



C A L E N D A R

June

- 7 - RDC Loan Review Comm.;
11:30 AM, COG Training Room
- 8 - Executive Board Meeting;
12:30 PM, COG Board Room

July

- 4 - Independence Day;
Office Closed
- 12 - RDC Loan Review Comm.;;
11:30 AM, COG Board Room
- 13 - Executive Board Meeting;
5:00 PM, COG Board Room
- Policy Council Meeting;
6:00 PM, COG Board Room

August

- 9 - RDC Loan Review Comm.;;
11:30 AM, COG Board Room
- 10 - Executive Board Meeting;
5:00 PM, COG Board Room

Region XII RLF Assists molly&drew®

Region XII Development Corporation (RDC) provides loans to businesses that create jobs in Region XII, Audubon, Carroll, Crawford, Greene, Guthrie, and Sac Counties. Since 1995, RDC has provided 137 loans to businesses totaling over 8.6 million dollars. Loans are available to businesses located in Audubon, Carroll, Crawford, Greene, Guthrie, and Sac Counties. The revolving loan fund was created to assist new or existing businesses with development and expansion.

The funds may be used for land acquisition, expansion, building construction or renovation, equipment, inventory and working capital. The COG is currently seeking to expand its own fund by \$600,000.



Region XII Development Corporation assisted Molly Wilson, owner of molly&drew® with the expansion of her business in 2013. The former Storm Lake resident started molly&drew® in 2003 as The Beer Bread Company® which was showcased and sold at local craft shows. The company has multiple production facilities, a distribution center, and several retail outlets in Sac City. molly&drew® products are currently carried by more than 4,000 retail stores across the United States including Cabela's the World's Foremost Outfitters®, Cracker Barrel Old Country Stores®, and Bed, Bath & Beyond®. For more information on applying, contact Tami Lehmann at tlehmann@region12cog.org or 712-775-7802.

Denison Tyson Transition Center Continues to be Popular

The services and events of the Denison Tyson Transition Center continue to be popular with the community. In March there were 355 users and 200 in April. About 25% of those using the center are accessing IowaWORKS services for the first time. The most popular services are assistance with online application completion and job searching activities. Users of the Center may attend weekly Meet-and-Greets arranged with local employers. Meet-and-Greets give employers and potential employees a chance to have an informal conversation about the business, expectations from employees, and the prospective employee's skills. Conversations have led to good employer-employee matching and successful employment. For those who have lost jobs, assistance with filing for Unemployment Insurance is available.

The Center offers a variety of employment-seeking and skills-upgrading services. Among those services are daily English Language Learning and Computer Literacy classes facilitated by WITCC Adult Literacy programs. Skill upgrading is available in Words for Work classes: Serv-Safe certification, health care professionals, and CDL licensing. Words for work class gives those with English barriers an opportunity to learn English words that make them successful on the job.

Other events have honored veterans, encouraged entrepreneurship, and provided information on immigration and work rules. In March, an event was held with the Denison Police Chief that had 106 people attend. Iowa Workforce Development (IWD) recently announced the center will close September 30, 2107. While we are disappointed in this action, the COG will work with the community to secure part-time services in Denison and ensure clients are served whether here or in the Carroll offices.

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Marty Danzer, Chair
Carroll Co. Supervisor

Eric Skoog, Vice Chair,
Crawford Co. Supervisor

Ranell Drake, Secretary
Sac Co. Supervisor

John Muir, Treasurer
Greene Co. Supervisor

Rick Thompson
Audubon Co. Supervisor

Jack Lloyd
Guthrie Co. Supervisor

City of Stuart Completes Housing Needs Assessment

The City of Stuart recently completed a city-wide Housing Needs Assessment. This assessment evaluated the city's population trends, housing prices/rents, and the city's current housing conditions and availability. This information was then used to develop an action plan which focused on revitalizing the current owner and renter occupied housing stock as well as the building of new homes within the city. Region XII composed the plan with input from the City of Stuart, SEED, and local citizens/business owners.

