



Central
Nebraska
Economic
Development
District

Community spotlight on Wolbach!



Wolbach, a Village of 238 residents, is tucked away on the southern edge of Greeley County along Highway 22. Driving down Main Street you would find several busi-



Downtown Wolbach

nesses including a grocery store, an insurance agency, a bar & grill, a meat proc-



Main Street Wolbach

essing plant and the post office. A couple of the businesses have been in the same family for over 50 years, and one has been in the same family for over

100 years. Wolbach consolidated their school districts with



Greeley in 2009. This led to the elementary grades being located in Wolbach and grades 7-12 are now in Greeley. Greeley-Wolbach shares a sports cooperative with Cedar Rapids, and is very proud of their Cedar Valley Mavericks. The Mavericks did well at the State level last year, and all the communities look forward to another exciting year of athletics. To track these activities like them on Facebook, search for "We Support the Cedar

Valley Mavericks." Wolbach's Community Club sponsors many activities in town throughout the year. The main events are

Wolbach Days and the Deep Pit B-B-Q. The Community Club provides funding for the Homecoming Parade and makes sure Santa stops in town for a visit in December! Wolbach completed an attitude/opinion survey thru CNEDD in 2008, which led to a 2008 Public Works Grant for street improvements, a 2010 Public Works Grant to construct a new community center, a 2010 Federal Highway Bridge Replacement, and a 2010 Waste Water Grant to update and make improvements on their waste water system. Having received these awards the Wolbach Community Board has had over 50 successful fundraisers including a luncheon, silent auction, pitch tournament, and soup cook-off. With the outstanding support of the community, the Wolbach Community Center is projected to be complete in the summer of 2012.

Wolbach recently participated in the Junk Jaunt by allowing residents to donate items to be sold at the weekend event. All proceeds went towards supporting the new Community Center that Wolbach is beginning construction on shortly. Check out more Wolbach's events at <http://www.wolbach.com/events.htm>

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Note from Laurie

Wolbach welcomes visitors! Stop in. They have food, gas, camping facilities, fishing, an outdoor pool, and great hospitality!



Cottonwood Park

For more information about Wolbach visit them at <http://www.wolbach.com/>

"Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success." —Henry Ford



\$2 Million in CDBG Grants Awarded, with the help of CNEDD!!



Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) is federal funding, made available to the Department of Economic Development, from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development's CDBG program. These funds are used to assist with the development of businesses and communities throughout the state. Funding requests for this program are administered by DED and are available to counties and local governments with populations less than 50,000.

A total of over \$2 million in CDBG grants were written and/or administered by CNEDD just in the last year.

- The Village of Butte received a Wastewater Grant to replace all sanitary sewer main piping and manholes throughout the entire village.
- The Village of Chambers received two

Planning Grants to complete a water system study and to complete a storm sewer drainage study. Chambers also received a Wastewater Grant for improvements to their waste water facility.

- The City of Ord received a Tourism Grant for the restoration of the Valley Cinema Theatre.
- The Village of Wolbach received two Public Works Grants for the construction of a community center and for a waste water facility upgrade.
- The City of Ainsworth received a Planning Grant to assist with a study for Main Street planning.
- The City of Atkinson received an Economic Development Grant for the purchase of a building and equipment for a biomedical technol-

ogy firm that will create higher paying jobs in Atkinson.

- The City of O'Neill was the lead applicant for an Economic Development Grant to REAP, our featured Service Provider in this newsletter.

CNEDD has three Certified CDBG Grant Administrators that will be able to assist communities with all aspects of CDBG administration including environmental review, Davis-Bacon wage compliance, procurement, financial management and a host of other federal requirements tied to the CDBG grant funds.

For more information about Community Development Block Grants contact Barb Beckwith at barb@cnedd.org, Chris Yates at chrisy@cnedd.org or call the CNEDD office at 402-925-2373.

Networking Opportunities!!!

The CNEDD region has two network groups that offer community leaders an excellent opportunity to get the latest information regarding programs and resources available to them at a location fairly close to home. The meetings are held quarterly within the respective network counties. The benefits of attending a Network meeting include

Multiple service providers in one location- Representatives from USDA, the Nebraska Department of Economic Development, NPPD, Rural Enterprise Assistance Project, CNEDD, SCEDD, local economic development providers, Higher education, etc meet

Get the latest information- Community Leaders have the opportunity to receive up to date information regarding the latest programs and funding opportunities available to communities and counties.

"How to" information that is Relevant to you-Network with other community leaders to get "how to" information regarding issues relevant to your community.

