

JCED BULLETIN

Jones County Economic Development Newsletter

January/February/March 2023

New Year, New Opportunities to Be Involved!

Every December, it's time for people to look back over what they have accomplished during the previous twelve months. Did they lose weight? Did they work out? Did they accomplish everything on their to-do list? Are they happy with everything they accomplished? How are they going to continue their success next year? Or how are they going to make sure they meet their goals in the year ahead? Believe it or not, organizations work much the same way at the end of every year. It's important look back over the year to see where there were successes and where there are areas to improve. But more importantly, did you celebrate the successes you had when you had them, letting everyone know that you did what you said you were going to do? If you don't tell people, how will they know?

Jones County Economic Development recently did that with their Fall Gala. The event was meant to be an awareness campaign, showcasing all of the great work happening in Jones County and a precursor to all of the great things to come! Storyboards helped highlight some of the work done, including regarding a countywide childcare survey; the securing of over \$1,000,000 in grant funding for downtown rehabilitations in four communities; work on community trails; business recruitment, retention, and expansion work; and so much more!



It seems hard to believe that so much has been accomplished in a just a few short years, especially with crazy events interrupting success like the derecho, supply chain and inflation issues, and the COVID-19 pandemic. But it was a great time to reminisce on everything that has been and forecast what great things might be coming down the pipeline!



JCED held the event at Teddy's Barn and Grill in Amber, inviting all of the essential partners it takes each year to realize all of the successes. Also, invitations went out to a number of businesses and entities that are in the same line of work, offering valuable opportunities to network and partner in future success! Additionally, Nick Glew, President and CEO of Marion Economic Development spoke on economic development and the vital role that every business, organization, community, and person plays in its success and encouraged everyone to make sure that they are contributing to local successes.

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CHILDCARE STILL A MAJOR CONCERN IN JONES COUNTY

Jones County Economic Development recently held a childcare forum to help businesses understand the childcare situation and to hear input from novel ideas working in the region. These ideas were meant to help get businesses thinking about ways that they could help contribute to childcare solutions, especially with businesses noting that childcare was one of the reasons they could not attract or retain some quality employees.



Megan Schulte of Frontier Coop in Norway, Iowa, discussed the benefits of having childcare on site at the business. Schulte noted that there is an area for sick children and that the childcare is open year-round to employees. She stated that this has reduced employee call-out because they can bring their children with them to work, even when school is cancelled, and know they are getting quality care. It also allows the parents to check in on them during the day. Currently, only Frontier employees are allowed to have children in the childcare, so they are not quite full. Schulte discussed that the employees in the childcare section get the same wages and benefits as other staff and that has helped keep turnover in the childcare low. She also said that even though Frontier has had the on-site childcare since the late 1970's, that Frontier would still build one on-site today because of all of the benefits they have realized from it being there.

Chris Fee, of Easton Valley Schools, spoke next on the value of having childcare as part of a school environment. Not only does it help the school potentially identify students that might have learning disabilities, but it allows the school to interact with all children at a younger age. Additionally, Easton Valley does full-time four year old preschool at their cost, finding that the additional instruction helps students be more ready for kindergarten. The school pays well and pays into IPERS for the childcare staff too. Finally, the long-term retention of the students until they graduate has a positive financial impact on the district, making on-site childcare a no brainer for the Easton Valley School District.



Unfortunately, there is no silver bullet to help with childcare, but all solutions will require community input and a willingness to be open-minded to change. It will require providers to be able to pay more and offer benefits. It will require schools reconsidering the role they play in early childcare and preschool offerings. It will require businesses looking at how they hire people with families and being willing to change the paradigm. It will require cities to determine if they have a role and what it should be. There is no simple solution and it will continue to take time, but it will take all of us pulling together to help solve the issues.

Jones County Tourism Guides Needed!

If you have a love of Jones County and sharing some of that knowledge with people, why not see about being a Jones County Tour guide?

Jones County Tourism is looking for one-two more tour guides to help with the tours that come through our communities. Below are some of the requirements:

- Must be fairly familiar with Jones County as a whole
- Able to be on a bus all day with travelers and be able to follow a schedule
- Be available to train a day or two with a current guide
- Be available on days of the week where there are tours (The more availability, the better!)
- Willing to write up a review of each tour for the Tourism Director
- Be prepared in cases of emergency

Each tour guide is paid \$5 per person on the coach (minus the driver and director).

If you are interested in being a tour guide or have questions about the position, please contact Jones County Tourism Director Bob Hatcher via email at director@traveljonescounty.com or by phone: 319-462-4101

New Year, New Opportunities to Be Involved (Continued from Page 1)



Craig Stadtmueller introduces Nick Glew at the Gala.

The dawning of a new year is great because it opens people up to the belief that they can start over and start new. They can create a list of goals and really dedicate their focus to making sure they cross those items off any to-do list. It's a reinvigorating time of year and the possibilities are endless! And Jones County Economic Development is no stranger to that process either.