The complete Stuart Housing Needs Assessment can be viewed [HERE](#).



Western Iowa Transit Driver of the Year

John Shymanski of Carroll, Iowa, has been selected as the Western Iowa Transit, 2017 Transit Driver of the Year recipient. In order to be considered for this award, the driver must have had a clean driving record, no at-fault accidents in the past year, no documented incidents or complaints, and worked a minimum of 780 hours in the last 12 months. John met all the criteria and has been a model driver for the system. He is a tireless worker and the consummate team player. WIT had many deserving drivers this year, but unfortunately, we are allowed only one honoree. John will be honored at the summer IPTA meeting in Des Moines on June 2, 2017.

2017 Iowa Public Transit Rodeo

Western Iowa Transit will have one driver competing in the annual Transit Rodeo being held at the summer IPTA meeting in Des Moines on June 3rd, 2017. Bert Madden of Carroll is entered in the Light Duty Bus Division. The Rodeo is a competition that tests drivers in a number of transit driving skills including an obstacle course, backing, and curb side parking as well as loading and securing wheelchairs. The top two place winners in each division win a trip to the National Rodeo sponsored by the Community Transit Association of America.



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 investments made so far this year by the 2017 Partners listed below. For more information on the Partnership Program, [follow this link](#) or contact Rick Hunsaker at rhunsaker@region12cog.org. This list is up to date as of May 29, 2017.

SILVER MEMBERSHIP - \$500

- Audubon County Econ. Development**, Audubon
- Bank Iowa**, Denison
- Home State Bank**, Jefferson
- Iowa Corn Processors**, Glidden
- Iowa State Bank**, Sac City
- Mid-Iowa Insurance & Real Estate**, Carroll
- POET Biorefining**, Coon Rapids
- Quality Food Processors**, Denison
- United Bank of Iowa**, Carroll

BRONZE MEMBERSHIP - \$250

- Agri-Drain**, Adair
- AMVC**, Audubon
- Audubon State Bank**, Audubon
- Badding Construction**, Carroll
- Bruner, Bruner & Reinhart**, Carroll
- Carroll Area Development Corporation**, Carroll
- Carroll County State Bank**, Carroll
- Commercial Savings Bank**, Carroll
- Community State Bank**, Paton
- Coon Rapids Municipal Utilities**, Coon Rapids
- Denison Municipal Utilities**, Denison
- Drees Company**, Carroll
- Exchange State Bank**, Exira
- Farmers State Bank**, Yale
- Farnar Bocken Company**, Carroll
- GCDC**, Jefferson
- The Graphic Edge**, Carroll
- Guthrie County State Bank**, Guthrie Center
- Holmes-Murphy**, West Des Moines
- Iowa Savings Bank**, Carroll
- Marne & Elk Horn Telephone Co.**, Elk Horn
- Principal Fin. Group-Matt Ramaekers**, Carroll
- Snyder & Associates**, Atlantic
- St. Anthony Regional Hospital and Nursing Home**, Carroll
- Sundquist Engineering**, Denison
- Templeton Savings Bank**, Templeton
- Templeton Telephone Company**, Templeton
- West Central Iowa Rural Water Association**, Manning
- Western Iowa Networks**, Breda
- Westside State Bank**, Westside

Public Hearings

This article is reprinted from the Iowa League of Cities April 2017 publication.

Public hearings are intended to provide the public and those affected by proposed municipal actions the opportunity to provide input. The *Code of Iowa* requires that a council hold a public hearing before taking action on certain items. The most common requirements are those related to the budget where a public hearing is required before passing or amending a budget. The League Web site includes an extensive list of when a public hearing is required before taking certain actions. The list also provides a link to the specific section in the *Code* that requires the public hearing. Cities may also choose to hold a public hearing as a way to bring added attention to an issue or where the governing body wants to solicit additional feedback.

