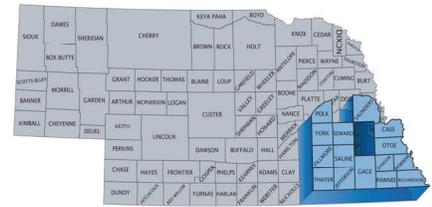


# SEND D D

Southeast Nebraska Development District



## FALLS CITY RECEIVES GOVERNOR'S 2013 SHOWCASE COMMUNITY AWARD



Left to Right: Bart Keller, Carla Rhodd, Ryan Schutte, Eric Barr, Jerry Oliver, Governor Dave Heineman, Beckie Cromer, Gary Jorn, Beth Sichel, and Eric Kresin

Governor Dave Heineman presented the City of Falls City with the 2013 Governor's Showcase Community Award on April 2, 2013. The award was announced as part of the State's Award Ceremony held during National Community Development week in Lincoln, NE. The award is given to communities who demonstrate exceptional capacity in the last five years by identifying community development goals and strategies; combining local, state, and federal resources to achieve those goals; and accomplishing major projects with positive impacts on the community.

National Community Development week is designed to give local as well as national attention on the numerous outstanding accomplishments of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program and the HOME Investment Partnership (HOME) program. The State of Nebraska and the Nebraska Department of Economic Development celebrated this event by designating communities with high achievement in community and economic development as Showcase Communities.

Some of Fall's City recent accomplishments include the \$23 million dollar Consolidated Grain and Barge (CGB) high-speed grain terminal that is currently under construction. Funding for the project included CDBG funds, LB840, Tax Increment Financing (TIF), EDGE funds, and New Market Tax Credits. The City's new baseball and softball sports complex was primarily funded with community fundraising support plus a \$100,000 dollar Peter Kiewit Foundation grant, funds from the Richardson Foundation, local lodging taxes, private donors and in-kind contributions from the City. The City was also complimented about their \$573,000 Downtown Revitalization Streetscape project. Funding resources for this project included a \$350,000 CDBG grant, City match of \$100,000 and \$112,000 match from the Main Street Falls City group.

The Southeast Nebraska Development District (SEND D D) has been assisting the community to obtain CDBG grant funds for the Downtown Revitalization project and to package CDBG ReUse Funds for the Consolidated Grain and Barge project, along with CDBG funds for Owner-Occupied Housing Rehab projects throughout the city.

### APRIL 2013 NEWSLETTER



Arbor Day—April 26

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## MINK Update

For over a year now folks from Missouri, Iowa, Nebraska, and Kansas have been working on a grass roots effort to identify how best to promote tourism development, community development, and economic development in the Missouri River Corridor from Omaha to Kansas City. The focus has been to establish connections across state boundaries, to enhance the efforts of businesses, agencies, and individuals from this MINK corridor who want to cross-promote, so those of us located within the general area of 2 counties each side of the Missouri River can better package and sell ourselves to folks beyond our borders.

This grass roots group took the name of **MINK** and they have recently accomplished formal incorporation and are ready to take the next step forward. Six committees have been formed and persons from each of the 4 states have signed on to one or more of these committees: Tourism, Business & Industry, Communications, Education, Governance & Membership, and Asset Mapping/Asset Utilization. The current vision is that these committees will be where the major work of MINK is accomplished. Two of the five officers for the organization are from the SENDD area, including Mary Kruger from Auburn, and George Neubert from Brownville. We salute all who are embracing the formation of this organization

MINK has been holding a general meeting each quarter and has been building on the format of inviting any and all interested persons to join MINK and come to the table to work for the good of the region which will enhance efforts in each community. The next formal meeting of MINK will be in St. Joseph, MO on Monday 4-22-2013 at 10 AM at the Remington Nature Center. Membership is open to any and all interested persons. If you have a desire for more information about MINK, feel free to contact the SENDD Humboldt office. Kevin Burnison & Lisa Beethe of the SENDD Humboldt office have been participating in these MINK sessions for the last 12 months.

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

### Peru Town Hall Meeting

The City of Peru just completed a Community Needs ID Survey in late March-early April. They will be holding a Town Hall meeting on Thursday, April 25th at City Hall at 5:30 p.m. to review the results of the survey. Participants were asked to prioritize a list of community needs/issues, describe the most important issue that needs to be addressed in the community within 3-5 years, and list the most beneficial projects for the City. Meeting attendees will be asked to participate in discussions to identify actions for the top priority issues.

### Partners for Progress Meeting

The Southeast Nebraska Partners for Progress group will meet hold a **special** meeting on Monday, April 29th at the Auburn City Hall at 5:00 p.m. Senator Fischer has asked to meet with this group to find out what this group is about and to receive an update on economic development activities in Southeast Nebraska. The 5 counties participating in the group are Johnson, Nemaha, Otoe, Pawnee, and Richardson. Please RSVP to Stephanie Shrader at 402-873-4293 or by email at [Director@NebraskaCityAreaEDC.org](mailto:Director@NebraskaCityAreaEDC.org).

### MINK Meeting

The MINK Committee will be meeting at the Remington Nature Center in St. Joseph, MO on Monday, April 22 beginning at 10 AM. The nature center is located at 1502 MacArthur Drive. You can check out the center at their website <http://www.stjoenaturecenter.info/> The nature center is located on the banks of the Missouri River and has an excellent view of the river.

Lunch will be a buffet meal served by Luna's Fine Dining. To make your meal reservations call Beverly Maltzberger at the Buchanan County Extension office at 816-279-1691 and indicate you are registering for the MINK meeting. Cost is \$10.50 per person. Meal reservations must be made by April 17! If you make a meal reservation, you are responsible for the cost of the meal. You can pay for your meal upon arrival at the nature center. Cash or checks will be accepted.