

KIRKSVILLE CITY COUNCIL **NEWSLETTER . . .**

Mari E. Macomber, City Manager
August 1, 2013

SUBJECTS:

DATES TO REMEMBER
OFFICERS RECOGNIZED
ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEW AIRPORT DIRECTOR
STREET PROGRAM UPDATE
AQUATIC CENTER CLASSES
MML ANNUAL CONFERENCE
KLI TRAIL HEAD PROJECT
ROTARY PARK UPDATE
AIRPORT CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS
AIRLINE COMMUTER NEWS
AIRFEST

DATES TO REMEMBER

August 4 – Family night in the Park - Rotary Park – Hamilton Street Baptist Church
August 5 – 9 – City Manager out of town. Chief Hughes Acting City Manager
August 5 – Study Session will be held at the EDA – 4:30 pm
August 5 – City Council Meeting at City Hall – 6 pm
August 6 – ATC – noon City Hall
August 25 – Worship in the Park - Rotary Park – Hamilton Street Baptist Church
August 31 – 1000 Hills Bass Club Tournament at Forest Lake

OFFICERS RECOGNIZED

Several Kirksville Police Officers received commendations for their part in response to an incident that occurred on July 29, 2013. These Officers responded to a report of a male with a shotgun. The male refused to exit his residence and resulted in a three hour tactical operation. The subject was taken into custody without serious injuries to anyone. The Officers commended include: Deputy Chief Tim King, Lt. Steve Farnsworth, Sergeant David Grissom, Corporal Mark Wellman, Detective Jeremy Cordray, Detective Steve Feeney, Officer Bill Puryear, Officer Matt Kellison, Officer Nathan Selby, Officer Rich Hardin, Officer Juan Chairez, Officer Steve Lowrey, Officer Tyler Van Reissen, Officer Cody Goodwin, and Officer Jason Underwood

ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEW AIRPORT DIRECTOR

The following is what was sent out to the media to announce the appointment of Glenn Balliew to the Airport Director position. (Kirksville, MO) – The City of Kirksville announces Glenn Balliew as the new Airport Director. Balliew holds a Professional Aeronautics – Major in Aviation with a Minor in Safety from Embry Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona Beach, Florida and has received specialized training at numerous aviation academies. Balliew served in the United States Army in various Aviation positions from 1984 through March 2006 and since has served as a Department of

Defense civilian with the US Army Reserve Command. Since 2006 Balliew has worked as a Deputy Assistant Commandant at the US Army Aviation Center of Excellence, Fort Rucker, Alabama in the fields of Air Traffic, Airspace and Unmanned Aircraft Systems. Balliew will report to work August 26, 2013.

STREET PROGRAM UPDATE

With the new school year fast approaching, we are working hard to get things ready for the school season. APAC, the asphalt contractor, plans to be here on August 8 to first begin work on Patterson Street. Patterson Street is currently torn up from Cottage Grove to Franklin Street. This roadway needs to be finished by the start of the Kirksville R-III School year and the start of Truman's activities. Ed is working to coordinate all work and get this accomplished.

AQUATIC CENTER SUMMER SALES EVENT

The Kirksville Aquatic Center will be holding a ONE DAY ONLY So Long Summer Sales Promotion on August 14th from 6 am to 6 pm. They will be selling gift certificates worth \$20 for only \$15! Gift Certificates can be redeemed for Group Swim Lessons, General Admission, Pool Passes, and Merchandise sold at the Aquatic Center. Gift Certificates cannot be redeemed for cash and are limited to 5 per person.

AQUATIC CENTER CLASSES

The Aquatic Center has been expanding their Red Cross Training program. In the second quarter they held 41 classes, and brought in \$10,500 in revenue for the facility. The Greater Kansas City Chapter of the American Red Cross gave the Aquatic Center 10 adult manikins, and 8 infants. This has allowed for larger enrollments and shorter classes. Robin Harden and John Venner from the Aquatic Center were asked to be guest lecturers at the Summer Talent Academy for Professions in Health (STAPH) Camp at Truman State University. STAPH is a high school summer academy for talented students interested in careers in medicine and allied health professions. Robin and John spoke about first aid in the wilderness setting. They partnered with Randy Behrens of the Fire Department and Scott Meredith from the Boy Scouted of America. Randy spoke about disaster preparedness and Scott spoke about wilderness survival. 32 students attended the training.

