



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 10, Issue 1

Boone County-One County, One Community

March 2011

## POSTAL PATRON



### Boone County Online Career Fair

March 10 & 11

visit [www.boone-county.org](http://www.boone-county.org)

\*Click on the Career Fair icon as show below, answer a few questions and you will receive a packet of available positions in Boone County by e-mail. Check the box to receive ongoing e-mail notifications of positions that become available.

\*Positions include entry level through professional opportunities throughout the Boone County area!

\*Businesses that would like to promote a position are encouraged to contact BCDA to be included!

\*Individuals that do not have internet access can contact BCDA for other arrangements.

Questions? Comments? Contact BCDA at:

(402) 395-3356 or [shannonlandauer@boone-county.org](mailto:shannonlandauer@boone-county.org)



### Executive Committee Members

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In this newsletter, I wanted to mention National Community Development Week, which will be celebrated April 25-30, 2011. The program was designed to focus on accomplishments in community development. On a national level, the week will focus attention on the Community

Development Block Grant (CDBG) program and the HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME) program. Locally, I think it is a time to recognize the effort in our communities to develop goals and strategies, to combine the resources necessary to achieve these goals, and also the positive impact that these efforts have in our communities.

In every Boone County community, there has been at least one major project in the last 10 years. These projects include fire halls, libraries, water projects, wastewater projects, and a long list of other projects.

### Message from the Director

These projects have been completed not just out of necessity, but from a vision of community strength and stability for the future.

There are a great number of individuals in Boone County that offer their time and talent to a number of organizations and projects; Community Development Week is a reminder to applaud and appreciate the efforts of the many volunteers that it takes in our small communities.

In so many cases, Boone County is truly seen as an example of what can be accomplished when community leaders come together with a joint vision! It is wonderful to have the opportunity to share success stories from Boone County when I am attending meetings and conferences. Thank you to everyone that has offered your time, talent, and vision to the success of Boone County long into the future!

*Shannon Landauer*  
Executive Director



### Entrepreneurs in Action

Noah and Josiah Spagnotti were two of the youth who attended the Boone County Entrepreneurship Camp in June 2010. At camp, 13 year old Noah decided to use wool from his sheep to develop dryer balls, naming the business Mess Around Jacob. Using three dryer balls would replace a traditional dryer sheet, and is better because it is an all natural product and can be reused-Noah pointed out that they are currently using the same three since before camp last June!

Following camp, Noah did a 4-H project about entrepreneurship and how he started a business using wool from his sheep at their family farm. He received a Blue Ribbon at the State Fair for this presentation!

The Nance County Journal and Fencepost Magazine have featured a story about Noah. He has been contacted to ship his product to Missouri, California, Minnesota, and Wisconsin. He has also been contacted by the Indiana Wool Association to learn about his project and hopefully use that as an example to help promote using wool products.



Noah stated that "The camp sparked an interest, and helped to see what he could do." Since the camp, he has sold his product at two craft fairs, which were a good educational experience. He put his skills to work, using many concepts he learned at the camp. Josiah, 11 years old and also a camp participant, developed and sold needle felt acorns and animals. The entrepreneurial spirit is evident

in the household, as 9-year-old brother Elijah decided to get in on the action as well! He potted colia in a variety of pots and also sold his product at the craft fairs! Noah's mother, Linda, added that "he is considering a building in Cedar Rapids; a place to be open for a few hours to display his products and take orders."

To learn more about these products or to place an order, contact Noah and Josiah Spagnotti!



### Casey's General Store

Casey's General Store is expanding on the east side of their current facility. This additional space will be used as an employee lounge, a store room area where the washer and dryer will be located, and restroom renovations.

This increase in space will allow the kitchen to expand in an L-shape to provide an expanded kitchen area. The new kitchen will allow sub sandwiches to be added to the menu. These sandwiches will be made to order with choice of meats, vegetables, and condiments.



Casey's General Store will also have a new room for alcoholic beverages. The restrooms will be remodeled and updated to have larger accommodations. Sinattech Construction began this project in December and expects it to be complete by May 1, 2011.

**\*Watch for details of new websites for Petersburg and St. Edward!\***

### 2011 Boone County Entrepreneurship Camp

June 13-17

#### Boone Central Schools

Boone County Development Agency will again be partnering with UNL Extension and Central Community College to offer an Entrepreneurship Camp to students currently in grades 5-7 in Boone County.

The Camp will consist of speakers, business visits, and the opportunity for students to develop their own product/service business.

