



# ATCHISON COUNTY

DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

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### HAPPY SPRING!

In a typical year, we'd have seen many of you at our annual community lunches in March. Though things are slowly inching towards normalcy, this year we opted to reach out to organizations that often speak at our lunches and asked them to share any pertinent information with us. Please enjoy those updates sprinkled throughout this newsletter, and we hope to see you soon!



## ACDC FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

### Business Improvement Grant Program

Since 2013, ACDC's Business Improvement (BI) grant has leveraged sales tax dollars to assist AC businesses as they invest in themselves by upgrading infrastructure, enhancing facades and parking areas, purchasing specialized equipment, and more.

Because shopping locally led to much higher sales taxes in 2020, ACDC is able to award \$10,000 through each BI grant this year: the Basic, a 50/50 reimbursable matching grant (\$1,000 max on a \$2,000+ project), and the 2.0, a 1/3-2/3 reimbursable matching grant (\$2,500 max on a \$7,500).

Applications are currently being accepted VIA MAIL ONLY. Requests are considered in the order they are received and will be awarded until all designated funds have been allotted.



To download an application packet, visit our website or contact the office and request to have a packet mailed or emailed to you.

### Youth Community Beautification Grant



Due to the difficulty of gathering last year, #MakeACBeautiful took a hiatus. This year, ACDC's Youth Beautification Grant is back! Teams of at least 3 youth (5th-11th grade) may apply for a \$500 (minimum) grant for a project that will beautify an area not on school grounds. ACDC will fund a project in each school district area in AC, for a total of 3 grants. Project examples might include landscaping, art, recreation, or general cleanup. See below for details on the upcoming grant cycle.

#### Dates and deadlines for the 2021-2022 grant cycle:

- Grant guidelines and info available: **April 1, 2021**
- APPLICATIONS DUE: **August 31, 2021**
- Grant award winners will be notified: **September 2021**
- at the ACDC Annual Meeting
- Projects must be completed by: **July 31, 2022**

## About ACDC

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.***

### Community Update: City of Tarkio

- The newly built Street Maintenance Barn is almost complete. Most of the contents have been moved into the new building and the old building on the properties will be torn down this year.
- Since August, two new Police Officers have been hired: Tyler Dorrel and Katie Keaveny.
- City Clerk Becky Jones will be leaving full-time employment in June. Danielle Madron started January 4, 2021 and will replace Becky as the City Clerk.

### Community Update: Rock Port School

- RP School was fortunate to receive funding from the federal and state levels in helping feed our students for free this year.
- Thanks to County CARES Act funds, the school was able to purchase necessary cleaning supplies, equipment, and Chromebooks to help ensure the students could learn, both in person, and from home when necessary.
- The RP School district is thankful for students, staff, families and community for their patience, dedication, and support in educating our students during this unique school year!

### ACDC Membership Update!

THANK YOU to the 126 individuals and businesses that are our 2021 members. We are able to carry out much of what we do because we are funded by a 1/4-cent sales tax, but your membership dues enable us to stretch those dollars even further. Your support helps us to

- ✓ assist AC youth in their pursuit of education that will enable them to be productive here at home,
- ✓ provide high school students with opportunities to connect with local employers,
- ✓ assist businesses through our grant program and other resources,
- ✓ encourage our citizens to celebrate what we have, and
- ✓ support worthwhile community efforts.

Your membership support is an encouragement to us. We appreciate your partnership!



### Community Update: City of Rock Port

- The Water Tower will be repainted in July.
- This year the City will work on 5 street sections, doing the concrete work themselves. The cost to repair the streets is 75% less than what an external contractor would charge, and a new curb pouring machine cuts the time for that task by 80%.
- The City completed a major switch gear upgrade project in January, decommissioning everything in the old light plant and converting to all electronic meters and new controls. This project has already helped with reliability, as power issues are easier to identify and address.

## Job Shadowing 2021

ACDC is always on a mission to show young people (and their parents!) that it is possible to make a GOOD life here. Some say that "there aren't any jobs here," but that depends on the type of jobs you envision and your priority in life (place vs. vocation). If we consider the 300+ businesses in the county, we see everything from companies employing over 50 people to sole proprietorships. We have positions that require a high school education and those that demand advanced degrees. A bright future exists here, and we work diligently to prove it.



Each spring we offer opportunities for AC students to explore careers in the county. Working closely with our high school counselors and businesses, we strive to connect students with job shadowing experiences that will benefit them as they consider their future plans. This year has been a little nutty, but several students will be out and about in April, learning about career opportunities in our county.