CIVIL WAR STONE SETTINGS

On Sunday August 11 at 2 pm, the City Council and public is invited to a dedication ceremony to honor 13 Civil War Veteran's who were laid to rest in Forest-Llewellyn Cemetery, through the dedication of newly set Civil War stones. The City of Kirksville researched military information and submitted application to the United States Department of Veteran Affairs for the replacement of 11 Civil War stones that were no longer legible and stones for two unmarked Civil War Veteran graves. Through support from the John McNeil Camp #62, Missouri Department, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, volunteers recently completed the setting of those stones. This group will return to Kirksville to host this Dedication Ceremony. A cannon will be shot by the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War as part of this Dedication Ceremony. Following is the list of Civil War Veterans and the location of their graves whose stones will be dedicated

within Forest-Llewellyn Cemetery and whose service will be recognized: *Colonel Thomas Jefferson Ahl, Private John Baggs, Sergeant Albert Barnett, Major Isham B. Dodson, Private Wesley Gideon, Corporal John M. Leech, Private Andrew D. Madden, Private James P. Pierson, Sergeant Christopher G. Prather, Private Jacob Sholley, Sitha Jane Sholley (Army Nurse), Private George Wall Smith, and Private John A. Smith*

MML ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The annual Missouri Municipal League Conference is September 15 -18 in Branson. Hotel rooms go quickly, so if you plan to attend, please let Vickie know as soon as possible if you wish to attend this Conference. The program was emailed earlier to the Council, and can be seen at www.mocities.com.

KLI TRAIL HEAD PROJECT

City staff is currently working with the Kirksville Leadership Institute participants to identify a potential location for a proposed trail head for the FLATS trail that is proposed within the city limits of Kirksville. The trail will be coming from the lake along Missouri Street. We are trying to identify a suitable site.

ROTARY PARK UPDATE

The Rotary Committee met in July. One of the items of discussion was the sign and its location. At present the Committee is working with the veterans groups to make sure that the location and design of the sign is agreeable. Included with this Newsletter is a picture of the sign. In addition to the Rotary Park sign, the organization was able to place the sign recognizing the Ray Klingensmith Amphitheater. A picture of this is also included.

AIRPORT CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

The roadway has been resurfaced and striped. The new parking lot is in place and resurfacing and striping is being finished on the existing parking lot. There are now approximately 95 regular and 4 handicapped parking spaces available at the airport terminal. Additional dirt work needs to be completed.

AIRLINE COMMUTER NEWS

Passenger numbers for June are below. The numbers are up from one year ago with 5% more passengers traveling to and from Kirksville than one year ago last July.

Month	Scheduled Flights	Actual Flights	Deplaned Passengers	Enplaned Passengers	Number of Passengers per Day	Passengers Per Flight
July-12	180	174	418	453	28.10	5.01
July-13	186	183*	440	476	29.55	5.01

*Cape Air Flights were cancelled due to contractor cutting electric lines at airport.

AIRFEST

The Kirksville Airport Association, City of Kirksville and others are working to organize an airfest for this year. The event is Sunday, September 8, from Noon to 5:00 p.m.

Static displays will be available for the Macon Flywheel Club old-time engines and the AC-47 Gunship. There will be helicopters along with a helicopter simulator. There will be tandem sky diving and airplane rides. There will also be a bounce house for the kids and possibly a jaws-of-life demonstration. The KAA is still confirming a B-52 flyover and tethered hot air balloon rides. Area boy scouts will be working toward their aviation merit badge and Miss Northeast Counties Mikaela Carson will be in attendance to greet visitors.

Attachments

- Sales Tax Reports
- Building Permits
- Citizen Participation Guidelines
- Wellness Challenge
- Trail Head Design
- Rotary Park Sign
- Ray Klinginsmith Amphitheater
- Project Homeless Connect
- Letter of Support for Human Rights Ordinance – Troy Paino

