

### Upcoming Events

#### 2009 Calendar

(All meetings are held at Rolla City Hall- unless otherwise indicated)

March 13	RREC Board 9 a.m.
March 19	T4
April 17 (note special date!)	RREC Board 9 a.m.
May 8	RREC Board 9 a.m.
June 12	RREC Board 9 a.m.
June 3	Missour Highway and Transportation Commission meeting in Rolla
July 10	RREC Board 9 a.m.
August 14	RREC Board 9 a.m.
September 11	RREC Board 9 a.m.
October 9	RREC Board 9 a.m.
November 13	RREC Board 9 a.m.
December 11	RREC Board Annual Meeting 9 a.m.

**For More Information Contact:**  
**Elizabeth Bax, Executive Director**  
**Rolla Regional Economic Commission**  
**573.201.3772**  
[Rollaecondev@gmail.com](mailto:Rollaecondev@gmail.com)  
[www.rollaecondev.org](http://www.rollaecondev.org)

### Economic Development News for the Rolla Region March 2009

#### Good News in Short

We continue to see a steady stream of interest in the Big Industrial (formerly Briggs and Stratton) properties.

Rolla Sales Tax is holding at a relatively flat rate – good news in this economy.

We have started a new business in Rolla that will grow into a manufacturing facility (with a little luck)

We have applied for Stimulus funding for an Incubator on the Technology Park.

We will be applying for a Delta Regional Authority Grant for Improvements at Hypoint Industrial Park.

We have started planning the first project and outlining the Community Improvement District to fund the Ridgeview Drive extension which will be submitted to the Rolla City Council for review and approval.

#### The Bad News

Global economic conditions forced Brewer Science to layoff about 13% of their workforce on March 10th. It is particularly tragic to see this layoff at Brewer Science. Terry Brewer has built a phenomenal company and provided exceptional employment opportunities for so many people in the Rolla area. Brewer is also a critical supporter of so many charitable organizations and causes in this region. It was just last summer that Brewer Science announced an aggressive expansion plan for Rolla with new investment estimated to be \$17 million. They also hired 35 new employees. While we may not be able to change the course of the global economy from Rolla, Missouri we will work to create the conditions to help Brewer Science recover and reengage in a trajectory for growth in order to reemploy the valuable and talented people who were subject to this release.

## Missouri Energy Summit

Chaired by:

Chancellor Jack Carney

April 22-23

Jesse Hall

University of Missouri

Campus

Columbia, MO

*The Missouri Energy Summit, sponsored by the [University of Missouri System](http://www.umsystem.edu), is the state's first-ever comprehensive discussion related to research in energy management, development and consumption.*

*The program includes an impressive list of state, regional and national speakers in the energy arena, including [T. Boone Pickens](#), who is founder and chairman of BP Capital Management, which manages one of the nation's most successful energy-oriented investment funds.*

<http://www.umsystem.edu/summits/>

## Marketing Plan for 2009: EVENTS/PUBLICATIONS

The Missouri Partnership is the not-for-profit organization in Missouri charged with development of an overall marketing program for the State of Missouri for national and international investment. Our protocol is that the Partnership deals with communities as part of a "marketing region". For the time being our marketing region is with the Fort Leonard Wood RCGA (FLWRCGA). We are part of a 3 county area including Phelps, Pulaski and Laclede Counties. The Partnership (MoPAR) has put together a series of opportunities for which regions can participate on a "pay to play" basis. While there are several opportunities I think the most worthwhile involve either direct participation with a target industry or direct contact with site selection consultants. The following opportunities in black represent a program which would provide the highest return on our investment for our area. Those opportunities listed in red will be taken if the budget allows:

<b>Opportunity</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Cost / Travel Est.</b>
Windpower Show	Chicago	\$800 / \$1,000
Data Center Show	Orlando	\$800 / \$1,000
Lakeside with the Locators	Lake of the Ozarks	\$1,000 / \$400
IAMC Conference	Minneapolis	\$750
Consultant lunch meetings	Dallas	\$400
Consultant lunch meetings	Atlanta	\$400
Advertising	Technology Park	\$2,300 paid by FLWRCGA
Advertising	Logistics	\$2,370 paid by FLWRCGA
Corenet (Fall)	Las Vegas	
Corenet (Spring)	Dallas	
IEDC Annual Meeting	Reno, NV	
AUSA Annual Meeting	Washington, D.C.	

### ***Route 63 and the Hybrid Bypass Updates***

*Our MoDOT District 9 office successfully presented information to the Federal Highways Administration which will provide us with significant relief from the more lengthy environmental review process on our overpass modifications. MoDOT will also absorb the cost of the required reviews saving Rolla significant financial resources. We are indebted to District Engineer Tom Stehn and Engineer Robby Rakestraw for their efforts on our behalf.*

### **Dinner with the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission**

On March 3, 2009 The RREC hosted a dinner for the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission at G2 Gallery. Roughly 50 people attended the dinner. RREC took a delegation of 20 people. Randy Verkamp provided the welcome to the group, John Butz provided an overview of Rolla West, Chancellor Carney provided an overview of the University and Keith Strassner highlighted information on the Technology Park. Elizabeth Bax tied the presentations together by appealing to the commissioners to make investments in Rolla because Rolla has the best opportunity to improve the economy of the South Central region. There were numerous positive comments from the Commission, Elected representatives and private members.

Our next opportunity to visit with the Highway Commission will be at a second dinner on June 2. The Commission will then hold their formal meeting at the Havener Center on June 3. This is a tremendous honor for Phelps County and provides us with access to the decision makers for the resources that provide the most valuable benefit to our area.

### **Another run at EEZ – Creation of a Level Playing Field for Economic Development**

RREC has requested maps for a new run at EEZ which will be limited to the City of Rolla. There may be one exception with the inclusion of Twitty Industrial Park. Most of our neighbors in this region have already implemented – or are in the process of implementing – an Enhanced Enterprise Zone. This is the one program that allows us to develop our own policies for providing incentives to the business sectors of our choosing. We can actually redirect state tax funds into this county in order to realize our own goals.

Under the EEZ program, new or expanding primary businesses in a designated area may receive tax credits for job creation and new investment. These same businesses will also enjoy relief from at least 50% of property tax for a period of up to 25 years on the value of their new investment.