



NCRPC NEWS

North Central Regional
Planning Commission

www.ncrpc.org
June 2005

NCRPC Staff

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Joe Nold, Dickinson Co.
Larry Paine, City of Concordia
Virgil Palen, Mitchell Co.
Kermit Rush, Ellsworth Co.
David Thurlow, Clay Co.
Harold Wilber, Republic Co.

Upcoming Events

June 30

Executive Board Meeting, 2 p.m.

July 28

Board Work/Study Session, 2 p.m.
Kansas Secretary of Agriculture,
Adrian Polansky, will attend and
discuss biosciences.

August 25

Board Work/Study Session, 2 p.m.
John Keller, KSU Landscape Archi-
tecture/Regional and Community
Planning professor, will discuss
land use planning and zoning.

Note This...

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newsletter via e-mail, please
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lthielen@nckcn.com. Feedback is
always welcome.

TAX CREDIT PROGRAM GIVES BOOST TO RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Economic development efforts in rural Kansas have new support through the Rural Business Development Tax Credit Program. The program is one of the rural development priorities of the Kansas Economic Growth Act passed by the State Legislature last year.

The tax credits will be utilized to help with job creation and retention, business support services, regional leadership development, and technology improvements that enhance entrepreneurship and small business creation in each of the seven economic development regions as assigned by the Kansas Department of Commerce. The program will award \$7 million in tax credits statewide over three years, translating to \$14 million in cash donations. The money will provide capital for entrepreneurial efforts and encourage local investment in the economic future of each region.

Facts and Figures for North Central Region

Name of Regional Foundation: North Central Kansas Community Network Co. (via North Central Regional Planning Commission)
Award: \$357,143 to market until end of 2005; Another \$357,143 to be awarded in July 2005 to be marketed until end of 2006
Counties Covered: Chase, Clay, Cloud, Dickinson, Ellsworth, Geary, Jewell, Lincoln, Lyon, Marshall, Mitchell, Morris, Ottawa, Pottawatomie, Republic, Riley, Saline, Wabaunsee, Washington
Contact Person: John Cyr, NCRPC Executive Director
Phone: (785) 738-2218 **E-mail:** jcyr@nckcn.com

The North Central Kansas Community Network Co. has been designated to administer the development funds associated with the tax credits for the North Central region. Each region determines use of its own funds.

Individuals and businesses may contribute \$250 or more to a regional foundation to be eligible for a 50 percent tax credit on their Kansas income tax return. Besides tax savings, it offers Kansans the ability to reinvest in themselves. The North Central regional foundation has received \$124,000 so far, with the largest contribution being

\$100,000 from Central National Bank early this year.

"Donations like that of the Central National Bank are vitally important to any new program, for they not only provide a monetary base upon which the new program can grow, they are also emblematic of how others view the importance of that program," John Cyr, Executive Director, says.

Contributions are welcome any time. More information is available by contacting John Cyr at the NCRPC or the Kansas Department of Commerce Community Development Division at (785) 296-3485.

CDBG 2006 GRANT SCHEDULES ANNOUNCED

The Kansas Department of Commerce (KDOC) has announced the following schedule of area application workshops and annual competitions for the 2006 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program.

Applications and guidelines will be available at the workshops. For more information, contact the NCRPC.

Workshops: Topeka, June 20, 2005, SRS Learning Center, 1:30 p.m.
Hays, June 23, 2005, Sternberg Museum, 1:30 p.m.

Housing/Neighborhood Development Grant Schedule

Application Deadline September 30, 2005
Award Announcement..... On or about January 4, 2006

Community Facilities Grant Schedule

Application Deadline September 30, 2005
Award Announcement..... On or about January 10, 2006

Water and Sewer Grant Schedule

Application Deadline October 14, 2005
Award Announcement..... On or about January 13, 2006



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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

MEET THE STAFF

Pepper Roberg joined the NCRPC staff as Receptionist/Accounts Receivable Clerk in June 2004. She handles a variety of office functions including monitoring accounts receivable for NCRPC and NCKCN and assisting staff with the Low-to-Moderate Income survey process for Kansas Department of Commerce's CDBG program.

In addition, Pepper handles many requests for setting up Internet accounts and for technical assistance relating to Internet and e-mail.

"It's rewarding to be able to offer technical assistance to customers to help them solve a problem," she says.

Pepper attended the University of Kansas prior to returning home to Beloit to help operate family-owned businesses. She and her husband, Jeff, have two daughters, Lexie and Courtney.

"I wanted to be able to move back home to a small community to raise my family," Pepper says.

COUPLE PURCHASES CITY PHARMACY

Shortly after obtaining their pharmacy licenses, Joe and Amber Woehl purchased City Pharmacy, Inc., which is the only pharmacy in Ottawa County, from long-time owners, Dean and Ila Johnson.

City Pharmacy, Inc., in existence since the 1880s, attracted the couple for many reasons.

"We had started looking for an opportunity to buy an independent pharmacy in Kansas," Amber says. "We liked the community, the location, what the previous owners had done and the fact that City Pharmacy had the opportunity for growth."

The business serves Ottawa County and also has many customers from Cloud and Lincoln counties.

Several changes have occurred with the change in ownership. The gift department has been downsized and focuses more on K-State, KU and collegiate items. They have also added new medical equipment and expanded their selection of vitamins and herbal supplements. Nebulizers, which are used in administering



Joe and Amber Woehl are the new owners of City Pharmacy located at 209 W. 2nd Street in downtown Minneapolis.

breathing treatments, are one of the newest products available.

"We now have a larger selection of products to help people stay at home longer," Amber says.

Other changes have been made to improve the customer's experience.

"We've made some changes to the business to make it friendlier including adding a new awning and sign and widening aisles among other things," Amber says. "It looks different, but we still have the same friendly service."

Minneapolis Economic Development Director, Mark

Freel, says having a young couple invest in a business has sparked an encouraging attitude in the community.

"For someone to invest in the community and become a long-term citizen and business owner says a lot."

He credits long-time owners Dean and Ila Johnson for creating the opportunity for future owners.

"Without their initial vision in the community many years ago, Joe and Amber would not have seen the City Pharmacy as an opportunity."

Amber says the biggest reward comes from helping patients with their health.

"It's rewarding to get to know the patients one-on-one. It's an exchange between us and our patients."

The purchase was funded with a loan from the United Branch of the Bennington State Bank of Minneapolis, the North Central Regional Planning Commission Revolving Loan Fund, and an investment by the new owners.