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Greene County citizens and members of the media encouraged to attend annual audit presentation

Citizens and members of the media are invited to attend a special Commission briefing to learn more about Greene County financials and external audit opinions.

Greene County's annual audit report presentation, led by certified public accounting firm KPM, will be held at 10:30 a.m. Monday, July 23 at the Greene County Public Safety Center, 330 West Scott Street.

Attendees will hear from Auditor Andrew Marmouget, CPA and shareholder with KPM, who will provide background and additional details regarding this important report.

In addition to the daily checks and balances performed internally, each year the County participates in an independent, external audit as a means to verify it is fairly and accurately presenting its financial statement of revenue collected and amounts spent. During a nearly month-long process, members of KPM work with the Greene County Auditor's Office to review items such as revenue reporting, contracts, invoices, internal controls and purchasing. Once complete, KPM issues an independent report and opinion.

"To participate in an audit like this every year is no small undertaking but we believe it shows our commitment to transparency and effective operations," said Greene County Auditor Cindy Stein. "It also speaks volumes when that audit validates our quality and compliance."

This year, Greene County is pleased to have again received an unmodified or clean opinion, which is the best opinion a county can receive. This indicates no weaknesses or instances of regulatory noncompliance were found.

"The County is in better financial shape than it has been in years and we are very proud of that fact," said Presiding Commissioner Bob Cirtin. "We work hard to be good stewards of taxpayer money and this annual audit is an additional avenue that supports the efforts of all employees to provide resources and services in the most efficient manner possible."

Beyond providing a secondary layer of review, this audit allows the County to participate in a variety of federal grant programs. It also affects the County's rating with Moody's Investor Services. Greene County currently has Aa2 rating, which is based on factors such as sound financial operation, healthy operating reserves, modest debt and pension burdens, and a diverse tax base.

To see the full report, visit https://greenecountymo.gov/auditor/financial_statements.php

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Greene County is the State of Missouri's fourth most populous county, serving more than 275,000 people (2010 census). Its mission is to provide all citizens of Greene County, including those in its cities, a safe and thriving community through excellent customer service, unparalleled dedication, and the efficient use of taxpayer dollars. The Greene County Commission is the executive body of Greene County operating under guidelines established in the Revised Statutes of the State of Missouri. Within that authority the Commission enacts ordinances, resolutions and policies, supervises the activities of county departments, fixes salaries, adopts the annual budget, provides for construction and other services, and conducts hearings on planning and zoning matters.

For additional information, contact Donna Barton, Public Information Officer, at 417-844-4311 or <u>dlbarton@greenecountymo.gov</u>.