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BUSINESS and INDUSTRY APPRECIATION DAY

Cozad Country Club - 2007

Dawson Area Development held their annual Business and Industry Appreciation Day on June 6th at the Cozad Country Club. The event included a four-person golf scramble, four point pitch tournament, and a steak dinner.

We would like to thank all those who attended the event. The golf tournament included 16 teams and the pitch tournament included 6 players. There were a total of 89 steak dinners served. The 2008 Business and Industry Appreciation Day will be held at Lakeside Country Club on Johnson Lake.



Cozad Country Club - 100 Country Club Road

FEATURE: Lexington Earns Nebraska ED Certification
Lexington is 11th Community to Earn the Designation

LINCOLN, NEB. (July-2007) - Lexington has earned the Nebraska Economic Development Certified Community designation. The state's other certified communities are Auburn, Fremont, Grand Island, Holdrege, Nebraska City, Norfolk, North Platte, Ogallala, Ord, and South Sioux City.



Washington Street - Downtown Lexington

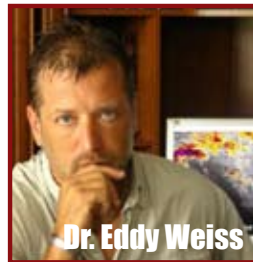
Lexington's (pop. 10,000 plus) economic and cultural growth has helped Dawson County become one of the state's fastest growing counties during the past 10 years. The city's objective is to define its own future, rather than have the future define it. Economic Development accomplishments include construction of an ethanol facility, call center, commercial strip mall and Wal-Mart Supercenter; creation of entrepreneur programs; improvements to Main Street; establishment of a modern industrial tract and upgrades to its utilities to accommodate and attract private investment leading to industrial, commercial, and residential growth.

"This designation is another step in Lexington's progression toward ongoing, sustainable growth through a proactive and fully supportive [CLICK HERE](#).

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS SEMINARS
DAD Sponsors Seminars in Lexington and Gothenburg

On May 31st in Lexington and Gothenburg, DAD sponsored Disaster Preparedness Seminars. Over thirty-five Dawson County businesses, non-profits, local governments, and industry attended the seminars with featured speaker, Dr. Eddy Weiss.

Disaster preparedness is a tough subject and needs to be addressed by a group that is not afraid to state the facts. Weiss and team have worked long and hard to develop programs and presentations for corporate America, rural communities, the small business owner, churches, schools, and civic groups.



Dr. Eddy Weiss

The seminar covered topics such as continuity planning, emergency planning for employees, emergency supply kits, planning to stay or go, evacuation plans, and shelter-in-place plans. Other topics from the seminar included the importance of promoting family and individual preparedness for employees, preparing for utility disruptions, identifying alternate suppliers or distributors, and sharing disaster plans with employees.

Weiss wove real life experiences and examples into the presentation to really drive the message of how important being prepared is to ensure safety, staying in business, and protecting communities. [CLICK HERE](#).

Every Business Should Have a Plan.

DAWSON COUNTY CROWN PROJECT - UPDATE

“Village at Dawson” Project Conditionally Approved for Trust Funds

The Dawson County Commissioners were notified in June that the proposed “Village at Dawson” project has been conditionally approved for Trust Funds in the amount of \$523,329. This project is for the construction of eighteen (18) new homes in Cozad, Gothenburg, and Lexington.

The award of these monies is contingent on the developer receiving a tax credit funding award from the Nebraska Investment Finance

Authority. Application for this funding will be accomplished this fall.

The “Village at Dawson” will place six (6) new homes in each Dawson County community of Cozad, Gothenburg, and Lexington. Five houses in each town will be CROWN (Credit to own) homes. These homes will be available for income-qualified families to rent, with a portion of their rent being deposited in an escrow account that will help them purchase

a home of their own in the future. The sixth home in each community will be a market rate home available for purchase.

This has been an ongoing project of the Dawson Area Development Housing Committee, whose members are committed to providing Dawson County residents with additional housing options within the county.

ABLE BRAINSTORM

Thank you to those who participated in the 2007 Brainstorm.

On the evening of June 21st an ABLE Brainstorming session was held at Johnson Lake with various county-wide business and education leaders in attendance. The goal of the session was to develop a menu of creative ideas based upon six career paths that could generate excitement within our Dawson County student population in regards to careers in the area. Around 25 Dawson County representatives attended the event that included a dinner followed by the 30 minute brainstorming session.

