



A Bright Look Ahead™

The Update

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

SWIPCO · Southwest Iowa Planning Council-Region XIII

February 2011

GRISWOLD RECEIVES \$84,220

The City of Griswold was awarded \$84,220 by the Iowa Department of Transportation Safe Routes to School Program (SRTS). Funds will be used to construct two school crossings over the two state highways through the city, initiate a crossing guard program, pave areas of missing sidewalks, and provide walking school bus routes along two main school routes to the Griswold Middle School.

For more information on the Safe Routes to School Program please contact Courtney Harter at 1-866-279-4720 or courtney.harter@swipco.org.



WOODBINE RECEIVES \$50,000

The city of Woodbine has received \$50,000 from the Iowa West Foundation for its downtown façade project.

Funds will be used to provide assistance to building owners participating in the project to reduce their overall costs, as well as to complete the historic Eyebrow Gas Station renovation.

In addition to the IWF grant, \$500,000 was awarded to Woodbine by the Iowa Department of Economic Development for this project.

For more information please contact Courtney Harter.

BUSINESS RLF CONTINUES TO DRAW POTENTIAL BUSINESSES

Southwest Iowa Planning Council's Business Revolving Loan Fund has four businesses bringing applications to the RLF Board for approval in February. These four loans, if all are approved, would lend \$300,000.

The business RLF started with \$605,000 in loan funds between grants received from USDA Rural Development and the Economic Development Administration. So far, five loans for \$202,500 has been loaned out and the equivalent of 20 full time jobs have been created.

The business RLF is a loan pool used to assist new and existing businesses develop and expand. Businesses must be located within Cass, Fremont, Harrison, Montgomery, Page, or Shelby counties.

The goal for the loan fund is to create or retain one full time job for every \$10,000 loaned. The funds can be used for land acquisition, building construction & renovation, equipment, inventory, and working capital. Start up costs associated with a new business are also eligible.

Loans are given for up to

\$125,000 with interest rates starting at 4%.

Applicants need to provide a business and marketing plan, resumes of all owners, three years worth of tax documents, list of collateral, consent and release of personal information with a copy of identification and \$150 application fee.

If you would like more information on the Business RLF please contact Courtney Harter at 1-866-279-4720 or courtney.harter@swipco.org.

NOW IS THE TIME TO START PLANNING FOR FALL APPLICATIONS

Although the cold and snow outside may have us thinking more about spring planting than fall grant applications, now is the time to lay the groundwork for projects in 2012 and beyond.

Many of the major funding sources that Southwest Iowa Planning Council works with, including Community Development Block Grants and several

major trails grants, all have fall application deadlines.

Every year SWIPCO has a rush of communities attempting to put together applications close to these fall deadlines. However, more time allows you to best determine the most cost effective solution to your problem and develop a stronger case for your project.

If you believe you may have a need for water, sewer, housing, trails, or other community facilities improvements in your area, please contact the SWIPCO planning department now. This will give the office the opportunity to work with you on appropriately procuring technical services, such as engineering if necessary, and to develop a plan that will map out your project

from start to finish.

Contact Community Development Specialists John McCurdy or Courtney Harter soon to begin preparing your community for a successful project. They can be contacted at 1-866-279-4720 or john.mccurdy@swipco.org or courtney.harter@swipco.org.

LEAD BASED PAINT TESTING AVAILABLE

Southwest Iowa Housing Trust Fund (SWIHTF) now provides lead based paint testing services.

SWIHTF uses an XRF machine to determine if lead based paint is present. The use of the XRF

prevents painted surfaces from being disturbed.

A report outlining the results, and identifying any potential lead hazards, is provided following inspection.

Testing can be

used in combination with the Lead Based Paint Stabilization program and elevated blood lead (EBL) level testing.

Testing costs \$35 per hour plus mileage to cover expenses. A discounted rate is available for

qualifying low to moderate income families.

If you would like more information, or if you would like to make an appointment to get testing done, please contact David Riedemann at 1-866-279-4720.

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

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

COMMUNITY EVENTS

WIOTA~ Friday Feb. 11 & Sat. Feb. 12~ Sweetheart Dinner: Dress up and take your special lady out for a romantic dinner. Tickets are \$50 per couple and available at the door. The dinner is at the Wiota Firestation.

LEWIS~ Saturday February 12~ Valentine Dinner: Timmer's Smokehouse BBQ Valentine Dinner at the Lewis Community Building from 5-9 p.m. Tickets are \$20 per person and available by calling 712-769-2502.

ATLANTIC ~ Saturday February 12~ Jaycees Comedy Night: Comedian John DeBoer will entertain you from 6:30-10 p.m. at the Cass County Community Center in Atlantic. Tickets are \$12 in advance or \$15 at the door per person.

