



ECIA Spotlight

July 2021

Dyersville Receives \$1.5 Million

A \$1.5 million federal infrastructure grant will help the City of Dyersville achieve its longtime goal of connecting municipal utilities to the Field of Dreams movie site while also creating hundreds of new jobs and providing significant economic development opportunities. U.S. Secretary of Commerce Gina M. Raimondo announced July 15 that the Department's Economic Development Administration is awarding the CARES Act Recovery Assistance grant to Dyersville to create and expand water and wastewater infrastructure to support tourism and business growth. This EDA grant, written by ECIA's Mark Schneider (recently retired), and matched with \$1 million in local funds, is expected to create 350 jobs and generate \$90 million in private investment. City Administrator Mick Michel said the grant will help facilitate running sewer and some water main to the Field of Dreams. "It will help to service that whole area. Really as a city, it is our corporate responsibility to make sure we can supply municipal services within city limits," Michel said. "It's taken us a long time to find outside funding, and we will continue to look for additional outside funding to avoid depleting water and sewer funds."

More Hometown Pride Communities

Keep Iowa Beautiful (KIB) has announced a new partnership to expand KIB's Hometown Pride program with the East Central Intergovernmental Association (ECIA), the Delaware County Board of Supervisors, Cedar County Economic Development and 15 communities: Edgewood, Manchester, Delhi, Ryan, Dundee, Delaware, Hopkinton, Colesburg, Greeley, Earlville, Masonville, Mechanicsville, Stanwood, Tipton, and West Branch. Through the Hometown Pride program, Keep Iowa Beautiful is building strong communities with sustainable futures.

The Hometown Pride program enhances the economic and cultural vitality of communities by supporting, facilitating, and furthering the implementation of community and county plans and ideas in a coordinated strategy for five years with the assistance of a community coach.

"Keep Iowa Beautiful is excited to partner with ECIA and leaders in Cedar County and Delaware County," said Kevin Techau, Executive Director of Keep Iowa Beautiful. "As a result, 15 communities will have the potential to increase their cultural and economic vitality improving them as great places to live, work and raise a family."

"We are very excited to help KIB expand the Hometown Pride program to 15 communities in Cedar County and Delaware County," said Kelley Deutmeyer, Executive Director of ECIA. Marla Quinn and Jennifer Walker will serve as Hometown Coaches for the participating communities in Delaware County and Cedar County respectively. The Hometown Pride program is operating in Clinton, Dubuque, Jackson, Jones, Pocahontas and Warren counties with 51 communities participating. Thirty-nine communities in Fremont, Jasper, Louisa and Sac have participated in the Hometown Pride program.



Port Infrastructure Grant

The City of Dubuque will receive \$5 million to make rail and fertilizer storage improvements in the Port of Dubuque. The U.S. Department



of Transportation recently approved the grant, which will see the renovation of an existing fertilizer storage shed at Gavilon Grain LLC. Officials also will use the funds to replace and upgrade approximately 7,300 feet of inoperable rail and relocate another 2,800 feet of rail to improve the loading and unloading of fertilizer and other bulk products. The grant will also pay for new rail equipment.

City of Dubuque Director of Strategic Partnerships, Teri Goodmann said this is the third time the city has applied for federal money to fund the project. "These are global, intermodal connectors — the river, the rails and the roads. It's essential to ag producers and the people who work at Gavilon." Goodmann said the city's application was for \$6.8 million, the total cost of the project. But the DOT offered \$5 million. In order to secure the grant, Gavilon committed to paying the remaining \$1.8 million. Goodmann said, "The infrastructure upgrades will benefit other services, including bringing in road salt for use on streets each winter." The project was identified as a need in a study released in 2018 by ECIA.

\$776,860 21st CCLC Grant Awarded

The Iowa Department of Education recently awarded Andrew and Easton Valley Community School Districts a five-year grant of \$776,860 from its 21st Century Community Learning Center program. The program helps students meet state and local student standards in core academic subjects, such as reading and math; offers students a broad array of enrichment activities that can complement their regular academic programs; and offers literacy and other educational services to the families of participating children. Andrew CSD had a 21st Century grant previously and decided to expand the successful program to Easton Valley. ECIA staff worked with the superintendent and principals to write and secure the grant that will provide funds for academic, enrichment, and family literacy activities before and after school and during the summer.

Tipton Tidbits

Tipton Tigers Sculptures

Following the August 10, 2020 derecho and a Presidential Disaster declaration for Cedar County, the area was left with hundreds of dead and damaged trees. In Tipton, instead of just chopping them up or hauling them away, citizens found a creative way to transform some of the wreckage into a lasting, magical transformation. Linda Beck, Tipton's development director said, "We decided that we wanted to embellish what we had lost and make it magical and beautiful." The community raised over \$7,000 in donations to hire Clint Henik, a Mt. Vernon chainsaw artist, to create sculptures from damaged trees. Since the Tipton High School mascot is the tiger, the subject matter choice was easy. Three tiger sculptures have been completed and Beck says the community plans to keep raising money to transform even more trees. The project has been both healing for a community deeply ravaged by the derecho, and a unique and clever way to repurpose the beautiful trees that lined Tipton streets for decades.

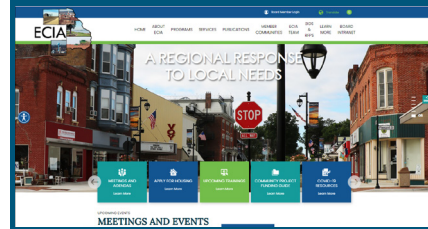


Another Catalyst Grant!

Tipton City Manager, Brian Wagner, recently announced great news for the community. The City won its second Catalyst Grant of \$100,000 from the Iowa Economic Development Authority (IEDA) for the renovation of the historic Hardacre Theatre. This is the first time in grant history that two Catalyst grants have been awarded for the same building. The first grant was for the renovation of second floor apartments, while this grant will go towards theater renovation. The Hardacre Theater Preservation Association, with ECIA's assistance, just submitted a workforce housing tax-credit application for the apartments on the second floor of the Hardacre.

ECIA's New Website is Live!

Check it out at www.ecia.org.



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