



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

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Albion, NE 68620

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Updates Around Boone County

- ★ Congratulations to Country Laminates on celebrating their 25th Anniversary on October 24.
- ★ Boone County Bank has added a new sign that will display time, temperature, and community events.
- ★ The Petersburg Community Club will be holding their annual Christmas Party on December 15.
 - ★ Zentner Welding, owned by Dar Zentner is a new business in Cedar Rapids.
 - ★ The Village of Cedar Rapids will be welcoming Brady Yosten to the Village Board.
- ★ The City of St. Edward will welcome Diane Sindelar to the City Council beginning in January.
 - ★ A new business, Two Girls and a Camera, will soon be opening in Albion.
- ★ Congratulations to Kate Sullivan on being elected to represent Legislative District 41.
- ★ January - March of 2009, Elkhorn Valley Museum in Norfolk will be host to a display by the Boone County Historical Society featuring Boone County.



Boone County Development Agency Newsletter

Volume 7, Issue 4

Boone County-One County, One Community

December 2008

Message from the Director

Executive Committee

- ALBION:** Walt Hoefler
Larry Lambert
- CEDAR RAPIDS:** Brian Yosten
Mike Sullivan
- PETERSBURG:** Ross Knott
Jeanne Stokes
- PRIMROSE:** Irene Dresch
LaHoma Krick
- ST. EDWARD:** Richard Good
Dean Hamling
- ALBION DEVELOPMENT:** Tim Kayton
Robert Racek
- BCDA MEMBER AT LARGE:** Scott Stuhmiller
Andy Roberts
- BOONE COUNTY:** Tom Schuele
Hank Thieman



We have again reached the time of year when we reflect on the last year; review changes we have seen, prepare for holiday gatherings, and give thanks for all that we have been blessed with.

I have to start by being thankful for the short commute! It is great to leave the house at 7:58 and know my son will be in time for classes that start at 8:05. This is one great point I emphasize when telling people what a great place Boone County is to make home. A friend of mine in the economic development world has recently moved to a small rural community from a Lincoln to Omaha commute every day. It is incredible to think of the amount of time spent driving, and the numerous other tasks that could be accomplished if it weren't for the commute!

Having Sara in the office for the last three months is a BIG reason for giving thanks! Sara brings a fresh perspective and creative ideas with her to the office each day.

She is a great asset to the office and the

county as she is learning our projects and programs quickly!

I am also truly thankful for the many great volunteers throughout the county that are willing to donate their time and talents. Boone County Development Agency is a fine example of volunteers being willing to give countless hours to make our organization and Boone County strong. Our Executive Committee is listed to the left, but we also have a Board of Representatives, made up of elected officials throughout the county that are committed to this organization. I am truly grateful to have the opportunity to work with each of them.

I encourage everyone to take a moment to step back from the holiday excitement and reflect on what is important to you this holiday season.

The last year has brought many changes in my life: many good, several not so good, but it is the life lesson learned from each of these changes that we should truly be thankful for!

Shannon Landauer,
Executive Director

Petersburg Recipient of NCIP Awards

On November 14, Petersburg was the recipient of two Nebraska Community Improvement Program awards for the 2007-2008 year; the award plaques are displayed at the Petersburg Village office.

The first award was for Business Assistance and Development for Economic Development and Growth for Petersburg. Nine mainstreet businesses, the town hall, and fire hall have been involved in the most extensive community revitalization since the 1980's. Several organizations have partnered to encourage the creation of several business lots that have provided opportunities for business ventures. Projects mentioned in the nomination include: construction of new buildings, removal of old structures, and updates to existing facilities.

The second award was in the Technology, Infrastructure,

and Planning category for Improvement of Water, Sewer, and Streets. Several infrastructure projects were undertaken in the community that have provided citizens with a more reliable and environmentally safe water, sewer, and wastewater system.

The NCIP Awards Ceremony was held in Kearney this year in conjunction with the first annual Governor's Conference on Rural Development. The conference covered topics such as volunteer recruitment, funding opportunities, and downtown revitalization.

Congratulations to the Village of Petersburg! We appreciate the hard work and dedication of those that contribute their time towards these projects. Your efforts are greatly appreciated!



St. Edward Holiday Extravaganza



With the holiday season nearing, St. Edward residents Udine Sindelar, Cindy Stephens, and Peg Andreason got to work planning a Holiday Extravaganza for St. Edward. The event was community wide as there were several holiday displays in the Community Building, as well as discounts at the local retail establishments.

There were twelve displays in the community building, and coffee and cookies were offered. The extravaganza was held November 6, 7, & 8. In the past, Cindy has held an event at St. Edward Floral, but this year the idea was expanded to a community-wide event. Both Cindy and Udine felt that attendance was great, and they have already discussed ideas for next year!

Sixteen of the local businesses participated in the event. Most merchants offered discounts on purchases, several offered meal deals, and Wert's had a vendor selling her jewelry. There were also drawings for prizes and treats were served throughout the day.

The planning committee utilized a grant from the Boone County Visitor's Promotion Committee to help defray the cost of advertising.

Jarecki's Greenhouse adds Floral Shop

Jarecki's Greenhouse and Lawn Care in Albion has added a floral shop to their business offerings for the community. Along with the greenhouse and lawn care they will offer floral arrangements, candy bouquets, holiday decorations, and all other floral and gift needs. The team of florist is made of Ann Jarecki from Albion, Joan Stone and Sue Korus both from the Lindsay area. The plan for the floral shop was put together to meet the needs of the community.

