POSTAL PATRON

Message from the Boone County Development Agency

Can you believe that it is already September? Before we know it, the holidays will be here, and then out of nowhere 2019 will sneak up on us! It has been a great year so far, and BCDA is excited to accomplish much more.

I started working at BCDA last August, and in the past year I have had the opportunity to meet many new people. As someone who is not a Boone County native, I am often asked where I am from. When I respond with, "Omaha," I usually get a puzzled look followed by, "What are you doing here?!" My response to that question is, "Why not here?"

So, why Boone County? It was this exact question that lit a fire under my behind and quickly made me one of Boone County’s biggest advocates. Boone County is the home to 5,352 people, over 300 businesses, and has numerous volunteer groups that dedicate their time to the betterment of our communities. Our county has one of a kind healthcare, people, events, and businesses. In a recent strategic planning meet- ing BCDA decided that Boone County Promotion would continue to be an area of focus moving into the new year.

This year, BCDA has worked to help promote what the county has to offer. A county-wide hashtag was developed, #BackingBoone, that we encourage everyone to use on their print materials and social media posts when posting about things within our county. Can you search this hashtag on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram, and see all posts that have used the hashtag. This is a quick, easy, and free marketing tool for our community to utilize.

BCDA also worked to develop a new group for the county, Boone County Emerging Leaders, designed to recruit young adults in the county. I work with a volunteer and networking opportunities, as well as education on our current community organizations. The goal is that this group will bridge the next generation of community leaders to help ensure the future of Boone County organizations. There is a committee for this group that has representation across Boone County, and there are over 100 people that signed up to be Emerging Leaders. There have been two successful events so far, and the third event will take place in October, where Emerging Leaders will get involved with the local high schools and businesses. Promoting our county and local businesses to the youth of today is very important to us. If we want them to consider Boone County as a place to call home in the future. Be sure to follow @BCDASEmergingLeaders on Facebook to stay updated on events and future plans.

Moving forward, BCDA is working with both Nebraska and Loup Public Power Districts and the Nebraska Department of Economic Development to learn about more ways we can effectively promote our county. I will attend training on the powerful LOIS GIS sites and buildings database tool that was created by Economic Development Professionals for Economic Development Professionals. LOIS is used by site selectors, so it is essential that our county information on this database is up to date, accurate, and comprehensible. I will also attend the Heartland Economic Development Course, which will provide me with knowledge not only on county promotion but also on housing, youth recruitment, and business recruitment, and all are addresses for BCDA.

There is a lot in the works, but there is also a lot that has already been done to make Boone County a great place to live, work, and play. So, the next time you meet someone new to the community, be sure to be a Boone County advocate and share with them some of the things you feel make our county one of a kind.

Michelle Olson, BCDA, Inc. Executive Director
Sarah’s Shoppe

“A little something for everyone!” That’s how Heather Stephens-Foltz, co-owner of Sarah’s Shoppe with Kenna Jasa, described the selection of the new boutique that recently opened in St. Edward. In fact, on the day I stopped for the interview, Heather said she had already had both school girls and a 92-year-old woman walk away with some new items. Keeping a variety of sizes, options, and adding new items weekly are the key factors to the boutique’s early success.

The dream had been around for a while, the boutique name even comes from a Junior High nickname the pair had for each other, but the real planning began in the fall of 2017. With Jasa coaching volleyball, they waited to really start the adventure until J

Already thinking about the future, Stephens-Foltz said that so far the feedback and support of the St. Edward community has been positive and she has been surprised about how many non-locals have stopped as well.

Already thinking about the future, Stephens-Foltz said they would like to expand to kids items and even men’s clothing as time goes on and ultimately get a larger space in their own building, but for now they have been not only happy but busy with the endeavor. Both St. Edward natives, Jasa and Stephens-Foltz are excited about being able to have this opportunity in their hometown and bring the local residents something they haven’t had previously. With everything from jewelry and candles to leggings and tops, we hope everyone has a chance to stop by Boone County’s newest shopping hot spot, Sarah’s Shoppe.

Follow on Facebook for updates on inventory! (@Salsshoppe)

Sal’s Shoppe
407 Beaver St.
St. Edward, NE 68660
salshoppe@gmail.com
402-910-6048

Hours: Wednesdays 4:30PM-7PM, Thursday-Friday 12PM-6PM, and Saturdays 10AM-1PM.

With a customer base that serves mainly those from Albion, Cedar Rapids, Petersburg, Spalding, and Petersburg. With everything from jewelry and candles to leggings and tops, we hope everyone has a chance to stop by Boone County’s newest shopping hot spot, Sal’s Shoppe.

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With a customer base that serves mainly those from Albion, Cedar Rapids, Petersburg, Spalding, and Albion. It was a no brainer for Joni Keys of Studio K to select Primrose as “it’s such a prime location, and my clients appreciate the minimal drive to come see me.” Joni is a Boone Central graduate who has a degree from Bahners College of Hair Styling. After returning to the salon business in 2016, Joni decided to branch out on her own in the summer of 2017. Luckily, Primrose had the perfect spot and Studio K was born!

