



2014 Community Contributions

Elizabeth Chase from the Nebraska Main Street Network was here on January 13th to discuss Main Street Revitalization. There were 22 people in attendance to learn about her program. The associate members of the Nebraska Main Street program are given guidance to plan and organize their community to sustain long-term revitalization activities in their downtown. Program entry begins annually in June; this is a low cost option for assistance in downtown revitalization.

PCD representatives working in conjunction with NENEDD created and submitted proposals for the new Thurston County Law Enforcement Center to be located in the Village of Pender. Proposals were submitted in February and again in August – and will likely be revisited in 2015.

PCD Coordinator, Diann Ballard worked with Sonya Kelly to secure the Nebraska Department of Economic Development Community Facilities grant in the amount of \$375,000, to be used for the new Community Center.

PCD completed a 'Serve Nebraska' application nominating The Main Street Thriftique for a Community Service Award. Unfortunately, due to the short length of time they have been in business they did not receive this award.

PCD Coordinator, Diann Ballard completed a grant to Lower Elkhorn NRD for the renovations of the bathrooms and handicap accessibility of the City Park. The grant was awarded for nearly \$25,000. Pender was host to the SET meeting for April. 'Stronger Communities Together' is a grant funded project for Northeast Nebraska. We had 35 people present for the meeting with a tour of Blue Ox after the meeting.

On April 1st, Diann hosted 10 women from the NMPP Conference to tour local businesses. These ladies were from all over the state of Nebraska. They toured the Main Street Thriftique; Main Street Metal; Puckett Florist; and enjoyed a demonstration at Paper-n-Glass by Fuzz Hansen.

"Promoting Pender" was held on June 6th and 7th in conjunction with the area garage sales. We had 20 businesses signed up to participate that provided data to be distributed to area visitors. Area volunteers manned the distribution shack and handed out packets to interested parties.

PED, Inc. worked with the Pender Thurston Chamber on a pilot program to improve business signage – they offered a \$500 grant for any business that would like to improve their signage. Pender Vet Clinic was selected for the grant and their new sign is in place.

PCD, Inc. was selected for the Nebraska Department of Economic Development Housing grant in excess of \$730,000 to assist in building 5 new apartments in our community. These apartments will be called "Logan Valley Cottages".

A small group of volunteers was formed to work with Diann on the Down Town Revitalization project. We have met with NENEDD and developed our plan going forward to apply for a Leadership Community Designation. Once a community has completed these items and is awarded this designation, they can then apply for DED grants for Downtown Revitalization.

The last week of October Lori Shaal and Sheryl Hiatt from the Nebraska Department of Economic Development and Corrinne Pedersen from Nebraska Municipal Power Pool were in town to assist with Business Retention and Expansion Surveys. We visited 21 companies and completed surveys on what the businesses foresee in their future. This data is compiled by an intern at the Nebraska DED office and will be made into a condensed report used for economic development.

PCD, Inc. continues to work with Toni Tauber of Cornerstone Associates and Walter Aschoff of Aschoff Construction on building a new motel. The goal is to have a new motel open by mid-summer 2015.

A Community Attitude Survey was completed as part of the Leadership Certified Community Application. We had 140 people complete the survey with ideas of improving our community.

We held a Strategic Planning Session for the Community on December 11th at the Fire Hall with nearly 20 people present. Holly King gave an update on the Chamber; Bill Newton updated the TIF progress; and Melissa Kelly gave an update on the Community Center. Alyssa from NENEDD summarized the survey and the major areas of concern according to the citizen input. Corrinne Pedersen was the facilitator. All of this data is essential to our Leadership Certified Community Application.

We have received notification of Release of Funds from DED on the Logan Valley Cottages; the five new apartments to be built in Pender. Part of the land needed has been acquired and the bidding process has begun.