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Newsletter

Boone County Development Agency www.boone-county.org February 2016

233 South 4th Street - Albion, NE 68620 - (402) 395-3356

POSTAL PATRON

Boone County Events

Albion

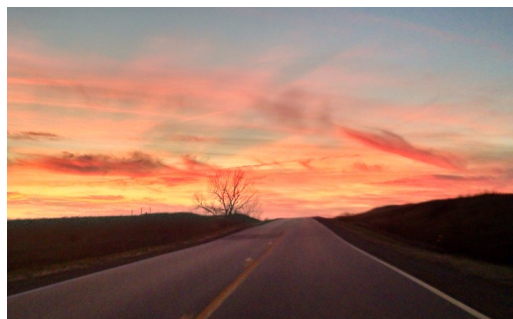
Home Farm & Garden Show - March
18th - 19th
Easter Egg Hunt - March 26th
May Day Madness - April 29th - 30th
Smoke n Chrome - June 18th
Alumni/Pancake Feed - June 18th
Kiddie Parade - July 4th
Back to School Cash - July 14th
Sidewalk Sales - July 15th-16th
Rhythm & Ribs - August 27th

Primrose

Alumni - June 18th
Mud Drags - September 4th

Cedar Rapids

Polar Bear Dip - February 27th
Melodrama - April 1st-3rd & 8th-9th
Easter Egg Hunt - March
Community Picnic - June
Alumni - August



County Wide

Boone County Races - Friday Nights April 15th-August
Boone County Fair - July 9th - 13th

Petersburg

Easter Egg Hunt - March
Alumni - June 11th
Firemans Dance - June 18th
Carnival Days - June 21st-22nd
Bash in the Burg - August 6th

St. Edward

Community Building "Sale Event"
- February 28th
Faith Lutheran Steak Fry - April
American Legion Pancake Feed
- March 5th
Alumni - May
Fire Department Fundraiser - Summer
Beaver Valley Days - August

Executive Committee

ALBION

Walt Hoefer

Cory Worrell

ALBION DEVELOPMENT

Tim Kayton

Dani Thober

BCDA MEMBERS AT LARGE

Brandi Yosten

BOONE COUNTY

Hilary Maricle

Jerry Tisthammer

CEDAR RAPIDS

Brian Yosten

Mike Sullivan

PETERSBURG

Ross Knott

Larry Temme

PRIMROSE

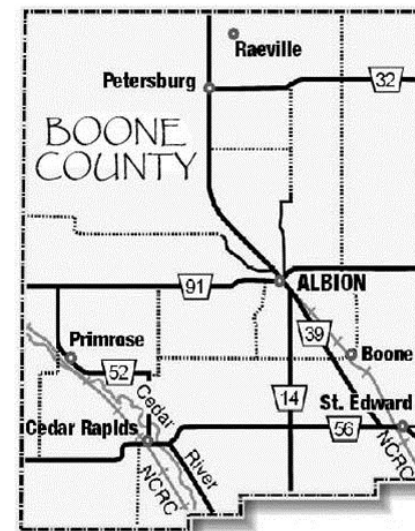
Irene Dresch

Aaron Zentner

ST. EDWARD

Richard Good

Dean Hamling



Message from the Boone County Development Agency

With the Holidays now in our rearview mirror for 2015, it's time to shift into 2016, and already it looks to be just as eventful as the last. Boone County and the communities of Albion, Cedar Rapids, Petersburg, Primrose, and St. Edward all have activities and projects upcoming this year that strive to make each a better place to live and work than it has been in the past. Community involvement and ownership in "your" community have become priorities for each community knowing that without the "gumption" to succeed, we take a step backwards.

We are truly lucky over the past few years to have seen a number of kids who left the area after high school, return for employment opportunities and to raise their families. This is not something you see in all Nebraska communities and something we must take advantage of and continue growing, as many more kids would like to get back to their roots and move back to Boone County.

Throughout the county, throughout the communities and throughout the groups, committees and boards in those communities, there is a general consensus that we at the Boone County Development Agency have seen and heard repeatedly. These are items our groups will continue to address and hope Boone County communities members will help us address.

1. Business Expansion and Retention – This is the #1 priority. We not only want to retain current businesses and ensure they are thriving, we want to help those businesses expand if the opportunity presents itself. Recruiting outside businesses, well suited for the Boone County area, to fill current needs of the county is something we would also like to focus on.

2. Housing – This is a close second. The truth is that currently Boone County employers have a tough time recruiting employees to their businesses as a direct result of limited housing options. There are projects currently underway which will hopefully alleviate some of the counties residential issues, but these take time to be completed. Each day, in each community, we strive to provide others a chance to live amongst good people and provide safe places to raise their families!

