



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

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Albion, NE 68620

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Boone County Development Agency Newsletter

Volume 8, Issue 3

Boone County-One County, One Community

September 2009

POSTAL PATRON



www.boone-county.org

UNL Architecture Students Extending Classroom to Boone County

On August 26, a group of UNL architecture students, along with Professor Martin Despang, made a trip to Boone County. The students will be spending the Fall semester learning about Boone county from the past to the present and will be designing structures based on community need, using an eco-friendly, energy efficient approach. Students have been asked to spend time getting to know the community, and design from the perspective of a resident, using their youthful ideas and history-based inspiration.

The University's College of Architecture has a long tradition of working with communities and were among the first to be asked to assist with the redevelopment of New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina. In just six weeks they completely redesigned one of the hardest hit areas, developing



plans for housing, retail centers, a fire and police station, schools, and churches.

Professor Despang is from Germany and is internationally respected for his innovative designs. He had studied architecture at UNL himself, making the decision to relocate to Nebraska an easy one. Students will continue to visit Boone County, as well as hosting residents of Boone County in their classroom in Lincoln.

Plans are currently underway for a second professor, Erhard Schutz, to conduct a studio in this area as well.

Work with the students has inspired conversations around the rich Native American history of Boone County. Many volunteers from throughout Boone County spent time meeting with the students and sharing stories and perspectives.

Executive Committee

- ALBION:** **Walt Hoefler**
Cory Worrell
- 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

Message from the Director



The summer months have been busy for Boone County Development Agency! We have been involved with several projects that have produced positive outcomes for the county, which you will read more about in the next few pages.

I am happy to see projects coming to reality for Boone County; but beyond that it is great to see the collaborative efforts between our communities and organizations. Once again we are seeing the benefits of everyone working together for a common goal, and the results it brings to Boone County.

Those working on behalf of Boone County are strong leaders, and serving in just one of their many volunteer roles. Volunteerism is strong in each of our communities; it is important to thank those who share their time and talent for the good of the community.

In August we had a visit from Governor

Dave Heineman and Richard Baier, Director of the Nebraska Department of Economic Development. Discussion at the meeting was centered around the economy in rural Nebraska. Topics covered included education, wind energy, health care, state budgeting, water, the livestock industry, and efforts made by the Nebraska Department of Economic Development to recruit industries into Nebraska.

I would also like to congratulate Petersburg for their success with the Leadership program that began in the spring. Participants have chosen a sign by the highway as their capstone project, and hosted Bash in the 'Burg to raise funds for the new sign. Over 30 residents with a variety of age groups participated in the program.

We hope that all of you have a great fall season, and are able to take time to enjoy the beautiful autumn scenes in Boone County!

Shannon Landauer
Executive Director



BCDA Welcomes Vanessa Mason

Vanessa Mason is the new assistant for Boone County Development Agency, beginning her duties on July 21, 2009.

Vanessa is originally from Grand Island, Nebraska. She graduated from Grand Island Central Catholic in 2005, and Wayne State College with a Bachelors of Science Degree majoring in Family and Consumer Sciences in May 2009.

Vanessa moved to Albion the beginning of May 2009 when her boyfriend, Nick Marvin, opened Simply Cellular, the new US Cellular store in Albion.

Vanessa says, "The Albion residents are very welcoming and are willing to accept new people. This has made moving to Albion a lot more comfortable for me".



Vanessa completed her last few college credits working 120 hours for the Boone County Health Center at the Tiny Treasures daycare and the WIC clinic. "The experience was great, it gave me a good start in a unfamiliar town and a chance to meet new people."

Vanessa has enjoyed working for Boone County Development Agency. She feels working for the Agency has given her a chance to meet new people in the community, and begin to get involved with various organizations throughout Boone County.

Vanessa says, " I have heard good things about Albion for years. I have visited Albion one other time before moving here and it has been a good move for us."

Midwest Wind Energy/Edison Mission Midwest

Patrick Dalseth, project coordinator for Midwest Wind Energy, visited Boone County and spent time meeting with the Boone County Commissioners and staff members, Boone County Development Agency Executive Committee, and various groups and residents in Petersburg to discuss the Boone County wind project that may be under construction as early as April 2010 in Boone County.

The NPPD Board of Directors has directed its staff to proceed with finalizing the negotiations of a power purchase agreement (PPA) with Midwest Wind Energy/Edison Mission Midwest for 80 megawatts of wind-power generation from a site near Petersburg, named that Laredo Ridge Wind Farm.

Patrick shared information about the development process, including how local businesses and residents can potentially



participate with the wind farm. Also, Patrick discussed why this site was chosen by Midwest Wind Energy, the turbines that have been proposed for the site, and project benefits. The project will have significant impact on our local economy through the purchase of materials and services, temporary construction employment and permanent maintenance positions, and property tax income for the county. A brief and general discussion was held on the CBED structure for the Laredo Ridge Wind Farm project.

