



## March & April 2008

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## Lexington and Gothenburg Receive CDBG Grants for Street Improvement Projects

The Cities of Lexington and Gothenburg were notified March 10th by Governor Dave Heineman and Richard Baier, Director of the Department of NE Economic Development, that both CDBG applications for street improvements were approved in the amount of \$250,000.

Lexington, along with other funding provided by the city, will pay for a project to improve Monroe Street from 3rd Street to 9th Street. This six-block section of Monroe Street has badly deteriorated, and block grant funds will be used to assist the repair/replacement of the street. The project will also include handicap ramps (at each intersection) along Monroe Street from 3rd to 9th streets.

Gothenburg will use the funding for paving of streets, sidewalks, storm sewer, curb and gutter five blocks of gravel streets on 22nd and 23rd Streets. A street improvement district will be formed and paving assessments will be used for a portion of the paving costs.

Grants are administered by DED from the state's annual allocation of CDBG funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Other grants were awarded to the following communities and county: Fairbury will receive \$165,000 to purchase an aerial ladder fire truck. [click here to finish story.](#)

## FEATURE: First Dawson County Career Fair/Expo is a Success Good Mixer for Students, Employers, and Schools

LEXINGTON CLIPPER HERALD  
By: Lindsey Tederman C-H Editor

The first Career Expo Fair took place at Dawson County Fair-grounds Tuesday afternoon. According to organizer, John Bell, director of ABLE (Advocating for Business Leadership Education), the event was an absolute success.

"I really didn't hear a negative comment," Bell said of Tuesday's fair. Because ABLE is only in its second year, it is still figuring out what programs work. With the expo's good turnout of over 400 students and 62 presenters attending the event, ABLE will add it to its yearly slate. Bell said the expo along with the fall business and industry tour, which has taken place the last two years, will be its staple programs. Both events give area students hands-on job experience and information on state schools, tech and community colleges.

At the fair, students were involved with interactive booths that allowed them to feel a calf in a cow's belly from Nebraska's Technical Agriculture School in Curtis, to hold a gun and handcuffs from the Dawson County Sheriff's Department and to work with electrical units provided by Tyson's maintenance department.

Students from Lexington, Cozad, Gothenburg, SEM, Elwood, Eustis-Farnam, and Overton schools were invited and Amherst Schools also brought students to the fair. Thirty employers, the state schools, several tech schools, community colleges and other four-year colleges were also set up for inquiries.



Glenn Pasho, the HVAC program chair at Southeast Community College in Milford helps an area student apply solder to a joint during a demonstration at the Career Fair held at the Dawson County Fairgrounds on March 11th.

From the notes he received after the expo, the presenters appreciated the respectfulness of the students. Bell thanked the Lexington Chamber Ambassadors for serving lunch and Rick Love, ESU 10's transition specialist, and KRVN for being an integral part of the expo. [more pictures on page 3.](#)

## Bell to Serve on Greater Nebraska Workforce Investment Board Youth Council

John Bell of Dawson Area Development has recently been appointed to the Greater Nebraska Workforce Investment Board (GNWIB) Youth Council. He was nominated by Rick Walton of the Nebraska Workforce Development Department of Labor Lexington Office. The Youth Council acts as a special subcommittee to the Compliance and Community Outreach Committees of the GNWIB to carry out duties established under the Workforce Investment Act of 1998.

Some of the Youth Council responsibilities include:

1. Coordination of youth activities.
2. Coordination of career preparation programs.

The Membership of the Youth Council includes various members from agencies throughout greater Nebraska with a special interest in youth and the workforce. Bell was nominated and accepted the appointment due to his involvement with the ABLE program and the Dawson County effort to retain area youth.

## COME BANK HOME

From the desk of Caleb Pollard  
Workforce Development Specialist

A great read from Jack Schultz's blog, Boomtown:  
COME BANK HOME.

No I didn't make a mistake, I meant to write Come BANK Home. Hampton State Bank in Franklin County, Iowa (population 10,708) in the north-central part of the state has developed a special program that both brings former residents back home but also hopefully gets them to bank back there.

The Hampton State Bank has committed \$1 million to a program aimed at Franklin County high school graduates who move back home. The bank is offering a special 3.99% home loan as part of its package to get more residents back to this rural county. So far, seven families have taken them up on the offer and the bank has committed about 1/2 of the total.

