NEWS RELEASE

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CivicPlus Names Winners of Extreme Website Makeover Contest

New Design and Innovative Tools Promise to Boost Community Engagement

MANHATTAN, Kan. – (**February 21, 2012)** CivicPlus, the leading provider of comprehensive community engagement software, today announced the winners of the 2011 Extreme Website Makeover Contest. Nine cities and counties across North America will receive new local government websites and a new beginning for digital community engagement at no cost to their communities.

Shelby County, Ala. and the cities of **Richfield, Wis.**; **Council Bluffs, Iowa**; **Durango, Colo.**; **Lima, Ohio** and **Banff, Alberta** are among the grand prize winners that will join the more than 1,000 communities that already benefit from CivicPlus eGovernment solutions.

For Council Bluffs, this opportunity could not have come at a better time. After making plans to redesign its city website last year, Council Bluffs was forced to divert those funds to purchase flood pumps and build levees after a 500-year flood devastated a large part of the city. Flood-related costs topped more than $11.6 million.

In Lima, the desire for an engaging site compelled IT Director Gary Wurst to reach out to CivicPlus. “Our web page needs a new, fresh design in order for our city’s presence to stand out in today’s competitive marketplace,” Wurst said. “At this point our web page is stagnant and possibly hurting how people view our community.”

Josh Schoemann, Richfield’s village administrator, also embraced the opportunity presented by the Extreme Makeover Contest. “We’ve been looking at different ways to improve our communication with citizens,” Schoemann said. “We want to work for them. We want to make their lives easier. This website will do that.”

Each grand prize winner will receive a CivicPlus Premium Website Package featuring award -winning graphic design, interactive modules, such as Citizen Request Tracker™ and Community Voice, secure hosting and 24/7 customer support.

“These communities explore effective and interactive two-way communication between citizens and government,“ said Ward Morgan, founder and CEO of CivicPlus. “They also will enjoy the convenience of online notification tools, stream live and recorded video of public meetings, and receive emergency alerts.”

The winners were selected from more than 150 entries submitted by cities and counties of all sizes throughout North America. Selection criteria included community need and age of current website. Each of these communities will see savings of $25,000 to $30,000 and a two-year waiver of monthly maintenance fees.

“The Extreme Makeover Contest is our way to give back to local communities and demonstrate how yesterday’s government website can be transformed into today’s community engagement platform,” said Morgan.

Among the 2011 Extreme Website Makeover winners pending final contract completion are Norfolk, Va., Smithtown, N.Y. and Colton, Calif.

About CivicPlus
Based in Manhattan, Kansas, CivicPlus has designed more than 1,000 local government websites serving 36 million citizens throughout North America. A recipient of the Center for Digital Government’s Best Fit Integrator Award for delivering extraordinary digital solutions to public IT projects, CivicPlus invests more than $1.17 million each year to research and develop new customizable, integrated eGovernment applications. CivicPlus transforms municipal websites into powerful two-way communication platforms that let citizens talk to and participate in local government. The innovative CivicPlus Government Content Management System™ now offers more than 60 applications including Citizen Request Tracker™, MuniMobile™, Facebook and economic development tools. Founded in 2001, CivicPlus was selected by Inc. Magazine as “One of the Fastest-Growing Privately Held Companies in the U.S.” in 2011. For more information, visit www.civicplus.com.

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