Jones County Economic Development is committed to a comprehensive approach to community and economic development in Jones County. This commitment is shown through a dedication to business expansion and recruitment, housing development, agricultural relations, workforce development, small business assistance, quality of life initiatives, and professional development of the Board and staff for the organization. And these goals help drive our focus year-round.

Jones County Economic Development is a public/private partnership dedicated to strengthening the economic base in the region by assisting existing businesses, attracting new investment and jobs and fostering a business climate favorable for economic growth. JCED is proud to work with and partner with so many great entities in our communities to accomplish fantastic goals each year. From our government partners to the countless businesses and organizations, JCED values these relationships and is hoping to strengthen them even more in 2023. And it is our hope that we will be able to work and partner with even more communities and businesses in the coming year!

JCED is hard at work on making Jones County a livable and prosperous place to live and work. But to do that, we need more partners in our communities, both from the businesses and government sectors. One way to help is by becoming a membership investor in Jones County Economic Development. A membership investment shows commitment to the future of Jones County as well as to the ideals that make our communities develop and prosper. Is your business a member of JCED? If not, 2023 is a great year to set a goal of becoming more involved!

How does someone get involved beyond their membership investment? The easiest answer is to reach out and see where your interests and the organization's efforts overlap. JCED has several committees which need the immense talents on display across Jones County. Is there one of the committees listed below that sound right up your alley?

- Membership Committee
- Finance Committee
- Agricultural Advisory Committee
- Strategic Planning Committee
- Event Committee

Even if not interested in committees, JCED has a number of projects/programs where volunteer help is always welcome. Feel free to reach out to Derek with questions at director@jonescountydevelopment.com or by phone at 319-480-7446.



Jones County Economic Development Fall Gala.

Volunteers Decorate Downtown Onslow

In late 2020, there were no downtown lights or holiday cheer spreading from the usual decorations in downtown Onslow. The year had taken a drastic turn with the pandemic and the City of Onslow did not have the money to replace the outdated decorations with new ones, which left the community feeling despondent and depressed during the joyous season.

However, that feeling did not last long. In June 2021, Deb Brown of SaveYour.Town came to the community in partnership with Jones County Economic Development and Limestone Bluffs. Deb helped community volunteers and stakeholders address priorities on what they would like to see in the community and asked if they were willing to do their part to meet those goals. After that meeting, a small group organized, working on fundraising events to help make sure the Christmas season in the community was bright and festive once again.



During the rest of 2021 and all of 2022, different events helped raise money for new Christmas decorations. There was a soup supper and bake sale in December 2021, a trivia night in June 2022, a card night in September 2022, and what has become an annual event in December 2022 for the soup supper. With these events, the City raised enough money to investigate new decorations. Unfortunately, new decorations cost a lot more than what had been raised.



But the lessons from the Deb Brown visit were still fresh in the group's mind. A local volunteer crafted 15 metal wreaths, which were then decorated by the group with garland, ornaments, lights, and more! Also, this group worked hard to find the old decorations that still worked and upgrade their lighting so all of the community could be lit. Finally, with volunteer labor and a donated bucket truck, the wreaths were installed on Main Street and Anamosa Avenue, once again brightening up Onslow. It's given the community a new resilience in working together to get things done and keep their community lively. And it's a lesson that every community should learn as they look to grow and be more inviting.

UPCOMING EVENTS

JCED Legislative Forum

Friday, January 27th at 12pm

Monticello City Council Chambers

JCED Legislative Forum

Friday, February 24th at 12pm

Anamosa Library and Learning Center

JCED Legislative Forum (If needed)

Friday, March 24th at 12pm

Monticello City Council Chambers

Contact Us

Jones County Economic Development has two convenient offices:

107 S. Ford Street in
Anamosa inside City Hall

200 E. 1st Street in
Monticello inside City Hall

Our Executive Director, Derek Lumsden, can also be reached by Phone at 319-480-7446 or by email.



YES, I WANT TO SUPPORT JONES COUNTY'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS.

Business Name: _____

Contact Name: _____

Physical Address: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

Gold-\$3,000/year

- Recognition as a sponsor of one of our Legislative forums. Ability to put up a banner and hand out promotional materials.
- Logo placement on JCED marketing pieces.
- Annual Business Spotlight on the website.
- And, all benefits below.

Silver- \$1,500/year

- Recognition as a sponsor of our Annual Agriculture Appreciation Event. Ability to put up a banner and hand out promotional materials.
- Ability to provide JCED with information to disseminate through our email list.
- 1 conference registration provided for either the DEV 2023 conference or the Iowa Downtown Summit.
- And, all benefits below

Bronze- \$500/year

- Post jobs on the Careers feature of the Jones County Economic Development website.
- Business promoted locally and regionally to industries and companies
- Recognition as a sponsor of our Community Career tours with the area schools.
- And, benefits below

Associate- \$250/year

- Listing on the Jones County Economic Development website with a link to your website.
- 1 Young Professionals membership for one employee. (Must meet YP guidelines).