Green County, Iowa (population 9,809) has developed a \$1,000 relocation package available to any person who chooses to move there.

Worth County, Iowa (population 7,698) gave each of the 87 students who graduated from county high schools and went onto college a check for \$4,391.

These are just a few examples of what three counties in rural Iowa are doing to make themselves more attractive for residents.

View Jack Schultz's blog at:  
[www.boomtownusa.blogspot.com](http://www.boomtownusa.blogspot.com)

## Lexington and Gothenburg Receive CDBG Grants for Street Improvements - cont.

Thurston County will receive \$119,305 to install an elevator and sprinklers, and update mechanical and electrical service to improve overall accessibility, safety, and compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act at the two-story Thurston County Courthouse. Weeping Water will receive \$250,000 to renovate the former downtown Cass County Agriculture Society Building's top floor into a large social hall with a warming kitchen and handicap accessible rest rooms that can host wedding receptions, large banquets, and other social or civic events.

## 2007 DAD AWARDS

Presented at Local Chamber Banquets in January and February

The Dawson Area Development staff and Board of Directors are very appreciative of all of the assistance that they receive from various individuals who are willing to support, assist, and volunteer time and effort towards the various programs that DAD offers.

Over the months of January and February, six outstanding supporters of Dawson Area Development were recognized at local chamber banquets for their 2007 efforts.

Jen Wolf Outstanding Dawson County Partner awards to: Tabora Farms, The Lexington Council for Economic Development, and All-Points Cooperative. John Bell presented ABL Leadership awards to: Tim Davis, Lawrence Wendelin, and Jay Edwards. see photos.



Tim Davis, Lexington High School Counselor, was awarded the ABL Leadership Award for his outstanding efforts. Pictured are John Bell and Davis.



Lawrence Wendelin, Gothenburg 6th Grade Teacher, was presented with the ABL Leadership Award for his development of two career activities for his students.

Jay Edwards of Tenneco Automotive was also presented with an ABL Leadership Award for his outstanding efforts in the first two years of the program at the Cozad Chamber banquet.



Tabora Farms of Cozad was presented with the Outstanding Dawson County Partner Award for their purchase and development of the bakery in Cozad. Pictured from left: Jane Eatherton, Jen Wolf, Roger Eatherton, Dennis Marfisi, and Dave Stenberg.



Jen Wolf congratulates Dave Fairbanks representing the Lexington Council for Economic Development as they were awarded the Outstanding Dawson County Partner Award for their efforts in the development of the Lexington Business Center in downtown Lex.



Ed Foster of All-Points Cooperative accepts the Outstanding Dawson County Partner Award for their past and continued presence in many Dawson area communities as well as their continued growth efforts throughout the region.

*the*  
**Villages at Dawson**

**18 New Dawson County Homes Slated for Completion by Dec. 31st**

Construction of eighteen new homes, which include a 15-home CROWN (Rent to Own) project, will begin approximately May 1st and conclude by December 31st in Dawson County. These new houses will be built in Lexington, Cozad, and Gothenburg. Five CROWN houses will be built in each city, and the developer is also adding one spec home to the project in each town. A project that has been ongoing since 2006 will

culminate with the completion of the homes. Funding sources from the NE Department of Economic Development and NIFA will help private investment make this project a reality. Tenants eligible to reside in the CROWN homes will have to qualify on a household income basis, and a plan has been approved by all funding sources to educate and help the tenants in eventually owning their own homes.



Here is an example of what the Dawson County CROWN homes may look like. The Dawson County CROWN developer completed a similar project in Kearney in which a picture of a house and the neighborhood are above.

**Nebraska Trails Council to hold Trails Conference on May 2nd, 3rd**  
**From: Tom Tabor, NE Department of Economic Development**

Dear Colleague,

Another opportunity is coming your way to share information with like minded individuals. The Nebraska Trails Council is having its biennial trails conference on May 2nd and 3rd. (Friday and Saturday)

Conference brochure and registration:  
<http://www.neded.org/files/assist/2008trails.pdf>

To the best of our knowledge, the Nebraska Trails Conference is the Nebraska Trails Council's most widely anticipated training opportunity for trail conservation organizations in the mid-west. Participants include volunteers, board members, staff members, experienced leaders, and new trail corridor protection enthusiasts. We will all go home re-energized with new trail protection information, new skills, and new contacts and friends.

