



# ATCHISON COUNTY

DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

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## Business Improvement Grant - funding still available!

We love this grant for many reasons, but mostly because it's a tangible way to show you that we love and support our amazing local businesses! Now in its 14th year, our BI grant has helped with over 185 different projects over the years, from the purchase of new equipment, to infrastructure improvements, to signage, and everything in between.



This matching grant program supports projects that improve aesthetics, safety and/or function of existing businesses. Two grant levels are available: the Basic, which reimburses up to 1/2 of the cost of eligible improvements (max. \$1,000); and the 2.0, which reimburses up to 1/3 of the cost of eligible improvements (max. \$2,500). Around \$9,500 remains in this year's grant fund.

If you're considering a project, here are a few guidelines to keep in mind...

- A business is eligible for any ACDC grant once every 3 years.
- Eligible projects must be approved prior to making purchases or beginning work.
- Completed applications (with vendor estimates, project budget, and proof of being current on taxes and licensure) are considered in the order they are received.

Questions? Don't hesitate to ask. We're here for you every step of the way!

## ACDC's Informational Community Events

In March we host lunches around the county. This year's were as informative as always! In Tarkio, we heard from Parks and Recreation (Ashlee Driskell) and the Tarkio R-I School District (Bob Hedding) provided updates. In Rock Port, the City (JR Chaney) and RP Teammates (Joanna Burke) provided updates. In Fairfax, we heard from the Volunteer Fire Department (John Brown), the Optimist/Kiwanis Baseball Program (Jill Kingery), the City (Tab Wintz), and Fairfax improvement Foundation (Danny Kemerling). Though these lunches may have once been geared toward the business community, we encourage **anyone** interested in what's happening in their community to attend. Free lunch and great information - what else could a person want on a Wednesday in March!?

The other annual community event we host is our **Annual Meeting**, where we celebrate so many good things in Atchison County! Mark your calendars - this year it is scheduled the evening of **Wednesday, September 30**, at the Fairfax School.



*Thank you to the 140 individuals, small businesses and corporations who have become ACDC members this year - you help us do even more great things for our county! Check the back page for some of our 2026 members. If you are interested in becoming a member, contact us today.*

## About ACDC

ACDC was organized in the late 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.***

## Great Northwest Day 2026 Recap



*With Senator Rusty Black*

On February 3-4, over 250 community advocates from Northwest Missouri attended the 24th Annual Great Northwest Day at the Capitol. Citizens from this nineteen-county region came together to educate legislators on our region and to discuss critical issues.

This year, Great Northwest Day's priorities focused on rural healthcare access, childcare, investing in higher education and supporting K-12 education, workforce housing, and ensuring sustainable tax reform. To kick off the event, Monica Bailey, a member of the GNW Day Planning Committee, moderated a panel of individuals who shared their expertise and experiences in addressing some of these issues.

The evening event, designed to promote our region, consisted of county/community booths touting local attributes. Several hundred attended the event including State Senators and Representatives as well as several representatives of State offices and departments. During the Wednesday morning breakfast, attendees heard from Missouri Attorney General Catherine L. Hanaway.



*With Representative Jeff Farnan*

This year's Atchison County attendees were: Crystal Woodring (NW MO Living Center), Kamron Woodring (City of Fairfax), Ashlee Driskell (CH-F), Johnnie & Sondra Davis (Tarkio Tech), Dave Shadinger (RP United Methodist Church), Bailey (ACDC) and several representatives of Atchison-Holt Electric Coop.

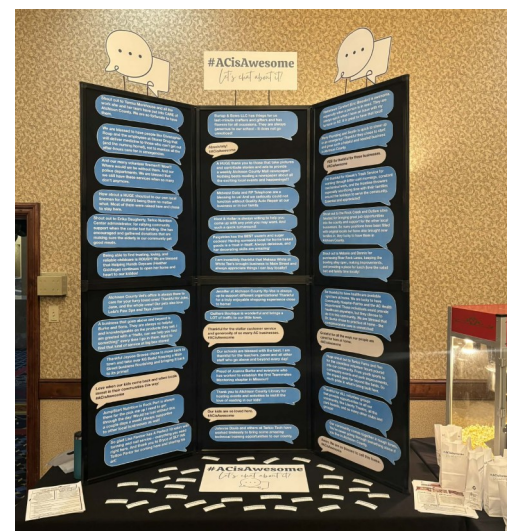
At the evening event, Atchison County attendees were able to connect with Sen. Rusty Black, Rep. Jeff Farnan, and dozens of other legislators and department staffers.



