



Boone County Development Agency
Albion * Cedar Rapids * Primrose * St. Edward * Petersburg

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Boone County Development Agency Newsletter

Volume 8, Issue 1

Boone County-One County, One Community

March 2009

Message from the Director

Executive Committee

- ALBION:** Walt Hoefler
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- PRIMROSE:** Irene Dresch
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- BCDA MEMBER AT LARGE:**
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Andy Roberts
- BOONE COUNTY:** Tom Schuele
Hank Thieman



Entrepreneurship is a word that is becoming more and more common, and there are several different definitions of entrepreneurs. They are the individuals that are idealistic, inventive, and naturally those that start the small businesses we see in our Boone County communities.

In Boone County entrepreneurship is the topic of many conversations and is being addressed on many levels.

Students in Cedar Rapids will be involved with an entrepreneurship camp this spring offered by Central Community College, and available through BECA grant funds.

High school students are participating in the Entrepreneurship class offered through Central Community College, and the college is working hard to expand their curriculum for entrepreneurship, eventually looking to bring a business incubator into the Columbus area to offer a step between college and a storefront.

These entrepreneurs operating our stores in Boone County are in need of our support. With most reports on the economy bringing negative news, it is important for us to support our local businesses.

Our local entrepreneurs are those that make the difference between a store downtown and an empty building. They work hard to bring us the products and services that we have come to expect, often taking the extra steps to accommodate us where larger stores might not.

It is great to be able to report to you that there has been a new business in the county when we mostly hear of closures, and that stores are adding employees when there is much reported on layoffs. It is important to maintain our sense of community support and pride, which is so evident in

Boone County.



Shannon Landauer,
Executive Director

POSTAL PATRON



www.boone-county.org

New BCDA Website

The Boone County Development Agency website has a new look! Please check it out at:

www.boone-county.org

We will now have a calendar of events. Please let us know of any events you would like us to include!

*Thank you to Seth Johnson and Drew Bonge for assisting with the new site!

UNL Extension Needs Summer Help

UNL Extension in Boone and Nance County is seeking 1-2 University of Nebraska-Lincoln students for the Summer Federal Work-Study Program.

Students will work 20 hours per week from May 8 to August 13, 2009. Individuals will assist Extension staff in organizing and delivering educational programs to area youth.

Please contact Steve Pritchard, Extension Educator, at (402) 395-2158 for more information.



Boone County Youth Participate in Entrepreneurship Program

Four Boone County high school students have made the commitment to participate in the Central Community College Entrepreneurship class. This program offers students an opportunity to learn about entrepreneurship as they take the steps to develop their own business. Students meet with local business leaders, learn to write a business plan, explore financing of their product, and develop a marketing plan for their product or service. Students spend one Saturday per month on campus in Columbus. This program is available to the students through a grant from the Nebraska Department of Economic Development.

Jami Scott from Cedar Rapids is one of the program participants this year, working hard at bringing "Melodies by Jami" to reality. Jami offers singing, piano, and flute music services for weddings, funerals, dinners, and business functions. Jami's favorite part of the program is all the people she has met.

From Boone Central, three students are involved in the pro-

gram. Kendra Wurdeman has started her business in portrait photography. She enjoys taking pictures; the program has taught her about all the key aspects of running her own business. Kendra is planning on attending college at UNK and majoring in social work.

Another student testing out photography is Tayla Koetter. She enjoys taking scenic pictures and making post cards with her snap shots. The program gave her opportunities to learn the business side, and also gave her the opportunity for new ideas and different perspectives. Tayla is planning on attending Northeast Community College and majoring in business.

Jewelry design is the business avenue that Alex Stahlecker has chosen for the program. She designs necklaces and bracelets. The experience of learning everything to do with a business was her favorite part of the program. After high school, Alex plans on majoring in radiology.

There will be a showcase in April on the Central Community College campus for students to sell their products.

Changes at Boone County Courthouse

Boone County Development Agency would like to welcome those that have taken new positions in the courthouse.



Laurie Krohn has served as Deputy Treasurer for several years, but recently has been appointed to Boone County Treasurer on January 26, after Helen Preusser retired in December. With 13 years in the Assessor's office and 14 years as Deputy Treasurer, Laurie stated that "it has been a pleasure to work for the tax payers for the last twenty-seven years. I appreciate the opportunity to serve as Boone County Treasurer."



Replacing Laurie as Deputy Treasurer is Nancy Ahlers. Nancy has experience with the responsibilities of the Boone County Treasurer's office as she has helped out in the office during busy times of the year. Nancy also served several years in the Boone County Assessor's office.

Another addition to the Boone County courthouse is Barb Hanson, Boone County Zoning Administrator/City of Albion Code Official. Barb recently began her duties in the office after the retirement of Janet Lawson. Boone County and the City of Albion have formed an interlocal agreement to make this a full time position. Barb brings 23 years of administrative experience to the office.



She is excited about starting the job, being back in the area, and working with people she has worked with in the past.

Bird & Wright, P.C.

Boone County Development Agency has identified youth retention/attraction as an important goal, knowing that it is important to the strength and sustainability of our communities. One Boone County graduate has recently made a commitment to being a part of his hometown.



