

# FILLMORE COUNTY DEVELOPMENT NEWS

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 June 2009

## “THINK FILLMORE COUNTY” NOW ON THE WORLD WIDE WEB

“Think Different. Think Fillmore County” is now on the web. A video generated by the Fillmore County Development Corporation to showcase the variety of opportunities for industry, jobs, businesses, and lifestyle in Fillmore County is now on the FCDC website and will soon be on community websites, Utube, blogs, and can be shared with family and friends.



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**“Think Different. Think Fillmore County.”**  
[www.fillmorecountydevelopment.org](http://www.fillmorecountydevelopment.org)

The video was especially targeted at Fillmore County alumni. Letters and current information about Fillmore County along with the website address where the alumni can watch the video was sent to alumni that live more than 60 miles from the county. The idea was to use the video and websites to reach former residents to encourage them to think about returning to the County to raise their family, retire, or start or move their business.

Jon Murphy, an Exeter native who returned home to Fillmore County and owns Murphy Productions, produced the video. The “Come Home to Fillmore County” project was paid for in part by a BECA (Building Entrepreneurial Communities Act) grant with matching funds from communities and the FCDC.

## ODEGEO...LEADERSHIP FOR FILLMORE COUNTY GRADUATES 15 STUDENTS ON JUNE 9TH

The 13th class of the Fillmore County Odegeo Leadership Project graduated on June 9th. There have now been 173 graduates of the Leadership Project started in 1994.

The speaker for the graduation was Glenn VanEkeran, the Executive Vice President at Vetter Health Services in Omaha. His keynote for the graduation was entitled “Fill Your Saddle Bags”.

Receiving plaques were: Shirley Kamler, Corey Swartzendruber, Tom Ortgies, Steve Schiermeyer, Brenda Motis, Dorene Sattler, Sara Schram, Patty Scarborough, Vicki Doremus, Penny Williams, Vicky Bunker, Tracy Barbur, (not pictured) Sondra Carlson, Becky Elznic, Kendra Oldehoeft.



## WIND POWER CONTINUES TO BE A HOT TOPIC in NEBRASKA



Wind tower by Ainsworth

Don Jivden, Board President of Fillmore County Development Corporation, was among the 1280 exhibitors and 23,000 attendees at the Windpower 2009 Conference & Exhibition in Chicago in May.

“The size and breadth of this show are a clear indicator that the wind energy industry is a hub of business activity even in this hesitant economy,” said AWEA CEO Denise Bode. “

Jivden was with a team of economic developers from Nebraska Public Power District, NE Department of Economic Development, Omaha Public Power District and other Nebraska community developers. They were promoting Nebraska to industries that build the turbines, blades, nacelles, and the full range of supply chain manufacturers for the wind industry.

The pre-conference of the Nebraska Economic Developers Association (NEDA) also dealt with wind power. Patt Lentfer, the FCDC Director listened as Ken Lemke from NPPD did an overview of the supply chain for wind energy. Then she heard Dave Bell from Loup Power District talk about locating Katana Summit, a tower manufacturer to Columbus and Peder Hansen of NorthStar Wind Towers and his project in Blair. The pre-conference ended with a tour of the Ainsworth Wind Farm with host Rich Walter, Manager of the KBR PPD.

### Mary Johnson is Hired as FCDC Administrative Assistant

Mary Johnson, was hired as the Administrative Assistant in May. She works part time, usually four mornings a week.

Mary and her husband Monte moved from Waverly to Milligan last fall. She has four grown children and eight grandchildren. Mary likes to read in her spare time.

Keeping the Fillmore County information up to date for websites and economic development sites is one of her main responsibilities.



### Housing Study is Complete

The Countywide Housing Market Study with Strategies for Affordable Housing for Fillmore County and Communities was completed in February.

The study describes the past, present, and projected demographics, economics and housing conditions in each



Community and County-wide. The Housing Study contains recommended housing programs and partnerships during the next five years.

