



Southeast Nebraska Development District

**JULY 2011
NEWSLETTER**
www.sendd.org



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"Auburn- Live, Grow and Broaden your Horizons"

Auburn is a thriving second class city of 3,350 with a diverse citizenry, and active business community. The City of Auburn is home to Nemaha County Hospital, an award winning medical facility that has just completed a multi-million dollar renovation, and an excellent K-12 school system. It is also the County seat and business hub for the surrounding rural area.

The City itself has been shaped by its unique history. Originally, the City of Auburn was two separate communities of Sheridan and Calvert. As the two communities developed, they eventually grew together to form the city that today is known as Auburn. The site of each of these original communities can still be seen today in the locations of two historic business districts within the city. The City has recently been awarded a \$350,000 Community Development Block Grant for downtown revitalization, which will be used to preserve the beautiful historical building in the business districts.

Additional resources like strong local employers including Nebraska Public Power District's Cooper Nuclear Station and Peru State College provide stability and opportunities for growth. Auburn has excellent recreation activities. There are Softball, baseball and soccer fields at the recreation complex, a swimming pool and tennis courts, Rotary Lake with a pond sized lake for fishing and a cement walking path around it, a nine hole golf course, a wellness center, and a bowling alley. New to Auburn is host of WiFi "hot spots" available for public use. The Auburn Memorial Library also has WiFi access. The Library was founded in 1914 and

moved to its new building and location in 1996.

The City of Auburn has been working diligently to have many resources available to help foster job creation/retention and economic opportunities. One example is the Community Development Block

grant that has assisted 10 home owners with repairs to their homes.

Auburn – Sendd Feature Community July 2011



Nemaha County Courthouse built with native white limestone was erected in 1900. For more information on the City of Auburn Visit www.auburn.ne.gov

Nemaha County Veterans Memorial was Dedicated May 30, 2011.

Grant Program Income Reuse Fund. The CDBG ED ReUse Funds are being used for small business loans like the one that was made to Amber Kinman as part of her package of financing to start up a new bakery on the south side of the courthouse square. SENDD staff has long provided support to the City of Auburn and its CDBG ED ReUse Committee to foster job creation and job retention via small business lending. Previous CDBG ED ReUse projects have also included store front enhancement grants. Auburn is wrapping up an Owner Occupied Home rehabilitation pro-



SEND D Early Warning System Equipment (Siren) Project Update

SENDD opened bids for the Southeast Nebraska Early Warning System (Sirens) Joint Purchase Project on July 12, 2011. The project includes the purchase and installation of 69 Early Warning Sirens and/or equipment upgrades in 45 communities in SE Nebraska. The 1.2 Million Dollar project is made possible by funding from EDA. SEND D anticipates an executed contract between SEND D and Schmader Electric Construction Company Inc. of West Point Nebraska by the end of July with a Notice to proceed and pre-construction conference to be issued in August. Installation will be conducted in phases after equipment is received. Installation is anticipated to begin in October 2011.

The project includes new equipment installation and upgrades of existing equipment in the following communities: CASS COUNTY- Alvo, Avoca, Eagle, Elmwood, Murray, Cass Co. SID No. 1 Lake Waconda, South Bend, and Weeping Water; FILLMORE COUNTY- Geneva, and Shickley; GAGE COUNTY- Filley and Virginia; JEFFERSON COUNTY- Fairbury and Harbine; JOHNSON COUNTY - Tecumseh; NEMAHIA COUNTY- Johnson; OTOE COUNTY- Douglas, Unadilla, Syracuse, and Nebraska City; PAWNEE COUNTY- Lewiston and

Pawnee City; POLK COUNTY- Osceola, Shelby, and Stromsburg; SALINE COUNTY- DeWitt, Dorchester, Friend, Swanton, Tobias, and Wilber; SAUNDERS COUNTY- Malmö, Mead, Wahoo, Weston, and Valparaiso; SEWARD COUNTY - Milford, Pleasant Dale, and Utica; THAYER COUNTY- Dresher, Gilead, and Hebron; YORK COUNTY- McCool Junction. Installation should begin September 1, 2011 and be completed by September 1, 2012.

The EDA is a bureau within the U.S Department of Commerce and its mission is to lead the federal economic development agenda by promoting innovation and competitiveness, preparing American regions for growth and success in the worldwide economy. EDA encourages programs that promote job growth and business expansion in today's technologies and in discovering tomorrow's. The EDA supports key initiatives among regional areas across the United

States, thereby developing economic stability through intergovernmental and public/private sector collaboration. For more information on EDA projects visit www.EDA.gov



June 4, 2008: Lightning over Lincoln, photograph by Gary Andrews

This EDA project is a result to severe storms in the Southeast area of Nebraska in 2008.

SEND D's Website :

www.sendd.org

Is currently under construction!

Stay tuned for the unveiling of our NEW and IMPROVED website!

Sendd Community Needs Inventory Preliminary Results

Thank you to all the Counties and Communities that participated in our 2011 SEND D Needs Assessment Inventory. We are still accepting surveys if your county or community wants to participate (request a new form by emailing ebausch@sendd.org). The goal of the survey is assess the needs and better serve our membership.

Preliminary results from 67 communities (48% response) and 4 counties (26% response) have been tabulated. The largest response was from communities in Cass County with 73% of communities responding.

The top needs identified in this survey

were: 1) Infrastructure & Facilities - Street Improvements 49% of responses, 2) Housing - Homeowner Occupied Rehabilitation 39% of responses, 3) Planning - Community Needs Assessment 33% of responses, 4) Infrastructure & Facilities - Park Improvements 33% of responses, 5) Planning - Street Condition Study 30% responses and 6) Infrastructure & Facilities - Water Main Improvements 30% responses.

The survey results from each individual community will be used as a reference for SEND D Staff as we continue to serve our membership and assist communities in identifying resources to address needs.