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ACDC’s Annual Meeting

Wednesday, October 11, 2017, 6:30 p.m. ● Tarkio Community Building

A complimentary dinner will be catered by Torrey Pines.

Please RSVP to atchdev@rpt.coop or (660) 744-6562 by Wednesday, October 4.

Have you heard? #ACisAwesome.

At ACDC, we work hard to Change the Conversation to one that builds on what we have and shows our kids that they can build their futures here. Our Annual Meeting gives us the opportunity to put the good things front and center.

In addition to our annual celebration of new businesses, awards for notable projects and an ACDC update, you'll also get to hear from two Atchison County graduates who have created a future for themselves, right here at home:

Corey Martin
Rock Creek Wind Project

Dana (Kemerling) Tracy
MDT Woodworks

Your Guide to AC: Are you using it?

ACDC's website is the most comprehensive resource on all things Atchison County. Whether you are a new employee needing information when settling in to one of our communities, a long-time resident looking for local service, an entrepreneur interested in starting a business here, or a visitor wondering what's happening here this weekend...

www.atchisoncounty.org is THE place to start!
ACDC was organized in the 1970s as a volunteer board. Since 1995, ACDC’s board and full-time staff have worked to improve the business climate in Atchison County. Today, ACDC staff provides support to community organizations and collaborates with county, regional and state groups to better our county.

The Mission of ACDC: to initiate, stimulate and facilitate opportunity in Atchison County through economic and community development.

AC Businesses—Diversifying Through DIY

At last year’s Annual Meeting, ACDC’s Economic Development Award went to a local business who has had success in drawing visitors to our county (Quilters Boutique). We recognize tourism as a viable economic driver for any community, and while we may not have a singular ‘major attraction’ in AC as some communities do, we’ve seen an uptick in visitors this year who have come to our county specifically for creative outlets. Aside from generating conversation, entertainment, and a sense of community, local businesses are diversifying their brick and mortar presence by hosting DIY classes.

- Em's Emporium Floral, Gift and Boutique, in conjunction with Simply D'Stressed, hosts monthly classes on various signs and décor (Rock Port, www.facebook.com/emsemporiumboutique; 660-744-2626)
- MDT Woodworks offers multiple classes each week on signs, décor and other DIY skills (Fairfax, www.facebook.com/mdtwoodworks; 816-645-8694)
- Quilters Boutique hosts quilting classes for all age groups and experience levels, including custom one-day classes (Rock Port, www.facebook.com/quiltersboutique; 660-744-2528)

Recognize the themes in this trend? Tourism, small business survival and growth, community involvement and maybe even a little revitalization - all things worth celebrating!

Know of other such classes? Let us know, we’ll help get the word out!

Leadership Northwest Missouri

Leadership Northwest Missouri (LNWMO) is a program for community leaders interested in learning more about our region, enhancing leadership skills, and acquiring a sense of responsibility for community and regional growth. Participants representing 19 counties meet one day a month for six months throughout the region for high-quality leadership training and excellent networking opportunities.

Please contact Monica at ACDC (660.744.6562, acdcdirector@rpt.coop) for information on this program, including scholarship opportunities. Completed Class of 2018 applications must be delivered or postmarked by December 1, 2017. For more information or to apply, visit leadershipnorthwestmissouri.org
ACDC Youth+Career Programs: Fall 2017

In case you haven’t noticed, ACDC focuses diligently on a couple of things: helping our businesses sustain and grow, and communicating to our youth that they are loved. These two initiatives come together in our Youth+Career programs. When we connect our young people with existing businesses in any capacity, they have a greater awareness of what comprises their county and what possibilities exist for their future here. When our businesses have an opportunity to meet or mentor youth, they make contact with individuals who can become tremendous assets to them in the coming years. We are perpetually grateful to both our schools and our business community, who value these programs and work with us to make them happen!

CAREER

LIFE

Careers on Wheels, October 6

Attention AC Freshmen! We've got a morning planned that is just for you. Some of you have been considering your careers for years. Some of you may be realizing that you have less than 4 years before you have to take a step in some direction - straight to work, training of some kind, college? We want to help show you what's available HERE, in your home county. At this event, we'll show you that whether you run your own business or work for someone else, you don't have to sit behind a desk all day!

On October 6 (rain date: Oct. 13), we'll see you at the Rock Port City Park, where you'll have the chance to interact with businesses that primarily function outside of an office (“on wheels”). We can't wait to spend some time with your brilliant selves!

4th Annual Youth Professionalism Workshop, November 20

Hey AC Juniors, what are you doing the Monday of Thanksgiving week? Fighting vacationitis? Unnecessary. Come play with us at the Tarkio Resource Center!

We KNOW what you have to offer the world; we've watched you with pride for years. We want to help you be successful, and we want you to know as much as possible about the careers and opportunities that are available here.

We'll spend the morning giving you some tips and tools, and in the afternoon we'll visit some local employers, where you'll hear from someone representing each of the six career clusters. It will be worth your time, we promise. Thanks in advance for giving us your thoughtful attention!

Thoughts from your ACDC Director...

If you read this column, you might tire of hearing me say this: every day, you influence future leaders, residents, and employees of Atchison County. Every day, you can show a young person that this is The Best Place to Live, because they are valued.

Cathy Carter exemplified this sentiment as well as anyone I've known. From her vantage point in the Tarkio Superintendent’s office, she SAW the kids who walked past her door. She loved and encouraged them. I was blessed to be one of those kids.

Cathy's passing reminded me (yet again) of how much my life has been impacted by people like her. Her faith in me, kindness, and purposeful encouragement helped instill the idea that #ACisAwesome, decades before hashtags existed.

Here's the deal: at some point, 'getting a job' takes precedence over everything. But ultimately, people want to go where they are valued, and conviction of where that is sets in early.

Starting now, SEE the young people in your community. Tell them that you believe in them and that they are amazing. You may be one of the reasons they come back someday.

“"The fact always remains that here is where you are. Slow down. Work hard. Learn. Make the most of this stage of your life. Try to be happy, expect to be happy, and mostly you will be.”

- CCC, September 1998

~Monica
Enel Green Power North America continues to make progress on the construction of the Rock Creek Wind Farm in Atchison County. Over the summer, the team has been finishing the roads and foundations, has installed the transmission lines and completed the substation, and is currently working on an underground collection system. We are also erecting turbines.

In addition to the progress made on the site, EGPNA is also renovating the former Shopko building on Main Street in Tarkio, which will serve as the Operations & Maintenance (O&M) building for the Rock Creek Wind Farm. The completed space will include a mix of offices, meeting rooms, and a storage and maintenance shop for the wind farm. By revitalizing the former Shopko location, we hope to provide an additional boost to the economic development of the town that will directly benefit the downtown area, while also providing the Rock Creek employees with the opportunity to interact more closely with the Tarkio community for the life of the project.

Both the wind farm and the O&M building are progressing in accordance with our schedule, and we expect them to be completed by the end of the year.