Not unlike regular council meetings, cities should consider adopting rules of procedure to ensure an orderly discussion and to have reasonable time limits for public participation. The mayor or presiding officer is responsible for enforcing any rules, and great care should be taken to apply the rules equally to all speakers.

Notice

It is important to review the specific code section that requires a public hearing to determine the time-frame for proper public notice. The most common notification provision is found in Section 362.3, which provides that notice be published not less than four and not more than 20 days before the date of the hearing. A common deviation from that timeframe is the notice required for approval of the budget, requiring a notice to be published not less than 10 and not more than 20 days before the hearing.

Most cities will need to publish in a newspaper that meets specific circulation standards. The exception is for cities with fewer than 200 residents. These cities can satisfy the notice requirements by posting in three public places designated by ordinance. The League Web site includes resources that further detail the public notice process, including information on newspaper requirements and required rates for public notices.

NEW STAFF



Peterson

Kestra Peterson has joined Region XII as a summer intern. Kestra is from Sun Prairie, Wisconsin, and will be a senior at Iowa State University this fall majoring in Environmental Planning. She enjoys playing basketball, camping, traveling, and spending time with family and friends. After graduation, Kestra hopes to work on making communities more sustainable.

Did You Know?

Denison is the home of Lester Shaw, Iowa's 17th Governor who became Teddy Roosevelt's Secretary of the Treasury. Learn more about him at the McHenry House Museum, see his house (now apartments) at 1430 1st Avenue South, and visit his final resting place (a mausoleum!) in Oakland Cemetery.



Shaw

Small Town Turnaround Workshop Offered

The Iowa League of Cities is offering a small town turnaround workshop in Anita on June 15 starting at 5:00 p.m. This workshop will address nuisance and vacant property issues with an overview of the abatement process, the tools cities have to turnaround vacant properties, and how to work with neighbors to keep the community in good shape. To register, visit www.iowaleague.org. Registration costs \$40 and dinner will be provided.

Iowa Waste Exchange Facilitates Large Match

by Fred Kesten

Sometimes events are just meant to be. On March 29, 2017, I received a telephone call from Bobbi Smith, shipping supervisor at Staples Promotional Products, in Orange City. Staples Promotional Products has a facility in Orange City that produces and stores thousands of promotional products for customers across the globe.

Bobbie had 22 pallets of promotional T-shirts that the company had not been able to use, as a result of seasonal changes, and preferred to donate them and put them to good use. During the conversation, I thought of Feed the Hungry of South Bend, Indiana, as the perfect organization whom to send these items. Amazingly, within minutes, I received an e-mail, as did the other Iowa Waste Exchange representatives, from David Flowers of Feed The Hungry with a list of materials for which he was looking. I immediately e-mailed David, and he expressed interest. Bobbi then sent me photos of the shirts. Contact information was exchanged, and the stage was set.



A semi-trailer arrived at the Staples Promotional Products facility in Orange City on April 3, 2017 to pick up the pallets of T-shirts. Dave reports that a good portion of the shirts will be shared among ministries in Mexico and Nicaragua and for volunteers and people, who serve and need help in the greater Joliet/Chicago region. Dave stated, "We are truly grateful to work with Staples and IWE representative Fred Kesten from Area 1 to pick up and distribute these shirts to those in need. Every dollar we, or our partners do not have to spend in purchases, allows community dollars to further stretch in helping others throughout our land and beyond. Thank you IWE and Staples for all your help!"

The Iowa Waste Exchange is one of the nation's premier materials exchange programs. Since 1990, the Iowa Waste Exchange has matched well over 3.5 million tons, keeping waste out of landfills and into our economy, saving Iowans more than \$86 million by diverting this waste into production and use.

About the Companies

Staples

Staples helps small business customers make more happen by providing a broad assortment of products, expanded business services and easy ways to shop-in stores, online via mobile or through social apps. Staples Business Advantage, caters to mid-market, commercial and enterprise-sized customers by offering a one-source solution for the products and services they need, combined with best-in-class customer service, competitive pricing and a state-of-the-art ecommerce site.