Let's share our expertise and ideas. We will inspire each other, teach each other, and celebrate our work towards healthier sustainable communities.

All this in the peaceful hospitable burgh of Grand Island. This is an event you won't want to miss.

Please send your registration form to:  
Nebraska Trails Council  
Attn: Gerry Bowen  
P.O. Box 451124  
Omaha, NE 68145-6124

Details for the conference can be found on the Nebraska Trails Council website. Click on "Calendar" and the link is near the end of the announcement.  
[www.nebraskatrails.org](http://www.nebraskatrails.org)

**Career Expo Pictures**



Dan Davidchik - CCC Mechatronics Project Coordinator - works with two Elwood High students.



Students visit with Stafford D. from KRVN on the various careers available in radio broadcasting.



A student test drives an over the road semi-truck in the CCC Truck, Flight, and Train driving simulator.



Paulsen Inc., among many others, let students experience large equipment in the Stevens Arena.

**THANK YOU:**

2.27.08

Dear Mrs. Wolf,

To you, Mr. John Bell and the ABLE program, my deepest thanks for the recognition at the Chamber banquet. I told John, the real credit goes to the presenters, Mr. Widdifield, and the students for the professional manner in which they conducted the day. This idea of a job fair, in my mind, is critical to the foundation of Dawson County. Nothing can flourish without a service industry and blue collar businesses. So any part that I might have played in this drama, is just out of legitimate concern for Dawson County, all of rural Nebraska, and their opportunity to survive.

Thanks to all of you.  
Sincerely,  
Lawrence F. Wendelin

**Dr. Marty Mahler Presentation**

You are invited to attend.



**Marty Mahler, Ph.D.**  
Nebraska P-16 Coordinator  
Office of the Executive Vice President and Provost  
University of Nebraska

Dr. Mahler will be presenting at the Lexington City Council Chambers on May 14th at 3:30 PM. Dr. Mahler has a great presentation planned in regards to what school districts are doing to better connect industry and education. He will also present some innovative ways to look at education at the high school level. Dr. Mahler's presentation will be very interesting and will directly relate to what we in Dawson County are doing as business and education leaders to retain our youth throughout the county.

Please RSVP John Bell if you are planning to attend by phone: 308 784 3902 or email: jbdad@cozadtel.net

**NE Department of Economic Development Schedules Site Visits**

Representatives from the Nebraska State Department of Economic Development will be making site visits to Cozad and Gothenburg. Both cities are among the eight that submitted applications in the Downtown Revitalization category of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. The purpose of these block grants is to help cities identify and address needs in their downtown areas.

After the site visits to all cities that applied are completed, four will be chosen to receive funding. The first phase of the CDBG program will be to fund a professional planning study to determine greatest needs. The second phase will be a project(s) aimed at whatever priorities were found by the study with public input from the recipient city.

**DAWSON COUNTY CAREERS.COM**

FIND A JOB • POST A JOB • BUY A BUSINESS • SUBMIT A RESUME • QUALITY OF LIFE • FIND HOUSING & DAY CARE • AREA SCHOOLS • COST OF LIVING ANALYSIS



**GET A JOB**

An extensive searchable database of an array of careers available throughout the area ranging from graphic arts to agricultural careers. Employers add and remove career opportunities on a daily basis. Upload your resume and it is automatically forwarded to businesses that would be interested in your skills.

**POST A JOB**

Area employers of all sizes utilize the site to post career opportunities in various areas. Dawson area employers are always seeking highly skilled employees to allow their businesses to grow and [www.dawsoncountycareers.com](http://www.dawsoncountycareers.com) allows them to access more than just the local market.

**BUY A BUSINESS**

Dawson area business owners continually upload existing businesses for sale as many of the owners are approaching retirement. Plentiful business opportunities exist for those who would like to be a small business owner.

**FIND HOUSING & DAY CARE**

Available housing and day care are of utmost importance when locating to any area. The Dawson County housing market is available through the site along with a contact list of every licensed day care provider in the region.

**QUALITY OF LIFE**

The Dawson area truly can provide the quality of life enjoyed by those who reside in small mid-west towns with the career opportunities of larger areas. Area schools and recreational offerings are all available on the site along with a cost of living calculator which will illuminate the true financial advantages of living in the Dawson area.

