

2007 Q1 Newsletter

Ethanol

5.7% ethanol decreases emissions by 30%

Everyone is talking about the possibility of an ethanol facility coming to Hancock County. Despite the political turmoil that has recently surrounded this issue, most people view ethanol in a good way. It is a much needed product made from a re-

newable resource (that Iowa just happens to have an abundance of), it's good for the environment and it lessens our dependence on foreign oil.

If built, the ethanol facility will bring construction crews to the area and then 40 permanent full time, good paying jobs. The economic benefits of this facility will be re-

flected in the area by stores, restaurants, schools and other businesses and services. The Fire, EMS, Law Enforcement Departments will reap the benefits of the facility's good neighbor attitude. Ventura School District and the Hancock County Memorial Hospital will benefit the most. If it is built we will all be winners.

Did you know....

Hancock County has 827 farms residing on 322,322 acres of 365,440 acres in the county.

Per capita, Hancock County has the greatest percentage of advanced manufacturing jobs in the state.

Crystal Lake is the source for the Iowa River which flows into the Mississippi River 300 miles downstream.

Hancock County has an average of 21.2 persons per square mile. In comparison Minneapolis has 6,970.3 and NYC has 26,402.9

Mission Statement

The Hancock County Economic Development Corporation will facilitate economic development in the county while preserving our quality of life.

Hancock County Data

Population = 11,786
Hancock Co unemployment Rate = 4.6 (state = 3.4)
Square miles = 571
Median household income = \$40,388
Home ownership rate = 78.2%

Be the
change you
want to see in
the world.
-Gandhi

Welcome!

Welcome to the first Hancock County Economic Development (HCEDC) Newsletter. We aim to keep you informed of the happenings of the HCEDC Board and

Hancock County businesses. A healthy economic environment for the county should be the goal of everyone.

Ripples!

Like a water drop on a pond, the ripples of economic development affect us all.

Business Expansion:	⇒ Powder Coat Painting	Business Retention:
⇒ Zinpro Expansion	⇒ Harvest Biofuels	⇒ Nortech Systems (formerly Suntron)
⇒ Stellar Expansion	⇒ Garner Industrial Con-	⇒ Oshkosh purchase of IMT
⇒ FC—Britt	dos	
Business Creation:	⇒ Entrepreneurial Health	
	Care Pilot Project	

Facilitating a Successful Meeting

- Brent Hinson



New Daddy Brent

- The Basics:
 - > Preparation is Key
 - > The agenda should be focused and set the tone for the meeting
 - > In the meeting, respect is shown to various viewpoints, but the group stays focused on objectives, not side stories.
- Preparing for the Meeting
 - > What are the objectives for the meeting?
 - > Is there staff research on issues to be prepared?
 - > Who needs to be there?
- Setting the Agenda
 - > Who sets the agenda?
 - > Are there required or customary items that need to be addressed?
 - > A well put-together agenda will help set the tone for the meeting and provide the necessary structure to keep things on track.
- Effective Meeting Procedure
 - > #1 key to effective, productive meetings: an effective chairperson.
 - > Ultimate goal of uses of rules of meeting procedure is to facilitate quality discussion and action, not stifle it.
 - > Most smaller organizations use meeting rules such as Robert's Rules or Order as a guide, not as strict rules.
- Why Is a Chairperson so Important?
 - > The chair has the ability to regulate discussion—stop side conversations.
 - > The chair can curtail involvement of outside parties in the meeting if necessary.
 - > Meetings cannot operate at too slow or too fast of pace, and the Chair controls this. If the group has fully discussed an issue and is not ready to make a decision, the Chair can move the group on to the next issue.
- Basics of Meeting Procedure
 - > The organization has the right to make its own rules of procedure, which then apply to everyone.
 - > All members are equal and their rights are equal.
 - > A quorum of members must be present to conduct business.
 - > The majority rules.
 - > Silence is consent.
 - > One question and one speaker at a time.

HCEDC Company Appreciation Lunches

HCEDC understands how important each and every business is to the area. As a way of saying thank you for doing business in Hancock County, the HCEDC has started a Company Appreciation Lunch Program. This informal gathering is a way of saying thanks we care that you are here. Visiting over lunch the HCEDC can learn what is new with the company and how we can help them.

David Zrostlik and Dave Backus of **Stellar Industries**, Garner were the recipients of the first HCEDC Company Appreciation Lunch. **Cindy Schack** was joined by **Brent Hinson** and **Kristi DeWaard** at

the **Pizza Ranch** in Garner. **Stellar Industries, Inc.** is a premier Iowa manufacturer of hydraulic hooklift loaders, telescopic cranes and mechanic service trucks, tire service trucks, truck-mounted compressors, drawer sets and various other truck accessories.

