

# News

Macomb County  
Board of Commissioners



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
June 14, 2010

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## **NACo Awards Keep Coming for Macomb County Departments**

MOUNT CLEMENS, Mich. – Macomb County’s unwavering pursuit of innovation, efficiency and quality services has once again been nationally recognized with eight “Achievement Awards” from the National Association of Counties (NACo).

The NACo awards are presented to county programs that demonstrate exemplary management and an advanced level of service delivery at maximum cost efficiency. This year’s winning programs from the Clerk/Register of Deeds office, Health Department, Senior Citizen Services and Veterans Services illustrated (in part) collaboration between departments, technological enhancements that boosted efficiency, a focus on helping mature residents enhance their quality of life, and an improved communication strategy to keep residents safe in response to the H1N1 pandemic:

### **Clerk’s Office:**

- ***Google Premiere Implementation Improves Operations for Clerk's Office:***  
With Google Premier, the Clerk/Register of Deeds improved e-mail service, communication with the public, scheduling, staff training, and enhanced customer service overall.
- ***Jurors Waiting to be Called for Trial Given Pagers; Boosting Local Economy:***  
Jurors are offered pagers, allowing them the freedom to roam and shop in the downtown area --- simultaneously easing the burden of jury duty, and boosting sales for business owners. More than half of the cost was paid by the business community, thanks to a partnership with the County Clerk.

### **Clerk’s Office & Health Department (collaboration):**

- ***Linking Septic Data to Land Data Improves Inspections:***  
Thanks to a partnership with the county Health Department and the Clerk’s Office/Register of Deeds, data is now shared enabling the health department to ensure all properties with a septic system or well are evaluated as required by law. The Register of Deeds office provides the Health Department with database access to get timely data regarding sales.

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**Clerk's Office & Veterans Services (collaboration):**

- ***Program Helps Veterans' Survivors Receive Benefits:***  
A partnership between the Veterans Services Department and the Clerk make it easier for veterans' widows to get benefits. The clerk's office automatically makes death records data available to Veterans Department staff, who then notify the veteran's family about the benefits for which they may be eligible.

**Health Department:**

- ***2009 H1N1 Pandemic Response: A Media Action Strategy Emphasizing Cable TV:***  
Five 30-second public service announcements about H1N1 flu and the importance of immunizations were developed to run on local cable systems. During the entire run, the average household with cable was exposed to the ads approximately 13 times. Between late October and the end of December, almost 90,000 area residents were vaccinated.

**Senior Citizen Services:**

- ***Senior Fun Festival:***  
Event featuring more than 100 information exhibits, free health screening, live music, dancing, demonstrations, Bingo and crafters for area seniors.
- ***Live Life Healthy After Age 60 Seminar:***  
An interactive workshop created in collaboration with local hospitals, health organizations and senior centers to provide information on healthy aging.
- ***Happy Birthday 65! Seminar:***  
Topics include Social Security, Medicare, prescription assistance, and veterans information, with questions answered by experts.

“Several departments have created impressive and innovative programs, and it was no different for the Clerk's office,” said Clerk/Register of Deeds Carmella Sabaugh, whose office was credited with four of the eight awards. “Last year was another great year for us in terms of improving the services we offer the public, while still keeping costs down.”

Macomb County has earned more than 560 NACo awards in the past 29 years. Its eight awards this year will be entered into a national database that details successful programs for other counties to emulate.

“The board continuously challenges our departments to do more with less, and these programs are just a few examples of how the county has been able to deliver on that goal,” said Paul Gielegheem, chairman of the Macomb County Board of Commissioners. “We are very proud of the Clerk's office, Senior Services, Veterans Services and the Health Department for working smarter and harder to meet the needs of the residents of Macomb County.”