



CITY OF DECATUR ILLINOIS

#1 GARY K. ANDERSON PLAZA

DECATUR, ILLINOIS 62523-1196

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 17, 2010

COMMUNITIES PARTNER TO HELP SPUR DEVELOPMENT

DECATUR – The City of Decatur and the Villages of Forsyth and Mt. Zion will host the area's first Tri-City Business Forum at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 31 in the Decatur Public Library's Madden Auditorium.

The library is located at 130 N. Main St. in Decatur and the objective of the forum is to encourage business start-up and growth through open and on-going communication within the area. Areas of discussion will include:

- The process for opening and/or expanding business locally
- Permit and licensing processes
- Local codes and ordinances to be considered
- Inspections
- Available development incentives and key contacts

"Our community is need of small businesses to serve our residents," said Julie Miller, Mt. Zion Village Treasurer. "Small business is the backbone of a successful business climate (and) we would like to encourage and assist anyone interested in starting a new business or expanding and an existing business."

A member of the Small Business Administration will be on hand to discuss SBA programs, processes and to provide key contact information for potential and existing businesses. Each community will make a brief presentation followed by a question & answer session.

"This partnership of communities is a focused effort to enhance the business climate in Macon County," said Bob Luther, who is coordinating the event. "The addition of a SBA presentation adds further value for current and future businesses in attendance."

Decatur Mayor Mike McElroy and Forsyth Village Mayor Harold "Hap" Gilbert said that the forum will provide a wealth of information for both new and existing businesses.

"All of our respective communities are working hard to create business friendly environments and want to eliminate any and all stumbling blocks to doing business with us,"

said Mayor Gilbert. “We want to make sure that we do all that we can to attract new and retain existing businesses.”

Mayor McElroy added, “The market for development is as competitive as I’ve ever seen now so we have to show businesses that we are willing and able to meet all of their needs. But it’s not just about new businesses, we also need to keep the businesses that we have.”

Organizers are asking that attendees RSVP by March 29 to hgilbert@forsythvillage.us or 877-9445 as space is limited. For more information contact Bob Luther 429-6673 or 620-4474.