



FILLMORE COUNTY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

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FCDC NEWS

JULY 2017

Flint Hills Resources Announces \$50 Million Expansion at the Fairmont Ethanol Plant

Flint Hills Resources announced in January that it plans to install new technology at the Fairmont ethanol plant that will produce a high-protein animal and fish feed from a portion of the plant's distiller grains. The technology, known as maximized stillage co-products, was developed by Fluid Quip Process Technologies. The plant at Fairmont will be just the fourth in the world to use the technology. The project requires significant construction including a new building and two protein dryers. Construction started in late spring with some internal road updates. Passers-by will be able to watch the construction as takes place on the east part of the existing plant closest to U.S. Highway 81. Construction is estimated to take 12 months and will create about 120 construction jobs. According to Kevin Karasulik, plant manager, he thinks the plant will be able to utilize their current workforce for the expansion. Flint Hills Resources will market their high-protein feed as NextPro™. Industries such as aquaculture and poultry are looking for additional sources of protein to supplement the diets of their fish and birds and NextPro will expand the producers' choices.



Chris Nichols Named New Fillmore County Hospital CEO



Chris Nichols, a native of Grand Island, was announced as the new Fillmore County Hospital CEO by the FCH governing board in June. Currently Nichols is the hospital CEO at Horn Memorial Hospital in Ida Grove, IA. Under his leadership, a new inpatient wing was built. Nichols received his undergraduate degree at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in 1995, his Master's Degree in Physical Therapy from the University of Nebraska Medical Center at Omaha in 1998 and his Masters Degree in Healthcare Administration from the University of Minnesota in 2006. Chris and his wife Jaci have three children and plan to be in Geneva in early August.

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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.

Milligan 41 Express Plans to Open This Summer

After a year of planning, Milligan 41 Express is scheduled to open in July. Construction started in March of this year and the store is planning to open in the next few weeks according to Kenny Harre, one of the owners of the business. Other owners of the Milligan 41 Express are Tom Pribyl, Jason Pribyl, Jan Rischling, and Dale Luzum. The Express will have both gas and diesel fuel and an inside and outside car/truck wash. "The convenience store will carry a few more groceries than many other convenience stores since there is not a grocery store in Milligan," said Harre. The store will have "Champs Chicken" and add Piccadilly Pizza in September. The 52' x 72' facility will seat approximately 34 people. Currently Milligan 41 Express has hired 10 people and will need up to three more part-time employees.



Milligan 41 Express (under construction)

Exeter Clerk Becky Erdkamp Receives Honor

Becky Erdkamp, Village Clerk for Exeter, received the "2017 Outstanding Clerk of the Year" by the Nebraska Clerk's Association in the village category. She was nominated by the Board Chairman Alan Michl who praised her for her hard work and dedication to the community. Village Clerks throughout the county play a big part in keeping villages running smoothly.



Beavers Dairy...

Beavers Dairy is a robotic dairy operation located southeast of Shickley and started milking cows in May. Brett Beavers said the cows are still in training so he cannot accommodate visitors at this time. You can view his operation on this Pure Nebraska story:

<http://www.1011now.com/content/news/Local-Dairy-Uses-Milking-Robot-430359993.html>

Ribbon Cutting at the New Geneva Aquatic Center

The City of Geneva held a ribbon cutting for the new aquatic center on May 26th. A large crowd enjoyed the event which included the "Pool Committee" cutting the ribbon, remarks by Mayor Rod Norrie and George Paris, from JEO Consulting firm, and a free hotdog lunch. Several youth won the chance to be the first down the big slide, the first to climb the rock wall, and the first off the diving board. After Norrie blew the golden whistle, presented to him by JEO, there was free swimming for everyone. The finished aquatic center costs \$3.9 million which was less the original bond amount of \$4.575 million. City Administrator Kyle Svec noted the new pool is heated and has extended hours. Currently the aquatic center is averaging 150-200 users per day.



Odegeo Graduation

The 2016-2017 Odegeo...Leadership for Fillmore County class graduation was held on June 20, 2017. The speaker was Dr. Terry Hejny, PhD, Director of the Nebraska LEAD Program. There were 16 graduates.

Class members were from throughout Fillmore County with varied occupations and ages. All of them stated in their "From Talk to Action" statement that the Odegeo...Leadership for Fillmore County class provided them a great opportunity to learn about all the communities, businesses and services throughout the County as well as meeting new people who became friends.

The next Fillmore County leadership class will start in September of 2018 and anyone interested should contact the FCDC office.