During high school, Darren did not have any intentions of returning to Boone County. During his time at Chadron State College, Darren made the decision to study law; while attending law school he was contacted by Larry Bird to consider returning to Albion after school. After some thought, Darren decided he would return to Albion, and initially worked as a Paralegal until passing the BAR exam.

BCDA offers our Congratulations to Larry Bird and Darren Wright. Darren has recently become a partner in the law firm located here in Albion, bring a new name to the practice: Bird and Wright, P.C. The decision came after much thought for Darren as he knew that becoming partner was a great commitment, for himself and the business.

Business Transition

Boone County Development Agency would like to welcome new Azonic owners Wes Buck, Connie Pelster, and Len Melanson to the Boone County business community. The transition took place on December 2. Both Wes and Connie have been employed with Azonic for several years, and Len has served as their sales representative.

The business developed many of the devices used in the coil winding industry today with their Wisker Disks®, tensioning equipment, and rack mounting systems.



Azonic has been in Albion for over 40 years. The new owners are looking to increase sales, and possibly work with heavier wire.

To find out more information on Azonic, please visit their website at www.azonicproducts.com, or on the Albion Business List on the BCDA website.

Albion Economic Development Corporation, Boone County Development Agency, and Northeast Nebraska Economic Development District offered assisted with the transition.

A GreenFiber recycling bin is located at the Boone County Courthouse north parking lot and is available for public use.



Items accepted: Newspapers, magazines, phonebooks, office paper, cardboard, cereal boxes, brown paper bags, and construction paper.

Heartland Jewelry Adds an Employee

Heartland Jewelry, in downtown Albion, would like to announce the addition of an employee. In February, Shirley Petsche of Petersburg became a part of the Heartland Jewelry team. Heartland has been staffed by owners Dan and Jeri Willis of Aurora, and Susan Ring of Cedar Rapids.

With an expanded team, Heartland now offers extended hours, being open on Monday and Tuesday. Shirley will be assisting Heartland with marketing, special events, and community relations. Dan Willis, owner, is happy to bring more to the community through expanded hours, new promotions, and increased marketing. Mr. Willis is excited to talk about a new jewelry line in the store, White Ice, which is a line of sterling silver jewelry with a touch of diamond accents.

Among her first duties, Shirley is working at developing a website for Heartland, creating a customer e-mail database, and putting together an upcoming spring promotion.

Stop in for a visit to check out the wonderful offerings, and sign up to be included on the e-mail list!

CERT Training

Boone County Emergency Management in cooperation with Citizens Corporation have received a grant to again offer Community Emergency Response Training (CERT) in Boone County.



Individuals that participate in this training will learn how they can assist the fire and police departments in a time of disaster. This is a great training to help ensure the safety of the community if disaster would happen to strike. There is not cost to those that volunteer to participate in the 16 hour course. Upon completion, participants will receive an equipment bag filled with equipment.

Please contact Bob Carey, (402) 741-1094 for further information or to sign up for the training.

Boone County Emergency Management will be distributing a demographics survey county wide to learn of those with special needs. This is important for the emergency services personnel to know how to best accommodate those needs in times of disaster.

The goal is to have surveys returned within three weeks.

If there are any questions contact Bob Carey, Boone County Emergency Manager, at (402) 741-0194.

Points of Interest

- * Cedar Rapids will be celebrating their Q125 in June. Watch for details in the Cedar Rapids Press, June edition of the BCDA newsletter, and on the BCDA website.
- * The Boone County Fair will also be celebrating their 125th year in July. The dates have been set for July 11-15th. There is another exciting activities line-up in the works this year!
- * Central Nebraska Implement has been sold to Green Line Equipment. Welcome to the Boone County business community.
- * The Albion Food Pantry will be moving to a new location on March 15. It will be housed at 1106 West State Street. The food pantry is in need of canned meats, other than tuna.
- * BCDA is developing a database of business e-mail addresses to share funding and educational opportunities, as well as providing county-wide updates. Please contact the BCDA office at (402) 395-3356, or shannonlandauer@frontiernet.net
- * St. Edward students have put together a video of St. Edward that will be available on the community website at: <http://www.ci.saint-edward.ne.us/>

There's nothing stronger than the heart of a volunteer.

Petersburg Leadership Challenge

Residents of Petersburg are pulling their efforts together to form a Leadership group to help serve the area.

This is a challenge issued by the Nebraska Community Improvement Program (NCIP). NCIP put out the word that they were initiating the Leadership Development Challenge curriculum to foster leadership, planning, and project implementation for the state's small communities, and Petersburg accepted the challenge for serving as the first Nebraska community to fully test out the curriculum, before the full launch. Governor Dave Heineman congratulated Petersburg, stating how it has the opportunity to set the standards for other participating communities.

The curriculum consist of a community-based leadership module, community analysis/planning module, several case studies about economic development, housing, health, education and government issues.

Finally, communities are required to produce "Community Capstone Projects", that involves a project plan that incorporates the active process. The final projects will be submitted to the Nebraska Department of Economic Development, which will help communities identify possible project funding sources. After selection, the Department will provide communities with feedback about what makes them positively or negatively stand out, and help with the planning process.