



Fall 2009

Helping Preserve a Way of Life

Volume 6, Issue 4

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SCEDD Annual Meeting, November 19

SAVE THE DATE...

Connect. Discover. Celebrate!

Join us for the 2009

South Central Economic Development District

Annual Meeting and Dinner

Featuring Guest Speaker Senator Mike Gloor

Thursday, November 19, 2009

Holiday Inn (I-80), 7838 S Hwy 281, Grand Island

6:00 p.m. Networking Social Hour and Cash Bar

7:00 p.m. Buffet Dinner, Program and Meeting

Take this opportunity to connect with local leaders, discover local initiatives building our region and celebrate community successes! Our guest speaker will be Senator Mike Gloor, District 35, who will discuss leading in difficult times and his experience in the legislature.

Tickets are available for \$15 each, please contact Kathy Burr at 308-995-3190 or admin@scedd.us.

RSVP by November 13th.





Visit us at
our new location:

502 East Avenue
Holdrege, NE
68949

2nd Annual Governor's Conference, November 6th

This year's 2009 Governor's Conference on Rural Development "Leading Through Innovation", Nov. 6, will explore the virtual and wired world in-depth with the help of Keynote Speaker Terry Jones, Founder and Former CEO of Travelocity.com, Chairman of Kayak.com, venture capitalist and consultant.

Jones has revolutionized the industry through his unique perspective on innovation, leadership in a wired world, and building digital relationship with customers. He started Travelocity.com as a department inside the multi-billion dollar Sabre Corpo-

ration. Starting with an idea and team of ten, he grew the department into a multi-billion dollar public company with more than 35 million members and 1,200 employees.

Other conference offerings include "What Makes a Small Community Successful?", "How Youth are Investing in Their Communities," "Surviving the Current Economic Climate," and more. An online conference brochure details the different workshops.

The conference, along with the 46th Annual Nebraska Community Improvement Program (NCIP) banquet, will be held at the Kearney

Holiday Inn Hotel & Conference Center.

According to 2008 attendee Melissa Vinzant, "The sessions offered valuable information, and the networking was an added bonus." The 2009 Conference promises to provide the same level of satisfaction to those who attend.

To access the conference brochure and registration form, go to: http://www.neded.org/files/crd/ncip/2009/NCIP_GovernorsConference_Program_and_Registration_Form.pdf The late registration fee will be waived upon mention of the SCEDD newsletter!

SCEDD Receives Grant Award for Demolition

The Nebraska Department of Economic Development (DED) has awarded \$312,000 through the Community Development Block Grant Neighborhood Stabilization Program 1 to the South Central Economic Development District (SCEDD), to help with neighborhood revitalization efforts.

SCEDD will use its \$312,000 to demolish a mix of blighted structures, including two single family homes, two multi-family units, an office unit and a garage, all located along Logan Street in Holdrege, and structures in Superior and Harvard as funding

allows. The projects serve a population where at least 51 percent of residents earn incomes at or below 120% of the area median income.

providing the emergency assistance to state and local governments to purchase, redevelop, and rehabilitate foreclosed, abandoned, and vacant properties that otherwise are already or may become inhabitable. A main focus of the program is to return safe and decent affordable housing units to the market. The Neighborhood Stabilization Program 1 also allows for the demolition of blighted structures. The program is authorized under Title III of the Housing and Economic Recovery Act of 2008. DED administers the program.



Structures on
demolition list
In Superior



Holdrege properties

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Neighborhood Stabilization Program 1 is

Should I Start My Own Business?

Written by Jeff Reynolds, REAP Program Director -

“Should I or shouldn’t I” – that *is* the question, or to put another way, that *should* be the question. During these tough economic times, we are seeing many people lose their jobs due to layoffs and other reasons. An obvious answer too many is to start a small business. There are many reasons people start businesses. Many times a lack of stable employment opportunities, a shrinking job market, jobs being shifted overseas, etc, etc.,

Many times we see that a person is nearly forced to start a small business due to no other opportunities. Sometimes this works out and many times it does not work out. Many times it only compounds the problem for the people involved.

In these uncertain economic times, it is absolutely critical that people looking to start a business, *for whatever reason*, ask themselves the critical question, “Should I or shouldn’t I”? You shouldn’t start your business until you can truly

answer the question.