The breakout groups consisted of 4 to 5 individuals who were representational of the following six career fields:

1. Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources.

- Dave Stenberg - UNL - DAD Board Member
- Robby France - Gothenburg Senior
- Lori Owings - Human Resources, Orthman
- John Bell - ABLE Coordinator

2. Communication and Information Systems

- Barb Batie - Lexington Clipper Herald
- Ken Rahjes - KRVN
- John Bell - ABLE Coordinator

3. Human Services and Resources

- David Gordon - Lexington H.S. Principal
- Donn Newquist - SEM H.S. Counselor
- Jen Wolf - DAD Executive Director
- Milan and Barb Franzen - Lexington H.S.



Above: Members of the Health Science breakout group discuss various creative ideas to stimulate youth interest in pursuing medical careers that are poised for growth here in Dawson County.

4. Health Science

- Dr. Mark Jones and Patty Jones
- Jim and Janette Hain
- Pat Samway - Tri-County Hospital

5. Industrial, Manufacturing, and Engineering Systems.

- Brian Eilers - Eilers Machine and Welding
- Jerry Dannehl - Lexington Contractor
- Steve Atwood - Designer Craft Woodworking
- Jay Edwards - Tenneco

Below: Breakout groups from foreground:

1. Industrial, Manufacturing, and Engineering Systems.
2. Health Science.
3. Business, Marketing, and Management.
4. Human Services and Resources



6. Business, Marketing, and Management

- Scott France - McChesney, Martin, and Sagehorn PC
- Susan Bennett - Lexington Chamber of Commerce
- Anne Anderson - Gothenburg Community Development Office
- Dennis Samway - Former Manager, Orscheln

Thank you to all of you who participated in the Brainstorming Session. Many great ideas were put on the table to assist our students with exploring career opportunities in Dawson County. The ABLE Brainstorm will become an annual event held each June. For more information on the event please contact the DAD office.

DISASTER PREPAREDNESS SEMINARS

Cont.

While in Dawson County Weiss was overwhelmed with the hospitality of the citizens and stated "I've never been any place like this." Printed information for employees or businesses can be ordered from Weiss at a

minimal charge for shipping by calling 308-850-6337 or emailing at C4L@chasing4life.org. Weiss can also be contacted about doing specific mitigation plans for local businesses or group presentations.

FEATURE: Lexington Earns Nebraska ED Certification

Cont.

approach to economic development," said Joe Peplitsch, Lexington city manager.

The Nebraska Diplomats sponsor the Economic Development Certified Community program along with a number of other development partners. The Nebraska Department of Economic Development administers the program, which provides technical assistance to communities throughout the application process. The program is one of only a few in the nation that recognize communities for economic development preparedness.

"Attainment of the Nebraska Economic Development Certified Community designation spotlights that Lexington and other communities are prepared for business growth and ready, today, to meet the needs of companies seeking new business and industrial locations. The designation sets them apart as communities that have leadership and commitment to take the necessary steps to allow them to compete

successfully for new jobs and new investment," said Roger Christianson, Nebraska Diplomats president.

To qualify for certification, communities must meet certain criteria set out in the application form. The certification process is ongoing and noncompetitive. Communities that exhibit the required documented economic development readiness as specified in the program and approved by a review committee will earn certification. Each applicant is judged against standards that include organization, local industry target identification and workforce issues, infrastructure, local financing and business assistance, building and site availability, and other program parameters.

Information about the Nebraska Economic Development Certified Community program is available at: [CLICK HERE](#)
<http://www.neded.org/content/view/380/669/>

UNL INSTITUTE OF AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES

FOOD ENTREPRENEUR SEMINAR PRESENTED IN SPANISH

Since 1989 the UNL Food Processing Center has offered the "From Recipe to Reality" seminar to those interested in starting a food business. The program is designed specifically to assist food manufacturing entrepreneurs. Topics include: market research, product development, packaging, labeling, pricing, product introduction, promotional materials, food safety and legal and business structure issues.

Recently all seminar materials were translated to Spanish and the seminar will be presented in Spanish on October 1st in Omaha. It is the only national program to provide such comprehensive assistance to individuals wishing to develop a food manufacturing business.

Contact: Jill Gifford - Food Entrepreneur Assistance Program Manager - UNL - phone: 402.472.2819

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