

Newsletter

Mission Statement: "To promote Boone County"

Message from the Director



Shirley Petsche, Director

Executive Committee

ALBION: **Walt Hoefler**
Jolynn Weber

CEDAR RAPIDS:
Brian Yoston
Mick Loeffler

PETERSBURG:
Ross Knott
Jeanne Stokes

PRIMROSE:
Irene Dresch

ST. EDWARD:
Richard Good
Randy Eckmann

ALBION DEVELOPMENT:
Tim Kayton
Robert Racek

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS:
Tom Schuele
Hank Thiemann

ASAlliances Albion has entered their 100 day crunch; less than 100 days to production. I too have entered that phase in my position as Executive Director for Boone County Development Agency.

Contrary to rumors that are circulating, I am not leaving for another position. I am leaving for personal reasons: photography as a hobby, family and grandkids, gardening, reading, household organization, selling on E-bay, and just general relaxation.

Please wish me well. I have met some great people during these past six years and will not soon forget you. I appreciate the opportunity to work closely with super boards and committees, and all

the cities and villages, in promotion of Boone County and have enjoyed the challenges presented. My replacement has not yet been determined. Interviews will be scheduled in the next few weeks.

The ethanol plant is one of the projects that Boone County Development Agency has worked very hard for and I appreciate having been a player in the process. I plan to work until mid-September, which mirrors the timeline that ASA Albion has set for pro-

duction. I wish continued growth in Boone County and feel a sense of pride in all that has been accomplished in Boone County.



North to South, East to West-Boone County offers you life's very best!
Definitely Worth the Trip!

Sentinel Expansion

As many of you may have noticed, Sentinel Building Systems has undergone an expansion at the plant site. Larry Ruffner, General Manager of Sentinel explained the expansion in an interview on June 1. Larry began his position with Sentinel on May 1, 2006, bringing with him 44 years of experience in manufacturing. There were several reasons for the expansion.

- To move the office out of the center of the manufacturing area.
- A meeting space was also added that would allow for all employees to attend meetings at the same time.



The expansion will allow for better flow within the plant. Sentinel is working on implementing lean manufacturing practices. "Work smarter, not harder" is the idea behind the changes to the plant. To the back of the plant, another addition houses a new paint operation that incorporates a dehumidifier unit to speed the drying time. Sentinel designs and builds steel buildings to meet the needs of individuals and large business alike to a strong nationwide market, with a large sales base in the Midwest. Sentinel currently has 55 employees from throughout the Boone County area.

POSTAL PATRON



Planning for Retirement? Business for Sale?
 Contact Shirley or Shannon at: (402) 395-3356
www.boone-county.org

Summer Fun

Fun Farm Statistics

Following are some fun facts about agriculture today.

- Today's average farm is 417 acres compared to 147 acres in 1990.
- Today's farmer feeds about 129 people in the United States and abroad. In 1960 that number was 25.8
- Forty-two percent of U.S. total land area is farmland.
- U.S. farmers account for 42.7 percent of the world's soybean production and 34.4 percent of the world's corn production.
- More than 15 percent of the U.S. population is employed in farm or farm-related jobs.
- U.S. consumers spend roughly 9 percent of their income on food compared with 11 percent in the United Kingdom, 17 percent in Japan, 27 percent in South Africa and 53 percent in India.
- Farmers and ranchers provide food and habitat for 75 percent of the nation's wildlife.

- June:**
 15 & 16 City Merchants Sales and Garage Sales
 In St. Edward
 26 & 27 Petersburg Carnival Days
 30 Cedar Rapids Community Picnic
- July:**
 14 Petersburg Fireman's Dance
 15 St. Bonaventure Q125 in Petersburg
 21-25 Boone County Fair in Albion
- August:**
 3, 4, & 5 Beaver Valley Days
 25 & 26 Nebraska State Antique Tractor & Horse
 Plowing Bee (Celebrating 25 Years!)

A Summer 2007 Activities Brochure, including golf, scrapbooking, swimming, and ball programs, all with contact information can be found on the BCDA website at:
www.boone-county.org

Meteorological Tower Near Petersburg

A meteorological tower was constructed east of Petersburg by Third Planet Wind. The 196 foot tower will test the velocity of wind in the area. Third Planet Wind has been working at developing a wind farm in the area for several months by talking with land owners and holding informational meetings. The proposed project would span 25,000 acres, initiated in phases, and would stretch east into Madison County. LB 629 addresses current issues that are connected with the growth of wind energy in Nebraska.



Drive Thru Job Fair

On Thursday May 17 Boone County Development Agency hosted a Drive Thru Job fair site in the Junction parking lot in Albion. The job fair is organized by Nebraska Workforce Development. Sites were located in 12 communities across the region including Columbus, Schuyler, and David City. The packets included available positions from each of these communities. This year 63 residents from the area visited the job fair site in Albion and received packets, with a total of 776 participants regionally. Last year 59 attended the Albion site with 752 regional attendees. Visitors are only required to answer 2 quick questions to receive their packet. Boone County Development Agency feels that the event is a success, and is happy to offer this service to the residents of Boone County.