A HUGE thank you to businesses that are always willing to host our students, giving them time, attention and guidance. Thank you most of all for showing them that Atchison County is a place where they can be successful in all aspects of their lives.

### Community Update: Tarkio School

- Carrie Livengood, Tarkio High School principal, will replace Karma Coleman as Tarkio R-I superintendent on July 1.
- Nick Kemerling will be the new High School principal.

### Community Update: Tarkio Tech

- After completing welding programs in April 2020 and August 2020, Tarkio Tech opened its first full academic year on September 1, 2020, with students enrolled in all three programs.
- The welding program has eight students enrolled, seven of which are high school students from Rock Port High School and Tarkio High School who are enrolled in the Concurrent Enrollment program. This allows students to take classes at Tarkio Tech and receive both high school credits and Tarkio Tech credits. The wind technology program has four students enrolled, with one student in the Concurrent Enrollment program, and the plumbing program has one student enrolled. These students will complete their programs on April 28, 2021, and will be ready to enter the workforce.
- Tarkio Tech has been approved to add HVAC Installation and Computer Information Technology programs in the fall of 2021.
- Another exciting addition to the campus is The Rotary Theater. The Tarkio Rotary Club selected the full renovation of the little theater on the first floor of Thompson Learning Center as their annual project for 2020. With a \$5,000 grant from Tarkio Rotary and additional funds from ATCO 10<sup>2</sup>, this 70-seat theater, which will be available for public use, now has updated sound, lighting, and a projection system.



### Community Update: Fairfax School

- Thanks to incredible action from the community, Fairfax has new bleachers on their football field.
- Thanks to additional revenue from relief funds and grants, the school will be able to contribute to the reserve again this year.
- After in-person school closure last spring, students exhibited next to zero learning loss when measured in our district reading assessments.
- Fairfax R-3 Smart Steps Preschool will be full day starting with the 2021-2022 school year. For more information, call 660-686-2421.

ACDC Board & Staff

**Directors:**

- \* Lori Seymour, President
- \* Craig Corken, Vice President
- \* Bob Alldredge, Treasurer
- \* Eryn Stepp, Secretary
- \* W.C. Farmer
- \* Lydia Hurst
- \* Roger A. Martin
- \* Jeff Meyer
- \* Scott Melvin

**Staff:**

- \* Monica M. Bailey, Executive Director
- \* Carol Clark, Administrative Assistant

**Upcoming Holidays:**

ACDC will be closed on May 7 (Truman Day) and May 31 (Memorial Day)

**Thoughts from your ACDC Director...**

Raise your hand if you're glad to see this past year in your rearview mirror! Raise your hand again if this past year gave you a little clarity, a different level of gratitude, or new things to celebrate here in AC. Here are a few of my observations:

- \* Our small business owners and store managers are amazing. They have pivoted, been creative with new services, and gone to new lengths to figure out how best to serve us. (And those who have started new businesses during this craziness? Unbelievable.)
- \* Our healthcare people have worked overtime (mentally and physically) for what must feel like eons. Their commitment and exhaustion are seen and appreciated.
- \* Hugging people in the grocery store, seeing people smile and gathering in groups without thinking about it are things I didn't know I took for granted.
- \* I will never get used to Zooms, and conference calls are not ideal, but being connected in some capacity when the world is weird is a good thing. I like that we're all learning to have meetings when they're necessary and that I've missed fewer Jack Bailey bedtimes in the past year.
- \* The sales taxes brought in by our people shopping locally in 2020 were incredible. Just goes to show what happens when you choose to put your money where your house is!
- \* There's no place better to live, in a pandemic or otherwise. #ACisAwesome.

~Monica



**MARK YOUR CALENDARS - Springtime #ShopAC is coming!**

On Thursday, April 29, participating AC businesses will stay open till 8 PM, giving you a special opportunity to check out everything they have to offer. For every \$10 you spend at those stores that day, you will be entered to win one of five \$50 gift certificates to an AC store of your choice. (Write your name and number on your tickets and drop them off at any participating store by 8 PM that night.)

Stay tuned to social media (find us at @atchisoncountydevelopment on Facebook and Instagram) and Atchison County Mail for a complete list of businesses that will be participating.

Thank you in advance for showing our amazing local businesses some love. Let's support them as they continue to be the backbone of our county!

Want to learn more about what we do or suggest how we can do better? Talk to us!

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