



NCRPC NEWS

North Central Regional Planning Commission
Serving Kansans Since 1972

April/May 2009
www.ncrpc.org

Executive Board

Chair:

David Thurlow, Clay Co.

Vice Chair:

Steve Errebo, Lincoln Co.

Secretary/Treasurer:

Chuck Heidrick, Mitchell Co.

Executive Board Members:

Tom Arpke, City of Salina

Johnita Crawford, Cloud Co.

Dwight Frost, Jewell Co.

Judy Irvin, City of Salina

Mick Keating, Marshall Co.

Vicki Koepsel, Saline Co.

Ray McGavran, Ottawa Co.

Murray McGee, Mitchell Co.

Joe Nold, Dickinson Co.

Roger Otott, Washington Co.

Virgil Palen, Mitchell Co.

Kermit Rush, Ellsworth Co.

Frank Rytych, Republic Co.

Tim Vandall, City of Ellsworth

NCRPC Staff

Charlene Abell

Sherry Angell

Brett Beck

Margaret Cathey

Sara Crangle

Connie Cyr

John Cyr

Jeff Gansel

Dell Gier

Jeff Maska

Doug McKinney

Deb Ohlde

Debra Peters

Pepper Roberg

Lori Thielen

Rod Thompson

Carol Torkelson

Todd Tuttle

THREE HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS RECEIVE AWARDS FROM RURAL VOICES CONTEST

Three high school seniors have been selected to receive cash awards for their work submitted as part of the Third Annual RuralVoices Youth Contest sponsored by the NCRPC.

Johnathan Yarrow, Wakefield High School, won the top award and \$1,000. Lauren Lawrence, Hanover High School won second place and \$500. Rachael Cox, Wakefield High School, won third place and \$250. All three winners are recognized with the John R. Cyr RuralVoices Award, which is named in honor of Cyr who served for 22 years as the NCRPC Executive



This photo of a family wheat field with a patriotic theme was the favorite that Yarrow submitted with his winning entry. It was also chosen at the state level of 4-H to be displayed in Washington D.C. and chosen to give as a gift to Governor Kathleen Sebelius and Representative Jerry Moran as a gift from the Kansas State Fair.



Johnathan Yarrow



Lauren Lawrence



Rachael Cox

Upcoming Events

Thursday, May 28, 2 p.m.

Executive Board Meeting

Thursday, July 30, 2 p.m.

Executive Board Meeting

Fiscal Year 2010 CDBG Grant Application Deadlines

Aug. 31, 2009: Housing

Sept. 30, 2009: Water/Sewer

Oct. 30, 2009: Community Facilities

Director. The top three entries are also published on the EyeonKansas.org Web site, which is a NCRPC sister site.

The contest was open to high school seniors in the NCRPC's 12-county service area. Home schooled students in the same area

were eligible. Students could submit a written essay, a series of photos, or a video.

This year's contest theme was "Rural Kansas...My Community."

Lori Thielen, NCRPC, said a record number of entries were received.

"The contest has grown significantly in its three short years and we feel that speaks well of the youth in the region," Thielen said. "We had some top notch entries and it worked out that the top three represented all of the
(Continued on page 2)



FUNDS TO BE
AVAILABLE IN
KANSAS FOR
ENERGY
EFFICIENCY,
CONSERVATION

The Kansas Energy Office has received an allocation of just over \$9.5 million from the US Department of Energy for the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program (EECBG). The funds are part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

The Kansas Energy Office plans to award grants to local units of government for projects that reduce total energy use and fossil fuel emissions as well as improve energy efficiency.

Ray Hammarlund, Director of the State Energy Office, says they hope to have the EECBG programs designed by late May. Program details have to first be worked out and approved by the US Department of Energy before rolling it out to the local units of government.

The \$9.5 million is part of more than \$21 million in block grant funding allocated to the State of Kansas for energy efficiency and conservation projects. For a complete list of recipients, visit: <http://www.energy.gov/7134.htm>.

FROM THE DIRECTOR: GIVING TIME TO COMMUNITIES BENEFICIAL IN MANY WAYS

This past weekend, I had the pleasure of witnessing countless acts of service by teenage boys and young men at Dane G. Hansen Scout Camp near Kirwin Reservoir.