Cedar Rapids Fire Hall Grant

The Village of Cedar Rapids was awarded a CDBG grant of \$250,000 to help build a new fire station that will house all equipment and gear. The facility would also have a meeting/training area. The location of the new fire hall will be on the lot north of the swimming pool for highway access and better visibility. Since the award was announced the Village Board and Rural Fire Board have been very busy with planning and paperwork. Final approval for a floor plan was approved at the Village Council meeting. Currently, preparations are being made so the bidding process can begin. If all goes well foundation work will begin in the fall. Fundraising will continue, and all donations are much appreciated. Donations can be made at Cedar Rapids State Bank or Cedar Rapids City Hall.



ASA Albion Update

Jim Merkel, EHS Manager for ASA Albion attended the Boone County Development Agency Executive Committee Meeting on Wednesday, June 6. Jim shared with the group where the plant is at in several different areas now that they are within 100 days of startup. # Gas service has been connected to the plant. # Electric service is at the sub-station on site. # Ethanol storage tanks are 20% complete, corn grind structures and silos are complete, and the water treatment building is nearing completion. # The conveyor belt from Cargill to the plant is ready to be lifted into position. # Railworks completed the sidings. # Staffing is near completion. The Management team is in place. The maintenance crew will train at the Linden site, which is six to eight weeks to startup. # Fire safety issues have been discussed. 600,000 gallons of water are kept available with the retention pond as a backup. The retention pond has held water well with the heavy rains.



Technology and volume of production allow for minimum staffing. Fagen has done a very good job at maintaining the property in a clean and safe manner. The ethanol will be shipped to blenders by rail. Denaturant will arrive by truck.

St. Edward Dike

The dike in St. Edward held up well recently after the heavy rains in May that were received throughout Boone County. There was some flooding in the community, and Highway 39 was closed for several

hours. Boone County Development Agency is working with Kirkham Michael to mitigate the flood plain. The first step is applying for a CDBG Planning grant to conduct a study of the dike. The study will determine what further steps need to be taken for the dike to be recognized by FEMA and the Army Corp of Engineers.



Communities...Put out the welcome mat, we're advertising!

Websites of Interest

The Boone County Development Agency has recently updated their website with several changes and additions, including the addition of a Small Business Planner. The City of Albion has also developed a new website, with a different web address. Cedar Rapids, Petersburg, and St. Edward maintain very informative websites. The Boone County fair board has created a Boone County Fair website that is well worth your visiting time. 1# www.boone-county.org 1# www.ci.albion.ne.us 1# www.cedar-rapids.ne.us 1# www.ci.petersburg.ne.us 1# www.ci.saint-edward.ne.us 1# www.boonecountyfair.net Websites are a vital communication tool to the world.



Boone County... Spend the day, Spend the weekend, Or spend the rest of your life! **Definitely Worth the Trip!**

* Albion
* Cedar Rapids
* Petersburg
* Primrose
* St. Edward
A 5 star destination, all American home towns!
Definitely Worth the Trip!

Lodging Tax

In July 2006 Boone County lodging facilities began collecting lodging tax to be used for promotion of tourism in Boone County. A County Visitors Committee was established to review applications for lodging tax funds. Members of the Committee are Shirley Petsche, Doc Holladay, La-homa Krick, Brian Yosten, and Udine Sindelar. Applications are available at the City office in each community. Completed applications should be sent to Boone County Development Agency and will be reviewed on a monthly schedule.



Boot Rack Celebrates 25th Anniversary

The Boot Rack in Albion, owned by Norm and Darlene Reynoldson, celebrated its 25th Anniversary on February 14, 2007. Norm and Darlene purchased Svoboda Shoes. The business was originally a shoe store and they have added the Western lines. Boot Rack offers a wide assortment of product lines including Nike and Justin. Norm said that they do a lot of special ordering of products. Also, they offer custom boots and belt buckles. They feel fortunate with the size of their trade area. Norm and Darlene also spoke of the changes that the Boot Rack has seen since they became owners. The first major change is the amount of travel the business is initiating as a mainstay of the business. The Boot Rack attends several shows throughout the year to sell products. Many of the first time customers at these shows do make the trip to Albion and become

regular customers. At the request of customers at the shows, Boot Rack is developing a web page. Norm and Darlene do not anticipate any major changes for the business in the future. They are happy with the changes they made to the current location and feel that it accommodates their needs well. When asked if there is anything Norm would like to add to the store, he responded that he would like to add sport coats and dressier clothes. We encourage you to stop in and visit Norm and Darlene at The Boot Rack on 4th Street in Albion. The hours of operation are 9:00 am to 5:30 pm Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday. 9:00 am to 8:00 pm on Thursday, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm on Saturday, and 1-4 pm on Sunday. To reach them by phone, call (402) 395-2611.

