ACDC Job Shadowing Day 2016: Showing AC Seniors What’s Possible

On April 19, ACDC coordinated the first county-wide Job Shadowing Day, with several goals in mind. This program was primarily designed to give students a better grasp of the variety of businesses and the multitude of ways a person can make a quality living in Atchison County. It also created the opportunity for students to interact with adults in the business community that they might not otherwise encounter. A long term objective of this program is to connect businesses with students who might want to work for or with them in the future, or, in an ideal situation, to take over that person’s business someday.

Job Shadowing Day by the numbers:
41 Seniors from Fairfax, Rock Port and Tarkio
24 Atchison County businesses/organizations
AT LEAST 37 different occupations

THANK YOU to the businesses and organizations that hosted students (and many others that offered): AC Sheriff’s Office, AC Library, AC Mail, AC Veterinary Clinic, Atchison-Holt Ambulance District, Atchison-Holt Electric Coop, Burke & Sons Lumber, C&M Equipment, Community Hospital-Fairfax, Flower Mill, Gavilon Grain, Herron Farms, Jay Hunter Construction, Midwest Data Center, Midwest Data Smart Store, Minter Funeral Chapels, Ottman Electric, Rock Port Police Dept., Rock Port School, Tarkio Elementary School, Stoner Drug, Tarkio Avalanche, and The Walnut Shop.

Special thanks to school counselors Tracy Cooper, Shauna Farmer, and Marisa Hedlund for their assistance in planning and for coordinating student signup, and to all three administrations for supporting this endeavor.

Below are the tentative dates for ACDC’s Youth Programs for 2016-2017:

JUNIORS
- Explore AC: Thurs., September 29, 2016
- Youth Professionalism Workshop: Mon., November 21, 2016

SENIORS
- Scholarships: Due Fri., January 27, 2017
- AC Job Shadowing Day: Wed., April 19, 2017

Programs/dates subject to administrative approval.
In accordance with ACDC’s ongoing commitment to business retention and growth, the Business Improvement Grant program was administered again in 2016. This year, in addition to the Basic grant offered for the previous 3 years (50/50 match, up to $1,000), a second grant was created. 2.0 was designed for larger projects and required more investment by the business, offering up to $2,500 on a 1/3-2/3 matching basis. Applications for both grants were accepted during the month of April, and this year’s grant review committee, comprised of ACDC Board members Craig Corken and Lori Seymour and community representative Melissa Gilpin, met in May. Applications were reviewed to ensure that each project aligns with the goals of the grant and that each business provided all pertinent information. In the end, twelve local businesses were approved for grants.

We can’t wait to see the results of these projects and are proud to support these expansions, improvements, and new services! Congratulations to the following award recipients:

**BASIC**
- Alma’s Herbs
- Cindy Thomas, LMT
- El-Ray Apartments
- K-9 Inn, LLC
- Little Red’s Keeper of the Bees
- Shelter Insurance

**2.0**
- Flower Mill
- Martin S Smith Trucking, LLC
- Rock Port RiversEdge Campground
- Ronnie Martin Trucking
- Stolt’s Fitness
- Sybert’s Body Shop

**NEW ACDC Website!**

ACDC assists in many situations: existing or potential Atchison County business looking for support, newcomers to our area, businesses or individuals looking to relocate to our county, visitors, and residents. Our website, then, must attempt to address a multitude of questions. We’ve worked for several months to create a resource that would be helpful, attractive, and user-friendly, and while we’re pleased with the result, we’ll always work to enhance it.

Please visit soon and give us your feedback. Let us know we’re missing anything obvious, if your business’s contact information is incorrect or impossible to find, or if you have ideas about what content should be added. Thank you!
Thoughts from your ACDC Director…

By now you know that the only thing I ponder more than retaining and growing our existing businesses is retaining, growing, and attracting our most valuable ‘crop’ - our kids.

Read the quotes to the left, taken directly from scholarship applications. (WHAT IF they all come back? Two teachers, two new businesses, a nurse? What if ALL the stellar applicants who expressed interest in coming back actually do so?!) Talk to any of the businesses who hosted students on Job Shadowing Day. (WHAT IF the students learned that IT IS POSSIBLE to create a life HERE?) Talk with those who’ve moved away. I can think of a half a dozen off the top of my head who would move back in a second if they could figure out how to do it. (WHAT IF we had a culture and encouraged this and programs that enabled them to move back?)

We grow excellent kids in Atchison County, and they need to know that there is a place for them here. In the last newsletter, I challenged you to share this message whenever possible. Have you encouraged our greatest assets to choose this as their home, either today or in the future?

If you haven’t and you need some motivation, call me. I’ll give you a pep talk!