Individual-\$50/year

- Friend of JCED.

Please send form to:

JONES COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
107 S. FORD ST., ANAMOSA, IA 52205
OR director@jonescountydevelopment.com

"Organization dues may be deductible as professional or business expenses, to the extent allowable by law."

JCYP ROUNDS OUT ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL YEAR!

2022 was another year of experimentation and outreach on part of the JCYP Leadership Team. With the first full year of activities, the organization was proud to have helped volunteer for community organizations like the Monticello Animal Shelter, learned some of the basics of finance for young professionals in Cascade, participated in a volleyball tournament in Olin, and learned the best way to throw axes in Anamosa.

Jones County Young Professionals is an organization dedicated to the outreach and development of young professionals through volunteering, networking, and professional development. The last quarter of 2022 showcased all of the above! In October, we learned from some local businesses on how they got into business, what they had learned, and what they would differently if starting again. Our huge thanks to Bobby Krum, Nick Von Muenster, and Andrea Dunlap for being our guest speakers.



In November, we hosted a Friendsgiving meal at the Amber Community Center as well as volunteered time and money to collect four full bags of canned goods for the Jones County Food Bank!

In December, we met at the General Store in Stone City to go over the year's events, meet new young professionals interested in what we do, and focus some time and effort on how to improve our offerings for 2023.

Are you interested or do you know a young professional interested in learning more? Jones County Young Professionals is for anyone between the ages of 18 and 40 that lives and/or works in Jones County and Cascade. JCYP meets the 10th of every month and we move around Jones County and Cascade so we can learn more about the great place we live!

To learn more, you can follow us on Facebook at Jones County Young Professionals or you can email us at:

jonescounty.youngprofessionals@gmail.com

Meet the Member!

My name is Seth Ballou and I'm a native of Monticello. After going to Iowa State University, I began my banking career in the Iowa City area. In mid-2021, I joined Ohnward Bank and Trust in Monticello as a Credit Analyst. The culture and team at Ohnward is outstanding!

For hobbies, I've been golfing since I was very young and still love to play. I also enjoy working on my always broken-down pickup trucks and working on various projects around my parents' farm. I like traveling and took a trip to Wyoming/Utah with a buddy last year where we helped gather cattle in the mountains on horseback.

Although I grew up in Monticello, I moved away for a time before coming back. So joining groups like Jones County Young Professionals and Monticello Main Street have helped me reconnect with the community. Glad to be back home in Jones County and look forward to helping the community any way I can!



Don't forget to like our Facebook page:

Jones County Young Professionals!

JCYP in 2023!

The Jones County Young Professionals Leadership Team has been reviewing feedback from members and events in 2022, working to set up some great events for 2023. Below are some of the offerings coming up in the first quarter!

On Tuesday, January 10th from 5pm-7pm, join us for Networking Night! This is a great chance to attend an event to meet current members, learn about what we do, and see if you might want to become a member. Networking Night will be at T&D's in Anamosa in the upstairs bar at the back of the building. There will be some light finger food and every attendee will receive one free drink ticket. (All drinks after that are on your own!)



Want to learn a bit about marketing, managing a business, and some good rules of thumb for marketing? Then our Friday, February 10th event is for you! We will be meeting at the Drive on Main in Anamosa from 6pm-8pm to try our hand at some simulated golf as well as listen to Kathy Dearborn talk about being a business owner and some best practices for budding business owners and entrepreneurs. If you have a favorite beverage you enjoy, don't forget to bring it with you!

We know it isn't always easy to get away, especially for young professionals who have children, but this event is designed with your kids in mind! We are rounding out our first quarter of events with a family fun night at the Creative Adventure Lab in Monticello. The event will be from 5:30pm-8pm and your whole family is invited. The Creative Adventure Lab offers play labs of construction, Lego builds, as well as a chance to paint your own pottery. There is no cost to the event and JCYP will provide some light snacks. Feel free to bring your favorite beverage to enjoy as well!



JCYP is excited for 2023 and some of the great events and activities still being developed. And we want you to be part of it! You can learn more about the organization on the following page or by following us on Facebook. We can't wait to see you and learn more about you in 2023!



JONES COUNTY YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

**DO YOU LIVE OR WORK IN JONES COUNTY
OR CASCADE?
ARE YOU 40 YEARS OLD OR UNDER?
DO YOU HAVE A JOB?**

**IF YOUR ANSWER IS YES, COME JOIN
JCYP!!**

JCYP is an organization focused on developing networks and friendships and leaders among community members.

**Join JCYP the 10th of EVERY Month for
networking, professional
development and volunteering!**

For more information on events and locations,
scan the QR code or contact Bri Langdon at
(319) 310-5078 or blangdon2013@gmail.com

