



2013 Community Contributions

PED assisted area businesses in working with NIFA (Nebraska Investment Finance Authority) to secure asset modernization grants for their facilities. These dollars were used to purchase new/used equipment to improve production.

PED hosted an informational meeting about procuring government contracts. Speaker Andy Alexander from NBDC (Nebraska Business Development Center) was in town on May 3, 2013 to assist area businesses with their needs.

PED, Inc. in collaboration with UNL Extension hosted a Makin' Money Camp on June 11 & 12 at Pender Public School. We had 17 children present from towns including: Pender, Thurston, Emerson, Waterbury, Belden, Wayne, and Laurel. This was a basic entrepreneur camp provided at no cost to the children.

Steve Peregrine and Elizabeth Fimbres from Nebraska Investment Finance Authority (NIFA) came to town to do a "NIFA First Friday" luncheon on June 20th at the Fire Hall. There were 24 people attending to listen to various speakers about housing and housing assistance.

While not a direct result of PED's efforts, we are pleased to welcome a new business to our community, Main Street Thriftique, perhaps as a result of PED's overall city growth and improvement mission.

The Redevelopment Plan of the blighted area in the community of Pender was approved at the public meeting on July 8th. With this approval, we now have in place a bucket TIF that can capture taxes for the 12 properties that were built in 2012. These tax dollars can be used for housing developments and housing improvements.

A redesigned "Pender" brochure has been completed. These are used extensively throughout the community for events; recruitment; new hires; tourism; and public information.

Pender is taking part in the "Nebraska Broadband Initiative". This a program funded through a grant that will review ways that broadband services can be improved throughout the State. Diann Ballard, PED, Inc. Coordinator has agreed to work with local businesses to promote this program in our area.

The Thurston County Board of Supervisors voted at a public meeting on September 16th to pass a 4% Lodging Tax for the County. These dollars will be used for tourism promotion in our county.

National Manufacturers Day was held on October 4th. Four area manufacturers: Blue Ox; Thurston Manufacturing; Wenke Manufacturing and Logan Valley Sales offered tours for the public.

"Welcome Packets" have been created for newcomers to the Pender area. We have compiled data about area groups; activities; services; and connections for people that are new to the area. These are available at the City Office and at Pender Public School.

We worked with area groups and the Village to find better ways to make our community greener – ultimately bringing the recycling barrels to Pender to encourage recycling of much of our weekly trash.

We set up a Face Book page to communicate via social media.

PED, Inc. worked with the Chamber of Commerce to develop a new Pender/Thurston Businesses brochure for use in the marketing of our area at events and promotions.

PED, Inc. established Pender Community Development, Inc. a non-profit entity to have a primary focus on housing for our Community. PCD, Inc. was granted their 501c3 status by the IRS in August.

In collaboration with the Chamber we hosted the Career Fair held in October at Pender Public Schools; bringing more than 70 applicants to town to fill local vacancies.

While not a direct result of PED's efforts, we are pleased to welcome a new Cubby's to our community, perhaps as a result of PED's overall city growth and improvement mission.

A Redevelopment Study was completed to utilize TIF in our Community for the promotion of housing and business development.