Federal Real Estate Spending

Smart Growth America | READ STORY

This study by Smart Growth America claims that federal government spending in the real estate market has a significant impact on the location and nature of real estate development. Federal government spending in real estate amounts to approximately $450 billion a year, and Smart Growth America argues that the positive impact leveraged by this investment is distributed unevenly, such that many of the communities most in need of help remain unassisted by the spending.

**FIGURE 1**
Federal support for single-family homes vs. multifamily homes, FY 2007-2011

- Total guarantees for multifamily homes: $112 billion
- Total guarantees for single-family homes: $1.142 trillion

The Montana State University Local Government Center is pleased to announce release of the latest issue of the Montana Policy Review titled "Community Responses to Energy Development." The upcoming webinar schedule will be announced soon; previous issues and archived webinars are also available.

In related news, the Local Government Extension Training (LGET) group recently hosted a webinar titled "The Missouri County Budget Trend Analysis System" by Dr. Judy Stallmann. All archives are posted on the LGET archived webinar page.

As a final reminder, the 2013 Community Development Society Conference will be held July 20-24, 2013 in Charleston, South Carolina, USA. The Call for...
Libraries Today

**Pew Internet | READ STORY**

In a new survey of Americans’ attitudes and expectations for public libraries, the Pew Research Center’s Internet & American Life Project finds that many library patrons are eager to see libraries’ digital services expand, yet also feel that print books remain important in the digital age. Fully 91% of Americans ages 16 and older say public libraries are important to their communities; and 76% say libraries are important to them and their families.

**How important are libraries?**

Among all Americans ages 16+, the percentage who say that libraries are “very important,” “important,” “not too important,” or “not important at all” to them and their families, and to their community as a whole.

- Very important
- Somewhat important
- Not too important
- Not important at all

Source: Pew Research Center’s Internet & American Life Surveys of 1,953 people ages 18 and older conducted October 15-November 10, 2012. The survey was conducted in English and Spanish and on landline and cell phones.

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Rural Household Income

**Daily Yonder | READ STORY**

The national median for U.S. household income in 2011 was $50,502. The median household income of less than 400 rural and exurban counties exceeded the national figure. This succinct report by the Daily Yonder encapsulates the income standing of rural and exurban counties, showing that, while a few of these counties rank well above the national median, there remains a strong disparity between rural and urban income.

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Abstracts provides all the details; the deadline is Feb. 15, 2013.

-Paul Lachapelle
MACDEP President

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**Upcoming Events**

**12th Annual New Partners for Smart Growth Conference**

February 7-9, 2013
Kansas City, MO
Sponsor: Local Government Commission

**National Rural Assembly 2013**

June 23-26, 2013
Washington D. C. Metro Area
Sponsor: National Rural Assembly

**Beyond the Boundaries: Creating Innovation Through Regional Collaboration**

July 20-24, 2013
Charleston, SC
Sponsor: Community Development Society

**2013 Rural Sociological Society Annual Meeting**

August 6-9, 2013
New York, NY
Sponsor: Rural Sociological Society

**NACDEP Galaxy IV**

September 15-22, 2013
Pittsburgh, PA
Sponsor: Joint Council of Extension Professionals
Worldwide Obesity

OECD | READ STORY
The 2012 update to the OECD Obesity and the Economics of Prevention report shows that, while increases in the obesity rate fell short of previous predictions, the United States remains the most obese country among those tracked in the report, and the rate of obesity has continued to rise since 2000, with an additional 8% increase projected before 2020.
Risk Factors and Cause of Death

**IHME | READ STORY**
This interactive tool, included among other, similar tools by the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation, presents the highest ranking worldwide risk factors and causes of death. The visualization shows the change in rank between 1990 and 2010. High blood pressure, smoking, and alcohol use now rank as the highest risk factors, while heart disease, respiratory infections, and stroke rank as the most common causes of death.

Election Results 2012

**Robert J. Vanderbei | READ STORY**
Robert J. Vanderbei of Princeton University provides a series of figures demonstrating county by county results in the 2012 presidential election. In addition to providing an overview of the election results, the maps demonstrate the complex relationship between urban and rural voter influence, drawing attention (like the cartograms of Mark Newman) to the significance of population distribution in determining election results.