One-Cent General Sales Tax												
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2013 YTD Growth-Loss					
							Comparison to					
BUDGET	2,578,240	2,584,485	2,466,000	2,476,280	2,523,820	2,588,620	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	
January	241,502.73	266,740.40	259,347.52	177,293.93	231,297.39	268,619.22	16.14%	51.51%	3.58%	0.70%	11.23%	
February	219,903.17	195,734.29	200,778.78	259,901.05	229,342.20	206,324.87	-10.04%	-20.61%	2.76%	5.41%	-6.17%	
March	132,002.16	147,892.81	156,669.64	160,805.35	147,321.44	135,401.12	-8.09%	-15.80%	-13.58%	-8.45%	2.57%	
April	253,028.44	246,130.84	232,500.31	258,496.85	288,635.98	288,365.52	-0.09%	11.55%	24.03%	17.16%	13.97%	
May	220,972.61	216,847.11	233,120.21	239,462.58	216,676.28	243,679.88	12.46%	1.76%	4.53%	12.37%	10.28%	
June	148,541.83	142,964.71	143,943.57	149,702.34	141,482.89		-100.00%	-100.00%	-100.00%	-100.00%	-100.00%	
July	279,431.55	279,236.50	265,660.28	259,437.07	285,063.79		-100.00%	-100.00%	-100.00%	-100.00%	-100.00%	
August	222,179.31	203,838.29	208,953.81	218,429.47	203,154.15		-100.00%	-100.00%	-100.00%	-100.00%	-100.00%	
September	140,078.56	146,129.55	131,838.50	174,444.14	162,346.70		-100.00%	-100.00%	-100.00%	-100.00%	-100.00%	
October	235,788.79	237,555.14	252,020.17	270,826.30	264,153.60		-100.00%	-100.00%	-100.00%	-100.00%	-100.00%	
November	209,464.69	222,488.00	207,549.97	223,163.42	209,821.80		-100.00%	-100.00%	-100.00%	-100.00%	-100.00%	
December	204,920.17	153,163.14	199,574.20	159,898.86	177,081.78		-100.00%	-100.00%	-100.00%	-100.00%	-100.00%	
TOTAL	2,507,814.01	2,458,720.78	2,491,956.96	2,551,861.36	2,556,378.00	1,142,390.61	2.62%	4.24%	5.54%	6.43%	7.02%	
VARIANCE from BUDGET Growth/(Loss)	(70,425.99)	(125,764.22)	25,956.96	75,581.36	32,558.00	(1,446,229.39)						

SALES TAX COLLECTIONS												
1/2-Cent Economic Development Sales Tax												
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2012 YTD Growth-Loss					
							Comparison to					
BUDGET	1,212,420	1,214,550	1,208,610	1,238,140	1,261,910	1,279,163	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	
January	113,937.61	122,232.45	120,629.29	85,289.72	106,319.67	123,086.03	2.04%	44.32%	2.04%	0.70%	8.03%	
February	100,131.60	90,946.94	94,738.04	119,191.04	108,595.67	96,917.30	2.30%	-18.69%	2.30%	6.56%	-3.21%	
March	64,680.35	70,542.11	75,660.91	75,145.16	73,294.33	66,517.25	-12.09%	-11.48%	-12.09%	-5.71%	2.84%	
April	120,202.33	119,106.87	111,043.36	123,657.91	137,601.31	134,781.29	21.38%	9.00%	21.38%	13.16%	12.13%	
May	105,049.44	103,701.31	113,459.81	115,552.14	104,128.45	116,088.24	2.32%	0.46%	2.32%	11.94%	10.51%	
June	73,007.59	70,605.96	71,562.71	74,772.94	69,846.97		-100.00%	-100.00%	-100.00%	-100.00%	-100.00%	
July	134,460.71	134,027.00	125,457.62	121,737.17	134,281.22		-100.00%	-100.00%	-100.00%	-100.00%	-100.00%	
August	107,711.01	96,360.14	100,267.58	104,086.50	97,048.04		-100.00%	-100.00%	-100.00%	-100.00%	-100.00%	
September	68,385.21	71,667.19	64,600.41	85,700.82	79,800.20		-100.00%	-100.00%	-100.00%	-100.00%	-100.00%	
October	113,078.49	113,685.10	122,354.30	129,064.24	125,444.41		-100.00%	-100.00%	-100.00%	-100.00%	-100.00%	
November	100,602.46	107,619.38	100,293.80	106,591.45	100,920.32		-100.00%	-100.00%	-100.00%	-100.00%	-100.00%	
December	97,351.19	74,051.55	94,262.91	77,056.78	87,889.14		-100.00%	-100.00%	-100.00%	-100.00%	-100.00%	
TOTAL	1,198,597.99	1,174,546.00	1,194,330.74	1,217,845.87	1,225,169.73	537,390.11	1.41%	3.58%	4.24%	6.09%	6.62%	
VARIANCE from BUDGET Growth/(Loss)	(13,822.01)	(40,004.00)	(14,279.26)	(20,294.13)	(36,740.27)	(741,772.89)						

