and personal reach. He died suddenly in May. Since that time, students, alumni and friends have donated generously to the Tripp Memorial Garden at C-SC. The garden was dedicated in October.

GREDF president Jim Mentesti adds, "From John's time as a GREDF board member and a friend to so many, continuation of his program - which existed for more than a decade - is another way for us to remember him."

LINCOLN-DOUGLAS INTERPRETIVE CENTER OPENS

In October the Lincoln-Douglas Interpretive Center opened at 128 S. 5th in Quincy. The center is just across the street from where the two men debated in October 1858 during their U.S. Senate bid. Visitors can view Lincoln-era exhibits, a mural by Gary Butler, as well as consult an aerial map which designates the current and future placement of 18 historic storyboards. The local Bicentennial Commission has formed a partnership with the Historic Quincy Business District, whose offices are located in the center and help provide staffing.



TWO ENTREPRENEURS REACH SEMI-FINALS

Two local entrepreneurs competed in the Innovate Illinois challenge in September at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Eric Renteria represented Green Line Armor and Mike Hutmacher represented Shoehorn Furniture. Both businesses advanced to the semi-finals before being eliminated.



Charles Bell, Entrepreneurship Center Director for GREDF, said "Green Line Armor and Shoehorn Furniture were in the top 30 out of 130 entrants."

Last year Mid-West GIS was a finalist in the competition. GREDF board member, Mike Troup, served as a judge for the competition. He pointed out that, "Competition like this is a continuation of the recently held Tri-State Development Summit which was themed entrepreneurship."

Innovate Illinois is a program sponsored by the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity through Entrepreneurship Centers including the local GREDF center. It is an opportunity for companies to present their business before potential venture capitalists that may be interested in their ideas, as well as compete for a cash prize.

2009 GREDF STAFF

CURRENT STAFF

- Jim Mentesti** *President*
- Nikki Albright** *Office Administrator*
- Maggie Strong** *Project Manager**
- Connie Hoyt** *Internal Support**
- Charles Bell** *Entrepreneurship Center**
- Pete Pohlman** *Energy Specialist**

NEW ADDITIONS

Megan Backs*
We are pleased to announce that after a successful year and a half internship, Megan Backs will move from student intern to part time employment with GREDF in January, 2010. Megan will graduate this month from Quincy University with a degree in Professional Communication. In addition to her work at GREDF, she will also coordinate the Midsummer Arts Faire.



Leslie Marchiando*
We are also proud to announce Leslie Marchiando has joined the GREDF staff. Leslie relocated to Quincy with her husband, Dr. Albert Marchiando, who recently joined Quincy Medical Group. The couple moved from Washington, MO where Dr. Marchiando had a private practice and Leslie worked at Downtown Washington, Inc. for over 10 years. Due to this experience, Leslie will also serve as GREDF's liaison to the Historic Quincy Business District.



*Part-time specialists

☼ ☼ ☼ ☼ Happy Holidays ☼ ☼ ☼ ☼

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from the Staff and Board of Directors of Great River Economic Development Foundation and University of Illinois Extension - Adams/Brown Unit.



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SMOOTH LEADERSHIP TRANSITION UNDERWAY

HAL OAKLEY will give his second and final presentation as chair of the board at the January 13th annual meeting. The meeting marks the beginning of a new year; a time to recharge and refocus. No doubt economic challenges dominated the news during 2009, and that trend will not change over night. However, we believe we have many reasons to be positive about the future of this community and region. In fact, Oakley will present “10 for 10” – the top ten categories from 2009 that help make 2010 so exciting.

Oakley explains, “Despite a difficult economic climate and ongoing challenges, the tri-state region has generally weathered the economic storm better than other regions. We credit our skilled and dedicated work force, entrepreneurial business leaders, quality infrastructure, and strong public-private partnerships with providing an environment in which businesses can survive and ultimately thrive again. As we move into 2010, we are encouraged by the strong foundation on which we all are building the economic recovery for our region.”



As we focus on the future, we look to our incoming chairperson, **CONNIE SCHROEDER**, President/CEO of Illini Community Hospital in Pittsfield. At the annual meeting, Schroeder will briefly discuss the future of GREDF and the implications of the newly developed long range plan.

“In 2010, GREDF will be working to assure its activities are focused to support the long range plan,” Schroeder said. “The long range plan has been put in place to assure GREDF pro-actively works to sustain and create business in the region by supporting activities to build the necessary resources that will be needed in the future.”

GREAT RIVER Economic Development Foundation

2010 Annual Meeting

10 FOR 10

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 13, 2010

Oakley-Lindsay Center

300 Civic Center Plaza

Cash Bar 5:00 p.m.

Program 5:45 to 6:30 p.m.

No charge to attend. No RSVP
required. Spouses, guests,
employees welcome.