Patrick reminded the group that the information provided in his presentation are projections based on the current economy and are subject to change until the final contracts are signed, but he is optimistic that the project will be on track for meeting the timelines set by NPPD to have the turbines commissioned and generating electricity by December 2010.

Boone County Development Agency Website

- Utilize the BCDA calendar on the site to post your community events!
- Applications for Boone County Visitors Promotion Funds can be found on the BCDA website under the Tourism menu!

New Services offered by Good Samaritan Center

Good Samaritan Society-Albion, is excited to announce a new service which will help their campus offer more services to the community. This unique new service is specifically designed for the community of Albion, and will combine the best of two services: assisted living and home care. There are packages available, which include Lifeline, home-maker services, bathing, nursing care and telehealth, along with other amenities of the assisted living community.

Good Samaritan Society has 240 campuses nationwide, and Albion was chosen to be first to test this innovative service package because of their reputation of providing services for seniors. The Good Samaritan Society-Albion campus currently consists of a skilled nursing facility, assisted living, independent apartments and now the assisted living at home services.

With a strong leadership team at the Good Samaritan Society, improvements and ideas for growth are continuous. Administrator Kerry Davidson is happy to visit about ways the GSS-Albion campus is changing to meet the future needs in the Boone County community.

For additional information call us at 402-395-5050.

Boone County Development Agency would like to invite you to become our fan on Facebook!

- Stay Connected with Your Hometown!
- Find Old Friends
- Learn of Events and Opportunities in Boone county
- Keep Up to Date with News, Including the Wind Farm Project in Boone County!



Albion Firehall Project Complete

The Albion Fire Department has recently moved into its new building, located on Highway 14/39 just south of Albion. The new station will house equipment, and has a meeting room. The building was funded through private donations and sales tax collections. Currently there are 35 members of the Albion Volunteer Fire Department.



Boone County Receives Housing Grant

Boone County has been awarded \$320,900 of trust funds from the Nebraska Affordable Housing Program Homebuyer Program. Through this program, five homes will be purchased, rehabbed, and resold to families at or below 100% of the Area Median Income.

This Project is a collaborative effort between the communities in Boone County: Albion, Cedar Rapids, Petersburg, Primrose and St. Edward. Boone County Development Agency, Northeast Nebraska Economic Development District (NENEDD) and NeighborWorks Northeast Nebraska (NWNEN) have partnered together in the last year to devise a new approach to



solving housing needs in Boone County.

The purchase/rehab/resell program will take a "green" approach by utilizing and improving existing housing stock. It will be a cost efficient approach to modernizing and restoring older homes. The program is available to all of the communities in Boone County, but the homes will have to be located within corporate limits of cities/villages. A series of meetings will be held in the coming months to meet with realtors, lenders, and contractors in Boone County to discuss the program.

For more information contact Boone County Development Agency at (402) 395-3356 or shannonlandauer@boone-county.org

Boone County Lodging Tax

In January of 2006, Boone County enacted a 2% lodging tax. The Boone County Visitor's Promotion Fund Committee was established to review grant applications and make recommendations to the Boone County Commissioners.

The funds are used to promote tourism and events in Boone County; to date, fourteen applications have been funded, contributing to the marketing budget of several events.

There are five committee members: Richard Holladay, Brian Yosten, Jeanne Stokes, LaHoma Krick, and Ardys Choat. More information, as well as application forms, can be found by visiting the BCDA website.

Boone County Development Agency would like to congratulate the community of Cedar Rapids on the recent completion of park improvements! A Kids Day was held at the park on September 6, with hotdogs, chips, and drinks served to those who attended.



Boone County Receives BECA Funds

On June 8, 2009 The Nebraska Department of Economic Development and Nebraska Rural Development Commission awarded \$96,331.75 in grant funds to five partnerships through the Building Entrepreneurial communities Act (BECA), which supports regional economic & community development partnerships in rural areas of the state.

Receiving funds was a partnership among Boone County communities. The award was in the amount of \$15,500 to implement an initiative that fosters economic revitalization and wealth generation in Boone County, using strategies that build effective & sustainable economic development capacity.

The grant funds will be used for the research and development of an alumni database and social networking site; leadership program development; capacity building and volunteer training for community development roles.

Recruitment of residents into our communities is key to the sustainability of Boone County. With these grant funds, Boone County Development Agency plans to reach out to our Boone County alumni by increasing communication to share opportunities that become available for those that have interest in returning to Boone County.

A Youth Engagement Strategy Committee is working to reach out to those who are new within the county, helping them to feel a sense of community. Involving new residents in opportunities to meet others and become a part of community organizations is a goal of the committee.

Financial support for the grant will be provided by Boone County Development Agency, Boone County Area Foundation, Albion Economic Development corporation, Cedar Valley Area Foundation, Petersburg Industrial Development Corporation and St. Edward Development Corporation.