The **North Central Regional Group (NCRG)**, formally named the Outback Regional Group, is made up of six counties in North Central Nebraska including Boyd, Brown, Rock, Keya Paha, Holt and Cherry counties. The next meeting of NCRG is scheduled for Wednesday, October 26th, 2011 at the O' Neill Community Center. The meeting will be held from 10 AM – 2 PM. For additional information regarding this meeting contact Chairperson, Nicole Sedlacek, Director, Holt County Economic Development 402-336-1504.

The **Nebraska Development Network-Central Region (NDN-CR)** is made up of 21 counties in Central and South-Central Nebraska. Counties in the CNEDD Region that are included in the NDN-CR are Blaine, Custer, Garfield, Greeley, Howard, Loup, Sherman, Valley & Wheeler. The next meeting for the NDN-CR is set for October 12th from 10 am-2pm in Guide Rock. Co-chairs for the Central Region are Sharon Hueftle, Executive Director, SCEDD 308.995.3190 and Shaun Kaskie, Director, UNK-CRRD, 308.865.8135.



Learning Opportunities

Oct 12th - NE Development Network Central Region Quarterly meeting 10am - 2pm. Guide Rock NE City Building

Oct 13 & 20 - CNHD Homebuyer Education Workshop 6pm - 10pm. Ainsworth NE Conference Center

Oct 26th - North Central Regional Group Quarterly Meeting 10am - 2 pm. O'Neill Community Center

Oct 28th - 2011 Connecting Young Nebraskans Summit 7:30am - 5pm. West Point NE

Nov 3&10th - CNHD Homebuyer Education Workshop 6pm - 10pm. St. Paul NE Public Library

Nov 10th - Nebraska Community Foundation Annual Meeting 9am - 4pm. Divots Conference Center Norfolk NE

Upcoming "Fun" Dates to Remember!!



October is E-Card Month

- Oct 11th - Bring your Teddy Bear to Work Day
- Oct 12th - Columbus Day
- Oct 16th - National Boss's Day
- Oct 28th - Make a Difference Day
- Oct 31st - Halloween

November is Peanut Butter Lover's Month

- Nov 3rd - Sandwich Day
- Nov 6th - Election Day
- Nov 11th - Veteran's Day
- Nov 13th - World Kindness Day
- Nov 24th - Thanksgiving Day



Service Provider Spotlight on REAP! Helping the Next Generation of Entrepreneurs



Organizations like the Rural Enterprise Assistance Project (REAP) are the people that are making it happen for rural entrepreneurs. REAP, started by the Center for Rural Affairs in 1990, is meeting the needs of the self-employed in the rural Midwest by filling the gaps that exist for rural startup and existing small businesses. These gaps are being filled through loans, business counseling, training and networking opportunities. REAP's Direct Loan Program has placed nearly 800 loans totaling close to \$7 Million. and leveraged over \$13 Million. from other sources (as of 7/1/11).

REAP Success Stories, this could be you!



Valley Fire Pottery, a new business in Ord will soon be open for business. Currently the building located in downtown Ord is being remodeled and painted by the new owners Guy and Jennifer Lewis. Valley Fire Pottery and Gallery will be a center for painted ceramics, pottery classes, art gallery, coffee shop, and studio. The business will provide functional pottery to a variety of markets. Classes will be available for hand building,

wheel throwing, and various firing techniques. Painted ceramics will be offered for walk in customers and for prearranged parties. Jennifer grew up in Ord and left to attend college in Juneau, AK, where she met Guy who was from Oregon. After college they resided in Oregon for several years and 3 years ago they relocated back to Ord. When people ask "why Ord NE, who's going to buy this in Ord, NE?" Guy and Jennifer say "why not." Companies have to be based somewhere, and in today's market based internet sales, location is no longer as critical as it once was. The Ord RLF and REAP assisted Guy and Jennifer in purchasing the building and opening the business.



R&R Electric owners, Tyler and Lorana Eggert, both grew up in the Valentine/Ainsworth area and wanted to relocate back to be close to family and friends and to raise their own family. Tyler successfully obtained a Electrical Contractors License and with the help of REAP was able to get assistance in preparing a business plan, financial projections and loans to assist in starting the business.



West Bakery owner, Joey Haida, utilized bookkeeping, marketing and business plan assistance through REAP that allowed him to open up a local bakery that had been closed. He is currently making some wonderful old-fashioned bakery recipes and serving up light lunches to the community of Broken Bow.



Stearns Auto Repair owners, Barry and Amanda Stearns, relocated back to the Ewing area to raise their family. REAP helped format a business plan, financials and supporting documents to present to financial institutes for funding the new business.