SALES TAX COLLECTIONS												
1/4-Cent Capital Improvement Sales Tax												
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2013 YTD Growth-Loss					
							Comparison to					
BUDGET	638,115	639,660	636,140	619,070	630,955	621,790	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	
January	56,977.54	61,226.84	60,321.62	42,654.08	53,168.78	61,555.22	15.77%	44.31%	2.05%	0.54%	8.03%	
February	50,068.09	45,520.89	47,373.58	59,595.62	54,297.80	48,458.31	-10.75%	-18.69%	2.29%	6.45%	-3.22%	
March	32,296.20	35,294.84	37,830.34	37,572.42	36,646.97	33,258.85	-9.25%	-11.48%	-12.08%	-5.77%	2.98%	
April	60,175.98	59,580.80	55,521.89	61,828.87	68,800.89	67,390.34	-2.05%	8.99%	21.38%	13.11%	11.99%	
May	52,524.95	51,886.50	56,725.39	57,776.21	52,064.46	58,047.79	11.49%	0.47%	2.33%	11.87%	10.51%	
June	36,504.33	35,332.27	35,781.46	37,386.59	34,923.47		-100.00%	-100.00%	-100.00%	-100.00%	-100.00%	
July	67,230.26	67,042.64	62,729.01	60,868.81	67,140.45		-100.00%	-100.00%	-100.00%	-100.00%	-100.00%	
August	53,855.58	48,207.69	50,134.10	52,043.23	48,524.12		-100.00%	-100.00%	-100.00%	-100.00%	-100.00%	
September	34,194.01	35,843.40	32,300.12	42,850.45	39,900.26		-100.00%	-100.00%	-100.00%	-100.00%	-100.00%	
October	56,539.23	56,842.83	61,177.23	64,532.14	62,722.37		-100.00%	-100.00%	-100.00%	-100.00%	-100.00%	
November	50,301.03	53,809.77	50,146.96	53,698.45	50,460.08		-100.00%	-100.00%	-100.00%	-100.00%	-100.00%	
December	48,675.38	37,025.73	47,131.61	38,528.47	43,944.70		-100.00%	-100.00%	-100.00%	-100.00%	-100.00%	
TOTAL	599,342.58	587,614.20	597,173.31	609,335.34	612,594.35	268,710.51	1.41%	3.58%	4.24%	6.00%	6.61%	
VARIANCE from BUDGET Growth/(Loss)	(38,772.42)	(52,045.80)	(38,966.69)	(9,734.66)	(18,360.65)	(353,079.49)						

SALES TAX COLLECTIONS											
1/2-Cent Transportation Sales Tax											
	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2013 YTD Growth-Loss				
							Comparison to				
BUDGET	1,276,230	1,279,320	1,272,280	1,238,140	1,261,910	1,239,620	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008
January	113,955.17	122,453.83	120,637.22	85,308.17	106,337.62	123,110.89	15.77%	44.31%	2.05%	0.54%	8.03%
February	100,135.90	91,041.61	94,746.83	119,191.19	108,595.52	96,917.27	-10.75%	-18.69%	2.29%	6.45%	-3.21%
March	64,592.11	70,589.85	75,661.05	75,145.01	73,294.29	66,517.15	-9.25%	-11.48%	-12.09%	-5.77%	2.98%
April	120,351.14	119,161.44	111,043.15	123,657.82	137,601.32	134,781.30	-2.05%	9.00%	21.38%	13.11%	11.99%
May	105,049.27	103,773.48	113,451.22	115,552.90	104,128.69	116,095.57	11.49%	0.47%	2.33%	11.87%	10.52%
June	73,008.24	70,664.70	71,562.61	74,773.02	69,846.79		-100.00%	-100.00%	-100.00%	-100.00%	-100.00%
July	134,460.59	134,084.90	125,457.80	121,737.11	134,281.29		-100.00%	-100.00%	-100.00%	-100.00%	-100.00%
August	107,711.16	96,415.03	100,268.06	104,086.49	97,047.92		-100.00%	-100.00%	-100.00%	-100.00%	-100.00%
September	68,387.66	71,686.79	64,600.41	85,700.82	79,800.32		-100.00%	-100.00%	-100.00%	-100.00%	-100.00%
October	113,078.38	113,685.64	122,354.25	129,064.29	125,445.04		-100.00%	-100.00%	-100.00%	-100.00%	-100.00%
November	100,602.42	107,619.35	100,293.67	107,396.30	100,920.34		-100.00%	-100.00%	-100.00%	-100.00%	-100.00%
December	97,351.22	74,051.52	94,262.96	77,056.53	87,889.24		-100.00%	-100.00%	-100.00%	-100.00%	-100.00%
TOTAL	1,198,683.26	1,175,228.14	1,194,339.23	1,218,669.65	1,225,188.38	537,422.18	1.41%	3.58%	4.24%	6.00%	6.61%
VARIANCE from BUDGET											
Growth/(Loss)	(77,546.74)	(104,091.86)	(77,940.77)	(19,470.35)	(36,721.62)	(702,197.82)					

