



# **2015 Community Contributions**

PCD, Inc. worked closely with Melissa Kelly at Pender Community Hospital to help bring eye care services to Pender. Dr. Brandon Ridder now works out of the Pender Community Hospital at least one day a week.

The Leadership Certified Community Application was submitted in February for our community. We were selected for this designation and will now be eligible for Down Town Revitalization Grants in the future through the Nebraska Department of Economic Development. This grant work will begin in the fall of 2015 for the 2016 grant application.

Pender Community Development, Inc. has been instrumental in bringing together local investors to build a new 10 bed motel in Pender. Aschoff Construction were the contractors on this facility which opened its doors on June 26. There is a small amount of landscaping to be completed in the near future, but the motel is open for business.

Pender Community Development has been working with area developers to create a new housing addition on the north side of town for market rate housing. The developers have purchased the land and are working on engineering and infrastructure to enable them to break ground on these homes this summer. The addition will be called "Northview Estates" and will house up to 18 additional homes for our residents.

PCD, Inc. continues to work with the Thurston County Jail Committee to pursue placing the new "Law Enforcement Center and Jail" in Pender. The special election was successful in passing the bond issuance. PED/PCD Representatives will continue to work on this project which will bring at least five new full time jobs to our community.

PCD, Inc. Coordinator Diann Ballard assisted with the "Connecting the Dots" seminar held at the Pender Public School on April 15. This was a career workshop for freshmen and sophomores to assist in determining what they would like to do after high school. Throughout the morning Diann assisted with career opportunities and after lunch she spoke about all of the opportunities available in the Pender area.

Ground has been broken on both housing complexes on McCabe Street and on Ivan Street. These will be the five town homes built with the assistance of DED Trust Fund Grant monies awarded late last year. Once completed, there will be a duplex on Ivan Street and a triplex on McCabe Street. These will be 2 bedroom apartments with a single car garage and about 1,300 square foot of living space.

PCD, Inc. Coordinator Diann Ballard is working with representatives from Pioneer Senior Center to find grants for major improvements needed at the center.

On June 24, Pender participated the Northeast Nebraska Housing Tour. This tour was sponsored by Stronger Economies Together and hosted by the Wayne, Wakefield, and Pender communities. We began the tour with lunch at the Max in Wayne. We then viewed the new housing development in Wakefield and looked at their infill duplexes. From there, we came to Pender and looked at the DED

apartments, Northview Estates site, Countryside Addition and the new motel. We then headed to Wayne and saw the Benscooter Addition on the east side of town, infill housing and also the housing development on the west side of town. There were about 35 people on the tour.

PED assisted with the raft float on August 22, 2015; when approximately 15 area folks joined a representative from Nebraskland Magazine for an early morning rafting trip down the Logan Creek. The trip began in Pender at the canoe access point on the East side of town and ended at the Bancroft access point just north of Ru-de's Mini Mart.

ED Coordinator Diann Ballard worked with the Chamber to bring Red Carpet Training to Pender on September 30th. Red Carpet Training is a Customer Service training targeting retail businesses to improve tourism throughout the community. We had 24 attendees representing 10 area companies present for the two trainings that were held at the Fire Hall. These trainings were free to all area businesses compliments of the Pender Thurston Chamber of Commerce.

PED/PCD Representatives and Coordinator continue to work on area housing issues with the completion of Logan Valley Cottages coming in the next few months.

Work is beginning on the Down Town Revitalization planning grant that will be submitted next spring for a study of the Main Street/Down town area.

Businesses are being surveyed regarding training needs in a partnership effort between Pender Community Development and Northeast Community College, to determine the need for Training Grants.

PCD, Inc. representative Diann Ballard worked with Susan Strahm of the Beautification Committee on the Passport Program application. The application would place the Barn Quilt Tour on the Nebraska Tourism Passport Program for 2016. We completed the requested data as well as a one-page insert of things to do in Pender. Additionally, we worked with Jason Sturek to ensure that the Passport data can be added to the website if we are selected as a tourist attraction for the program. Breitbarth One Stop will be the stamping location if we are selected.

The Towne Centre Apartments project was finalized and Pender Community Development, Inc. is now the owner and manager of this housing complex.

Pender Community Development, Inc. worked with Loess Hills RC&D to host the scrap electronics collection held here in Pender on November 7.

Downtown Revitalization Planning is proceeding. 60 businesses were surveyed regarding the needs and wants for our community. We have 9 volunteers to write letters of support for the grant application. The application is not due until May 2016.