



A Bright Look Ahead™

The Update

Serving Cass, Fremont, Harrison, Montgomery, Page, Pottawattamie, and Shelby Counties

SWIPCO · Southwest Iowa Planning Council-Region XIII

April 2011

2011 WATER & SEWER CDBG AWARDS ANNOUNCED

The Iowa Department of Economic Development announced the awards of 34 Community Development Block Grants for water and sewer projects on March 23. Four of those were awarded to cities within the SWIPCO region; Anita, Cumberland, Griswold, and Mondamin.

The cities of Cumberland and Mondamin collaborated with SWIPCO on their project development, grant applications, and project administration.

Cumberland's project is for improvements to the sanitary sewer system. Total cost for the project is

\$300,000. The CDBG award is for \$200,000.

Mondamin's project is also sanitary sewer system improvements. Their total project cost is \$175,000 and the CDBG award is for \$116,500 of that cost.

All of the awards made on March 23 are conditional based on proposed cuts to the Federal CDBG budget. IDED anticipates being able to fund a few more projects once the actual budget is approved.

In the highly competitive process of Community Development

Block Grants, many other cities with projects also applied. Those that were not funded this year will be re-evaluated and receive feedback from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources and IDED. These applications may also be re-submitted for the next fiscal year.

Now is the time to begin preparing new projects for the 2011 application cycle in the fall. If you have questions or would like more information about CDBG, please contact the SWIPCO Community Development Team of John McCurdy and Courtney Harter at (866) 279-4720.

2011 HOUSING CDBG AWARDS ANNOUNCED

Three cities in southwest Iowa were awarded Community Development Block Grant Housing Rehabilitation awards totaling \$1,129,000. \$6.9 million was awarded throughout the state of Iowa.

The cities awarded include: Harlan, \$373,000 for the rehabilitation of ten homes; Logan, \$383,000 for the rehabilitation of ten homes; and Shenandoah, \$373,000

for the rehabilitation of ten homes.

These programs will fully rehabilitate owner-occupied, low to moderate income houses within target areas of their communities. A maximum of \$24,999 can be used to rehabilitate each home excluding costs of lead based paint hazard reduction.

All CDBG awards are contingent on the federal government passing a fiscal year 2012 budget.

Demolition of Blighted Properties

SWIHTF is assisting with the demolition of any city owned, dilapidated housing units.

SWIHTF will have the property inspected for asbestos, remove asbestos, demolish the structure, remove debris from site, have the site leveled, and pay for 50% of the total cost.

There are no requirements for use of the property following demolition. If you are interested in this program, please contact Jeremy Middents at 1-866-279-4720.

SEMI-ANNUAL DRIVER MEETING

Southwest Iowa Transit Agency held their spring driver meeting Saturday April 9 at the new storage facility in Atlantic.

The Driver of the Year was awarded to Bill Reichart for his excellent customer service, dependability, flexibility, professionalism, and representing SWITA in a positive manner.

Also recognized with Outstanding Service awards were Larry Anderson, Virgil Koontz, Richard Retz, and Max Smelser. Criteria for the outstanding service award includes customer service skills, dependability, and professionalism as well.

Four drivers were recognized with Years of Service Awards; Larry Miller, 10 years; Tammy

Butcher, Dwayne Hemminger, and Mike Weatherill all for five years.

The drivers participated in a Bus Roadeo competition as part of their training for the day. Events in the roadeo included maneuvering through cones on a timed course, making turns, passenger stops, driving through areas of limited

clearance, and backing into a parking stall. First place winner is Roger Andersen, second place is Tracy Dickinson, and third place is Virgil Koontz.

Other training through the day included proper lift operation, tracking rides, scheduling, work habits, and customer service.



Recipients of the Outstanding Service Awards were, left to right: Virgil Koontz (Atlantic), Larry Anderson (Red Oak), Max Smelser (Council Bluffs), and Richard Retz (Glenwood). Not pictured is Driver of the Year Bill Reichart, he was unable to attend the meeting.



Winners of the Bus Roadeo are Left to right: Roger Andersen (Harlan) first place, Tracy Dickinson (Harlan) , and Virgil Koontz (Atlantic).

