

This is the monthly email to update our Solomon Valley Economic Development members. Highlights of the August 24th, 2017 meeting:

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Hello! Welcome to August and a busy time for our communities! This month's Solomon Valley Economic Development meeting is my favorite of the entire year. Our organization is able to recognize some of our local businesses and honor the contributions they make to our area during the Business Appreciation Awards. Please read below to find out more about this year's nominees.

Business Appreciation Awards 2017



What is the Business Appreciation Month?

Business Appreciation Month serves as a statewide tribute to Kansas businesses for their contributions to our state. The intent of the program is to recognize Kansas businesses for their contributions to the local and state economy. Kansas businesses continue to be the foundation of our economy, communities and overall quality of life.

This year there were 68 businesses nominated for the 2017 Governor's Award of Excellence. There were 19 Regional winners and 44 Merit Award winners.



Earning a Certificate of Merit this year is:

MITCHELL COUNTY REGIONAL MEDICAL FOUNDATION
(MCRMF) -

The MCRMF was established in 2008 to support excellence in healthcare and preventative health for Mitchell County and the greater North Central Kansas region. Since the inception of this organization, community health and increasing the opportunity for citizens of Mitchell County, to live a healthy and wholesome life has been the basis of their vision and mission.

The purchase of a historic stone house in the community of Beloit and its renovation into serving the community as a Hospitality Home serving friends and family members of patients of the Hospital is just one example of the special efforts of this organization. They have also implemented a school marathon for the elementary students, IMPACT concussion testing for Middle and High School athletes, and a school wellness challenge for the students and staff. MCRMF is also growing the next generation of healthcare workers by providing job shadowing opportunities and support of the high school health care student organization.

You can find more about the Mitchell County Regional Medical Foundation [here](#).



Dan Steffen (Kansas Department of Commerce), Stephanie Simmons and Shelby Bohnert (MCRMF)

Earning a 2017 Regional Business Appreciation Month Award winner in
Manufacturing and Distribution:

ROLLING HILLS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE-

Rolling Hills Electric Cooperative, Inc. was formed with the consolidation of Jewell-Mitchell Electric of Mankato; NCK Electric of Belleville; and Smoky Hill Electric of Ellsworth effective on January 1, 2002. They provide electricity to 11,200 meters and maintain approximately 6,400 miles of distribution power lines to the region. Rolling Hills Electric serves the cities of Kanopolis, Wilson and Alton in addition to serving rural residences and businesses in the following counties: Ellsworth, Russell, Osborne, Smith, Lincoln, Mitchell, Jewell, Cloud, Republic and Washington. The membership of Rolling Hills approved the construction of a centrally located facility in Beloit in 2016.

Rolling Hills strives to retain employees by providing competitive wages and

improvements.

Rolling Hills understands the need to sponsor community events. "It is great to be able to give back to the community that we are involved in. Our employees also understand the importance of helping each other out in their communities."

Find out more about Rolling Hills Electric Cooperative [here](#).



Cookies provided by: [Cottage Celebrations](#)

FIRST IMPRESSION PROGRAM

Well, the City of Beloit just found out!



Recently a volunteer team from another community made a visit to Beloit to report their "First Impressions" of the community. The team acted as "secret shoppers" for the day to discover what they could about Beloit. Earlier this month there was a meeting to reveal the results. Some of the highlights:

SIGNAGE:

Signage was something that was mentioned several times during the visit. Welcome signs, way-finding signs, downtown district signs, Chautauqua Park signs, business signs, waterpark signs etc. Signage is easy to overlook while you are busy running your business or community, but signage is very important in attracting new customers and visitors.



The only "Welcome to Beloit" sign we currently have in place.

POSITIVE COMMENTS:



*Loved the lampposts and the sidewalk brick inlay downtown.

*Nice flowers in several spots to brighten up town.

*Greeted EVERYTIME, always friendly and asked if we needed help.

*OUTSTANDING customer service!

*Loved seeing improvements being made to the streets.



*Very impressed with the residential housing . Well maintained, including landscapes. Nice downtown with newer street surfaces and a wide variety of businesses. Good number of restaurant options, including locally owned options.

OBSTACLES AND CHALLENGES:



*Nothing really stands out to say "Hey! We are known for"

*Locating attractions without a smart phone was a challenge.

*Need more green space-parks within neighborhoods.

*Many places could use paint. Awnings were in need of repair. Many places unoccupied.



- *The City Council is already discussing signage options and looking for opinions from the community on a "Logo, motto, tagline" for our area.
- *Google pin your business with a location tag - when we figure out how to do this we will share the knowledge!
- *Start bragging about ourselves! We need to brag about the things that make our area of North Central Kansas great!
 - * Watch for more ideas to come soon!

