



NORTHWEST NEWSFLASH

Northwest Missouri Regional Council of Governments

MARCH 2023

**IMPORTANT
NOTICE**

Effective April 3, 2023

- Our office will be closed to the public Mondays. All staff will be working remote on these days. If you need to contact one of us, please call 660-582-5121 for the directory. Staff email addresses can be found on our website, www.nwmorcog.org.
- Our office will be closed Fridays.
- We will maintain regular office hours of 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursday. Closed 12-12:30 p.m. for lunch.
- If you have items to drop off, please leave them in the drop box on the east side of the building.

Thank you

Survey to Help Guide State Broadband Efforts

To guide the state's internet expansion and training efforts, the Missouri Office of Broadband Development and University of Missouri Extension are conducting a brief online survey on household internet access and use. The anonymous survey, which takes about six minutes to complete, is at muext.us/MissouriInternetSurvey(opens in new window).

Broadband can boost a community's economic growth and quality of life, says Alan Spell, assistant extension professor of community and regional economics at the University of Missouri. Benefits include gains in job growth, income and GDP. However, realizing those benefits requires not just the physical availability of high-speed internet connections but also the adoption and use of those connections for applications like telemedicine and expanded opportunities related to education, employment and business, Spell says. "As we continue making historic investments in Missouri's broadband infrastructure, we encourage public feedback to inform our efforts," said B.J. Tanksley, director of the [Office of Broadband Development](#)(opens in new window). "Hearing from citizens in urban and rural areas is an incredibly valuable part of understanding our state's needs."

The survey asks households about existing internet use – devices, connections and applications – and barriers to use such as financial obstacles and training and assistance needs. For more information, please see the attached flyer which can also be printed and posted or shared online to help get the word out about this survey.

Job Center Happenings

- On March 22, Northwest Technical School students toured the following facilities: Laclede Chain, Nucor-LMP, Driv/Tennaco (formerly known as Federal Mogul), Kawasaki, J.L. Houston Co., Houston Poly Tank, Mosaic, Bolder Industries, and Association of Group Homes/Nodaway County Services. The goal is to inform students about the different career paths that each facility has to offer.
- On March 28, the Northwest Region Job Fair for High School Seniors was held on Missouri Western State University campus in St. Joseph. There were at least nine employers from our 5-county area that attended and one school from our area, Maryville R-II.
- On April 4, a local Job Fair to be held on Northwest Missouri State University campus at the Hughes Fieldhouse. This job fair was created for college students to be able to find local employment or internships for the summer, but it is open to the public. Northwest Technical School students will also be attending this fair. Job Center staff has reached out to invite high school aged home schooled students as well. The event will be held from 9 a.m. to 12 noon.

Local Public Agency (LPA) Basic Training – Person of Responsible Charge Three-Part Series Training

In partnership with MoDOT, LTAP is hosting a Local Public Agency (LPA) Basic Training – Person of Responsible Charge Three-Part Series Training, April 6th (12:30 pm-2:00 pm), April 11th (12:30 pm-3:00 pm), and April 13th (12:30 pm-3:00 pm). Projects administered by local agencies using Title 23 federal funds require the local agency to have a “qualified person of responsible charge” who is a public employee accountable for the project. This training, approximately 5-6 hours total, will provide the attendee the basic knowledge of the federal-aid process to perform the following duties and functions:

- Administer federal-aid project activities, including those dealing with cost, time, adherence to contract requirements, construction quality, and scope;
- Maintain familiarity with day-to-day project operations, including project safety issues;
- Make or participate in decisions about changed conditions or scope changes requiring change orders or supplemental agreements;
- Visit and review the project on a frequency commensurate with the magnitude and complexity of the project;
- Review financial processes, transactions, and documentation to ensure safeguards are in place to minimize fraud, waste, and abuse; and
- Direct project staff, agency or consultant, to carry out project administration and contract oversight, including proper documentation.
- Be aware of the qualifications, assignments, and on-the-job performance of the agency and consultant staff at all stages of the project.
- Must sign all project documents including but not limited to agreements, certifications, plans, change orders, etc.

Participants must attend all 3 sessions and pass a test to be certified as a Person of Responsible Charge. A registration link (one link for all 3 sessions) can be found here: [Meeting Registration - Zoom](#)

FY2024 NAP Round 1 Guidelines and Application Now Available

The FY2024 Neighborhood Assistance Program (NAP) Round 1 guidelines and application are now available! The application can be completed and submitted via the [Submittable platform](#), and is due no later than April 26, 2023 at 5 p.m. To learn more about completing an application, please refer to the [FY2024 NAP Guidelines](#) or contact the NAP team at community@ded.mo.gov. Applications will be reviewed and scored competitively, with tax credits awarded based on score. Approved projects will begin July 1, 2023.

Fairfax Streets/Drainage Improvements Project is Soliciting Contractors

The City of Fairfax was recently awarded a grant from the Missouri Department of Economic Development, Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program in the amount of \$500,000. The city anticipates contributing an additional \$49,000 towards the project in both cash and in-kind match, for a total of \$549,000. The City of Fairfax began advertising for construction bids on March 23 to solicit for contractors to make the needed improvements to the city's streets and drainage. Bids are due April 19, 2023, by 2 p.m. Click on the link to view the Advertisement for Bids: <https://nwmorcog.org/>. The work to be completed is estimated to be complete within 60 consecutive calendar days from start of construction.

Ecker to lead Highways and Transportation Commission

Terry L. Ecker, Elmo, and W. Dustin Boatwright, Cape Girardeau, will serve as chair and vice chair, respectively, of the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission. The commission voted them into their leadership roles at its monthly meeting. Ecker, a Republican, was appointed to the commission in September 2017. Boatwright, an Independent, was appointed to the commission in September 2020. Ecker raises corn, soybeans and cattle on a farm northwest of Elmo, just one-quarter of a mile from where his great, great grandfather settled in Nodaway County in 1868. He earned his Bachelor of Science degree in agriculture economics from the University of Missouri and is a graduate of Agriculture Leaders of Tomorrow Class IX. Ecker was appointed by three different U.S. Secretaries of Agriculture to represent the State of Missouri on the United Soybean Board. He is a past vice chairman of the U.S. Soybean Export Council. Ecker has served as an Agriculture Field Representative for Congressman Sam Graves. He is a member of Missouri Farm Bureau and served as a past Nodaway County Farm Bureau President. Ecker is a member of the Missouri Cattlemen's Association, Missouri Corn Growers and Missouri Soybean Association. Other members of the Commission are Gregg C. Smith, Clinton; Robert G. Brinkmann, Defiance; Brian Treece, Columbia; and Warren K. Erdman, Kansas City. The six-member bipartisan MHTC governs the Missouri Department of Transportation, the agency responsible for building, operating and maintaining the state highway system and supporting other transportation modes in Missouri.

Other Upcoming Events

March 30: Workforce Development Board of North Missouri meeting, 4 p.m., being held virtually

April 4: Job Fair, Hughes Fieldhouse, NWMSU, 9 a.m. – 12 noon

April 18: Solid Waste Advisory Board meeting, 6 p.m., RCOG Office

April 20: Solid Waste Executive Board meeting, 5:30 p.m., RCOG Office