



# NCRPC NEWS

A publication of the North Central Regional Planning Commission

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www.ncrpc.org

## Community Service Program Helps Nonprofit Organizations Fund Projects

For more than 20 years the Kansas Community Service Program (CSP) has helped nonprofit organizations take on major capital fundraising drives for various projects. Through this program, selected organizations are able to offer tax credits to donors making contributions to approved projects.

Projects eligible for tax credit awards include community service, crime prevention, health care, and youth apprenticeship and technical training.

“The Community Service Tax Credit program has funded projects ranging from hospital and nursing homes to libraries to wellness/fitness projects to art projects and more,” Emily Benedick, NCRPC Community Development Representative, says.

Several organizations in North Central Kansas have benefited from the program. The most recent recipient in the region is the Linn Community Nursing Home, which was awarded tax credits in summer 2016 to purchase a handicapped accessible van.

“A benefit of the tax credit program is it encompasses a wide range of projects for nonprofits that

are not always easily funded by grants and without having a government body as the applicant,” Benedick says.

Based on the scope and cost of the proposed project, applicants may request up to \$250,000 in tax credits. Applicant organizations in areas with a population of less than 15,000 are



The Linn Community Nursing Home, Linn, Kansas used tax credits to purchase a handicapped accessible van.

eligible for a 70 percent tax credit, while other areas are eligible for a 50 percent tax credit.

The entire application is available online. A \$250 non-refundable application fee is required and the deadline to apply is May 1.

For more information about the program, visit the website at [www.kansascommerce.com/csp](http://www.kansascommerce.com/csp) or contact Emily Benedick or Nichole McDaniel at the NCRPC for additional assistance. ■

## EXECUTIVE BOARD

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Tom Claussen, Mitchell County

### Vice Chair:

Scott Moore, City of Ellsworth

### Secretary/Treasurer:

Brian Eilert, Mitchell County

### Executive Board Members:

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Mark Fleming, Jewell County  
Bill Garrison, Cloud County  
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Hannah Stambaugh, Saline County  
David Thurlow, Clay County

## ABOUT US

### Our Mission

Advancing rural Kansas through comprehensive planning and development services.

### Our Vision

By 2024, communities in rural Kansas will favor choices that embrace innovation, increase prosperity and demonstrate resilience.

### Contact Us

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### Visit Us on the Web

[www.ncrpc.org](http://www.ncrpc.org)

[facebook.com/ncrpcbeloit](https://facebook.com/ncrpcbeloit)

# New Year Brings Renewed Focus on Learning, Growing

This is being penned late on Christmas Day. I am writing it while reflecting on our family volunteer efforts for the VFW Post 6242 Christmas Dinner and the special place it has in this community much the way many community dinners are. Reflecting on this day and its eternal meaning can have a significant impact on lives.

With this news reaching you in a new year, a bit of advice from national leaders is warranted. Bob McDonald, CEO of Procter & Gamble says “Always be learning. Force yourself to learn new things



Doug McKinney has been NCRPC Executive Director since 2008.

even when it is uncomfortable.” Charlie Munger, Vice Chairman of Berkshire Hathaway says “The school of life is always in session, if you aren’t learning something new, you are falling behind.”

Knowledge gaining through

the NCRPC is emphasized in 2017.

NCRPC is planning to share a few new ideas on capital improvement planning with workshops on February 15 and 16 in Bennington and Linn respectively. Contact the office and our [website](#) for more details on these. Additionally, the executive board will engage new board members later in January, the new regional farm and food policy council will be up and running in February and collaborative ideas through the regional Homeland Security Councils will be born in the near term. Join with us on these and other aspects of community betterment as this year unfolds. ■

## Six Innovative Small Business Models in Small Towns

*This condensed article appears courtesy of [SmallBizSurvival.com](#). The link to the full article appears at its conclusion.*

Rural businesses are exploring new shapes, new locations and new ways of doing business. Here are six innovative ways people are building businesses in small towns today.

### 1 Pop-ups

These are temporary business that may last from just one day to several months. You’ve seen short-term

vendors setting up tents and booths around special events, and this extends the idea to all kinds of businesses. You can experiment and gauge demand in a small town before committing to a more expensive permanent business.

Pop-ups can be as small as a booth for a day, or as big as a full-size building rented just for the holiday season, or anything in between.

### 2 Trucks and Trailers

Food trucks are a hot trend in urban areas, and now all kinds of businesses from retail to service are going mobile. With a truck or trailer as a base, there’s no need for a building. That’s good, because there is often a problem finding usable buildings in small towns.

Mobile businesses can also build their market by taking advantage of neighboring small towns’ special

**(See Business Models on page 4)**

## Long-Term Employees Recognized for Service

NCRPC recognized 14 employees in December who have five years or more of service to the organization. Staff recognized and their years of service include Carol Torkelson, 36 years; Doug McKinney, 30 years; Margaret Cathey, 26 years; Debra Peters, 23 years; Todd Tuttle, 17 years; Dell Gier, 15 years; Rod Thompson, 14 years; Sherry Angell, 13 years; Pepper Roberg, 12 years; Lori Thielen, 12 years; Nichole McDaniel, 7 years; Brett Beck, 5 years; Lisa Peters, 5 years; and Devin Karracker, 5 years. ■



NCRPC staff members recognized in December included (back row from left) Doug McKinney, Todd Tuttle, Debra Peters, Dell Gier, Rod Thompson, Devin Karracker, Brett Beck, (front row from left) Margaret Cathey, Carol Torkelson, Nichole McDaniel, Pepper Roberg, Lori Thielen, and Lisa Peters. Not pictured is Sherry Angell.