3. Childcare – Daycare for young families is truly a headache throughout the county. Unfortunately, no one knows the right answer and best plan to address these needs. From time to time the right person comes along and before you know it they have a house full of kids! However, as we continue to grow as a community the problem still exists. The Boone County Area Foundation along with others in the county have formed an exploratory committee to research this issue with the hopes of finding a solution.

4. Recreation – Something that has come up at various meetings was the need for a, "Game Changer," something that can truly make a positive change in Boone County for generations, making it a more diverse county than it already is. From our perspective that is simply recreational water, or a lake. To give people a place to fish, swim, boat, ski, tube, view nature, camp, etc. would not only change the recreational landscape of Boone County for its own residents, but it would also be an opportunity to bring outside businesses to the area, creating new and untapped business resources.

5. Community Involvement and Betterment – We as an organization see a great opportunity in our community to get the youth of Boone County set along a path of "community involvement" and now is the time to act. With the number of young individuals and families moving back to the area we need to be involving them on boards, organizations, outreach programs, volunteer groups, etc. so they can become fully immersed in the community and utilized to their fullest. Using their ideas, ENERGY, passion and community devotion we can ensure Boone County will continue to be strong, diverse, and stable for years to come.

Zoucha Hay Grinding

Back in 1996 Andy Zoucha had no idea that he and his wife Sherri would own a hay grinding business, that would take them to so many locations throughout northeast Nebraska. Located in Albion and central Boone County, Zoucha Haygrinding employs two full-time employees that keep the “tires warm” on their two hay grinding trucks covering an area that encompasses nearly 400 square miles.

It all began as Andy put it, “Just by happenstance.” Andy was asked at the youthful age of 30 if he would ever be interested in owning a hay grinder by a gentleman looking to get out of the business. At the time, his wife Sherri asked, “Are you sure you want to do this?” Clearly the answer was YES, as that was twenty years ago and Andy hasn’t looked back. This past summer Zoucha Haygrinding built a new 80’ x 150’ operations and maintenance building on the northwest edge of Albion to centralize his business location.

Dustin Guthard, Zoucha’s fulltime employee, operates Andy’s second hay grinding truck and according to Andy takes all the “cushy” jobs that occur during the daylight hours while he assumes the jobs requiring early mornings, late nights, cold weather and the occasional log chain! Andy notes that the hay grinding business has changed greatly throughout the past 20 years as he has seen seven dollar corn, drought, dairy buyouts, and huge changes in the size and numbers of local farming operations.

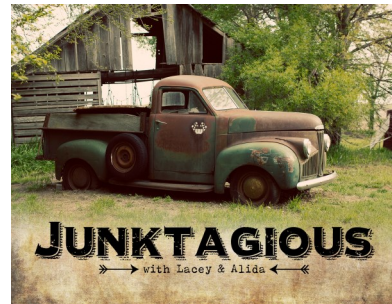
This ever-changing business however, hasn’t deterred Andy, Sherri, and their 3 children (Tyler, Dylan, and Madyson). They have made Albion and Boone County their home and place of business and are truly excited to be part of the community and all that Boone County has to offer! Andy is excited for this next step in the business and even on those cold Nebraska mornings, as long as the garage door openers are working and the Chevy is warmed up he will be out there, traveling the area, grinding it out!

To contact Zoucha Haygrinding please call 402-608-3226.



Pictured Above: Andy Zoucha and Dustin Guthard

Junktagious



As with most great ideas, Junktagious began on a road trip, this time it was on the way home from the central Nebraska Junk Jaunt. Alida Kurtenbach and Lacey Bittner have been “junking” for 5-6 years together and Lacey currently works with Alida at her photography studio in St. Edward, “Alida’s Picture Pages.” They decided that it was time for an endeavor outside of the studio and because of their passion for junk, that is where they immediately started.

The first annual Juntagious event took place last October at Alida’s home north of St. Edward. Expecting to draw a couple hundred people with 10-20 vendors, Lacey and Alida had no idea what they were in store for! Tallying 28 vendors and 615 adults at the gate (not counting the children who were able to go for free), the two were blown away by the response. “Turnout was much higher than we could have ever expected for the first year, the good weather was such a blessing,” Alida told us.

The pair recruited vendors they knew from other junking events as well as through Facebook groups related to crafting and junking, and finally just through word of mouth. The event is vendor-driven and had people offering all types of wares including antiques, homemade goods, soap, wine, wood items, refurbished furniture, signs, food, junk of all sorts, and much more. The fee for admittance was just a \$1 a person and based on the responses from visitors and vendors alike the event, was hugely successful.

Year two of Junktagious is set to take place October 1, 2016 at the same venue as last year, 3155 310th Ave., north of St. Edward. They are very excited to grow the event from last year and believe it can be even bigger and better this year. Lacey said, “I don’t think the community knew exactly what to expect last year, but once people started showing up at the local businesses asking for directions, getting gas, and other things everyone realized it could really be a great event for St. Edward!” This year Alida, Lacey, their family and friends that help plan the event, as well as the town of St. Edward, will be fully aware of the potential of this great event that was able to draw people from all parts of the state.