Stellar was founded in 1990 by Francis Zrostlik. Today the company is run by his son David. Stellar employs 180 people and is one of Hancock County's biggest and best businesses and employers.

Communication 1 Network was started in 1900 with only 4 lines. Today **Communications 1** has 685 access lines and offers long

distance, telephone, cable, cell phone and internet service. **Communications 1 Network** provides 7 jobs in the Kanawha area. Attending the 2nd HCEDC Company Appreciation Lunch at the **Talk of the Town**, Kanawha was **Randy Yeakel**, of **Communications 1**, **Cindy Schack**, **Steve Barber** and **Scott Whyte**.



www.stellarindustries.com

Thank you local businesses—

We are glad you are here!

Communications 1 Network, Inc.

www.commlnet.net

HCEDC Momentum - - - - ->

- ⇒ A Rural Business Enterprise Grant application, which, if awarded, will match funds for creating a county wide Revolving Loan Fund (RLF), is currently being worked on. Funds would be available for beginning or expanding businesses in the county.
- ⇒ North Central Iowa Alliance (NCIA) is the 7 county regional marketing alliance made up of Hancock, Winnebago, Worth, Mitchell, Floyd Franklyn and Cero Gordo counties. This regional group was brought together to market the north central Iowa area. The group is finishing its website and marketing materials. Marketing trips, prospects packets have been created, answered and sent out.
- ⇒ The LOIS database has been updated to IDED standards. To view the data go to the HCEDC webpage and click on buildings and sites.
- ⇒ There is now a direct link on the HCEDC webpage to Hancock County jobs listed at IWD. Go to the HCEDC webpage and click on workforce.
- ⇒ Entrepreneur Health Care Pilot Project being created in the 9 county region. Entrepreneurs will have the security of health care when they start their own business.
- ⇒ Cindy recently completed her annual update and review visits with each city council board.
- ⇒ Assisting current businesses with their expansion projects.
- ⇒ Goodell Community Center. FEMA Grants applied for.

Hancock County Economic Development Board

- Jerry TlachPresident
- Kathi Nelson..Vice President
- Brent HinsonSecretary
- Scott Whyte.....Treasurer
- Steve Barber
- Kristi Dewaard
- Jim Nelson
- Darrell Goff
- Duane Howlett
- Vance Jackson
- Dave Kingland
- Susan Lewerke
- Rusty Schmidt

Cindy Schack
Executive Director

Shop In Hancock County and Improve Hancock County Roads.

A week ago I was at the Hancock County Board of Supervisors meeting and heard Bill Waddingham, the county engineer, ask why his budget had been cut. It was explained to him by the supervisors that the local option tax estimate is less than usual and that his budget reflects that decrease.

The state of Iowa collects a 5% tax on goods and services. Communities in the state have the option of collecting an additional 2% local option tax. In Hancock County 65% of this tax revenue goes toward rural property tax relief which includes rural roads. Local option tax for the years of 2006-2007 is estimated at \$400,000. The following year's estimate for the taxes is only \$388,130. That is a projected \$22,000 that Hancock County will not be able to spend on roads. That is \$22,000 not coming to Hancock County for no reason other than because people opted to purchase goods and services outside of Hancock County.

This makes an excellent argument for shopping local, for keeping your money in Hancock County. Every dollar spent in the county contributes to the economic health of the area. The local business owners benefit, and so do we all by improved services and in this case improved roads. This is something we can all do to help our county and the best part - there is no additional cost to you, since it's money you are already spending!

Thank You!

2006-2007 Investors

- Hancock County
- Aspen Hills
- Memorial Hospital
- Nortech Systems
- City of Britt
- CDI
- Hanson Foundation
- Paul Kelly Realty
- City of Corwith
- Clear Lake Bank & Trust
- Holland Contracting
- Point Builders
- City of Forest city
- Communications 1 Network
- IMT
- Prairie Energy REC
- City of Garner
- Farmers Trust & Savings Bank
- Iowa State Bank
- Stellar Industries, Inc
- City of Goodell
- First Citizens National Bank
- Jaspersen Insurance
- Titonka Savings Bank
- City of Kanawha
- First State Bank
- Kiefer Built
- Winnebago Industries
- Forest City ED
- Florida Power & Light
- Larson Contracting
- Yohn Co
- Alliant Energy
- Hancock County
- Liberty Bank
- American Crane
- MBT



PO Box 135 Garner, Iowa 50438

www.hancockcountyiowa.com