

# FILLMORE COUNTY DEVELOPMENT NEWS

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## Geneva Welding Expansion Adds Space, Jobs and Products

Steve Yates, owner of Geneva Welding since 1983, has done a major expansion at his business on 13th Street in Geneva. He recently completed a 11,200 Sq. Ft. building, purchased some new manufacturing equipment and has hired three new employees.

Yates said he plans to increase his retail supply area, expand his trailer business and is looking into some other types of products that will grow his business.

Currently he builds pivot bridges that he sells nation wide, builds utility trailers and does repair and custom welding.



Mr. Yates was able to take advantage of some low interest loans through the Geneva LB840 funds for economic development and the Southeast Nebraska Development District (SEND) revolving loan fund. He started planning his expansion several years ago and met with the FCDC staff, a NE Department of Economic Development Consultant and a business loan officer from SEND. He is excited to use the new building and equipment and provide quality products and service for his customers.

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Established in 1989, the **Fillmore County Development Corporation** is a non-profit corporation that fosters economic development within the county and local communities.

[www.fillmorecountydevelopment.org](http://www.fillmorecountydevelopment.org)

## Several Entrepreneurs Start New Businesses in Fillmore County

There is optimism and excitement among entrepreneurs as well as the citizens of Fillmore County as several new businesses have started in the county during the first part of 2010.

Mike Haumont is the owner of Computer Depot located in downtown Geneva. He offers computer sales, repair, accessories, home networking, business network support, website design and Quickbooks consulting.

Nevaeh Boutique is another new Geneva downtown business. The boutique offers clothing styles for young women and girls and fun accessories that would suit anyone. Stacey Miller is the proprietor. (continued p. 3)

# TOURISM AT WORK FOR NEBRASKA

Did you know that. . .

- ◆ Travelers spent over \$3.7 billion in Nebraska during 2008.
- ◆ State tax revenues from tourist totaled \$131.4 million.
- ◆ Tourism-related industries employ 40,000 Nebraskans
- ◆ Tourism is Nebraska's third largest earner of revenue from outside the state.

Tourism is great for the local economy because it brings new money to the County. Although Fillmore County doesn't have any theme parks, large lakes, or mountains it does have convenience/gas stations, restaurants, retail stores, repair shops and etc. where travelers spend money. Those dollars help increase the bottom line for small businesses.

This fall the Fillmore County Visitors Committee will subscribe to the "Red Carpet Training". Any business, organization, or classroom will have access to the training and can do it on line and at a time convenient to them. The training will help front line people, the people who see travelers first, know how to welcome visitors and give them the information they need and want. Contact the FCDC office at 759-4910 or email: [lentfer.fcdc@genevemail.com](mailto:lentfer.fcdc@genevemail.com). to access the training.



The FC Visitors Committee website [www.visitfillmorecounty.org](http://www.visitfillmorecounty.org) has information about lodging, restaurants, services, shopping, attractions and events. It is important to keep the information accurate so businesses and event organizers are asked to supply current information to the Fillmore County Development office so updates can be made.

To find out about the [Economic and Demographic Trends in Fillmore County](#) and the surrounding area go the FCDC website ([www.fillmorecountydevelopment.org](http://www.fillmorecountydevelopment.org)) and click on the PROFILE tab. Then scroll down to the community listing and click on any community. The report was prepared by Jenny Overhue, Nebraska Public Power District in June of 2010.

## YOUNG LEADER GROUP BEGINS

*Young Leaders of Fillmore County* is the name of a group of young adults who want to ensure that Fillmore County continues to grow, thrive and be a great place to call home. The YLFC mission is to CREATE opportunities, ENHANCE our county and SUSTAIN a strong future together.

The first organizational meeting was held in March and nearly 50 people attended. Christin Lovegrove was chosen President, Valerie Turner Vice-President, and Dayle Taylor Secretary/Treasurer. Committees formed were Community Relationships, Marketing, Membership, and Social. Twenty-nine members have volunteered to serve on a committee.