They said the community support has been overwhelming and welcome anyone that is interested in becoming a vendor or event sponsor this year to contact them. To follow the Junktagious activity on Facebook search “Junktagious,” otherwise you can call them directly at 308-750-6408, contact Alida’s Picture Pages at 402-678-2223 or message them on their Facebook page.



Pictured Above: Alida Kurtenbach and Lacey Bittner

Levander Construction LLC

When Chris moved back to the Boone County area in 2009 and started his own one-man construction business, it didn’t take long via word of mouth for the jobs to start rolling in. Those first few crazy months have continued to build to where Chris, his wife Jaymee and their three daughters are now with Levander Construction LLC thriving on the backs of Chris and part time help doing additions, roofs, full remodels, and much more across the Boone County area.

Chris started his career after graduating from UNL with a construction management degree by moving to Colorado. He worked there for 6 years for two different construction companies before deciding to move back to the area, to dive headfirst into his own construction business venture. He most recently purchased the old Petersburg locker building for supplies and storage and looks forward to continuing the growth his business has seen since his move back.

Levander Construction LLC services all of Boone County but he has also done work in Ericson, Elgin, Newman Grove, Lindsay, and Spalding. He does a wide variety of jobs including siding, kitchens, bathrooms, additions, roofs, shops, and any kind of “honey-do” job you can think of, all this while still farming on the side!



Chris said he is glad he moved back, it’s been better than expected and there is always some new project coming up. He looks forward to the future of his business and welcomes any calls for projects and jobs throughout the Boone County area!

To contact Chris you can call him at 402-741-1075.

Primrose Street Project

Ten years after the May 8, 1965 devastating tornado, the Primrose village board of trustees focused on the future of Primrose. They instrumented a street paving project for almost every street in Primrose. Over the years, the main streets in town were maintained with Top Coate, crack filling, patching and some new pavement. Several years ago, a new concrete street was a CDBG project for a part of down town Commercial Street.

Over 40 years later, Schley Ave on the north end of town has basically disintegrated. Cars, pickups, trucks and even tractors are heavier now and the old asphalt just crumbles. The village board made a plan to hire local contractor, Bob Thompson Construction, who has more than 40 years’ experience with concrete and construction work. Bob also serves on the village board, and along with other members of the community, has the knowledge and pride to refinish Schley Ave that will last for many years. A project less than \$30,000 does not require engineers, therefore Schley Ave Phase 1, has a new 298’ x 19’ stretch of 7” concrete, costing approximately \$29,300. The job included removing the old asphalt, leveling and ditch grading for water run-off. As the budget allows – Schley Ave Phase 2 is planned for 2016.



Pictured Above: Schley Avenue, North East Primrose

This is an excellent example of utilizing Primrose citizen’s knowledge to get projects done, not only by saving money – but also showing great pride for the community.

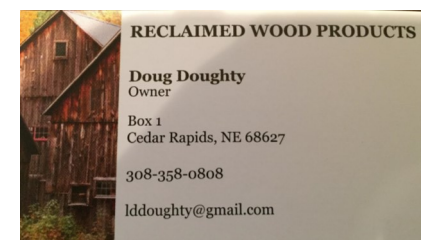
Reclaimed Wood Products

Doug Doughty is the epitome of a small business startup, taking a passion and finding a way to turn it into a profitable operation. Doug himself more than likely wouldn’t be the one to tell you this though, he would certainly tell you what he told us, “It started as a side hobby, something I enjoyed doing, and friends and family showed interest in some of my pieces so it just kind of grew from there.”

Originally from Cedar Rapids and a carpenter by day, Doug really began building his pieces three years ago. Many of his pieces are created using barn wood, scrap wood, and reclaimed wood of all kinds allowing his pieces to be both unique and classic in style. His shop, located in Cedar Rapids is open the 1st and 3rd Saturdays each month from 9am to 2pm. There you can see many of the pieces he has currently, but he is also open to crafting custom pieces upon request.

So far Doug has created kitchen tables, coffee tables, picture frames, blanket ladders, plant stands, decorative signs, sofa tables, benches, hook racks, shelves, mirrors, blanket chests, candle holders, and much more! Doug’s merchandise has mainly been sold locally, but they are expanding with each and every piece. You can find current merchandise in his store in Cedar Rapids and through postings on the Boone County Exchange marketplace on Facebook. Doug is looking forward to continuing to create master pieces and is always looking for new, well, rather old wood to use and continues to be surprised by those interested in his “little hobby.”

To contact Doug directly you can reach him via phone at 308-358-0808 or at the store located at 208 Main Street, Cedar Rapids, NE 68627.



Pictured Above: Doug Doughty