



Macomb Area Chamber of Commerce & Downtown Development Corporation

214 N. Lafayette St. • PO Box 274

Macomb, IL 61455

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www.macombareachamber.com

info@macombareachamber.com

Macomb Area Advantage

December 2014

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Dickens on the Square

With a nod to the ghost of Dickens past and an eye towards the future, the 20th anniversary of Dickens on the Square, Macomb's Victorian-themed holiday festival, returns Friday, December 5 and Saturday, December 6. Keeping with tradition, this year's event features many of your old favorites such as horse drawn carriage rides, strolling carolers and Victorian characters, however it will also offer many new events and activities such as Tea with Queen Victoria, holiday pet photos and food vendors offering Victorian favorites such as roasted nuts and hot cider, just to name a few. Please visit the Chamber website (www.macombareachamber.com), look for the 2014 Dickens brochures around Macomb for details on times and locations, or simply join us in downtown Macomb where the food, fun and festivities cannot be missed!

The event kicks off Friday, December 5 at 5:00 pm. Come to Macomb's historic Courthouse Square and be transformed to 1850's England, enjoying the

delightful aroma of roasted nuts while you listen to the joyful sounds of holiday carolers and experience the charm as the windows of many of Macomb's downtown merchants come to life in "Living Windows". Don't forget to take your free horse drawn trolley ride around the square to experience it all. For the first time, everyone's favorite jolly old elf, Santa Claus, will join us on Friday night from 6:00-8:00 pm. Keep a watchful eye as you never know how Santa might arrive in downtown Macomb....Lastly, close out your evening at one of Macomb's fabulous downtown restaurants during Dickens After Dark. Magnolias will be offering an array of Olde English favorites including Mince Pie, Scrooge's Prized Turkey Filet Dijon, Plum Pudding Shots and other hearty favorites to warm your insides.

Return on Saturday where activities begin with the I-SPY Christmas ornament craft at the Macomb Public Library and the St. Paul Cookie Walk. Beginning at 11:00 am, there will be a variety of strolling and in-house entertainment featuring many of Macomb's most beloved performers including the Coventry Carolers, Karen Martin's Suzuki Strings and more. Join Queen Victoria for tea at the Old Dairy Café & Bakery at 11:00 am. Don't let the kids miss out on the WIU Reading & Parental Involvement's JINGLE BELLS! reading activities and create your own fun at Kiss Me Kate's Holiday Fun Photo Booth. Of course, there will be horse drawn trolley and carriage rides all throughout the day. For those that missed Santa Claus on Friday night, he will be returning on Saturday from 1:00-3:00 pm. Studio H Photography and the Humane Society of McDonough County are wrapping up the final details for the "Happy Howlidays" Pet Photos.

As always, Dickens on the Square will run in conjunction with McDonough District Hospital's Festival of Trees and Citizens Bank's Childrens Shopping Mall. The 20th anniversary of Dickens on the Square promises fun for everyone. Make sure to pick up an official brochure, available around Thanksgiving, or visit the Chamber website to plan your weekend of holiday fun in downtown Macomb.

Ladies Night Out Held November 6th

The MACCDDC's annual Ladies Night Out event was held on November 6th this year. Participants made nearly 300 stops to downtown businesses to kickoff their holiday shopping. Merchants featured Ladies Night Out exclusive discounts, specials and prize drawings. Ladies ended the night by dining in one of our downtown restaurants, which featured food and drink specials.

Those participants who visited at least six participating businesses and had their "Passport to Fun" stamped were entered into the MACCDDC's raffle for gift certificates. Jane Woerly was the lucky winner of \$100 worth of Chamber/Downtown gift certificates while Shari Rusher also won \$50 in certificates. Many of the participating retailers also held their own drawings for prizes ranging from gift cards to specialty items.

Thank you to the following businesses who participated in Ladies Night Out by offering specials and many staying open later than normal to accommodate the event's participants.

Barnyard Guitars - Chicks - Enchanted Florist - Envy - FYI of Macomb

Innovations Design Academy - Kozmic Game Emporium - Magnolias

Michaels Hair Designers - Nelson's Clothing - No Place Like Home - Nostalgia Parnassus Antiques & Curios - R & R Spa - Simply Suzanne - Sports Corner @ 124 The Wine Sellers - Ultimate Image



Ladies Night Out raffle winner, Jane Woerly.

Kelsey Laverdiere
Assistant Director of Athletics -
Corporate Relations & Marketing
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K-Laverdiere@wiu.edu



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Ribbon Cuttings

Annie's Nest

We welcomed Annie's Nest to Macomb on November 20th.



New Members



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From the Chairman's Desk

Thanks to The Sports Corner @ 124 for hosting Business After Hours in November. The room was overflowing with members and guests - what a turnout! The refreshment choices were fantastic! Thank you to Darrin Black and staff for a great time! This locally- owned business is very involved and gives so much back to our Community. Thanks again!!