## Board Members Recognized for Service



Outgoing NCRPC Executive Board Members were recently recognized for their years of service to the organization and to the region. Pictured above (from left) are Dwight Frost, Jewell County; Gerald Huehl, Lincoln County; and Gail Engle, Cloud County. Outgoing Chair Gary Ouellette, Washington County (at right), presented the three with certificates at the NCRPC Board Meeting in December. We thank these individuals for their time and dedication to serving North Central Kansas.

## Fleming Joins NCRPC Executive Board

Mark Fleming joined the NCRPC Executive Board of Directors in January. He has served on the Jewell County Board of Commissioners since 2013.

For the past 16 years, Mark and his wife, Karla, have owned and operated Fleming Game Birds in Formoso where they primarily raise pheasant, quail and chukars. The



Mark Fleming

Fleming's previously owned a restaurant in Lindsborg. They are now part of an investment group that owns the Sweden Creme, a restaurant, and Possibilities, a gift shop, both located in Mankato.

In addition to serving on the Jewell County Commission, he currently serves on the Jewell County Dane G. Hansen Committee and the Jewell County Local Emergency Planning Committee. He served for 10 years on the Rock Hills and Mankato School Board. Mark attended Kansas State University and Manhattan Area Technical College. ■

## UPCOMING EVENTS AND DEADLINES

**Thursday, January 26, 2017**

**Thursday, February 23, 2017**

NCRPC Executive Board Meetings  
Beloit Office, 2 p.m.

**Wednesday, February 15, 2017**

Capital Improvement Planning Workshop  
Bennington, KS, 5:30 p.m.-8 p.m.

**Thursday, February 16, 2017**

Capital Improvement Planning Workshop  
Linn, KS, 5:30 p.m.-8 p.m.

For a full list of upcoming events, visit [www.ncrpc.org/news/events/](http://www.ncrpc.org/news/events/). A list of funding sources and deadlines are available at [www.ncrpc.org/funding/](http://www.ncrpc.org/funding/).

## Capital Improvement Planning Workshops Offered in Two Locations

The NCRPC will be hosting two Capital Improvement Planning (CIP) workshops open to anyone in our 12-county service area — whether you have a plan that needs updating or have never had a capital improvement plan for your city or county. The cost is \$5 and dinner will be provided. The workshops are from 5:30 to 8 p.m. on February 15 in Bennington and February 16 in Linn. For more information, visit [www.ncrpc.org/cipworkshop2017](http://www.ncrpc.org/cipworkshop2017). To RSVP, contact the NCRPC or email [ebenedick@nckcn.com](mailto:ebenedick@nckcn.com). ■

## Seeking Feedback in Capital Improvement Planning Survey

We want your opinion! The NCRPC is asking for your participation in a survey developed to help gather information about the wants and needs within the region. The purpose of the survey is to gather information in order to help communities begin to develop a capital improvement plan specific to each individual city/county situation. In addition, we hope this survey can lead to regional benefits by determining projects that could be accomplished on a regional level but not necessarily a local level. The results will be reviewed at the CIP Workshops in February.

The survey is online at: [www.surveymonkey.com/r/nckansascip](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/nckansascip). ■



## Business Models

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### (Continued from page 2)

event crowds. Instead of having to set up and tear down a booth every time, the whole thing is ready to go in the trailer.

### 3 Business-in-a-business

In a small town, there may not be enough demand for a single business to fill up an entire building, office or retail space.

Rural innovators are now borrowing and sharing space with several different businesses under one roof. A restaurant may pop-up inside a retail space. A single retail store may include half a dozen different vendors or mini-shops inside. You can even make a business of subdividing your building, like an old-school antique mall or an upscale version with separate small spaces.

### 4 Tiny business villages

Groups of tiny houses or dressed-up sheds are popping up on empty lots and unused green spaces, filled with extra-small businesses. The smaller spaces encourage lower-risk experiments, and all the businesses together draw a critical mass of visitors to the village. The key factor is to bring a number of them together.

### 5 Rural-sourcing

It's usually cheaper to live in a small town than an urban area. Now freelancers and specialist rural-sourcing companies use the small town cost of living as an advantage to compete for big-city contracts. Online marketplaces like Upwork let people work from anywhere and deliver services digitally. Some professional services may not be able to make their

entire living from local customers, but can easily score work for out of town clients.

### 6 Omni-local

Instead of waiting for customers to walk in the front door, smart rural retailers are using the same omni-channel tactics as big retailers. The low cost of cloud-based tools allows them to reach local customers in multiple new ways. It's easier and more affordable than ever for small town business to use e-commerce to take orders online, mobile-friendly websites to connect with customers on the go, and subscription boxes to delight customers monthly. ■

*The full article is available at <http://smallbizsurvival.com/2015/10/6-innovative-small-business-models-in-small-towns.html>.*