Any young adult between the ages of 21 and 38 who lives or works in Fillmore County is encouraged to join YLFC. (Email: [ylfc@hotmail.com](mailto:ylfc@hotmail.com) or go to [www.ylfc.wordpress.com](http://www.ylfc.wordpress.com))



A group of volunteers called the Fillmore County Barn Quilt Committee and the Fillmore County Visitors Committee are trying to develop a new tourism attraction in Fillmore County—Barn Quilts. Barn quilts are usually 8 x 8 pieces of wood painted with a quilt block design. The quilt block is then attached to barns or other large structures.

The Barn Quilt project goals are to promote agri-tourism and help preserve rural architecture and local culture by showcasing the legacy of quilts and their artistic patterns on barns and other structures. The plan is to have 16 quilts on barns throughout Fillmore County in the next 18-24 months.

### TIRE RECYCLING

August 6, noon to 6:00 pm

Roads H & 14 near Fairmont Airfield

No rims, no dealers



**New Businesses** (continued from p. 1)

Jennie Lovegrove moved back to Fillmore County and has opened Lovegrove Personal Training. She is a National Strength & Conditioning Association Certified Personal Trainer. She teaches strength and conditioning classes on Monday, Wednesday and Fridays for the Fillmore County Hospital. She also does individual and small group personal training.

A new business also opened in Ohioa. Verlyn Meyer opened his business, Meyer Seed and Supply in the building that was formerly the Ohioa Methodist church. He sells NK and NC+ seed. He also carries a variety of supplies for plumbing, sprayers, and builds hydraulic hoses. Batteries, filters, oil and some repair parts are also available.



**Lentfer and Johnson Attend the SE Nebraska Economic Development 2010 Summit**

Patt Lentfer and Mary Johnson attended the SE Nebraska Economic Development Summit held in Lincoln on June 16<sup>th</sup>.

Angelos Angelou and Steve Vierck of Angelou-economics presented the final report of the Southeast Regional RIG (Regional Innovation Grant) study. Communities that regionalize will gain the competitive edge.

David Landis facilitated the Regional Workforce & Economic Development Efforts panel. He stated "Working together regionally is the way to get things accomplished. Labor sheds and opportunities do not follow political boundaries."

Panel presenters were: Dr. Eric Thompson and Jason Ball-Entrepreneurship/Innovation, Jim Linderholm-"Project Lead the Way", Stephanie Dostal-Networking Young Professionals Groups across Nebraska, Jason Smith-Efforts of the Lincoln Area Development Partners

Keynote speaker at the luncheon was Rebecca Ryan. She is the founder of Next Generation Consulting and the author of Live First, Work Second. Rebecca inspires audience members to build better places to live and work for the next generation.

**FCDC Director's Notes . . .**

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*They say nothing ever stays the same and that is certainly true in Fillmore County. That really came to mind as I was working on a report about the economic growth during the last three years. I needed to determine the number of new businesses, business expansions., business closings, and how many businesses transitioned to new owners. Working with the city and village clerks I attempted to come up with the numbers.*

- New businesses 17 (Two manufacturers)
- Business expansions 8
- Business transitions 6
- Business closings 5

*The research showed that while 65 jobs were lost 105 jobs were created or retained.*

*There is other progress in the county as well. Housing rehabilitation programs are at work in Fairmont and Geneva. Plans for revitalizing downtown Geneva have been drawn-up and the Fillmore County hospital has done a facility feasibility study and is looking towards the future. Entrepreneurs continue to stop in the office to ask questions and find resources.*

*As the FCDC works to diversity our local economy, broaden the tax base and provide employment opportunities, citizen input and participation is important. We welcome your comments, concerns, and suggestions. For more information about anything mentioned, email lentfer.fcdc@genevaimail.com or call 759-4910.*

*Patt Lentfer*



**Odegeo...Leadership for Fillmore County**

The fourteenth Odegeo...Leadership for Fillmore County class will begin in September. Applications are due on July 31st.

Throughout the nine months participants will learn more about Fillmore County and the opportunities and challenges facing its citizens by examining the history, government, health care, education, businesses, and legal system. Individuals will also have the opportunity to meet new people and examine and strengthen their own leadership skills.

The 2010-2011 class schedule and topics as well as the application is available on the FCDC website or by contacting any of the FCDC Leadership Development committee members or the staff at the FCDC office.