Business After Hours in December is always festive since it comes just before the Christmas Holiday, and this year will be no exception! Please join us on December 17th as First Bankers Trust hosts at their North Lafayette location. We're looking forward to it!!

On December 5th & 6th, step back in time and enjoy our 2014 Christmas celebration with Dickens on the Square. This event is planned and scheduled around the businesses located on Macomb's Historic Downtown Square. Experience a Victorian wonderland complete with living window displays at some of the businesses. There will be so much to see and do including beautiful decorations, trolley and horse carriage rides, the Festival of Trees and, of course, SANTA!! Wander in and out of our downtown businesses while enjoying hot cider and other refreshments! Thanks for this festive event goes to our Chamber/Downtown staff along with all of the volunteers and others who have assisted in helping to make this event special!

Have you been downtown to see the Christmas decorations that the City of Macomb has put up? Or walked through Chandler Park's Winter Wonderland at night with all the trees lit? And our own City Hall looks so cheery and bright! Thanks for these Holiday touches goes to the City of Macomb staff for adding so much festivity to Macomb!

Again this year we have set our goal for the sale of Chamber Gift Certificates at \$200,000! There are over 140 local merchants accepting Chamber gift certificates and they NEVER expire. What a great way to keep your money working for Macomb by supporting local businesses. There is still time to place an order or pick up some gift certificates during December. If you call ahead or email our staff, they will expedite your order and have the gift certificates ready for you to pick up. This support is important in ways that are both tangible and intangible.

Christy and I hope each of you has a blessed Christmas season with your families and friends!

Eric C. Moe, Chairman of the Board

Looking for committee reports? They are now posted on the **Resources** page through the [Membership Information Center](#).



Upcoming Events

- December 4th @ 12:00 pm: **Government & Legal Affairs Committee** meeting, MAEDCO Conference Room
- December 5th & 6th: **Dickens on the Square**, Downtown Square
- December 11th @ 5:00 pm: **Young Business Professionals Social**, Sports Corner @ 124
- December 15th @ 12:00 pm: **Ambassador Committee meeting**, City Hall Community Room
- December 17th @ 7:30 am: **MACCDDC Board of Directors meeting**, Citizens Bank Conference Room
- December 17th @ 4:30 pm - 6:00 pm: **Business After Hours**, First Bankers Trust
- December 24th, 25th & 26th: **MACCDDC Office Closed**
- December 31st @ 12:00 pm: **MACCDDC Office Closed**
- January 1st: **MACCDDC Office Closed**
- January 22nd @ 12:00 pm: **Ameren Illinois ActOnEnergy Lunch & Learn**, Red Ox *pre-registration required

For more information on these events, please visit macombareachamber.com

<p>ADVERTISE HERE!</p> <p>For more information, contact the MACCDDC @ 309.837.4855 or alex@macombareachamber.com</p>	<p>LIKE A GOOD NEIGHBOR, STATE FARM IS THERE.™ WITH ...</p> <p>Cathy Esch, Agent Est. 1954/1958 cathy@cityyearly.com</p> <p>CONTACT ME</p> <p>State Farm</p>	<p>COBB Aviation Services (309) 833-3324</p> <p>Convenient & Affordable Service to Your Destination!</p>	 <p>mtc communications</p> <p>210 North Cool, Colchester, IL 309.575.3211 mtccomm.net</p>
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Announcements & Opportunities

- On Wednesday afternoon, Feb. 25, St. Ambrose University will host the inaugural Eastern Iowa / Western Illinois Veterans Conference. There will be a noon keynote speaker followed by film and panel presentations. Training will be offered concurrently for faculty, staff and others on Military Culture, and a resource fair will be offered to registered attendees. The conference will conclude with a late afternoon networking social. The event is a collaboration between St. Ambrose University, Black Hawk College, Eastern Iowa Community Colleges and Western Illinois University Quad Cities. For more information or to register, please visit www.sau.edu/veteranservices.

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Don't miss this month's flyers!

[December 2014 Flyers](#)

If you know someone who might be interested in receiving this newsletter, please forward on or add their name to the distribution list by emailing info@macombareachamber.com.

Local Statistics

Taxes	<u>October 2014</u>	<u>October 2013</u>
Sales	\$213,951	\$219,126

Bed	\$21,465.55	\$20,715
Motor Fuel	\$43,339.82	\$32,800

Airport

	<u>October 2014</u>	<u>October 2013</u>
Landings	412	260
Fuel Sales (gallons)	9,907	9,917

Building Permits

	<u>October 2014</u>	<u>October 2013</u>
Total Issued	43	27

Real Estate

	<u>October 2014</u>	<u>October 2013</u>
Listings Sold	10	8
Volume Sold	\$1,379,900	\$894,000
Avg. Sale Price	\$137,990	\$111,750
Avg. Days on Market	340	307

Labor Force

	<u>October 2014</u>	<u>October 2013</u>
Labor Force	16,588	16,374
Employed	15,560	15,071
Unemployed	1,028	1,303





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