~Monica

ACDC Scholarship Recipients

Alex Lawrence, Rock Port, son of Harold and Leigh Ann Lawrence, plans to attend State Technical School of Missouri, acquiring degrees in Heavy Equipment Operations and Heavy Equipment Technology. “Once I have completed my training, I plan to return to northwest Missouri, preferably Atchison County, and run my own business.”

Alissa Hurst, Tarkio, daughter of Brooks and Lydia Hurst, plans to obtain BS and Masters degrees in Nursing at the University of Missouri-Columbia, then return home to work at a family medical practice. “Atchison County is my home….I am overjoyed that I will be able to return here.

Emma Morris, Fairfax, daughter of Billy and Kelly Morris, plans to acquire a BS in Elementary Education from Northwest Missouri State University, then return to Atchison County. “I would love to come back and teach in Atchison County so I can give back to my community.

Kaleigh Farmer, Rock Port, daughter of W.C and Shauna Farmer, plans to obtain a BS in Elementary Education from Northwest Missouri State University, and would love to teach in one of the three Atchison County school districts. “What better way is there to pay back a community that helped raise you than paying it forward to the future?”

Nick Herron, Rock Port, son of Kelley and Amy Herron, plans to attend Iowa Western Community College and study Construction Technology, then return to AC and open his own carpentry business. “My hope is that with my education, I can contribute my skills to my community.”

CONGRATULATIONS, ATCHISON COUNTY GRADUATES!

We are so proud of what you’ve accomplished in our communities and how you’ve represented our county. You have skills, talents and gifts that you haven’t begun to tap, and we can’t wait to see how you use them. As you set off on the next phase of your journey, please remember this: we love you and we are here for you. You are always welcome and always wanted in your home county. CONGRATULATIONS to each and every one of you!

~Monica
SUMMER FUN IN AC!

If you want something to do this summer, look no further than your own backyard!

UPCOMING EVENTS

June:
* 10-11: Tarkio Rodeo. Opening Ceremonies Friday night, Mutton Bustin’ both nights at rodeo grounds, Hwy 136 E. Parade Saturday, 1 p.m., downtown.
* 11: School House Rock 5K run/walk. 8 a.m. registration, American Legion Bldg, Tarkio.
* 17/18/19, 24/25/26: The Little Mermaid. Liberty Theatre, Rock Port.
* 25: Doug Summa Memorial Park 5K & Kids Fun Run. 8 a.m. registration, S. 3rd St., Tarkio. Pre-register: City Hall/HRC.
* 24-26: Tarkio College Homecoming Weekend. Schedule: http://tarkioalumni.org Mule Barn Players Murder Mystery, Sat., 2 p.m. To participate, email tcaa@tarkio.net

July:
* 4: Rock Port 4th of July Fireworks Display. City Park at dusk.
* 15-17: Westboro Wildcat Days. Softball tournament, dance Saturday night.

August:
* 19-21: Fairfax Fair, Parade on Saturday.
* 26-27: CH-F Golf Benefit Classic, Mound City Golf Course.

RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES

Bowling
River Rock Lanes, 606 S. Main St., Rock Port, 660.744.9876

Fishing & Conservation
Visit the Missouri Dept. of Conservation at http://mdc.mo.gov/about-us/get-outside

Golf Courses
Rock Port Country Club, 18757 225th St., 660.744.2590
Tarkio Golf Club, 1107 Poplar St., 660.736.4776

Parks & Pools
Fairfax City Park, E. Main St/Hwy. 59
Fairfax Ballpark, S of Community Hospital, Hwy 59
Niedermeyer Park, block North of Main St. on 3rd St., Tarkio
Rock Port City Park, Swimming Pool and Ball Field, Country Club Dr.

Doug Summa Memorial Park, Swimming Pool and Ball Field, 3rd St., South of Hwy 136
Watson City Park, next door to fire station

Westboro City Park, West end of Main St.

And the star-spangled banner in triumph shall wave, o’er the land of the free and the home of the brave.

Rock Creek Wind Project — coming soon to Atchison County!

In April, Tradewind Energy and KCP&L reached an agreement to produce wind energy in Missouri, through a 300 MW Rock Creek Wind Project in eastern Atchison County. The project involves more than 130 landowners across approximately 40,000 acres. In planning since 2005, the Rock Creek Wind Project represents a half billion dollar investment into Northwest Missouri. It is expected to be completed in 2017 and will be the largest wind project in Missouri.

ACDC is currently gathering contact information for Atchison County vendors that are interested in providing construction services (such as rock, hauling, fuel, etc.) on this project, and will get that information to the project lead, once he/she has been selected.

We will also be creating an inventory of rental properties that might be available in 2017. If you’d like to be included in either list, please contact us at atchdev@rpt.coop or (660) 744-6562.