


COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CONNECTION

December 2007 Vol.1 Issue 2

Crawford County UW Extension Program in Community & Economic Development
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Innovation is
the ability to see
change as an
opportunity

*Events & Ideas in Economic Development, Local Government,
Community & Comprehensive Planning*

Community & Comprehensive Planning

Crawford County Comprehensive Planning Sub-committee

Wednesday Dec. 5 7:30 pm Crawford County Highway Building, Seneca. Greg Flogstad of the Mississippi River Plan Commission joins the subcommittee to discuss resources and possible collaboration on the county plan. Additional discussion will involve the community survey and the public participation plan.

Plan Commission Workshop - *Plan Implementation*

Tuesday, Dec. 4, 2007 Leon Community Center, 20638 Jameson Rd (Monroe County) WI 6:00 PM to 8:30 PM. This workshop will discuss plan implementation as a key element of the comprehensive plan & will address common plan implementation tools such as zoning, subdivision regulations, and official mapping. It will also introduce participants to educational, voluntary and fiscal tools that may be used to implement the comprehensive plan. To register, call the Monroe County UW-Extension Office at 608-269 8722 or 608-372-8722. For more information visit: www.uwsp.edu/cnr/landcenter/pdf/Brochure-Monroe_County.pdf

New Book Highlights Wisconsin's Vibrant Rural Areas *Renewing the Countryside—Wisconsin*, tells the stories of 39 people, organizations and businesses that are leading the nation in forward-looking, sustainable solutions to the challenges facing today's rural economy and communities. Contact: Jerry Hembd, 715-394-8208, jhembd@uwsuper.edu Visit www.renewingthecountryside.org.



Free Web Seminar on Community Wind Power Thursday, Dec. 6th 9:30-11am This webinar will be an introduction to important community wind issues, presented by leading experts in the field. Recent legislation promoting renewable energy in several Midwest states is projected to result in over 20,000 megawatts of wind generators built over the next several decades. This represents over 30 billion dollars of investment in rural communities. Join in from home! Visit www.midwestagenergy.net/webseminar-wind.html to learn more and to register. If you do not have internet contact Laura Brown at Crawford County UW Extension to participate at the County Administrative Building 608-326-0224.

DNR Map of Contaminated and Cleaned Properties Available Online The DNR Remediation and Redevelopment (RR) Program has updated the RR Sites Map, an interactive, on-line visual display of contaminated and cleaned up properties in Wisconsin, located at the following link: <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/aw/rr/gis/index.htm>. For more information contact: Jane Lemcke - (608) 267-0554

Receive this newsletter by email! Contact Kathy at Crawford County UW Extension to update your email address or receive paper copies of the resources above 608-326-0224 Please submit local Community Development events, successes, news items to Laura Brown laura.brown@ces.uwex.edu

Upcoming Wisline Education Workshops

Wislines are held at the Prairie du Chien, Crawford County Administration Building Wisline workshops are broadcast over the internet and conference call. To register contact Kathy Wallin-Sobek at the Crawford County UW Extension Office 326-0224

Building Communities Series Wisline Understanding Community Change:

Demographics & More Friday, December 14, 2007 10 a.m. – 11 a.m. Learn how to access economic and demographic data for your community & how to turn it into informed decisions.

Demographic Trends: What Does the Future Hold? Wisline Tues February 12, 2008, 10:30 a.m. - 12:20 p.m. Learn about demographic trends and the potential opportunities they hold for timely planning and creative responses.

Healthcare: Proposal for Change Wisline December 11, 2007 (Tuesday), 10:30 a.m. - 12:20 p.m. The quality and cost of healthcare affects families and communities. Learn the basics of one healthcare proposal plan, its goals and expected outcomes.

Economic Development

Business Feasibility: A First Cut Analysis Contact: Bill Pinkovitz, 608-265-8255, bill.pinkovitz@ces.uwex.edu. This new publication helps first-time entrepreneurs analyze their situations using case studies with an agricultural focus. Guiding principles apply to any business. A free copy is available to download from the Extension Publications website at <http://learningstore.uwex.edu/Community-C256.aspx>.

Free Counseling for Businesses & Entrepreneurs

Phone: 608-342-1038 E-mail: swsbdc@uwplatt.edu, <http://www.uwplatt.edu/swsbdc>

The Small Business Development Center offers FREE counseling sessions for individuals interested in starting their own businesses. The counselor can assist you with any questions or areas you may need assistance with to start a small business. Set-up an appointment by calling the Small Business Development Center at 608-342-1038. The SBDC Business Counselor will be in Prairie du Chien on December 12, 2007

Local Inventors & Entrepreneurs Club Meetings

Tuesdays Dec. 11 & Jan. 8, 6:30 pm, Gays Mills The Crawford/Vernon County Regional Inventors and Entrepreneurs Club meets every second Tuesday of the month at 6:30 pm at the Gays Mills Community Building in Gays Mills, WI. Tues. Dec. 11, 2007. Phil Mueller tells the story of growing *Star Valley Flowers*, a successful wholesale flower business located in Soldiers Grove. Tues. Jan. 8, 2008 Chuck Sara, patent lawyer at Dewitt Ross & Stevens law firm, discusses Patents, Copyrights, and Trademarks. Contact Laura Brown at 326-0224 for info.