The following key points below will help you answer this critical question:

Do I have what it takes to be an entrepreneur? Do you have experience in the business area you are pursuing and knowledge on how to operate a business? Are you willing to work all the hours it will take to make the business successful? Are you willing to assume the risk involved?

Cash is King. The majority of businesses that startup are undercapitalized. Cash is the life blood of any business. Many businesses die a slow death due to be undercapitalized. Do you have the needed funds in place to not only start the business, but keep the business going until it is profitable? Are you being realistic with your projections?

Is there a need for your business? Have you accessed the market to determine if there is a demand for your business?

Have you taken time to write a realistic and feasible business plan? Many times, you may want to consider doing a feasibility study prior to writing your business plan.

These key points aren’t inclusive, but will aid in answering the key question, “Should I or shouldn’t I”? I would recommend not starting a business until your answer is an absolute “yes”. If your answer is “no”, it doesn’t mean you’ll never be able to start your own business, it just means all the pieces of the puzzle aren’t in place yet.

The Center for Rural Affairs’ Rural Enterprise Assistance Project (REAP) is a full-service microenterprise development program and operates on a statewide rural basis in Nebraska. Questions about this article or further information about REAP services can be found at www.cfra.org/reap or contact Jeff Reynolds, REAP Program Director at (402) 656-3091 or jeffr@cfra.org.

Central City is Recipient of Neighborhood Stabilization Program 1 Grant Funding

The City of Central City has been awarded \$50,000 in grant funding for demolition of blighted residential structures within the City, and SCEDD has been appointed as grant administrator.

In accordance with grant program guidelines, the City will accept applications from those interested parties who are eligible to participate in the program. Those applications will be scored based on criteria established by the City and

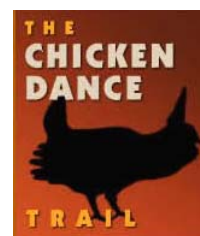
approved by the Nebraska Department of Economic Development. The highest scoring applications will be eligible for demolition. Application details and additional information will be published in the Republican Nonpareil.

This grant award will allow Central City to continue with a community betterment program already in progress.

Consider Watchable Wildlife!

To find nearby wildlife viewing areas, visit www.chickendancetrail.com.

2010 Watchable Wildlife Conference to be held in Kearney



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Visit us on the Web!
www.scedd.us

Mission:

The South Central Economic Development District exists to develop and promote a positive economic climate, which supports regional growth.

Vision:

The vision of the South Central Economic Development District is to identify and respond to the growth and development of businesses, entrepreneurs, and communities, encouraging solutions and innovations that energize the regional economic environment.

Staff:

Sharon Hueftle, Executive Director: sharonh@scedd.us
Melissa Vinzant, Community Consultant: melissav@scedd.us
Alison Raymond, Business Disaster Recovery Coordinator:
alisonr@scedd.us
Kathy Burr, Administrative Assistant: admin@scedd.us

SCEDD Happenings

2009 has been another productive year for the South Central Economic Development District! With the addition of two new staff members, SCEDD has been able to provide additional assistance to its members, allowing SCEDD to better serve our 12 county region.

SCEDD is currently administering two Community Development Block Grants, awarded by the Nebraska Department of Economic Development to the Village of Marquette and the City of Franklin. The Neighborhood Stabilization Pro-

gram 1 grant awards have been announced, with SCEDD receiving a direct grant to fund demolition of blighted structures. SCEDD will also administer the NSP1 grant received by Central City. Demolition should begin in the spring in Central City and Holdrege.

Clay Center recently participated in a Community Needs Assessment Survey, the results of which will be presented at a Town Hall meeting in late November. Superior is also participating in a CNAS, those results will be presented in January.

Along with these projects, SCEDD staff has also been busy assisting region businesses, coordinating Regional Revitalization through Community Development/Economic Development Summits, providing grant writing assistance, researching disaster recovery preparedness plans, and coordinating community planning.

If any of these projects are needed in your community, or if SCEDD can assist you in other areas, contact us!



Serving the Counties of:

Adams
Buffalo
Clay
Franklin
Hall
Hamilton
Harlan
Kearney
Merrick
Nuckolls
Phelps
and
Webster