



THE REVIEW

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ELECTROLUX GRANT ACTIVITY CONTINUES IN JEFFERSON

Prior to the closing of the Electrolux plant in Jefferson, employees heard words like change, plant closing, and unemployed. After several months of participating in the National Emergency Grant (NEG) program, the words have changed to explore, choices, and opportunity. The Electrolux employees in Jefferson had to transition to a new way of thinking when the plant closed this past January. For some it was thinking about finding another job as soon as possible. For others it was an opportunity to consider post-secondary education. Yet others are still exploring what new career path they would like to pursue.

The Electrolux Transition Center, located on the second floor in the Greene County Community Center in Jefferson, is currently open two and a half days a week for these dislocated workers to access services. Whether it is guidance and counseling, assessment, computer access, or support and camaraderie, they find it in the Center. Many of the participants have chosen to attend a weekly Job Club. The purpose of the Job Club is to provide a structured job search activity for a group of participants who develop common objectives during their time of learning, working together, and supporting one another in the job search process. Job search components such as interview skills, resumes, applications, and cover letters are some of the topics that have been addressed.

Lisa Smith, Career Development Specialist, staffs the Transition Center. She explained that she has found it “exciting to work with individuals that challenge themselves to move on, realize their potential, and are open to pursuing new careers.”

For more information about the workforce services offered by Region XII, please contact Beth Winqvist, Workforce Director, at 712-775-7790 or Beth.Winqvist@iwd.iowa.gov.

COMPREHENSIVE PLANS IN PROGRESS

City of Carroll

The City of Carroll Comprehensive Planning Steering Committee held their kick-off meeting to formally initiate their comprehensive planning process. Region XII staff completed a land use and housing condition survey over the summer and this data will be presented to the steering committee in the upcoming months.

City of Dow City

Over the summer, Region XII staff conducted a housing condition and land use survey and started working on a community background report. All homes and businesses in Dow City recently received a survey which includes questions about housing, transportation, land use, and quality of life. A steering committee is being selected to guide the planning process and will host an official kick-off meeting in the fall.

City of Manning

Region XII staff has been working on a community background report and recently conducted a survey of housing condition and land use in Manning. A survey has been sent to all homes and businesses to seek feedback regarding a variety of planning topics. Information collected through this survey will be presented at an upcoming meeting to officially begin the planning process.

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REGION XII PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

The COG's Partnership Program is an opportunity for private, non-government businesses and organizations to become a part of the COG's mission to provide various needed services to the region's cities and counties. The Partnership Program philosophy is that all groups making up a community, including non-government entities like local businesses, are essential to promoting, advancing, and developing the community. The COG appreciates the investment made by 2010 Partners listed below. For more information on the Partnership Program, contact Rick Hunsaker at rhunsaker@region12cog.org.

GOLD MEMBERSHIP—\$1,000
West Central Cooperative, Ralston

SILVER MEMBERSHIP - \$500
Amaizing Energy, Denison
Mid-Iowa Insurance & Real Estate, Carroll
Snyder & Associates, Atlantic

BRONZE MEMBERSHIP - \$250
Ace Hardware, Audubon
Agri-Drain Corporation, Adair
Aspinwall Cooperative Co, Aspinwall
Audubon State Bank, Audubon
Badding Construction, Carroll
Bank Iowa, Denison
Carroll Area Development Corporation, Carroll
Carroll County State Bank, Carroll
Commercial Savings Bank, Carroll
Coon Rapids Municipal Utilities, Coon Rapids
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Home State Bank, Jefferson
Iowa Savings Bank, Carroll
Iowa State Bank, Sac City
Landmands National Bank, Audubon
Marne & Elk Horn Telephone Co., Elk Horn
Panora Telecommunications, Inc., Panora
POET Biorefining, Coon Rapids
Quality Machine, Audubon
Raccoon Valley Bank, Perry
Sundquist Engineering, Denison
Templeton Savings Bank, Templeton
Wells Fargo Bank, N.A., Denison
Western Iowa Networks, Breda
Westside State Bank, Westside

NSP HOUSES AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE

Region XII has been working with five communities through the Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP). The program provided funds to acquire foreclosed homes, rehabilitate the homes to bring the home up to the Iowa Minimum Rehab Standards, and sell the remodeled homes as affordable housing. Construction on all of the homes is complete and the homes are available for purchase.

The following home is available for purchase in Jefferson.