For more information on how REAP can benefit you visit their website at <http://www.cfra.org/reap/home> or like them on Facebook. Regional contacts include Eugene Rahn in Atkinson (402-925-2920) and Dena Beck in Minden (308-528-0060)

Community Calendar of Events

Oct 6-9th - Old West Days & Cowboy Poetry Gathering, community festival, Valentine, NE <http://nebraskacowboypoetrygathering.com>

Oct 7-9th - See the Byway the Quiltway on the Outlaw Trail Scenic Byway Hwy 12
www.nebraskaoutlawtrail.org

Oct 15th - Annual Cow Pie Trail Run, half-marathon, 5K run/walk, and kid's fun run benefiting the Rebecca Adams Green Foundation. BBQ, music, hay rack rides & more, Loup City, NE
www.RebeccaAdamsGreenFoundation.com

Oct 23rd - National Hall Craft Fair, crafts/quilts/antiques show, Ord, NE
www.visitvalleycounty.com

Oct 31st - Goblins and Ghouls on the Square, Community Festival, Burwell, NE www.visitburwell.org

Nov 11th - Veterans Day Event, Burwell, NE www.visitburwell.org

Nov 18th - Craft Show at the Parish Center, Burwell, NE
www.visitburwell.org

Nov 19th - Candy Cane Craft Fair, Crafts, quilts & antique show. Ord, NE www.visitvalleycounty.com

Nov 26th - WinterFest, City-Wide community festival. Ord, NE
www.visitvalleycounty.com

Email Chrisy@cnedd.org to include your events in our next newsletter

Getting to Know our Organization and Staff

The Central Nebraska Economic Development District is a federally designated Economic Development District, serving a 15 county region of Central Nebraska. One of our main functions as a District includes preparing a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS).

The CEDS is designed to bring together public and private sectors in an effort to create an economic roadmap to diversify and strengthen our regional economy.

A CEDS will:

- Analyze the regional economy
- Serve as a guide to develop regional goals and objectives
- Develop and implement a regions plan of action and identify investment priorities and funding sources.

The Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 (PWEDA), requires a CEDS in order to apply for investment assistance under EDA's Public Works or Economic Adjustment Assistance Programs.

A full revision of the CNEDD CEDS will be completed and submitted to the Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration in the fall of 2012. A CEDS committee will be appointed by the CNEDD governing board. The committee must represent the main economic interests of the region and must include Private Sector Representatives as the majority of its membership. The CNEDD governing board will ensure that the committee also includes: public officials, community leaders, representatives of workforce development, higher education and private individuals.

Those interested in serving on this Regional Strategy Board should contact Laurie Hansen, Executive Director at 402-925-2373 or laurie@cnedd.org for more information.

Our Mission:

Partnering to enhance the quality of life in Central Nebraska through community and business development.

Our Vision for the Future:

Making a difference in every county we serve by working together to keep the region strong and viable.

From the Desk of Laurie



Laurie Hansen,
CNEDD Exec Director

Wow what a ride! We have seen new community centers, new roads & bridges, hospital updates, theater renovations,

senior centers, new businesses, water and waste water projects, courthouse renovations and too many more to mention are in process or have been completed in the last two years in the CNEDD region.

The CNEDD project portfolio is the highest it has ever been with over 17.6 million dollars of private and public investment that have been obligated and awarded to CNEDD member communities and counties. Because of all these exciting things happening

in Central Nebraska, we are reviving our Newsletter to help us keep you informed!

Not only have we been involved firsthand while assisting with these projects, but we have been able to see these visions come to life through the accomplishments of several local community leaders!

What makes some communities stand out when it comes to projects and grant awards? It is the local "Spark Plugs" who take time to plan for the future of their communities, who rally supporters and organize fundraisers to accomplish the goals they have set out for themselves.

When all these pieces come together everyone has something to be proud of and a great place to call home in Central Nebraska.

Community members who have a dream for their little community to thrive and have a prosperous future for generations to come are the people who make it happen. If we don't dream about what our community could be then it will never become.

At CNEDD, we share a vision of making a difference in every county and community we serve by working together to keep the region strong and viable. Big or small we want to know the dreams and needs of your communities and then we want to help make these dreams a reality. It has been a joy to work with each and every one of you and all of us at CNEDD look forward to a prosperous future ahead for the people and communities of Central Nebraska.

Sincerely, Laurie

Our Staff Contact Information

CNEDD
PO Box 825
Atkinson, NE 68713
phn (402) 925-2373
Fax (402) 925-2085

Laurie Hansen,
Executive Director &
NDDR Responsible Charge
laurie@cnedd.org

Barb Beckwith,
Community Coordinator &
CDBG Certified
barbi@cnedd.org

Chrisy Yates,
Community Coordinator &
CDBG Certified
chrisy@cnedd.org

Deb Brauer,
Administrative Assistant &
NDDR Responsible Charge
deb@cnedd.org