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

Grant	Next Deadline	Grant	Next Deadline
Revitalize Iowa's Sound Economy	On- Going	Federal Recreational Trails	October 1, 2011
IFA Project Based Housing	On-Going	Safe Routes to School	October 1, 2011
Hazard Mitigation Grant Program	On-Going	Statewide Transportation Enhancement	October 1, 2011
Economic Development Set Aside	Last Monday of Each Month	EDA Community Infrastructure Grants	October 1, 2011
Assistance to Firefighters Grant	May 1, 2011	CDBG Water/Sewer	November 2011
Peter Kiewit Foundation (Quarterly)	July 15, 2011	CDBG Housing	November 2011
Resource Enhancement and Protection	August 1,2011	CDBG Community Facilities	December 2011

COMMUNITY EVENTS

- **Fri. April 15~ Red Oak:** “Tuesdays with Morrie” will be presented at the Wilson Performing Arts Center. For more details or ticket information please contact 712-623-3135.
- **Fri. April 15~ Shenandoah:** Shenandoah Chamber & Industry Association’s Annual Meeting with Guest Speaker U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack. The meeting is at the American Legion Country Club. 5:30 p.m. cash bar opens, dinner at 6 p.m. Dinner is \$25 with three choices for your main course. Please RSVP to 712-246-3455 or chamber@shenandoahiowa.net.
- **Sat. April 16~ Red Oak:** Touchstone Arts Council presents “Dan Knight”; contact 712-623-1367 for additional details.
- **Sat. April 16~ Shenandoah:** People for Paws Bake Sale! Pies, Cakes, Breads, Bars and more! 8 a.m. to noon (or until everything is sold out) at Fareway in Shenandoah. All the proceeds are used for the care and shelter of homeless pets. Volunteers are also needed. For more information please contact Linda Hoefing at s.hoefing@mchsi.com.
- **Wed. April 20-Fri. April 22 ~ Shenandoah:** Spring Flower Show and Earth Day Celebration at Bricker Botanical Center. Vote for your favorite floral display, you could win flowers or chamber bucks and the store with the most votes will receive chamber bucks to donate to their favorite Shenandoah charity!
- **Sat. April 23~ Anita:** An Easter Egg Hunt at Colonial Manor at 10:30 a.m. Lots of prizes available!
- **Sat. April 23~ Missouri Valley:** Lions Club Easter Egg Hunt at 1 p.m. at the Missouri Valley City Park
- **Sat. April 23~ Red Oak:** Red Oak Rotary Club’s Annual Easter Egg Hunt is at 10 a.m. in Fountain Square Park in Red Oak.
- **Sat. April 23~ Red Oak:** Montgomery County Family YMCA Easter Egg Dive 1:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the Montgomery County Family YMCA. For more details please contact 712-623-2161.
- **Wed. April 27~ Shenandoah:** SCIA coffee at Howard Clothing and Sporting Goods. 60th Anniversary with coffee and snacks!
- **Fri. April 29 & Sun. May 1~ Red Oak:** The Southwest Iowa Concert Chorale will perform “The Best of Broadway” at the Wilson Performing Arts Center. Contact 712-623-3135 for more details.
- **Sat. April 30~ Red Oak:** The Red Oak Kiwanis Club is holding their Second Annual TRY-athlon. It starts at 8 a.m. at the Montgomery County Family YMCA. Contact 712-623-2161 for more information.
- **Sun. May 1~ Red Oak:** Red Oak Annual Flight Breakfast 7 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the Red Oak Airport. Please contact 712-623-5821 for more information.
- **Thurs. May 5~ Red Oak:** Taste of Summer from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. Visit participating Association member businesses, enjoy a treat, browse, ask questions, and pick up your FREE recipe card. Stop by the association office to pick up your map and earn a chance to win Red Oak Bucks! Contact 712-623-4821 for more information.
- **Sat. May 7~ Red Oak:** Red Oak city wide garage sales. Contact 712-623-2566 for more information.

If you have an event you would like to include in our newsletter, please email it to Tammy DeBord at swipco@swipco.org by the fifth of each month. Thank you!