Due to limited space, those interested are urged to contact BCDA at:

**(402) 395-3356 or  
shannonlandauer@boone-county.org**



### Have you.....

- \* seen 39 Santa's gathered in one location?
- \* seen pumpkins launched across a field?
- \* wished to relive your high school prom?
- \* watched adults in Cedar Rapids perform in a melodrama?
- \* attended the mud drags in Primrose?

These are all events that have received grants from the Boone County Visitor's Promotion Fund!

The fund was established to assist organizations in Boone County with the promotion of events. There are a number of events throughout the year that attract visitor's into the area. Not only can the program assist with promotion of an event, but the promotion of a tourism facility is also an eligible item.

Learn more by visiting [www.boone-county.org](http://www.boone-county.org) and clicking on the Tourism button to view the application form and a list of events that have received funds from the Boone County Visitor's Promotion Fund!



### News for Boone County Businesses

- \* The annual MarkeTech Conference will be Thursday, March 31 in Norfolk. The conference is hosted by GROW Nebraska. The conference offers sessions on Social Media, Marketing, and Business Tools for Start-up and Growth. If interested contact Shannon Landauer for a complete conference schedule and registration information.
- \* Boone County Development Agency will partner with the Nebraska Department of Economic Development and the Nebraska Public Power District Economic Development team to conduct Business Retention and Expansion visits April 11-22. Businesses will be receiving a letter in the mail to set up an appointment!
- \* Albion Economic Development Corporation has recently implemented a new façade improvement for downtown businesses. The program is available to businesses looking to improve the appearance of their building. Eligible projects can include new doors and windows, tuckpointing, and paint. AEDC is offering a 50% matching grant for eligible projects, up to a maximum of \$5,000. Businesses interested in applying should contact Jill at (402) 395-6012.

### Third Planet Wind Power Project

On February 18, Steve Boyer of Third Planet Windpower visited Boone County Development Agency with an update on the wind project near Petersburg. Wind turbine components have been seen in the communities making their way to the site located east of Petersburg. Delivery of these turbine components began on December 2nd and was expected to be completed by March 1.

Steve anticipated that Blattner Construction, the general contractor for the project, from Avon, Minnesota is expected to be on site in late April. Construction work will begin with road improvements and the civil engineering for the project in late April, followed by turbine location excavation and concrete pouring. It is anticipated that the concrete work will be completed in July and turbine erection will begin in August and be complete in October. The project is due to go online with Omaha Public Power District by the end of December. Steve also reminded us that this construction schedule is very much at the mercy of Nebraska weather!

OPPD has agreed to purchase 40.5 megawatts of wind energy for twenty years from Third Planet Wind. The Petersburg project is one of two that Third Planet Wind is currently working with in the United States.

This project and also the Laredo Ridge Wind project, has helped with the economy of Boone County and has also brought in several new employment opportunities to the area. Current staffing of the Blattner Construction receiving team is 10 employees and Third Planet Wind has four full-time and two part-time employees right now.

During the 2010 construction of Laredo Ridge project, the sales and use tax was drastically increased. In August alone, the sales tax recorded was \$11,170.05. In 2009, the sales tax collection in August was

\$4,029.90. This is just a snapshot of how our local economy has been boosted because of the wind farm construction due to construction workers, new employees, and also because of curiosity and tourists!



### Home, Farm, & Garden Show

April 2, 2011

10am -6pm

Boone County Fairgrounds

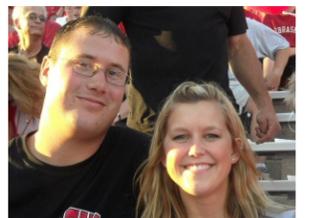


- \* Free Workshops on Landscape Design, Farm Estate, and Buy Fresh, Buy Local
- \* Over 60 Booths and Displays
- \* Country Cottage Playhouse Raffle
- \* Concessions Available

For more information contact Jill at the Albion Chamber: (402) 395-6012

### Ashley Thieman

Ashley Thieman is a new employee at Laredo Ridge Wind Farm east of Petersburg. Ashley started her new position as Administrative Assistant on January 24, 2011.



Prior to taking this new position, Ashley was commuting to Norfolk every day for work. At this time, there are three total employees from Edison Mission, and six General Electric technicians that are on staff. Laredo Ridge just started their commercial operation one month ago, and with that, there is a lot going on and a lot to learn. Laredo Ridge will supply 79.9 megawatts of power to NPPD. There are 54 turbines sitting on 7,600 total acres of land. Laredo Ridge is a subsidiary of Edison Mission out of New Jersey.

Ashley says that she is really enjoying not having the two-hour commute every day and is using more of her free time to spend time with her family and walk her dogs. Ashley and husband Ben are both graduates of Boone County and live in Petersburg. Ben works for Bode Hay Company.