Odegeo Graduates

Back row (L to R): Kelly Stroh, Ashley Risseeuw, Tracy Kresak, Angela Ruhl, Sarah Johnson, Katie Gnuse, Christina Srajhans, Karen Margheim, Rachel Olson
 Front row: Andrea Mumm, Mitchell Schlegelmilch, Jason Rippe, Eric Kamler, Adam Wallin, Patricia Rocolo. Renae Marks (not pictured)

FCDC Hires Intern

FCDC recently hired Jacob Nutter as a summer intern. Jacob is a resident of Geneva and graduated from Fillmore Central High School. He is currently a student at the University of Nebraska at Kearney and studies Computer Science. This eight-week internship will provide an environment that will offer growth both for the individual and the company. Funding for this internship came in part from the InternNE program. The InternNE program looks to provide high quality positions that will provide students with valuable work experience.



FCDC Board Members

L to R: Brandy VanDeWalle, Marcus Ruhl, Eric Kamler, Bart Brinkman, Bryce Kassik, Ann Jansky, Amie Underwood, Amanda Schropfer, Don Bristol, Megan Williams, Nate Hughes, new board members - Jamison Jensen, Jeff Spiehs, not pictured-Derek Betka.

FCDC Board

The 2017 Annual Meeting of the Fillmore County Development Corporation was held at Gary's Brickhouse Grille in Grafton. Eric Kamler, President of the FCDC, welcomed everyone and introduced special guests, Sarah Skinner from Senator Fischer's office, Jerad Reimers from Congressman Smith's office, and local officials. Derek Betka of Fairmont, Jamison Jensen of Fairmont, and Jeff Spiehs of Milligan were elected as new Board of Directors of the FCDC to serve four year terms.

Eric Kamler recognized and thanked the 2016 FCDC members for their investment and support.

Ann Jansky and Amanda Schropfer were recognized as they will be going off the board after serving a four-year term.

Speaker for the evening was Sue Bauman of Grafton who writes under the name "Laura Landon". She has written 27 books and has sold over one million copies.



Updated Website for Fillmore County Visitors

The Fillmore County Visitors Committee has updated the Fillmore County tourism website. At the home page you can click on Things to Do, Lodging & Local Services, Food & Beverages and Events. There are more pictures, a calendar of events, a list of communities that link to their websites, and all the information a person might need as they travel to Fillmore County whether for business, pleasure or just passing through. Check it out: visitfillmorecounty.org.



Fortigen Plant Construction

Construction for the Fortigen LLC Anhydrous Ammonium Plant continues and is nearing completion. There are currently 200 contractors on site working six days a week. The plan is to start production the end of July. The construction area is broken down into two areas. The ISBL, the inside boundary limits and the OSBL, the outside boundary limits. The ISBL construction has had continued successfully. However, the OSBL had some damage during testing. Fortigen brought in specialists to determine why the failure happened on the plant's main fertilizer tank and how to correct the problem. Joe Casey, Senior Project Engineer, said they have been pleased with the workforce that will be operating and maintaining the plant on a day-to-day basis. Nearly 75% of the workers are from a 50-mile radius. The plant will employ about 30 permanent workers.



New Businesses in Shickley

Three new businesses opened on main street in Shickley this year: Shickley Tech-Net, Casey's Construction, and 5 Loaves Market & Bakery. Shickley Tech-Net was opened by Valerie Andersen. She does technology and communication consulting tailored to her customers. Casey's Construction is owned by Casey Andersen. He is a general contractor and builds new, does remodeling, and repairs. 5 Loaves Market & Bakery, owned by Chris and Cassie Stengel, is a full-service grocery store and also has a bakery, coffee bar, and serves sandwiches for lunch. They are located in the former grocery store building. Valerie (Merryman) Andersen and Chris Stengel are both Fillmore County natives.



Former Sunflower Marketing Building for Sale

The owners of the building that formerly housed Sunflower Marketing have put the building up for sale. The original building is 39,200 Sq. Ft. and was built in 1992. The 15,000 Sq. Ft. north warehouse was built in 2001 and has a 14' x 14' overhead door and 32' side walls. Patt Lentfer, Executive Director of the FCDC, has posted the building on several websites that are used by site selectors and developers. The list price is \$600,000. The owners prefer to sell the entire building and not sub-divide it. For more information and pictures go to

www.fillmorecountydevelopment.org/sites-buildings



A big *THANK YOU*

to the 2016 Fillmore County Development Corporation investors

Your membership helps the FCDC pursue all avenues of growth for new and existing businesses and helps to maximize Fillmore County's potential.

