



FILLMORE COUNTY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

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FCDC NEWS

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Beavers Dairy Under Construction in Fillmore County

According to Brett Beavers the new dairy continues in the construction phase. However, if the weather cooperates and every thing follows the plan the dairy will be completed in the Spring of 2017. Their current dairy is at capacity, so once the new dairy is operational they will bring in new cows in addition to their current herd.



Seven Entrepreneurs Start Businesses in 2016

Entrepreneurs are a growing part of the Fillmore County business community. Patt Lentfer, the Executive Director of the FCDC, said “the emphasis for growing communities centers more and more on encouraging and assisting entrepreneurs as they maneuver through the process of opening a new business.” In fact U.S. Startups create 40% of jobs annually.

Local Startups in Fillmore County during 2016 included Antiques, Art, & Collectibles, Arcade Funcade, Geneva Jazzercise Studio, JoJo’s Daycare, Molcajete Mexican Restaurant, Precious Angels Daycare, and Taylor’s Lawn Service. There may be other home-based businesses of which the FCDC is not aware.

Dell Gines, of the Federal Reserve Bank, Kansas City, and speaker at the Entrepreneurship Best Practices Summit, talked about the importance of developing an entrepreneurship ecosystem and some ideas of how to do that.



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FCDC Vision

The FCDC works to achieve the most dynamic business climate in Fillmore County by pursuing all avenues of growth for new and existing business toward the goal of maximizing employment opportunities, tax base, and quality of life.

GENEVA NEW FAMILY AQUATIC CENTER IS ON SCHEDULE

According to Kyle Svec the construction of the Geneva new family aquatic center is staying on schedule. The cement work is pretty much done, underground work is done, the blocks for the bath house are partially up, guttering is done, and the play features should be coming soon. Good November weather really helped the construction stay on schedule. The new pool is expected to be completed in time for the 2017 pool season.



Shickley Community Foundation A Success Story

The Shickley Community Foundation (SCF) began in 1991 with a challenge grant from the Wilkins family. It started with just \$20,000 and now has over \$3.6 million in assets. About 100 SCF members and friends gathered in November to celebrate this success. Richard Walter, a Nebraska Community Foundation Board of Director and a SCF Fund Advisory Committee member, was master of ceremony for the dinner.

Joe Kamler, SCF Fund Advisory Co. member, highlighted the results of the participation in the Sherwood Challenge. Over 240 donors made 537 gifts during the challenge amounting to \$527,169. Then the Sherwood Foundation matched with a \$250,000 gift. The SCF Endowment Fund balance now stands at nearly \$1.5 million and will allow the SCF to distribute \$66,064 in annual grants.

Many local organizations have been the recipients of the SCF grants. The Shickley Public school is a favorite for SCF grants. Recently the school's ag department constructed a greenhouse project with collaboration between local agriculture companies, businesses, and donations. Funds have also been used for the Early Childhood Education Program.

MET TOWERS APPROVED BY COUNTY SUPERVISORS



The Fillmore County Board of Supervisors approved Aksamit Energy Development based in Nebraska and Apex Clean Energy based in Virginia to construct Meteorological (Met) towers in Fillmore County at their November 22nd meeting. These towers are built to gather wind data.

Apex representatives said at the hearing he felt there will be enough wind energy in the area around the Met towers to allow both companies to construct a wind farm. He said Apex would need about 120 wind turbines to produce the desired 300 megawatts of electricity which they would then sell to the Southwest Power Pool.

The best wind energy according to company representatives appears to be in the area where the Met towers will be located in western Saline County and in eastern Fillmore County.



Shickley Public School Greenhouse Project

You are invited to the 2017 FCDC Annual Meeting that will be held on Thursday, February 23rd beginning at 6:00 pm at Gary's Brickhouse Grille in Grafton. Successes acknowledged, investors thanked and new board members elected. Complimentary Hors d'oeuvres, Cash Bar.

Please RSVP by calling or emailing the FCDC office by February 6th.
402-759-4910 or Email: lentfer.fc dc@genevemail.com



Odegeo. . .

The Fillmore County Development Corporation Leadership Committee is in the midst of the 2016-2017 Odegeo. . . Leadership for Fillmore County sessions. There are sixteen people taking the class. The first sessions have been about getting to know yourself and each other, history and tourism, government and education.



Class at Maple Grove Sale Pavilion

FCDC Staff Attends Governor's Summit

In July the FCDC Staff attended the first annual Governor's Summit on Economic Development. The Summit was held at the Cornhusker Hotel in downtown Lincoln. The morning began with a welcome from Governor Ricketts. He revealed the new brand and slogan the state had been working on, "Nebraska. Good Life. Great Opportunity." The main theme of the day was housing and talent recruitment.



Mary Johnson & Meredith Emshoff at the Governor's Summit.

Career Industry Tour Day for Fillmore County Juniors



The Fillmore County Development Corporation (FCDC) in cooperation with the Fillmore County schools and local businesses held a Career Industry Day for the juniors in the county on September 14th. The format for the day involved having the students go to the business locations to learn about local businesses and the opportunities for employment in rural areas.

Three tracks were developed so students had a choice and could tour what area interested them the most. The tracks were Agriculture and Technical Sciences, Health and Human Services, and Business, Marketing, & Management.



Construction will continue through the winter at the Fortigen anhydrous plant in Geneva according to the general contractor

TIRE RECYCLING SUCCESSFUL IN FC

Approximately 150 citizens took advantage of the tire recycling this year in Fillmore County. Used car, truck, tractor, pivot and machinery tires were recycled. The free tire disposal was made possible by a grant given by the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality. Fillmore County Board of Supervisors and the Fillmore County Economic Development Corporation sponsored the event.

Champlin Tire Recycling, Inc. was the hauler. They process, manufacture and market products derived from scrap tires.



Over 170 Tons of Tires Were Recycled in August



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COUNTY NEW BITS

Ohiowa received a \$416,000 loan and \$510,000 grant to up-date their water system.

Fairmont citizens formed a "Save our Grocery Store" steering committee to determine a way to keep the local grocery store.

Shickley investors formed together to develop a 15-lot housing sub-division on the west side of Shickley. All the infrastructure is in place and 20% of the lots are sold

Exeter has a new wellness center located in the Exeter Milligan school building. Students use it and it is also available to the public with a membership. The center is open 24/7 to members using a key card

Grafton's local author, Laura Landon, had 1,200,000 pages of her e-books read in September according to Amazon. Her books are published by Prairie Muse.

The **FCDC** hired Hanna:Keelan Associates to do a County-wide Housing Study for Fillmore County. The completed study can be viewed on the FCDC website

Sowing Seeds Academy opened in December at the **Geneva** United Methodist Church. It helps fill the daycare need since the closing of Little Sprouts daycare in October.

Notes from the FCDC Director

I hope you had a very happy holiday and are ready to start a new year.

Fillmore County Development Corporation works across the board with community and county leadership, businesses and schools to create a positive sense of "place" and an improved quality of life which involves first-rate daycare, education, housing, health care, jobs, and diversity of choices.

The FCDC will be starting its 28th year as a county-wide non-profit organization that works to keep Fillmore County growing by capitalizing on opportunities and supporting current business and entrepreneurs. Just in the past year a new manufacturing plant located in Geneva, a new dairy is being built, several businesses have expanded, two businesses have transitioned to new owners, seven new businesses are located in various Fillmore County communities, and a new housing development was created in Shickley.

If you have been a member of the FCDC in a previous year, "Thank-you". If you have never been a member consider joining in 2017. Investing in the FCDC is investing in the economic growth of your county and community.

Patt Lentfer