Farm-to-School Meeting Focuses on Locally Grown Foods in Schools

Tuesday, Dec. 4 at 3:30 pm Crawford County Building Conference Room, 225 North Beaumont Street Prairie du Chien Representatives of local school districts, wellness organizations, farmers and interested citizens are invited to a meeting to discuss Farm-to-School projects including possibilities for sourcing local foods in school meal and lunch programs. Laura Brown 608-326-0224. laura.brown@ces.uwex.edu for information.

How to Save a Nickel When You Don't Have a Dime Money Management Workshop

Family Resource Center, Prairie du Chien, Monday, January 14th 6:30 Do you wonder where all your money goes? Come find out how to get a handle on your personal finances. Start the New Year out with some money management strategies. Limited child care available. Contact Jane Schaaf, 326-0223 for more information.

What's in Your Wallet? The facts about Credit Card Debt

December 10th from 2 PM to 4 PM. Wisconsin Job Center, Crawford County Administration Building Prairie du Chien. Learn strategies to bring your debt under control! Contact Heather at 326-1100 for more information.

2008 Women's Entrepreneurial Forum Planning Meeting

Dec. 4, 5:30 pm Crawford County Admin Building, Prairie du Chien Senator Dan Kapanke will host planning meetings for interested individuals and local women's business groups to gather input and solicit ideas for a Women's Entrepreneurial Forum to be held in 2008. The Women's Entrepreneurial Forum would bring women from Western Wisconsin who are interested in starting their own business together with existing women entrepreneurs and business owners for an exchange of ideas, discussion on available services, networking opportunities and to hear from distinguished speakers. Contact Laura Brown, 326-0224 for more information.

Synergies in Regional Tourism Conference

Wednesday, Dec. 5 8:30 a.m.- 1:30 p.m. Minnesota State College-Southeast Technical Winona, MN Learn from our successes and look for common ground. Waterfront development, cultural events, and self-directed tours are all part of the mix. State tourism representatives will be present. Registration online www.7riversregion.com or by phone (608)785-8783.



WI Local Food Summit & Midwest Value Added Agriculture

Jan. 24 - 25 Eau Claire, WI Two conferences held over two days in one location. Bringing together value-added producers and advocates of local foods for the benefit of all. The 10th annual Midwest Value Added Agriculture Conference and the 2nd annual Wisconsin Local Food Summit will be held at the Plaza Hotel, Eau Claire, WI. See website for more information:

<http://www.rivercountryrcd.org/valad.htm>

Upcoming Wisline Education Workshops

Building Communities Series Wisline Regional & Business Collaborations:

Friday January, 8, 2008 10 a.m. -11:00 a.m. Identify regional economic similarities & business clusters for successful economic development efforts. *Wislines are held at the Prairie du Chien, Crawford County Administration Building. Wisline workshops are broadcast over the internet and conference call. To register contact Kathy Wallin-Sobek at the Crawford County UW Extension Office 326-0224.*

Local Government

LaCrosse Tribune Local Government Owner's Manual:

As a Wisconsin citizen YOU are an owner of your local government! Read these twice monthly installments about how your local government works including *How to Apply for Economic Development Assistance through Local Government Programs, Getting into Public Housing, How to Assess Property Taxes, Voting, Obtaining a Building Permit* and more at <http://www.lacrossetribune.com>

Understanding Your Tax Bill

Do you or your neighbors need more information about how to interpret your tax bill? UW Extension provides a sample tax bill with an explanation of values, credits and ratios. This sample bill may be copied and sent with your municipal tax mailing, or posted in your town, village or City Hall, or other public places such as post office, library, etc.

Contact Laura Brown at 326-0224 to receive an electronic or paper copy.

Total Assessed Value: This is the \$ value your municipality's assessor has determined for your property. **This is the value your municipality uses to calculate the total property tax you pay** for municipal services, as well as school district costs, La Crosse County services, Western Technical College, and the State Forestation Tax. As you can see, it is broken up between land, and improvements (house, garage, out-buildings, etc.)

EXAMPLE
STATE OF WISCONSIN
PROPERTY TAX BILL FOR 2007
LA CROSSE COUNTY

Land Value	Improvement	Total Assessed	Woodland	Ave. Assmt. Ratio
27200	23800	261000	0	0.967400000
20790	241700	208000		
2005		2007		2005
Est. State Aids		Est. State Aids		Net Tax
Allocated Tax Dist		Allocated Tax Dist		Net Tax
Wisconsin		0		80.42
La County		198,440		1,042.87
		205,097		

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Spring Elections/ Clerk's Duties -January 15, 2008 (Tuesday), 10:30 - 11:50 a.m.

A review of duties such as issuing absentee ballots, handling write-in candidates, election results, municipal boards of canvassers and issuing certificates of election.

Municipal Clerks: How to Train Poll Workers January 29, 2008 (Tuesday), 10:30 - 11:50 a.m.

A guide to instructing election inspectors in the performance of election-day activities such as registering voters, handling absentee ballots, challenging electors, documentation, and completing forms.

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