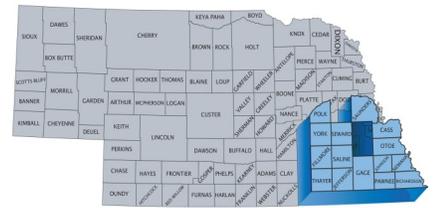


# SEND D

Southeast Nebraska Development District



## Dorchester Planning = Success

**D**orchester is located in Saline County with a current population of around 620. Dorchester was incorporated in 1881 along the railroad as well as many other communities in the area. Dorchester residents have also enjoyed the small town atmosphere.

The Village of Dorchester believes success comes from planning. This mantra was adopted in 2004 as Dorchester began their first Community Strategic Planning project as part of organizing the Dorchester Community Foundation. Momentum from those meetings continues to pulse through the community. Activities that position the community for future growth and opportunities continue to be reviewed, prioritized and developed by citizen groups and local government agencies. Existing facilities have been renovated to continue to serve community needs and new facilities have been built to support future opportunities.

Investments have been made in schools, parks, government services and buildings throughout Dorchester. The Village Board of Dorchester has taken a leadership role in providing for the future delivery of government services, particularly water and waste water. Before any ground was broken for construction projects, planning activities prioritized the best available use of resources for infrastructure investments. The community has completed

two community surveys, four planning projects and has just started a fifth planning project. Planning studies have included: Preliminary Engineering study for water improvements, Preliminary Engineering study for Waste Water improvements, a Street Improvement Study, and a Housing Market Study. Currently, the community is working through the planning activities to create a new Comprehensive Development Plan with updates to Zoning and Subdivision Ordinances.

The Village prioritized projects



and has completed three major infrastructure projects, and has initiated the design phase of a fourth. Investments have been made to provide more efficient services and meet regulatory requirements. In 2010 a new complete retention sewer lagoon was constructed, replacing an obsolete discharge lagoon system. In 2012 a new municipal well and water line replacement project was com-

pleted. In 2013 a new water tower was constructed and the obsolete tower was removed. A new storm water drainage project has been initiated in 2013 with completion expected in 2014.

Other projects prioritized through community planning activities have included two nuisance abatement programs and a housing rehabilitation project. Homeowners and businesses worked with the Village to successfully complete the nuisance abatement programs over the last two years, improving community appearance and quality of life. The community is still pursuing opportunities to implement a housing rehabilitation program that will assist homeowners with substantial rehabilitation of their homes.

There are many successful civic activities being developed and led by local organizations and citizens, as well as successful projects by the local school district and the fire department. The community foundation has been fundraising for a new community entrance sign. These investments not only preserve the community but also build the local leadership capacity and energize citizens that enable the community to adapt and prepare for its next 100 years as an endearing place to call home.

### Dorchester SENDD's— December 2013 Community Spotlight

## DECEMBER 2013 NEWSLETTER



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## Calling All Contractors

Housing needs are still on the rise and with this comes the need for Contractors. SENDD currently has 5 housing projects beginning in 2014 in Fall City, Pawnee City, Geneva, Deshler, and Fairmont. SENDD has an active list of contractors however additional contractors are always welcomed and encouraged. Many of our projects happen simultaneously which makes it hard for some contractors to bid all the work they would like. Additional contractors offer a more competitive bidding process, ability to manage more projects simultaneously and ensures projects are completed in a timely manner, making everyone involved happy. The local investment increases when local contractors are used by creating additional jobs. Being a SENDD approved contractor gives many contractors a great feeling of pride, as they help those community members in need of home improvements. Many of the improvements that are typical to a housing project included roofing, siding, window replacement, weatherization and energy efficiency projects.

If you're interested in becoming a SENDD approved contractor please contact any SENDD office for a copy of the proper forms to be filled out and a SENDD staff member will be glad to assist you.

## MINK Focuses on Economic Development

SENDD staff has been teaming up with other leaders from Southeast Nebraska in the regional economic development group referred to as MINK – Missouri River Corridor (Missouri, Iowa, Nebraska, Kansas). This group recently met to discuss a focus on projects of regional importance.

Leaders from the four states gathered to continue to build on the goal of working across state lines for the good of the region. One project discussed was four, one day bus tours of different tourist attractions and major industries. Other items of discussion included the recent designation of the Missouri River as a "Marine Highway" which is bringing a renewed look at sustaining barge traffic from Sioux City to Kansas City.

The four USDA Rural Development State Directors from the states were in attendance noting the recent "Great Regions" recognition that MINK received from USDA at a national level. The next quarterly meeting of the MINK group is being planned for March 2014 in Missouri.

For more information regarding MINK please contact Kevin Burnison or Lisa Beethe in the SENDD Humboldt Office.



## Welcome Home Brian!

One year after Brian Bashore (SENDD Housing Specialist) departed on his tour to Afghanistan with the Navy Reserve (Naval Mobile Construction Battalion Fifteen) he has returned back to work in the Lincoln office. Brian was the Operations Chief of an engineering unit, and was in charge of overseeing all aspects of the Battalion's mission including a 1,900 foot Runway addition, several bridge improvement projects, dozens of road repairs, and countless (over 550) building and maintenance projects throughout the entire country. We are happy to have Brian back on the SENDD team, and more importantly back home. We thank Brian for his continued service to our country.

## Training Opportunity to "Grow Your Own Grant Proposal Writer(s)"

When: April 2014 (Monday Apr 7–Friday Apr 11, 2014)

Where: Healthy Nevada Innovation Center, Nevada, Missouri

What: Grantsmanship Training Program® This week-long training is a great combination of knowledge exchange/immediate application. For a detailed description of the training curriculum, visit <http://tgci.com/training/grantsmanship-training-program-5-day>

## 2014 Civic Center Financing Fund Pre-Applications

The Department of Economic Development, will soon be accepting applications from Nebraska municipalities for grants to support the development of civic centers and community centers. **Pre-applications will be DUE FEBRUARY 28, 2014.** Information will be posted on the Departments website:

<http://www.neded.org/community/community-info/financial-assistance/civic-and-community-center-financing-fund>