More information about Staples is available at www.staples.com

LeSEA Global Feed The Hungry

LeSEA is a 30-year old humanitarian group that performs emergency and targeted relief in the United States and overseas, where they feed 150,239 children on a daily basis. With partnering agencies across the United States and overseas, food and other products, like shirts, are useful in everyone's operations. When the opportunity arose to receive a large supply of shirts, Dave Flowers of Feed the Hungry quickly said "yes."

For more information about the Iowa Waste Exchange, contact Fred Kesten, Iowa Waste Exchange Program Manager at fkestn@region12cog.org or 712-775-7813.

CPPC Awards Mini Grants

by Mollie Scott

Community Partnerships for Protecting Children (CPPC) is an approach that strives to keep children safe from abuse and neglect and to support families. This approach recognizes that keeping children safe is everybody's business; CPPC provides opportunities for community members to come together, help families in times of need and shape the services and supports.



CPPC aims to blend the work and expertise of professionals and community members to bolster support for vulnerable families and children with the aim to preventing and thereby reducing child abuse and neglect among children, reduce re-abuse among children who come to the attention of the child protective service agency, reduce the rate of serious injury to children due to abuse or neglect. Community Partnerships is not a “program” rather, it is a way of working with families to help services and supports to be more inviting, need-based, accessible and relevant.

The ACGG County cluster funds Community Neighborhood Networking Mini Grants for FY17. The recipients of this grant cycle are: the Crawford County Baby Boutique, Family Resource Center Active Parenting, Churdan Library after school program, Greene Co. Story teller program, CAASA training materials, Carroll County Libraries programing, Carroll ISU Extension Strengthen Family Parents, ESC WATCH Dogs Program, West Central Action School supplies, Lake View Library after school programing, Wall Lake after school programing, Crossroads of Crawford County, Sac ISU Extension car safety program, and New Opportunities Mentoring Table Affair.

CPPC was started with funding from the Edna McConnell Clark Foundation; The Center for Community Partnerships in Child Welfare, part of the Center for the Study of Social Policy, now oversees CPPC. Funding may support, but is not limited to the following activities:

- Coordination of local shared decision-making group.
- Family Team Meetings Facilitation
- Training and technical assistance
- Marketing
- Neighborhood/community events/ activities for engagement and recruitment of volunteers, networking activities, etc.
- Printing of brochures and information materials targeting public awareness

For more information about the Community Partnerships for Protecting Children contact Mollie Scott, Coordinator at msscott@dhs.state.ia.us or visit www.cppconline.com.

North Central Iowa Small Business Development Center Activity

by Kimberly Tiefenthaler

The NCI SBDC has had a very busy past few months. Looking back, it seemed the start of a new year created interest with people in starting, expanding and purchasing businesses and coming to the SBDC for assistance. The constant flow of new clients being served in our region has been consistent since February. Good signs for our businesses and communities!

Looking forward, I have been given the opportunity to become the Regional Director for the North Central Iowa SBDC. With that, we will continue our unique partnership with the ISU Extension in Fort Dodge where the center is based while also maintaining the office at Region XII. The partnership with Region XII and the Revolving Loan Fund program has proved to be an asset to SBDC and our clients. I look forward in continuing to grow the SBDC's presence throughout our region giving support to existing business owners, as well as entrepreneurs and business start-ups.

For more information about the NCI SBDC contact Kimberly Tiefenthaler, NCI SBDC Regional Director, at kimberlyt@ncisbdc.com.