BEFORE



AFTER



This home is available for purchase by a family whose income is below 50% of median income. In addition to an exterior face lift, the remodeling included a new bathroom, updated electrical and plumbing, and new windows and doors. The goal of the program is to provide housing that is a safe and energy efficient for the qualified family. The family must be able to obtain conventional financing with a 30 year fixed interest rate.

For more information on this house, or any other home available through the NSP programs in Audubon, Boone, Guthrie Center, Jefferson, or Perry, contact Laurie Gilbert at 712-775-7820 or lgilbert@region12cog.org.

THE REVIEW HAS GONE ELECTRONIC

Starting with our Spring 2011 edition, Region XII's newsletter is available electronically as well as in print. Many of our partners are currently receiving both versions of the newsletter. If you have not yet received an electronic version, or if you would like to receive only the electronic version, please send us an e-mail at region12@region12cog.org with your preferred method of delivery indicated.

We are also sending out periodic updates as grants and training opportunities become available. To be added to this e-mail list, contact Karina Ward at 712-775-7814 or kward@region12cog.org.

SIGN RETROREFLECTIVITY DATA COLLECTION CONTINUES

Region XII’s project to assist counties and communities in meeting new retroreflectivity requirements has made significant progress with the assistance of summer interns. In 2010, two interns collected sign data for over 7,000 signs (3/4 of Guthrie County) and sample sign data on over 1,000 signs throughout the region. During the summer of 2011, two teams of interns collected sign data on over 13,000 signs under the jurisdiction of the Carroll and Greene County Road Departments and an additional 2,000 signs in Guthrie County. Data collection for all three counties is now complete.

In 2009, the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices was updated to include minimum retroreflectivity requirements for all traffic control signs. To assist counties and cities in meeting these new requirements, Region XII utilized Surface Transportation Program funds to purchase retroreflectometers to measure sign reflectiveness and GPS sign location. The data collected by Region XII will assist road departments in assembling sign inventories with GPS coordinates for each sign in their jurisdiction while complying with new MUTCD retroreflectivity requirements.



For additional information on sign retroreflectivity requirements and sign inventories, please contact Chris Whitaker at 712-775-7811 or cwhitaker@region12cog.org.

REGION XII RECEIVES EXCELLENCE IN TRANSPORTATION AWARD

Region XII Council of Governments has been awarded a 2011 Excellence in Regional Transportation Award from the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) for its Regional Retroreflectivity Compliance initiative. The Excellence in Regional Transportation Awards showcase organizations for noteworthy projects and practices in rural and small metropolitan transportation planning, program delivery, and special initiatives.

UPCOMING GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

FUNDING PROGRAM	PURPOSE	DEADLINE	ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS
Safe Routes to School	Projects to encourage and improve pedestrian and bicycle safety and access	October 1st	Local and county governments, schools, and non-profits
Living Roadway Trust Fund	Transportation projects	October 1st	Local governments
Federal Recreational Trails	Development and maintenance of recreational trails (motorized and non-motorized)	October 1st	Local governments and non-profits
Statewide Transportation Enhancement	Trails, historic, archeological, scenic, or environmental projects	October 1st	Local governments
CDBG Water/Sewer	Water and sewer systems	November 2nd	Local governments
CDBG Housing Fund	Housing rehabilitation and home ownership assistance	December 7th	Local governments
CDBG Community Facilities and Services	Child care centers, senior centers, vocational workshops, stormwater projects	January 4th	Local governments

Additional grants are available through private foundations and ongoing programs. If you are looking for funding for a specific project, please contact Joe Behrens at 712-775-7810 or jbehrens@region12cog.org for assistance in locating funding opportunities.

RECENTLY AWARDED FUNDING

FUNDING PROGRAM	RECIPIENT	AMOUNT	PROJECT
HOME Program (IFA)	Region XII COG	\$500,000	Down Payment Assistance Program
RISE Program	City of Lake View	\$149,313	Sac Beach Development
Timmerman Trust	City of Templeton	\$17,000	Former School Roof Replacement
Renze Trust	Glidden Fire Department	\$6,400	Grain Bin Rescue Equipment
Timmerman Trust	City of Glidden	\$4,000	Basketball Hoops
Timmerman Trust	Carroll Athletic Association	\$3,000	Carroll Merchant Park Scoreboard
Renze Trust	City of Templeton	\$3,000	Former School Roof Replacement
Alliant Energy Foundation	Friends of Rippey	\$2,000	Community Room Furniture



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