



Rush County Industrial Development, Inc.

ANNUAL REPORT

January 2017

2016 - Keeping our County Moving Forward

Survey of Residents: In late December 2015, Rush County Economic Development sent a survey to post office box holders in Rush County to gather public opinion to serve as a tool to update the county's strategic plan and set goals for our future. The survey closed on January 31, 2016. In spring 2016, all High School Juniors and Seniors in Otis-Bison USD 403 and La Crosse USD 395 were given an opportunity to give their opinions as well. The survey data is being compiled and we hope to have summaries available by the annual meeting. Information will also be posted on our website at: www.rushcounty.org/EconDev.



In fall 2015, residents of Alexander were saddened to learn that their 100 year old Alexander State Bank building was being demolished to make room for construction of the wind farm office. However, citizens were pleased to learn that the design of the new office was a nearly exact replica of the former bank.

SCORE for business: RCID and RCED have teamed up to bring support to local businesses through SCORE (Service Corp of Retired Executives), an agency of the United States Small Business Administration. SCORE provides mentoring services to new or struggling businesses through a network of experienced professionals at no charge. RCED plans to provide a series of seminars in 2017 for such topics as Properly Insuring Your Business, and Succession Planning for entrepreneurs contemplating retirement.

Alexander Wind Farm: In February 2016, NJR Clean Energy Ventures completed construction on the Alexander Wind Farm. Covering nearly 7000 acres, the 21 generators produce 51 megawatts of energy. The wind farm has been beneficial to the local economy through payments to landowners and financial contributions to local government. Additional wind farms in the county are in the planning stages.

Shop-at-Home, Stop-at-Home: In August, RCID and RCED, in cooperation with Rush County Chamber of Commerce, sponsored a program to encourage locals to shop at home. The main goal of the program was to raise awareness of products and services available locally by asking residents to check with their local merchants before going out of town to make a purchase.

participants needed to spend \$75 per month in any retail or service business located in the county including home based businesses. If each household spent an additional \$75 per month it would inject over \$1.7 million annually into the local economy.

Participants were given a shop-at-home passport where they were asked to record purchases made locally. To be eligible for the grand prize of \$500 in Chamber Bucks and other prizes totaling over \$1,200,

Nearly 100 people turned in passports for the drawing held during the Christmas kick-off in November. RCED received a number of positive comments from citizens, some of whom expressed surprise at "the amount of money I spend at home." RCED plans to repeat the program in fall 2017.

Who is RCID?

RCID is a stockholder-owned, not-for-profit Kansas corporation established in 1969 and reorganized in 1989. Its official Statement of Purpose is "To promote the development of Rush County and to offer benefits to the patrons of Rush County."

In the past few years, RCID has provided in excess of \$100,000 in financial assistance and incentives for new business and business expansion.

The board of directors of Rush County Industrial Development has also served as the administrative board for Rush County Economic Development (RCED). In cooperation with the Rush County Commission, RCID administered tax funds designated for economic development.

In the Digital Age...

RCED offers free website listings for commercial buildings and sites for sale or lease. We also provide free website design and maintenance, assistance in marketing, and design of promotional materials for communities and public organizations in Rush County.



Business Opportunity: RCID is currently offering the former Post Rock Variety/Ben Franklin building for sale or lease to a new or expanding business. The building is a turn-key operation with shelving and equipment in place. Business incentives are available. RCID is committed to bringing a beneficial and viable business to the community. If you know of anyone who is interested, contact us at 785-222-2808. More information is on our website at: www.rushcounty.org/EconDev at the **Commercial Property Listings** link.