Upcoming Grants

Funding Program	Purpose	Deadline	Eligible Applicants
Rail Revolving Loan and Grant Program	Assistance is available to improve rail facilities that will create jobs, spur economic activity and improve the rail transportation system in Iowa.	June 16, 2017	Local governments and businesses
State Recreation Trails Fund (Iowa DOT)	Acquisition, construction or improvement of recreational trails	July 1, 2017	Local governments and non-profit organizations
CDBG Water and Sewer Fund	Grants to assist cities and counties with sanitary sewer system improvements, water system improvements, water and wastewater treatment facilities, storm sewer projects related to sanitary sewer system improvements and rural water connections.	July 1, 2017 October 1, 2017 January 1, 2018	Local governments
Solid Waste Alternatives Program (SWAP)	Emphasis for selected projects is placed on tonnage avoided or reduced, sustainability and ability to replicate.	July 1, 2017 October 1, 2017 January 1, 2018	Local governments, public or private groups
Enhance Iowa CAT	Assists communities in the development and creation of multiple purpose attraction or tourism facilities.	July 15, 2017 October 15, 2017 January 15, 2018	Cities, counties, non-profit organizations or school districts in cooperation with a city or county
Peter Kiewitt Foundation	Community development and recreation projects.	July 15, 2017 October 15, 2017	Local governments and nonprofit organizations within a 100 mile radius of Omaha Nebraska.
River Enhancement CAT Grant (RECAT)	Funding for projects that improve recreation opportunities on or near rivers and lakes within cities.	July 15, 2017	Local governments
Iowa West Foundation	Community development, economic development, education and human needs projects.	July 17, 2017 November 15, 2017	Local governments and non-profit organizations in Audubon, Carroll and Crawford Counties.
Resource Enhancement and Protection (Iowa DNR)	City parks and open space; county conservation, including land acquisition, facility repair and upgrades, and equipment; and private/public open space acquisition.	August 15, 2017	Local governments and County Conservation Boards
Traffic Safety Improvement Program (TSIP)	TSIP provides safety funds to cities, counties for site specific improvements, traffic control devices or studies	August 15, 2017	Cities and Counties
Union Pacific Community Grant Program	Projects should support one of the following categories: Community and civic: projects aimed at improving and enriching the quality of life in the community, health and human services: projects that improve the level of health care or human services in the community	August 15, 2017	Local governments and non-profits along the UP Railroad
BNSF Foundation	The Foundation is dedicated to supporting the communities we serve and in which our employees live, work, and volunteer. Your organization, or program, should exist in or serve a community near one of BNSF's rail lines to be eligible to apply for grants.	Ongoing	Cities, Counties, non-profits
Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP)	Provides grants for low-cost, systemic safety improvements in the \$10,000/mile range, focusing on lane departure crashes.	Ongoing	Counties
Small Town Sign Replacement Program	The program will provide up to \$5,000 of signs and signposts per applying community on a first-come, first served basis.	Ongoing	Cities
Traffic Engineering Assistance Program (TEAP)	Provides 100 hours of engineering assistance for operations and traffic safety issues.	Ongoing	Cities and Counties
Alliant Hometown Challenge Grants	Dollar-for Dollar match to local fundraising for one-time safety related projects for local response teams.	Ongoing	Local Governments, private non-profits

Recently Awarded Grants

Funding Program	Recipient	Amount	Project
Union Pacific Foundation	City of Westside	\$5,000	Eugene Kock Memorial Park
Carroll Community Foundation	City of Glidden	\$6,000	All-Season Shelter Furnishings
Carroll Community Foundation	City of Glidden	\$1,000	Aquatic Center Shades
Carroll Community Foundation	City of Glidden	\$1,000	Youth Recreation
Greene County Community Foundation	City of Scranton	\$27,413	City Park Rehabilitation
Grow Greene County	City of Scranton	\$40,000	Water Tower Repairs
Grow Greene County	City of Grand Junction	\$46,168	Downtown Business District Improvements

Additional grants are available through private foundations and ongoing programs. If you are looking for funding for a specific project, please contact Chris Whitaker, cwhitaker@region12cog.org or 712-775-7811, for assistance in locating funding opportunities.

STAFF

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