In May a Housing Fair was conducted where community leaders, local real estate agents and housing resource people toured the communities. Representatives from the NE DED, NIFA, NE Housing Development Assoc., SENDD, Midwest Housing Equity Group, NE Housing Resource, Blue Valley Community Action, and Public Health Solutions toured the communities.



### Svec, Lentfer and Vejraska Attend SE Nebraska Economic Development 2009 Summit

The Southeast Nebraska Economic Summit was held in Lincoln on June 18<sup>th</sup>. Kyle Svec, Geneva City Administrator and Patt Lentfer and Carol Vejraska from the FCDC attended the summit.

J.B. Milliken, President of the University of Nebraska spoke on the “Role of Innovation in Regional Economic Development.” The Southeast Regional RIG (Regional Innovation Grant) process was explained by Dave Landis and Steve Vierck of Angelou Economics, the consulting firm that will be used for the regional study.

Mary Simmons of Black Hills Energy, and chairperson of the Lincoln Area Development Partnership, talked about the current regional economic development efforts in Southeast Nebraska with local leaders.

The luncheon Keynote address was given by Ronnie L. Bryant, President and CEO of the Charlotte Regional Partnership. He is known for establishing and implementing successful economic development programs, with a strong emphasis on existing industry expansion and retention, regionalism and marketing.

## Fillmore County Businesses to be Part of the 2009 Nebraska Business Retention and Expansion (BR & E) Visitation Program

Fillmore County business have been invited to be part of the 2009 Nebraska Visitation Program. The Visitation Program is a means for learning more about selected business in Nebraska so that the NE Department of Economic Development may better serve their needs.

On July 7th & 8th the Fillmore County Development Corporation staff and members along with Economic Developers from the NE Department of Economic Development, NPPD and Black Hills energy will meet with owners and managers to learn more about their views of business and the business climate in Fillmore County. Since most economic development occurs through businesses already located in a community through expansion of employment or investment levels, it is important to learn what factors either help or hinder their growth. The NE Department of Economics will compile that data and present the report to the FCDC Board, Committees, and others interested groups.

Lentfer  
Irrigation  
Shickley



Horizontal  
Boring &  
Tunneling  
Exeter



NE Fly-in & Air Show, June 6, 2009  
Fairmont State Airfield

### NEW WEBSITE PROMOTES EVENTS, SITES, AND SERVICES IN FILLMORE COUNTY

The address is the same, [www.visitfillmorecounty.org](http://www.visitfillmorecounty.org), but the look of the website has changed. All visitors to the site should now be able to go to any page or any link with just a quick click. The site promotes the festivals and special events throughout Fillmore County. The Fillmore County Visitor's site also gives information about historical sites/buildings, outdoor recreation, restaurants, convenience stores, shopping, and medical & repair services. The new website was funded in part with a grant from the Nebraska Division of Travel & Tourism.

### NEW AND EXPANDING BUSINESSES KEEP FILLMORE COUNTY GROWING

A couple of new businesses have started in Fillmore County and several current Fillmore County businesses have expanded in recent months.

The Exeter branch of the Farmers Cooperative has added a new scale and a new bin that will have a capacity of 620,000 bushels. Horizontal Boring and Tunneling has added some office space in Exeter.

Geneva Broadband now has a storefront and G-Tech Services, a division of Geneva Broadband, will be offering computer sales & service, networking, training and consulting. Biotee USA Inc. built a plant next to Bioiberica NE in Geneva and started producing heparin in April.

J & J Storage has opened in Shickley and provides 12 storage units. Hinrichs Seed LLC is working on a new building in Shickley that will be ready by fall.

### FCDC Director's Notes...

[fillcodeveco@windstream.net](mailto:fillcodeveco@windstream.net)

*Summer doesn't seem to have enough lazy, hazy days any more. Projects, meetings, and inquiries keep the FCDC board members and myself very busy. Volunteer hours are a lifeline for all the activities that go through this office.*

*Finding answers for businesses and community members is important to the Fillmore County Development Corporation. I will work to find a person or a resource that can provide the technical assistance, funding, supplier, or contact that a person or business needs.*

*Suggestions and comments are always welcome. May you have a wonderful summer with some time for fun.*

Patt Lentfer