Level I (\$75-\$299)

A Little Inspiration
Ace Agri Supply
Aero Manufacturing
All Things Consignment
Andrews Electric
Ashby, Jean
Aurora Coop - Geneva
Biegt Feeds, Midwest PMS
Biester, Larry & Maradeth
Bioberica Nebraska
Bio-Tee USA
Bixby Law Office
Bristol Farms, Don & Linda
Bumgarner, Tom & Vicky
Carlson Irrigation
Casey's General Store
Fairmont, Geneva
Certified Truck & Trailer Repair
Chaos Farms - Troy Otte
Cottonwood Title Company
CPL-Lansing @ Fairmont
CPL-Grafton
Edward Jones Investment
EK Farms-Eric Kamler
Ely Farms
Emshoff, Alan & Amy
Engle, Jerry & Verona
Fairview Manor
Farm Bureau Insurance
Farmer & Son Funeral Home
Farmers Cooperative
Fillmore County Hospital
1st Bank of Utica - Milligan
FNIA - Exeter
Frank Black Pipe & Supply
Geneva Engineering
Geneva Floral
Geneva Milling Co., Inc.
Geneva Tire Pros

Geneva TV & Appliance

Geneva Welding
Harre Feed Yards
Heinisch & Lovegrove Law
Heritage Crossings
Jacobson, Karla & Nathan
James Steider Agency
Jansky, Ann & Will
Johnson, Mary
Johnson, Shannon
Kassik, Bryce
Kleinschmidt, Jodi & Russ
Lauber Seed Farms
Lazy Horse Vineyard & Brewing
Lichti Oil Company
Manning Grain Co.
Marak, Ted
Mid-America Vision
Midwest Steel Fabrication
Milligan Insurance Agency
Norrie Construction
Northpointe Insurance
Oswald Farm
PEB, Inc., Paul Betgger
Pioneer Manor
Prieffert Farms
Pulliam Plumbing
Rizzo Electric
Roper Apartments
Shanle, Joe & Mary
Stickle Grain Company
The Total Look
Timmermans, Ted & Lauren
Trauger - AFOS, Inc.
Underwood, Amie & Jeff
VanDeWalle, Kurt & Brandy
Variety Ag
Vejraska, Carol
Waddell & Reed
Walter Insurance & R E
Weaver Pharmacy

Weaver Repair

Wilkins Manor
Wilkins, William

Level II (\$300 - \$899)

BBN-Brian Nedrow
Cornerstone Bank-Geneva
Exeter-Milligan School
Fillmore Central School
FC Medical Center
Fortigen Geneva
Horizontal Boring & Tunneling
Lentfer Irrigation & Mfg. Inc.
Nebraska Public Power
Oliva Insurance Agency

Level III (\$900 - \$2499)

Burning State Bank
Black Hills Energy
Generations Bank
Farmers and Merchants Bank
Flint Hills Resources
Perennial Public Power

Level IV (\$2500+)

York State Bank
Heartland Bank

Lifetime Members

Pearson, Evelyn
Walter, Richard

Public Entities

Fillmore County
Village of Exeter
Village of Fairmont
City of Geneva
Village of Grafton
Village of Milligan
Village of Ohioa
Village of Shickley
Village of Strang

Be a part of the growth...
Join the FCDC!



Membership to the FCDC may be used as a taxable business expense.

- Level 1 Investor: \$75 – 299
- Level 2 Investor: \$300 - 899
- Level 3 Investor: \$900 - 2499
- Level 4 Investor: \$2500+

Checks payable to:

Fillmore County
Development Corporation
1032 G Street
Geneva NE, 68361

Business _____

Name _____

Address _____

Town, Zip _____

Phone # _____

Email _____

Website _____

Questions? Contact Pat Lentfer

Phone: (402) 759-4910

Email: lentfer.fcdc@genevamaill.com
www.fillmorecountydevelopment.org

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Address Label

County News Bits

- The Nebraska USDA Rural Development held an Earth Day event in Fairmont on April 19th.
- Two new massage businesses opened in Exeter. Massage It Away, masseuse Devin Waldron and Christine Harre Licensed Massage Therapist.
- A professional photography business, Red Door Studios, opened a store front on Fairmont's main street.
- Endless Possibilities, a flea market retail store, opened in May on F Street in Geneva.
- Midwest Mobile Tech has moved to Fairmont. They repair rail cars, movers, and locomotives.
- Farmer's Markets are in Geneva on Tuesdays, Milligan on Sundays, and Shickley on Mondays.
- Summer celebrations have been held in Milligan, Ohioa, Fairmont, Strang, and Geneva. Exeter will host events at the end of July.
- Strang citizens are now picking up their mail at boxes outside the former post office. Postage stamps can be bought at Bubba's Anytime Café.

Notes from the FCDC Director

Every time I start to put the newsletter together it seems there is more and more to highlight. I am already thinking about some businesses and projects that are just in the beginning or middle stages of completion that will be featured in the Winter Newsletter.

A once in a lifetime event will happen on August 21st when Fillmore County will be in the path of a Total Solar Eclipse. That means we will be in total darkness at 1:00 p.m. for about 2 ½ minutes. Nebraska communities who are in this path are expecting lots of visitors and it will be interesting to see what really happens on that Monday. The next time a total solar eclipse will cross close to Fillmore County will be in 628 years.

Patt Lentfer