

COMMUNITY CONNECTION

Fall 2010

A QUARTERLY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT NEWSLETTER

WELCOME!

Welcome to the fall issue of Community Connections. Each edition of the Community Connections newsletter provides current information, connections to ideas, organizations, and resources for community development. In this issue, we highlight community Cultural Capital. You will find a description of cultural capital, examples of community investment in culture, and resources for enhancing your community's capital. This newsletter and additional resources are also posted at www.ksre.ksu.edu under the community development tab, then news and resources.

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

Many communities have embraced their unique cultural assets for community improvement. Below are two good examples of strengthening cultural capital from the Kansas PRIDE program.

Oakley PRIDE Program

Preserving the agricultural history and improving the appearance of the community are goals of the Oakley PRIDE program. Oakley receives state wide and national recognition by hosting the state and national corn husking contest. To make their community more attractive for this event and throughout the year, Oakley PRIDE decorated the downtown and started a straw bale and scarecrow decorating contest among the merchants. Merchants proudly hung their scarecrows on the light poles and left them up throughout the fall. "The contest pulled merchants together" stated Keith Corbett, Oakley PRIDE president.

This year, in addition to decorating for the state and national corn husking competition, the Oakley Area

Pride is also creating its own form of "Woodstock" known as "Cornstock." It's a dance held in conjunction with the corn husking contest. The dance provides the social setting to bring generations together.



- submitted OakleyCommunity PRIDE

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

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Highland PRIDE Program

Many of the Highland Pride projects were organized to enhance opportunities for socializing and entertainment, and to make living in town more enjoyable. Events we have hosted include: Fourth of July parade, program, ice cream social, and fireworks; quilt shows; block parties (to welcome college students); Prairie Trails at the Native American heritage Museum; Lewis and Clark Commemoration, Sesquicentennial Celebration (four days); Halloween parties at the nursing home; Candlelight, cookies, and music at Christmas at the museum; art exhibits monthly in hardware store window; decoration contests, and Christmas poster contest.

- submitted by Highland Community PRIDE



Mission Museum of East Highland

To read more about these communities and more, visit the “Sharing Your Success” link on the Kansas PRIDE website (<http://www.kansasprideprogram.ksu.edu>)

COMMUNITY CAPITAL

Cultural Capital

Cultural capital determines how we see the world, what we take for granted, what we value and what things we think are possible to change. It consists of symbols and language, festivals, celebrations, events, values and traditions.

Cultural capital is part of our identity, our traditions, and our understanding of each other. Common occupations like farming and ranching or the aircraft industry can frame the cultural capital of a town or area. A community’s cultural capital is also shaped by its heritage; for example, Lindsborg’s Swedish heritage, the Old West heritage of Dodge City, or the German influence in Hays.

Many communities have festivals to celebrate their heritage, historical events or themes common to the community. Some events such as the Walnut Valley Festival, the National Flatpicking Championships in Winfield, and the Renaissance Festival in Bonner Springs attract a national audience. Others may attract a more local audience, but are important to the cultural capital nonetheless. Cultural capital is also formed when communities live through historic events together, such as the Greensburg tornado.

“Everything that shapes our lives—our families, our spirituality, our history, and our ethnicity—is part of our cultural capital.”

Cultural capital can be used as a resource in the form of museums and historical societies that help to preserve history and attract people to visit the community. Remember that community capitals are interconnected. Communities that do main street revitalizations with historic store fronts are using their cultural capital to develop other kinds of community capitals such as financial capital and built capital. Wamego is a fine example of a community that has capitalized on a cultural theme—the Wizard of Oz—in downtown revitalization.

Events and celebrations are just one element of cultural capital in a community. Getting work done depends on groups being able to work together for common goals. Cultural differences may sometimes get in the way. Conflicting cultural capital may exist when

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there are two different populations living together, with different traditions, history and values.

“Minority populations and new immigrant populations add richness to a community’s cultural capital when differences are embraced and celebrated.”