AC's theme (#ACisAwesome - let's chat about it!) was based off of responses to a Facebook post in which ACDC asked locals to celebrate people, projects, businesses, etc., that make our home awesome. Dozens of positive comments were used to create a display simulating a text "chat" between ACDC and

members of our community. It was a great conversation starter in Jefferson City when people stopped to grab popcorn at the Atchison County booth!

This year, given the display's origins, we were thrilled to take it around the county to let people read the finished product. Thanks to the RP Senior Center, RP/Tarkio/Fairfax libraries, CH-F, Tarkio Tech, and the Tarkio Nutrition Center for hosting this conversation!



## ACDC Emerging Workforce Events - March recap!

ACDC works hard to show kids (and their parents!) that it is possible to make a GOOD life here. If we look at the 300+ businesses in the county, we have examples of everything from companies that employ over 50 people to sole proprietorships. We have positions that require a high school education and positions that require advanced degrees. We have many successful business owners and employees who will be in a position to retire soon, leaving tremendous opportunity in his or her wake. A bright future exists here, and at ACDC, we work diligently to prove it.

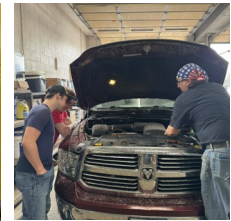
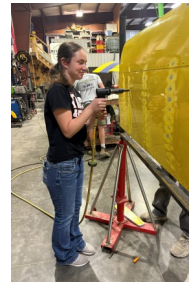
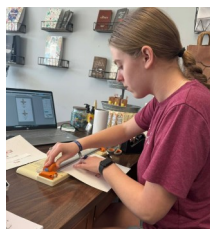
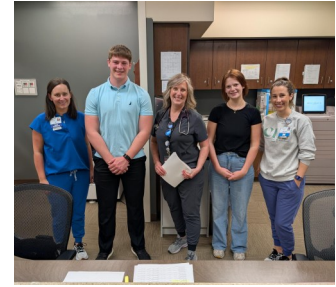
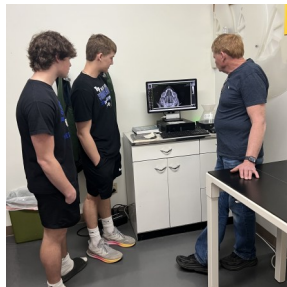


Each spring we offer opportunities for AC students to explore careers in the county.

### JOB SHADOWING - Thursday, March 26

Working closely with our high school counselors and businesses, we strive to match students with job shadowing experiences that will benefit them as they consider their future plans. This year, 45 juniors spent time at 20 different locations learning about nearly 30 different Atchison County jobs. Thank you to the following locations for working with ACDC to host students!

- Atchison County Circuit Court
- Atchison County Veterinary Clinic
- Atchison-Holt Electric Coop
- Burke & Sons Lumber Co.
- Community Hospital-Fairfax
- David L. Scarbrough, DDS
- Food Country
- Hometown Comfort Crew
- Hy-Vee
- Meyerkorth Aviation
- Michael Graves Farm
- Minter Funeral Chapels
- Mo Valley Ag
- NW MO Living Center
- Pleasant View
- Quality Auto
- Rock Port Elementary
- Rogers Pharmacy
- Teten Home Improvement
- White Tee's



*Just a few of the many careers shadowed in March, and only a fraction of the businesses that were willing to host students that day! Thankful for a community that understands our end goal.*

### 8TH GRADE CAREER DAY - Tuesday, March 24

It's been fun building on to CH-F's longstanding 8th grade career education by tacking on our afternoon field trip! Thanks to CH-F for hosting all 50+ kids at once in the conference room and throughout the building. We are also grateful to Hurst Greenery, Advanced Pork Systems, and Meyerkorth Aviation (with special guest appearance by Linda Dewhirst from Cooper Nuclear Station!) for educating students on what they do.