If you want a complete copy of the First Impressions report please pick one up at the Beloit City Office or contact me. It is a large report with a lot of information.

FACADE IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

FACADE IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM



Purpose – This program is designed for small scale renovation projects to the façade of the buildings in Mitchell County. The program is available to provide an affordable financing option for improvements to commercial building facades in order to improve the functionality, structural integrity and aesthetics in commercial areas.

Applicant Eligibility –

1. Building must be located in Mitchell County;
2. Building owner or business owner must be the program applicant;

4. The applicant MUST have 2 of the following 3:

- a. A credit score of 700;
- b. Been in business for 1 year;
- c. Provide a matching fund of 1:1 for the requested amount

Eligible Use of Funds – Funding will only be approved for exterior improvements only. Projects may include but not limited to:

- Building Expansion
- Window replacement and repair
- Vacant building redevelopment
- Canopy or awning replacement, repair or installation
- Signage – not more than 30% of the funds can go towards signage
- Removal of contemporary facades to expose original construction of building
- Repair and/or tuck point existing structures
- Repair or Replacement of siding, trim, windows, doors, awnings
- Exterior painting, pressure washing, sand blasting
- Exterior Lighting
- No Interior renovations
- Will consider Heating/Air/Energy Efficiency Projects
- Other improvements not listed may be approved

Requirements include:

- All projects awarded must be completed within one calendar year from the official date of the award letter
- Will not fund debt
- Quotes for work to be completed

Loan Terms and Repayment:

1. Maximum loan of \$5,000
2. Interest rate fixed at 0%
3. Maximum loan term of 5 years
4. Closing fee of 1% to cover NCRPC expenses of administering the program
5. The loan will be paid in equal monthly installments by ACH draft from the applicants

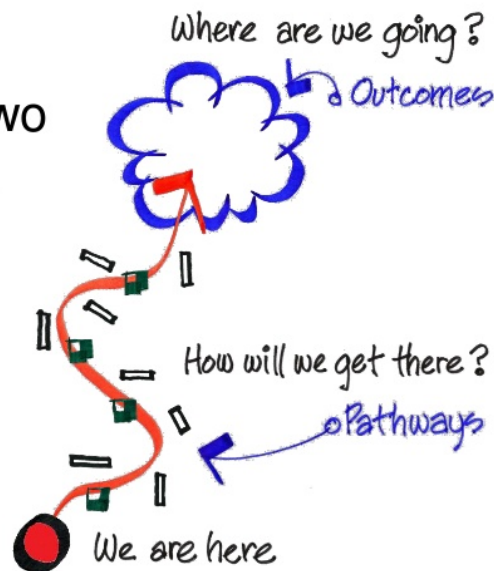
Application period is open and on a first come, first served basis with no deadlines, based on the availability of funds.

Please contact me if you are interested in this program! hartman@beloitks.org



What is Strategic Doing? **Strategic Doing** teaches people how to form collaborations quickly, move them toward measurable outcomes and make adjustments along the way. In today's world, collaboration is essential to meet the complex challenges we face. Strategic Doing works by answering 2 simple questions:

Strategy answers two questions.

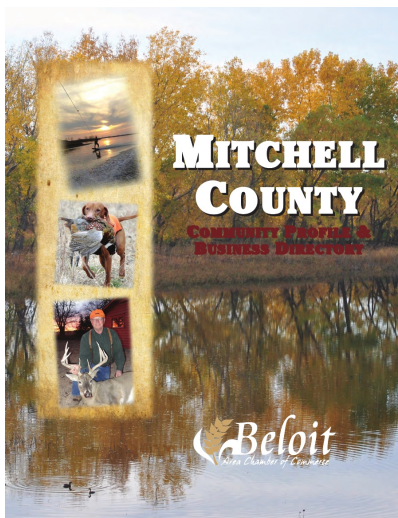


Solomon Valley Community Foundation in partnership with the Dane G. Hansen Foundation is about to embark on a Strategic Doing exercise. We need your help and input, please try to join us:

When: Wednesday, September 27th, 2017
Time: 7:00pm
Place: NCK Tech, Beloit



We are once again advertising in the Mitchell County Community Profile that is produced by the Beloit Area Chamber of Commerce. Solomon Valley Economic Development will have a large ad listing all of our members. NOW is a great time to renew your membership so you will be recognized for your involvement in a great organization.



The Beloit Area Chamber of Commerce does a fantastic job with this Community Profile. You can check it out here: [Community Profile](#)



Facebook Mitchell County Website

As always, please contact me with any comments, questions or suggestions.

Our next SVED meeting will be September 21st, 2017 at 12:30pm at North Central
Regional Planning Commission.

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