But those differences can also complicate decision making in a community when groups try to force their values on each other. Kansas communities are constantly changing and becoming more diverse. These changes can be perceived as a threat to “what was” or they can be an opportunity for “what could be.” Investing in cultural capital can enhance tourism, build social bonds, build unity among diverse populations, and define a community’s identity. As your community designs the future, determine what cultural capital exists, how it is currently being used and how it can be built upon in the future.

Source: *Jacobs, C. 2007. Extension Extra: Community Capitals: Cultural Capital. South Dakota State University Cooperative Extension. –submitted by Jennifer Wilson, Riley County Extension*

RESOURCES

Cultural Capital Development

The KU Institute for Social Policy and Research issues the Kansas Statistical Abstract annually. The abstract is a source for Kansas information on social, environmental, political and economic statistics. The statistical abstract

for 2009 is available for viewing or download at <http://www.ipsr.ku.edu/ksdata/ksah/ksa34.shtml>.

Additional Kansas information is easy to access at: www.ipsr.ku.edu/ksdata/kcced/profiles. When the Kansas map appears, simply click on the county of interest and you’ll have a wealth of information available at your fingertips!

The KSU Center for Engagement and Community Development hosted the Rural Grocery Summit in June of this year. Nearly 200 participants from across Kansas and other states participated in facilitated topic groups where they tackled challenges confronting rural grocery stores. Many communities embrace their grocery store as a part of the local culture. To see the proceedings and recommendations from the summit, go to: www.ruralgrocery.org

The Kansas Humanities Council creates, sponsors, and promotes humanities programs across Kansas. Through the humanities — history, literature, philosophy, and related areas — we gain understanding of where we’ve been, who we are, and what we’ve valued over time and across generations. <http://kansashumanities.org/site/>

The Community Resource Program provides mini-grants and technical support for a uniquely Kansas approach to community development and community learning. The program is designed to meet the educational, recreational, social, and cultural needs of all citizens. Based on the philosophy that each citizen has a skill, knowledge, experience, or idea to share, and that there are others in the community interested in learning; the program utilizes volunteer leaders, discovers untapped human resources, and offers classes and activities to the entire community. Often, courses lead to a community project enhancing the quality of life in the community, encouraging community spirit by bringing people together. Information on these mini-grants is available at: <http://www.k-state.edu/ufm/cra.htm>

Kansas Rural Communities Foundation

The formation of the Kansas Rural Communities Foundation (KRCF) in 2006 as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation created an efficient mechanism through which individuals, families, corporations, nonprofit organizations, and private foundations have been able to create funds and make gifts to benefit their communities.

Donated dollars have established scholarships, built new community playgrounds, assisted families who have children with disabilities, and aided historical preservation, just to name a few. Some of the communities that have benefited from the services provided by the KRCF include Havensville, Manhattan, Norton, Olsburg, Onaga, St. George, St. Marys, Wamego, Westmoreland, and Wheaton.

“The Kansas Rural Communities Foundation exists to help concerned individuals mobilize charitable giving to support the betterment of Kansas communities and organizations.”

To this end, the Foundation assists many communities in rural Kansas to provide or continue essential services, such as health care, telecommunications, education, environmental protection, libraries, community centers, parks/recreation and scholarships.

The Foundation allows communities, groups and organizations to focus on raising funds, retaining wealth and taking care of needs while not worrying about the administrative requirements and investment worries of a 501 (c) (3). Donors reap the tax benefits of donating to a 501 (c) (3). Those interested in setting up a fund can contact KRCF executive director René Eiche, at (785) 456-8443 or e-mail krcf@wamego.net. To learn of other community foundations in Kansas, contact Kansas Association of Community Foundations, <http://www.kansascsfs.org/>.

- submitted by Glenn Brunkow, Potawatomie County Extension

BOOK REVIEW

Smart Communities; How Citizens and Local Leaders Can Use Strategic Thinking to Build a Brighter Future

Suzanne Morse. 2004. Jossey-Bass Publishing.

Suzanne Morse is the executive director of the Pew Partnership for Civic Change. After years of research and comparing stories from across America, the author noticed common areas of focus in the most successful communities experiencing positive change. In *Smart Communities*, Morse identifies these key areas of investment. She states, “Communities that were having success were doing the following: investing right the first time; working together; building on community strengths; practicing democracy; preserving the past; growing leaders; and inventing a brighter future.”