Since opening in August of 2017, Joni has been very busy. She has a client base already, but said it has definitely expanded since Studio K has been open. There is no doubt her reputation for top quality nail work and the ability to offer a wide variety of products and services has been the catalyst to her early success. Joni’s services include, but are not limited to: hair, artificial nails, facials, waxing, manicures, pedicures, facial peels, and shellac nails.

Currently all these great services are offered by appointment but walk-ins are welcome! To make an appointment call 402-741-2028. Regular hours are Tuesday-Friday and every other Saturday. We encourage everyone to check out Studio K’s Facebook page for information, photos of completed nails, and other special offers, (@joniskeysstudio).

“I have been very happy with support on this adventure so far and can’t wait to continue growing and adding clients!” Joni Keys

Studio K

With the help of Boone County’s newest café, the Stirred Pot, no longer will once foreign words like quinoa, curry, arugula, and gouda be oddities to local diners. Owned by head chef, Curtis Luettel, the Stirred Pot offers a variety of cooked from scratch items that range from a “super-up” burger, soup and salads, to gourmet mac and cheese and curry pork. Focusing on a small, but balanced rotating menu, Curtis is able to offer premium flavors and items that can’t be found anywhere else in the area.

The menu is not the only unique aspect to the Stirred Pot as Curtis doesn’t have a full kitchen in the building itself. He prepares and cooks from a decked-out food trailer parked just behind the restaurant front. Allowing him flexibility down the road, it also allows Curtis the opportunity to max out frontage space in his current building. Once the remaining construction is done, the Stirred Pot will be able to seat close to 60 people!

A Petersburg native and trained chef, Curtis has worked in restaurants in Omaha for years and has wanted to bring his own view on food back to his hometown for some time. Currently open Monday-Saturday 11:00 AM-2:00 PM and Friday-Saturday 6:00-8:30 PM there is only room to grow. While Curtis told me there have been some “growing pains” since the opening, he has been blown away by the local support. “Crazy busy” was the phrase used by both Curtis and his mother Jacque, who helps Curtis in the café, but both said they couldn’t be happier. Still gauging the community and what works on the menu, Curtis reiterated that one thing will always stay the same, “The food will always be cooked from scratch.”

Combine the unique menu, cooking from a food trailer, and the incredible in-house atmosphere and you get the newest must-try spot in Boone County. For information regarding daily menus, hours, expansion updates and news, please follow the Stirred Pot on Facebook (@thestirredpots). Otherwise, we highly recommend you stop in to check out what’s on the chalkboard menu for the day at 432 W. Main St. Albion, NE 68620. Carryout orders are available by calling 402-741-9584.

The Stirred Pot

Harner Financial

“More than just an investment broker,” that’s one of the first things Keir Dane, Harner, owner of the newly established Harner Financial in downtown Albion, wanted me to stress. In fact, Harner has the knowledge and ability to offer clients the services of a full financial advisor. From investments, to retirement, to a full financial lifestyle plan, Harner can help you look at where you are now financially and get you to where you want to be.

Growing up in Boone County, Boone Central class of 2009, Harner received his Business Administration degree from Nebraska Wesleyan University in 2014. He followed that up by working at Waddell & Reed Financial Advisors until recently, when he decided to move back to the area and branch out on his own.

After looking at undererved the Boone County area was for financial planners he decided that not only did he want to move back, he needed to move to Albion. “Many community members are going to Lincoln and Omaha for help, I wanted to make sure there was a local option.” Harner can be reached at his office on 416 W. Church St, via phone at 402-741-2294, or via email (keir@harnerfinancial.com).

The Stirred Pot

Harner Financial

Keep Nebraska Beautiful- Petersburg

Keep Nebraska Beautiful was started in 1964 by Governor Frank Morrison and in 1980 became a statewide affiliate of Keep America Beautiful. This is a non-profit educational organization whose mission is to involve the 22 communities involved in the state of Nebraska, Petersburg being one of them. There are educational and community improvement programs that address local needs including litter awareness and litter cleanups, beautification, reuse and recycling programs, and neighborhood revitalization. The funding for these programs comes from grants, memberships, and fundraisers.

Bernie and Harry Cunningham were very instrumental in compiling all the facts and submitting the award nomination for Petersburg. On August 23, 2018, the Annual Keep Nebraska Beautiful Luncheon and Awards Program was held. When the Diane Anderson Environmental award was presented, Sue Smith of Keep America Beautiful announced: “Community ownership of projects is key as residents help determine their focus each year. From recycling events to community improvement projects. We couldn’t agree more and proudly present the Village of Petersburg the First Place Diane Anderson Community Award.” The Overall Outstanding Diane Anderson Award 0 to 10,000 population was also presented to residents of Petersburg; Village Board Chairman Corey Stokes, Board Trustee Ashley Thiemann, Bernie and Harry Cunningham. Along with the Awards, the Petersburg community also received the first-place plaque, a traveling plaque and a monetary gift.