An obvious facet of their willing service was the choice of the participant. I believe the guys who built the signal towers and pool shelters this past weekend found it fulfilling, and learning the use of tools was fun.

Part of the thrill of volunteering is seeing the finished product and the reaction of others. Most of all, it is knowing you did your best in service to others.

If we are wanting to engage our youth to volunteer, it is sensible if adults volunteer as well. Learning by example is important.

(Continued from page 1) different contest formats including a photo series, a video, and an essay."

Yarrow, who plans to attend Kansas State University and major in Mass Communications, submitted a series of photos to win the top spot.

"All of the photos represent some aspect of my life that I enjoy," Yarrow said. "Photography is a passion of mine and I feel that I have adequately represented rural life in my photographs."

Lawrence won the second spot with a video she created. She plans to attend the American Institute of Business in Des



Doug McKinney is the NCRPC Executive Director.

Moines, Iowa, next fall and pursue a career in court reporting.

With that in mind, I want to further encourage the value of adults giving time to their communities. In order to take advantage of program offerings, towns will need to be proactive and routinely willing to work together to take on a variety of projects large and small so they will be better prepared to face bigger challenges.

Moines, Iowa, next fall and pursue a career in court reporting.

"Making my scholarship entry was a great experience," Lawrence said. "I learned a great deal about the rural area I live in and I know my community really enjoyed watching the video that focused on our special way of life."

Cox, who plans to attend Washburn University and major in English and Education, submitted an essay to win third place.

"I wrote about the sense of community I felt and the way my community came together when my neighbor, Jim Hoffman,

A current idea is the opportunity to pursue assistance with a moderate to small sized demolition project of a structure in a blighted area. In order for the state to support such an endeavor, the community must have practiced attentiveness regarding clean up needs in the recent past. Such places are more ready for assistance with bigger efforts.

The forthcoming stimulus funding from the Kansas Department of Commerce will likely be targeted toward the proactive towns and the places already involving citizens and neighborhoods.

Be prepared is the scout motto and should be of towns in North Central Kansas, as well.

died. Amidst all of the grief, the way everyone seemed to come together instilled in me a great pride for my community, which influences me even today."

The next RuralVoices Youth Contest deadline will be November 15, 2009. The 2009-2010 theme was recently announced. It will be "Rural Kansas...Working Together." It again will be open to high school seniors in the 12-county NCRPC service area. To find out more about the contest, visit www.eyeonkansas.org and click on the RuralVoices link or contact Lori Thielen, Contest Coordinator, at lthielen@nckcn.com.

NCRPC BOARD TRAVELS TO MANHATTAN

A group of NCRPC Board and staff members recently traveled to Manhattan to tour two facilities.

The Manhattan Area Chamber of Commerce hosted the visit and tours of the Kansas Entrepreneurial Center (KEC) and the National

Institute for Strategic Technology Acquisition and Commercialization (NISTAC).

The North Central Rural Business Tax Credit Initiative has committed \$250,000 in tax credit assistance to leverage a project that includes physically modifying and

expanding the KEC. Other partners committed to the project include the City of Manhattan, Manhattan Area Chamber, Riley County, Pottawatomie County and Bioscience Authority funds. KEC is a business incubator that Edenspace Systems Corporation now occupies.



NCRPC Board Chair and member of the North Central Rural Business Tax Credit Initiative Executive Committee, David Thurlow, (middle row left) presented a ceremonial check to Lyle Butler, President, Manhattan Area Chamber of Commerce, (middle row right) during the April 23 visit to Manhattan.

COMMUNITIES AWARDED FUNDS TO HELP WITH LONG-TERM IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

Several communities in the region that have been working toward long-term improvements received a boost when the Kansas Department of Commerce Small Cities Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program announced its newest list of grantees.

The new CDBG grants in the region include two housing rehabilitation projects. The City of Barnes will receive \$236,700 from CDBG and provide \$2,000 in local match to rehab nine homes and demolish four dilapidated homes. The City of Glen Elder will receive \$310,300 from

CDBG and provide \$8,000 in local match to rehab 13 homes.