CLARINDA~ Friday March 4~ 2nd Annual Junior Class Dodge Ball Tournament: This fun fundraiser will take place at the Clarinda High School Gym. Registration begins at 5 p.m., games starting at 6 p.m. Cost is \$40 per team to enter, with 8-10 players over the age of 12 allowed on the team. All proceeds go to the Clarinda After Prom celebration.

WALNUT~ Saturday March 5~ Winter Dance: Sponsored by the River City Rodeo and Iowa Trail Riders. Come join DJ Bill Boruff for Hometown Karaoke for just \$5 per person 8 p.m. to midnight at the American Legion Hall.

MISSOURI VALLEY~ Saturday March 13 ~ MV Chamber Annual Chili Cook-off: 4:30 to 7 p.m. at the Eagles Club

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!

PRELIMINARY CENSUS INFORMATION

	County	2000	2010	% Change
Preliminary census information was released February 10 for Iowa counties. Between 2000 and 2010, six of the eight counties in the SWIPCO region posted population declines.	Cass	14,684	13,956	-5.0%
	Fremont	8,010	7,441	-7.1%
	Harrison	15,666	14,928	-4.7%
	Mills	14,547	15,059	+3.5%
	Montgomery	11,771	10,740	-8.8%
	Page	16,976	15,932	-6.1%
	Pottawattamie	87,704	93,158	+6.6%
	Shelby	13,173	12,167	-7.6%

FUNDING AVAILABLE FOR HOUSING PROGRAMS

Southwest Iowa Housing Trust Fund has funding available for three of its programs; Demolition of Blighted Properties, Rental Rehabilitation, and Lead Based Paint Stabilization.

Any city owned dilapidated homes are eligible for the Demolition of Blighted Properties program. Asbestos inspection and abatement are completed with the demolition. SWIHTF covers 50% of costs.

Any non-profit or for-profit owned rental properties are eligible for rehabilitation of units rented by low-income tenants with the Rental Rehabilitation program. This program provides 50% of rehabilitation costs, up to \$5,000 per unit. Funding is in the form of a five-year forgivable loan.

The Lead Based Paint Stabilization program is for properties that tested positive for lead based paint and contain deteriorating paint. This program funds elimination of lead based paint hazards in the form of a five-year forgivable loan. Priority is given to homes with children who test positive for elevated blood lead levels.

If you would like more information on any of these programs, or would like an application, please contact Sandy Hansen or Jeremy Middents.

INTRODUCTION TO PLANNING & ZONING FOR LOCAL OFFICIALS WORKSHOP

The Iowa State University Extension Community and Economic Development, with the Iowa League of Cities, Iowa’s Regional Councils of Government, and Iowa State Association of Counties are holding multiple workshops about planning and zoning.

These workshops are for elected officials and citizen-led boards and commissions and are a “basic training” on the land use issues facing them today.

The workshop will use case scenarios in an interactive format as well as highlight legal issues frequently faced by local officials.

Eight workshops are being held, the three closest are in Fort Dodge March 29, Urbandale March 30, and Council Bluffs April 12.

Registration will be held prior to a light supper at 5:30 p.m. The program will begin at 6 p.m. and will conclude by 8:45.

Registration materials and payment must be received 2 weeks prior to the date of the workshop you wish to attend. Registration is \$55 per individual, with reduced fees available for cities or counties with 5 or more members attending.

If you have any further questions, or would like more information, please contact : Gary Taylor, 515-*290-0214; Alan Vandehaar, 515-231-6513; or Cindy Stuve, 515-294-5263.

SWIPCO Policy Council

Cass County

Frank Waters

Dave Jones

Fremont County

Earl Hendrickson

Pat Shull

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

Karen Goehring

Mike Kolbe

DATES TO REMEMBER

- SWIHTF Board meeting Tuesday February 15 at 10 a.m. in Atlantic
- Monday Feb. 21st SWIPCO offices closed for President’s Day
- SWIPCO Policy Board meeting Thursday February 24 at 1:30 p.m. in Atlantic
- RLF Board Meeting Friday February 25 at 9 a.m. in Atlantic
- SWIPCO Policy Board meeting Thursday March 24 at 1:30 p.m. in Atlantic
- RLF Board Meeting Friday March 25 at 9 a.m. in Atlantic
- RPA Technical Committee meeting Wednesday March 30 at 1:30 p.m. in Red Oak at the Fire Station

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

To
Crystal Cappel
February 25
3 Years!

Steve Andersen	Transit Director	Ryan Finsel	Community Coordinator	Karen Mauer	Finance Manager
Christy Bates	Transit Assistant	Mark Hansen	Fleet Mechanic	John McCurdy	Community Development
Crystal Cappel	Finance Director	Sandy Hansen	Housing Specialist	Jeremy Middents	Housing Director
Kelly Davis	Transit Coordinator	Courtney Harter	Community Development	Dave Riedemann	Housing Programs Administrator
Tammy DeBord	Administrative Assistant			Teresa Wright	Transit Assistant