SALES TAX COLLECTIONS					
Local Use Tax					
	1%-City	.5% Eco Dev	.25% CIST	.5% TST	2013
BUDGET	0	0	0	0	0
January	7,300.82	3,649.59	1,824.79	3,649.59	16,424.79
February	9,857.40	4,927.59	2,463.79	4,927.59	22,176.37
March	17,318.44	8,657.27	4,328.64	8,657.27	38,961.62
April	17,666.43	8,831.22	4,415.61	8,831.22	39,744.48
May	20,096.96	10,046.22	5,023.11	10,046.22	45,212.51
June					0.00
July					0.00
August					0.00
September					0.00
October					0.00
November					0.00
December					0.00
TOTAL	72,240.05	36,111.89	18,055.94	36,111.89	162,519.77
VARIANCE from BUDGET					
Growth/(Loss)	72,240.05	36,111.89	18,055.94	36,111.89	162,519.77

FY 2013	
Budget	90,000.00
Actual Collections:	
January	12,422.40
February	6,001.12
March	3,000.71
April	9,346.36
May	8,879.82
June	
July	
August	
September	
October	
November	
December	
Total Tax Collections	\$39,650.41
Variance Growth/(Loss)	(\$50,349.59)

BUILDING PERMITS

Date: July 2, 2013
 Owner: Shane Watkins Const.
 Use: Single Family
 Address: 2705 Weatherstone Dr.
 Permit No.: 7923
 Const. Co.: Self

Date: July 9, 2013
 Owner: Kirksville R-III School District
 Use: Memorial @ Spainhower Field
 Address: 1901 E. Hamilton
 Permit No.: 7926
 Const. Co.: Sparks Constructors

Date: July 10, 2013
 Owner: Kerry Harvey
 Use: Storage
 Address: 2201 W. Burton
 Permit No.: 7927
 Const. Co.: Self

Date: July 23, 2013
 Owner: Luke Phelps
 Use: Agricultural Storage Bld
 Address: 17934 Round Barn Way
 Permit No.: 7931
 Const. Co.: Miller Construction

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION GUIDELINES

Welcome to your City Council meeting.

Agendas for tonight's meeting are located in the tray found to the left of the door as you enter the Council Chambers.

Important Items to Note on the Agenda:

Citizen Participation – This is a time for an individual to address the Council on a matter not listed on this evening's agenda. Each individual will be given up to five-minutes to address the Council.

Agenda Items - Citizens may address the Council on any subject that is listed on tonight's agenda taking no more than five-minutes to do so. Attendees should refrain from making redundant comments.

To address the Council approach the podium.

At the podium:

- Complete the Sign-in sheet with your name and address
- State your name only
- Provide brief subject matter within five-minute time limit

The Mayor will signify if time has elapsed ending the address by that individual.

Disruptive Behavior/Actions:

- Verbal remarks of guests not recognized at the podium
- Hand clapping
- Personal attacks
- Cell phone interruptions
- Other acts/comments that disrupt the order of the meeting

Persons who disrupt the Council meeting may be removed from the council chambers.

Attention all
Employees

City Manager Fitness Challenge

The Biometric Screening re-check is scheduled for Tuesday, August 13, 2013— The City Manager is challenging every employee

Prize Drawings

- First Place \$200
- Second Place \$100
- Third Place \$50
- Fourth Place \$25

Consolation Prize drawings for participants who walked but were unable to walk 10,000

To register contact
Pat Meredith

to a fitness challenge of 10,000 steps per day.



**Register no later
than Friday, July 12,
2013**



July 13 thru Aug 13

3002 N Baltimore St
Kirksville, MO 63501



Ph: 660-988-3885
Fax: 866-334-9632

TRIMASCAP[™].com
— Decks, Patios, Landscapes & Irrigation — LLC
Love the Outdoors Again™

July 15, 2012

Kirksville Leadership Institute
Class of 2013

Forest Lake Area Trail System (FLATS)
Project: TRAIL HEAD





ONE DAY...
ONE STOP...
ONE COMMUNITY...



SAVE THE DATE!