Learning from success, Morse asserts that smart communities utilize these leverage areas as they approach long term strategic community change. An advocate of building on community capital assets, the author combines practical knowledge with examples of experienced community development success. “*Smart Communities*” is a good read for community development professionals or anyone working in community leadership.

- submitted by Dan Kahl, KSRE PRIDE Program

Upcoming Professional Development Events through KSU and Extension

Community Coaching Academy

A workshop for community development professionals who would like to explore the emerging field of Community Coaching. This six day workshop will offer current resources and opportunities for coaching skill development.

Northwest Region: Fall, 2010
Hays, KS Fall, 2010 September 22 & 23, 29 & 30 and October 6 & 7

Northeast Region: Spring, 2011
Manhattan, KS Spring, 2011 February 16 & 17, February 23 & 24, March 2 & 3

Community Development Academy

This workshop, offered concurrently with the coaching academy, is an opportunity for teams of community members to learn about and design strategies for participatory community development and then link to public and private resources to support their work.

Northwest Region: Fall 2010
Hays, KS Fall, 2010 September 23, 29 & 30 and October 6

Northeast Region: Spring 2011
Manhattan, KS Spring, 2011 February 17, 23 & 24, March 2

Public Issues Forums Facilitation

Leaders in the community are often called upon to organize, facilitate, and aid in community forums on issues critical to their local communities. This workshop is a three day training session that will prepare participants with necessary skills to serve as a vital leader in the future of their communities.

Registration will open in November. Watch the ICDD website for details: www.ksu.edu/cecd/icdd

Training Session Dates: January 10, 11 & 12

Foundations of Practice

Interested in becoming a more effective leader – ready, trained, and poised to help communities through these difficult times? Whether your background is in agriculture, natural resources, youth development, family, economic or community development, *Understanding Communities and Their Dynamics* offers you the skills and knowledge to be the positive force communities need.

Successful community engagement thrives on understanding the needs and conditions in your town, county, state or region. Tapping into a long legacy of one of the country's most respected organizations, this training, brought to you by the Cooperative Extension Service, will provide you the resources and strategies to support your work in communities. Best of all, this program comes to you, literally! Each week via Adobe Connect and Moodle online, an Extension Specialist will deliver world-class training to you in your office, conference room or even home. Information and registration can be found at: <http://srdc.msstate.edu/fop/>

E EVENTS

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USDA Rural Development to Host Workshops on Community Facility Applications

The Kansas USDA Rural Development will host a series of five Community Facility Program educational workshops this fall. The workshops will be held in locations across Kansas this September. Local government representatives, community organizations, recognized Indian Tribes and citizens interested in improving the quality of life in their community should attend. The Community Facility program supports facilities including but not limited to: Daycare Centers, Hospital Improvements, Elder care, Fire and Rescue protection, city hall, or other public buildings.

If you would like to attend these community workshops, please contact the Area Specialist hosting the workshop at the number below:

Date: **September 15**
Time: 8:30-12:00
Location: Hays NRCS Office
Area Specialist: David Barber
Phone: (785)628-3081

Date: **September 16**
Time: 8:30-12:00
Location: Dodge City, Victory Electric Cooperative
Area Specialist: David Barber
Phone: (785)628-3081

Date: **September 22**
Time: 1:00-5:00
Location: Newton Public Library
Area Specialist: Tom Finger
Phone: (316)283-0370

Date: **September 23**
Time: 8:00-11:30
Location: Concordia City Hall
Area Specialist: Kevin McCann
Phone: (785)776-7582

E CALENDAR

Dates to Remember

Community Coaching Academy

September 22 & 23, 29 & 30 and October 6 & 7 2010
February 16 & 17, February 23 & 24, March 2 & 3 2011

Community Development Academy

September 23, 29 & 30 and October 6, 2010
February 17, 23 & 24, March 2, 2011

Public Issues Forums Facilitation

January 10, 11 & 12, 2011

Foundations of Practice

October 8, 15, 22 & 29 and November 12 & 19, 2010

Community Facility Applications Workshops

September 14, 15, 16, 22 & 23, 2010

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