CLARINDA FOR JAPAN DISASTER RELIEF

Efforts are underway to raise money for the Japanese due to the recent earthquake. Leaders from the City of Clarinda have contacted the Clarinda Foundation and have established an account for donations. By using this avenue the donations are tax deductible. The goal for the community is \$100,000 by May 1. The funds raised will be given directly to a charitable organization in Japan under advisement from both the City of Tamana, Clarinda’s sister city in Japan, and NSK Corporation officials. NSK is a Japanese company with a major plant in Clarinda.

Businesses are encouraged to contribute along with their individual employees. Business names and individuals donating will be published in the local newspaper. Amounts donated will not be published.

Donations may be sent to the Clarinda Foundation office at P.O. Box 273, Clarinda, Iowa, 51632.

BUSINESS RLF AWARDS 2 LOANS IN MARCH

The SWIPCO Revolving Loan Fund Committee assisted two businesses in the month of March.

Martha Hardy of Elliott received \$125,000 to purchase the existing Eckle's Grocery Store in Griswold. The current owners have owned and operated the grocery for 14 years and are ready to retire. Hardy has been an employee in the store and is very familiar with the details of the business. In addition to the RLF loan, the citizens of Griswold raised funds to provide assistance as well. The store, which will be renamed MJ's Grocery, will ensure the city continues to operate a grocery store for years to come.

Eric Johnson, owner of Plum Creek Saw Mill of Thurman, received a \$50,000 loan. Johnson currently operates a smaller

sawmill, but is unable to meet all of his customer needs. With the funds received he will be able to provide on-site milling to customers and provide kiln-dried wood to sell. In addition to local milling and sales, Plum Creek Sawmill will sell milling products online to meet market demands nationwide.

With the two loans awarded in March, the RLF has now awarded \$279,000 to date, with \$206,000 in funds still available.

The business RLF is able to assist businesses in Cass, Fremont, Harrison, Montgomery, Page, and Shelby counties. Assistance is available through gap or sole financing and for new or existing businesses. For more information please contact Courtney Harter at courtney.harter@swipco.org or 1-866-279-4720.

SWIPCO Policy Council

Cass County

Frank Waters

Dave Jones

Fremont County

Brian Kingsolver

Cara Morgan

Harrison County

Gaylord Pitt

Sherman Struble

Mills County

Richard Crouch

Montgomery County

Donna Robinson

Brad Wright

Page County

James Richardson

Byron Harris

Shelby County

James Burmeister

Terry Arentson

Pottawattamie County

Lynn Grobe

At-Large

Dorothy Duran

Clint Fichter

Mike Kolbe

DATES TO REMEMBER

Happy Birthday
to

Transit Assistant
Teresa Wright
April 23

Happy Anniversary
to

Community Development
Specialist
Courtney Harter
April 5

- The SWIPCO office is closed Fri. April 22 in observance of Good Friday
- Fri. April 22 is Good Friday and Earth Day!
- Sun. April 24 is Easter
- SWIPCO Policy Board meeting Thurs. April 28 at 1:30 p.m. in Atlantic
- RLF Board meeting Fri. April 29 at 9:30 a.m. in Atlantic
- Fri. April 29 is Arbor Day!
- Sun. May 8 is Mother's Day
- SWIHTF Board meeting Tues. May 17 at 10 a.m. in Atlantic
- SWIPCO Policy Board meeting Thurs. May 26 at 1:30 p.m. in Atlantic
- RLF Board meeting Fri. May 27 at 9:30 a.m. in Atlantic
- SWIPCO/SWITA offices are closed Mon. May 30 for Memorial Day.

Steve Andersen Transit Director

Ryan Finsel Community Coordinator

John McCurdy Community Development

Christy Bates Transit Assistant

Mark Hansen Fleet Mechanic

Jeremy Middents Housing Director

Crystal Cappel Finance Director

Sandy Hansen Housing Specialist

Daurine Petersen Transit Assistant

Kelly Davis Transit Coordinator

Courtney Harter Community Development

Dave Riedemann Housing Programs Administrator

Tammy DeBord Administrative Assistant

Karen Mauer Finance Manager

Teresa Wright Transit Assistant