Project Homeless Connect Kirksville/Adair County

Friday, October 4, 2013

10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

The Crossing Church—Kirksville, MO

Project Homeless Connect is a one stop shop where homeless individuals and families have access to free services and assistance.

Get connected with housing, employment, documentation and social services.

Free medical services, haircuts, lunch, housing assistance and many other services will be available.

Bring any documentation you may have.

Kid's Zone available for free child care during event.

**Now Recruiting Service Providers & Volunteers!
Donation and Sponsorship Opportunities Available.
Sign Up Today!**

<https://www.facebook.com/ProjectHomelessConnectKirksvilleMo>

Troy D. Paino, J.D., Ph.D.
President
660.785.4100
660.785.4030 FAX



Office of the President
McClain Hall 200
100 East Normal Avenue
Kirksville, MO 63501-4221

July 22, 2013

Dear City Council:

I regret that I cannot be there today to meet with you. I have always appreciated the city's willingness to work with Truman to get things done that are in the best interest of our community. I want to particularly thank you for the current Franklin Street project. Not only will this make for a more attractive corridor through campus and into downtown, it will create a safer street to navigate for our employees and students.

As you know, as a public university it is our mission to recruit students, faculty and staff who reflect the diversity of our democracy. To effectively do this, Truman and the Kirksville community must send a strong message of inclusion; that all are welcome and valued regardless of race, religion, class, gender, national origin or sexual orientation. I fear that the City Council's rejection of the nondiscrimination/human rights ordinance and the subsequent media coverage of that vote have inadvertently made Kirksville appear unwelcoming and exclusionary.

I understand that there were a variety of concerns regarding the ordinance, some involving the cost of enforcement and the regulatory burden to small business. I appreciate those concerns but hope that they can be addressed with appropriate revisions to the proposed ordinance.

I think it is important to get this matter resolved as quickly as possible. To continue our success in recruiting the best and brightest faculty, staff and students to Truman and Kirksville it is critically important to send a clear message of inclusion.

I am happy to discuss this or any other issue with you at your convenience. Thank you for your service to our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Paino', is written over the printed name.

Troy D. Paino
President

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, July 17, 2013

Contact: Amy Susan

573.522.5058

DED announces 20 counties under review process for Certified Work Ready Community designation

JEFFERSON CITY – The Missouri Department of Economic Development (DED) has announced that 20 counties are working towards becoming designated Missouri Certified Work Ready Communities. Thirteen other counties began the review process toward that designation in January.

The Certified Work Ready Communities program is a voluntary initiative designed to strengthen local economies and give counties a competitive advantage in attracting businesses and new jobs. It is lead by community leaders and links workforce development to education; aligns economic development needs of communities; matches appropriate applicants to jobs based on skill levels; and strengthens and grows businesses.

“Businesses demand a talented and well-trained workforce,” said Mike Downing, Acting Director of the Missouri Department of Economic Development (DED). “Applying for this designation is evidence of the counties’ commitment to reaching education, workforce, and economic development goals that make their communities a desirable place for companies looking to expand or relocate.”

The counties – Barry, Barton, Boone, Chariton, Cole, Cooper, Gasconade, Greene, Grundy, Howard, Laclede, Lawrence, Livingston, Moniteau, Monroe, Newton, Phelps, Randolph, Vernon and Washington – have 24 months to achieve certification status. They join **round one counties Adair**, Butler, Cape Girardeau, Clay, Franklin, Henry, Howell, Jefferson, Linn, Pettis, Ripley, Saline and St. Francois counties in working toward this designation. Those counties were approved in January.

Jasper County is not only the lone county in the state to achieve Certified Work Ready Community designation, but it is the first in the nation.

Earning Certified Work Ready Community status assures that local workforces have the talent necessary to staff existing jobs and master innovative technologies jobs of the future will require. Each designated community must gather local support and commitment and apply for the Work Ready Community designation. To earn certification, counties will have to meet established criteria in three specific areas:

- Demonstrated leadership by key stakeholders
- National Career Readiness Certificate attainment in emerging, transitional and current workforce
- Employer/business support

Developed by ACT, which is known for its college admission tests and workforce training programs, the designation is conferred by the Missouri Workforce Investment Board (MoWIB) and is based on criteria established by the Missouri Economic Research and Information Center (MERIC) and ACT. Other states participating in the program include Michigan North Carolina, Oregon, South Carolina, Virginia, Utah and Wyoming.

Deadline for applications for the next review cycle is November 1, 2013. For more information about the criteria and how to apply for certification, go to <http://ded.mo.gov/getcertified>.