**ACDC Board & Staff**

**Directors:**

- \* Lori Seymour, President
- \* Mary Ann Hull, Vice President
- \* Craig Corken, Treasurer
- \* Eryn Stepp, Secretary
- \* Jill Davis
- \* W.C. Farmer
- \* Roger A. Martin
- \* Jeff Meyer
- \* Josh Oswald

**Staff:**

- \* Monica M. Bailey, Executive Director
- \* Stephanie True, Bookkeeper/Receptionist

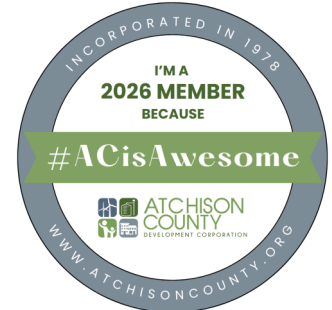
ACDC will be closed on the following holidays:  
 Friday, Apr. 3: Good Friday • Friday, May 8: Truman Day • Monday, May 25: Memorial Day

*If you're involved with a community event this summer, contact us with details and we'll be glad to include it in our list of AC events that will be posted on Facebook and shared in our next newsletter!*

**Thank You, 2026 Members (part 1)!**

ACDC Members: we are so encouraged when you support us with your membership, which enhances our economic and community development work on many fronts. Community enrichment projects supported by your dollars include Battle of the Books, scholarships for graduating seniors, county improvement projects, and scholarships for our regional leadership program. Thank you for your support!

Below is the first batch of individuals, small businesses and corporations who have blessed us with their membership this year!



- Bob & Marilyn Alldredge
- Fairfax Agency, Inc.
- Fairfax Kiwanis Club
- Stan & Janet Griffin
- Dennis & Phyllis Martin
- White Tee's
- Griffin Farms
- City of Fairfax
- David & Kay Gebhards
- Lonnie's Hair Barn
- MO Valley Ag
- Roger Livengood and Associates, Inc.
- Matt & Ann Schlueter
- The MVMNT Studio
- Burke & Sons Lumber Co., Inc.
- Food Country
- Charlee M. Garst
- Pamela Henderson
- Flower and Forged Farms
- Minter Funeral Chapels, Inc.
- Northwest Missouri Industries
- Northwest Missouri Land Title, LLC
- Oswald Crow Agency/Realty
- Perry Plumbing and Septic LLC
- Tarkio Rodeo Association, Inc.
- Watson United Methodist Church
- Advanced Pork Systems
- Larry & Anne Amthor
- Atchison-Holt Electric Coop.
- Fertilizer Service Company
- Bill Smith Trucking, Inc.
- Citizens Bank & Trust
- City of Tarkio
- Chamberlain Funeral Home & Monuments, L.L.C.
- David & Betsy Chapin
- Colfax Farmers Mutual Insurance
- Community Hospital-Fairfax
- Craig Corken
- Cecil Demott
- Ed Salmond, CPA
- Merle & Ruth Fox
- Natalie Harmon
- Mike & Katia Hawkins
- T. Brooks & Lydia Hurst
- Kevin Neal State Farm
- Meyerkorth Aviation
- Midwest Data Center, Inc.
- Amy Moore
- Murf's Auto Supply
- Northwest Missouri Living Center
- Oswald Seed Fairfax, LLC
- Quality Auto Repair
- Rock Port Chamber of Commerce
- Rock Port Oil and Tire, LLC
- Rock Port Telephone
- Bill & Susan Slaughter
- Billy L. Smith
- Soaksemclean, LLC
- Big John's Fireworks
- State Line Discount Tobacco
- Tarkio Golf Club, Inc.
- The Flower Mill
- Total Property Services
- Jeffrey L. Weedon Painting
- Sally Wehmann
- Young Enterprises
- Ag Partners Cooperative, Inc.
- David Scarbrough DDS, LLC
- McDonald's
- Kelly's Welding & Repair
- Kyra Mills
- Mule Barn Theatre Guild
- RiverStone Insurance Group, Inc.
- Rock Port Do It Best
- Trail's End/Fontella's
- Earlene Hicks
- Rusty Black
- Hurst Greenery
- Lowrey's Yard and Garden
- Roger & Ann Martin
- Michael Shaw Trucking, LLC
- Northwest MO Regional Council of Governments
- Kent & Janice Ray
- Rogers Pharmacy
- Tarkio Tech

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

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