Those receiving CDBG community facilities grants include the City of Courtland, which will receive \$233,142 from CDBG and provide \$160,600 in local match to construct a fire station.

Marshall County will receive \$122,197 from CDBG and provide \$122,210 in local match to reconstruct four bridges.

The City of Concordia will receive \$168,750 from CDBG and provide \$168,750 in local match to purchase a new fire fighting apparatus.

A new fire station will be constructed with CDBG KAN STEP funds in Scottsville. The Mitchell County Scottsville Fire Station project will receive \$136,360 from CDBG and will provide \$93,000 in local match of volunteer labor and equipment.

The City of Blue Rapids was awarded a water project earlier this year.

Lincoln County was awarded Stimulus funds for a road project.

In addition, an application to USDA Rural Development has been approved for the City of Milford for surface water treatment improvements.

MEET THE BOARD



Frank Rytych began serving on the Republic County Board of Commissioners and the NCRPC Board in January 2007. He has served in a variety of roles over the years with the most recent being the four years he spent as a State of Kansas Road Inspector. Prior to that, he worked for Republic County in the Road and Bridge Department.

Frank graduated from Fort Hays State University with a bachelor's degree in agriculture. He serves on a regional Juvenile Justice Authority (JJA) Board and is president of a local fraternal lodge, Western Fraternal Lodge Association.

In 1994, Frank and his wife, Maurene, moved to their present rural home near Narka, which was also his homestead. Frank has three grown children including two daughters, Kathleen and Germaine, and a son, James, and two step-children, Mike and Marcie. Frank enjoys riding his motorcycle, visiting the children and spoiling their four grandchildren.

RAD HOMES, LLC, OPENS ASSISTED LIVING FACILITY

RAD Homes, LLC, opened an assisted living facility in Scandia in February. It operates under the name of Country Place Home Plus.

Rob Floersch and Diane Larson-Floersch are the first franchise owners for Country Place Living, which is a franchisor of assisted living residences for seniors in rural America. Larson-Floersch is a native of Scandia. Country Place Living operates multiple corporate-owned locations throughout Kansas and other states.

The couple broke ground for their project in June 2008 with construction happening quickly and being completed by year end.

The Country Place Home Plus is a state-licensed 3,600 square foot facility that features eight private bedrooms with an attached half bath. It can accommodate eight full-time residents as well as care for up to four seniors for adult day services. Care

for the day services includes drop-in care on a full or half-day basis.

Certified staff are available around the clock and a nurse is on call at all times. Residents receive three meals a day and the kitchen is open for residents to be able to bake cookies or help prepare meals. Housekeeping is also provided.

The facility is currently home to two residents. While the adult day care has not been used yet, Rob anticipates that it will be once they have a chance to focus marketing efforts on those services.

“Diane and I feel this project addresses a need for an assisted living facility in Scandia and the surrounding communities. This facility gives residents the option to remain in a small community like they have been used to living in all their lives,” Rob, co-owner, says. “We offer peace of mind not only to our residents, but to their



Country Place Home Plus, located at 308 Washington Street in Scandia, opened in February 2009.

family members as well. At our facility, the residents have the freedom to live with "choice" in their care while they are being cared for by a professional and compassionate staff.”

It is anticipated that Scandia and Republic County will benefit from this project through providing needed service in an aging community/county, allowing residents to remain in a small community, the creation of eight jobs, and the increased sales and property tax revenues.

Rob says the project has gone as expected.

“We have learned throughout process and we will continue to learn and develop,” Rob says.

This project was made possible with funding through the United Bank & Trust, Republic County Development, NCK Business Development Fund, StartUp Kansas and investment by the owners.

For more about the facility, call 785-335-2508. For more about the financing programs used, contact Four Rivers Development Inc. Manager, Debra Peters, at 785-738-2210 or by email at dpeters@nckcn.com.

Interested in rural and community development? Visit our sister sites!
Online Journal of Rural Research and Policy
www.orrp.org
Eye on Kansas
www.eyeonkanssas.org

North Central Regional Planning Commission
 109 N. Mill, P.O. Box 565, Beloit, KS 67420
 Phone: 785-738-2218
 Fax: 785-738-2185
www.ncrpc.org