The business has added some new looks to the greenhouse that was already at the site. Jarecki Lawn Care and Greenhouse opened in April of 2004; the floral shop opened the doors in the first part of this November after remodeling the existing greenhouse. Deliveries are also available in the local area. Jarecki's Floral and Gift is excited to offer their talents and uniqueness to the community and are ready to help you with your holiday decorating ideas, as well as sending holiday cheer.



Carpe Diem Designs

New to Cedar Rapids is Carpe Diem Designs. Gina Geiser and Cindy Fousek have dedicated time to creating handmade greeting cards for all occasions.



The passion for making greeting cards came from their love of scrapbooking. Cindy and Gina enjoy making cards for others to enjoy while keeping simplicity in mind to assure a good buy for their customers. For the holiday season, boxed sets of ten cards are available, as well as gift tags. Currently, plans are in the works to design cards for businesses to send through the holiday season, or for other special occasions throughout the year.

The cards are currently for sale at Gringo Jo's in Cedar Rapids, Scrapbook Paradise in Albion, and The Nebraska Store in Stromsburg.

Ideas for the future include working with business greeting cards, and expanding to offer their cards in other locations.



These cards are a great way to spread holiday cheer while supporting the entrepreneurial spirit in Boone County!

Petersburg Hosts Community Builders

On Thursday, October 23, Community Builders was held in Petersburg. Community Builders is a program that has been developed to showcase rural communities in the area through the efforts of Cornhusker Public Power District, Loup Power District, and Central Community College.

While in Petersburg, attendees were able to visit Scott's Backhoe and Well Service, the Rae Valley Heritage site, and finally Rae Valley Market. Upon gathering at the Legion, guests were treated to a presentation by Angie Koch and Jan Temme on Punkin Chunkin™ and served a wonderful meal by Rae Valley Market.

The speaker for the evening was Jeff Yost, Director of the Nebraska Community Foundation. Jeff's presentation discussed our youth leaving the area as a current trend in rural Nebraska, and efforts that could be made to try to reverse this trend and bring young families back to our rural communities. Jeff also touched on charitable giving in our small communities.

If anyone would like to be added to the contact list for Community Builders, please contact the Boone County Development Agency office.

Helen Preusser Announces Retirement

December 31, 2008 will bring an end to Helen Presusser's service to Boone County as the Treasurer. Helen began her career as clerk in April of 1977, was moved up to deputy, and was named Boone County Treasurer in 1995.

Helen discussed how work has become more efficient as technology has advanced. Work that took three days of hand writing is now about a days work. Transitioning from all the paper work to the computer work was an easy move for Helen. Over the years she has the opportunity to meet over 150 people that have worked in the Boone County Courthouse's various offices.

Helen plans to spend time more time with her family, including seven grandchildren. BCDA would like to thank Helen for her dedication to Boone County over the years, and best wishes for a happy and healthy retirement!

Boone Central Students Participate in Survey

Recently, 7th and 8th graders from Boone Central participated in a survey relating to their future plans and their overall feelings of the Boone County area.

Points of great interest to Boone County Development Agency are:

- 78% of students plan to attend college.
- 65% picture themselves living in the Boone County area in the future, with 38% interested in owning their own business in the future.

Reasons for making Boone County home in the future included family connections, quality schools and healthcare, great small town atmosphere, and a great place to raise a family.

Both the students surveyed and young adults feel that work is needed in creating more quality jobs and potential business opportunities to make returning home possible for more young people.

The survey was an effort of the Boone county Area Foundation, with funding coming from the Connie Fund, Northeast Community College, Central Community College, and the Nebraska Community Foundation.

The survey was conducted by Craig Schroeder with the RUPRI Center for Rural Entrepreneurship. Craig uses a methodology for the survey and focus groups that were developed and used for Hometown Competitiveness (HTC) for the past five years.

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

Albion Public Library Celebrates 100 Years

The BCDA would like to extend a congratulations to the Albion Public Library for being in the community for 100 years. That is an accomplishment not met by many in the community.

Andrew Carnegie donated funds to build the library and construction was completed in December of 1908 on land that was donated by the Augustus Mansfield Estate.

The library has many offerings for the community. On Saturday mornings Story Hour is held at 10:00, Saturday afternoon movies are offered one time a month, there is a book discussion for adults, for children there is a summer reading program and in the winter months an after school program is held on Tuesday afternoons. There is also access to seven public computers that offer internet and word processing.

County Government Day

County Government Day was held on Wednesday, November 26 at the KC Hall in Albion. Students from the county towns came to learn about the services offered in the county. The day started off with introductions, visiting the county offices, an informative slide show, essay awards, and pictures taken with county officials. A new twist this year was family feud. Students were put into groups and were challenged to answer questions about the county offices. Afterwards, a lunch was served and the students were dismissed after a closing prayer by Leo Maurus Baustert.

Students that visited the Boone County Development Agency Office were: Jordan Mogensen from Cedar Rapids, Andrew Texley and Kevin Carder from Boone Central. The BCDA welcomes any one to stop and visit the office anytime to share your ideas and suggestions.



Business Transition Tools

Business transition has been a topic of conversation at many seminars and conferences in the recent past. Exit strategies are of great importance to those business owners nearing retirement.

There are several tools that Boone County Development Agency has access to that can be a great resource to both buyers and sellers. Most recently, the Nebraska Business Development Center has recorded a Business Transition webinar. These webinars will be shown four times monthly, and are available in the comforts of your home or office.

BCDA can also assist with the development of a business plan and financial packaging. We encourage anyone interested in buying a business to contact Boone County Development Agency for any assistance that you may need.