

Bus Tour (continued from front page)

Handeland Chiropractic, a new business in Clarkfield. Dr. Brad Handeland used RLF funds to purchase equipment and remodel office space in the Clarkfield Mini Mall.

For lunch, we walked to the Friendship Café, also in the Clarkfield Mini Mall. Trevor Suckow, one of the café owners, greeted us with some background on Friendship Café and shared how he used RLF funds to purchase the café. Gene Kockleman, Clarkfield Mayor and Steve Weske, Clarkfield City Administrator, joined us as we enjoyed a lunch of burgers chosen from the vast burger menu at Friendship Café.

After lunch, we re-boarded the bus and drove to Swift Manufacturing near Clara City. We toured Swift with Doug Buchanan, who showed us the innovative work Swift is doing with elevators, grain dryers, and other agriculture and manufacturing products. Swift Manufacturing is an RLF borrower; they used funds for working capital to expand their sales territory and enhance marketing efforts for new product lines.

From Swift, we made our way into Clara City, where we got a tour of the old Clara City School. It is being redeveloped into apartments, a community center, and catering facility by a company called Caring Bridge LLC. As we left Caring Bridge Apartments, we drove past more Small Cities Development Program commercial rehabilitation recipients: Main Street Fitness, Kay's Processing, and Kegger's Bar and Grill.

Next, we drove to Granite Falls where we were greeted at City Hall by Mayor Dave Smiglewski, City Manager Bill Lavin, and former UMRVDC Executive Director Paul Michaelson. There was a short presentation on the work the UMRVDC continues to do with the Granite Falls flood and disaster recovery. We rode the bus all around the city of Granite Falls to look at the many projects that have been worked on, such as the building of a levy, flood wall, moving homes and businesses out of the flood plain, and their new City Hall building. There have been many accomplishments made in Granite Falls to protect it from future flooding.

The group then heard from the Granite Falls Riverfront Revitalization Team. The group used the strategic planning services of the UMRVDC to help narrow down their list of potential projects, and match those projects with potential resources.



The group has purchased the K.K. Berge building and is working to raise the main floor to bring it above the flood plain. Greeting us and explaining the project were Dennis VanHoof, Granite Falls Economic Development Authority Director; Nicole Zempel, Granite Falls Chamber of Commerce Executive Director; and Brad Hall, a volunteer. The work on the building is scheduled to be completed by the first weekend in October, just in time for Granite Falls to host the kick-off event for the Meander Art Crawl. Both VanHoof and Zempel expressed appreciation for the work done by the UMRVDC, especially our efforts in regional tourism with programs like Prairie Waters.

After we left downtown Granite Falls, we made a stop at the Yellow Medicine County Historical Society Museum. The Museum is the site of one of the Minnesota River Valley National Scenic Byway Interpretive panels designed by UMRVDC staff. The panel is near the world's oldest rock, and is one of a series of panels placed by the Byway.

As we left Granite Falls and headed back to Maynard, there was lots of discussion on the bus about all the projects we had seen throughout the day. It was the first time many of our board members had seen first-hand examples of the work the UMRVDC staff does on a daily basis.

The bus brought us back to the Maynard Event Center for the Annual Meeting. We were joined by Mayor Richard Groothuis, who shared details about the renovation and process of using the SCDP funds for the Event Center. After the business portion of the meeting was completed, we enjoyed a meal catered by Budger's Dinner House of Maynard.

Board members and staff agreed that the day was packed full of useful information, and that seeing so many examples of our work in the region makes us proud to be a part of the UMRVDC!

For more photos from the tour, visit our website at www.umvrdc.org.

phone: 320-289-1981 fax: 320-289-1983 www.umvrdc.org



Upper Minnesota Valley
**REGIONAL
DEVELOPMENT
COMMISSION**

323 W. Schlieman Ave.
Appleton, MN 56208

Helping Communities Prosper

Mark Your Calendar!

October 20, 5:30 - 8:30 p.m.
MIRC/Extension Workshop
"Financial Transactions Online"
Montevideo Middle School
Computer Lab
www.umvrdc.org for more info

October 25, 6:30 p.m.
UMVRDC Monthly Meeting
Appleton Civic Center
www.umvrdc.org

October 26, 3:00 - 7:00 p.m.
Knowledge Worker Course
Ortonville
www.umvrdc.org for more info

October 27, 5:30 - 8:30 p.m.
MIRC/Extension Workshop
"Google Tools" Granite Falls
MN West Campus Computer Lab
www.umvrdc.org for more info

November 3, 5:30 - 8:30 p.m.
MIRC/Extension Workshop
"Marketing Your Website"
Canby H.S. Computer Lab
www.umvrdc.org for more info

November 10, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
MIRC/Extension Workshop
"Roadside Advertising in a Digital Age"
Clara City Library
www.umvrdc.org for more info

November 17, 5:00 - 8:00 p.m.
MIRC/Extension Workshop
"Websites Simple to Complex"
Appleton/Milan Elementary School
Computer Lab
www.umvrdc.org for more info

November 22, 2010, 6:30 p.m.
UMVRDC Monthly Meeting
Appleton Civic Center
www.umvrdc.org

November 30, 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.
MIRC/Extension Workshop
"Mobile e-Marketing"
LQP Computer Commuter
Dawson City Building Parking Lot
www.umvrdc.org for more info

December 1, 5:00 - 8:00 p.m.
MIRC/Extension Workshop
"Using Social Media in Business"
Benson Public Library Computer Lab
www.umvrdc.org for more info

November 24, 2011 - Happy Thanksgiving!
The UMRVDC office is closed Nov. 24-25



Regional Outlook

Quarterly Newsletter | September 2011

Vol. 33 No. 1

323 W. Schlieman Ave. Appleton, MN 56208 phone: 320-289-1981 www.umvrdc.org



Minnesota River Valley National Scenic Byway Receives Federal Highway Administration Grant

The Federal Highway Administration has announced awards under the National Scenic Byways Program for fiscal year 2011, and the Minnesota River Valley National Scenic Byway (MRVSB) was awarded \$119,712. The grant was written by the Upper Minnesota Valley Regional Development Commission with direction from the Byway Alliance, which guides the MRVSB.

The grant will be used to update and expand the MRVSB's existing Corridor Management Plan (CMP). Through a planning process that includes public

outreach, the Byway will update information in their existing CMP, incorporate accomplishments, develop new strategies, and identify new partnerships. The project will also expand the interpretation and marketing plans in the CMP. Through the interpretive plan, the grant allows for the research, writing and design of 10 new interpretive panels. Finally, the MRVSB website will be updated with all the new information from this planning process.

The project is estimated to take three years to complete.

UMVRDC Board & Staff Take Bus Tour Around Region

The UMRVDC held our annual meeting on Tuesday, July 26. This year's meeting capped off a day of touring the region and visiting some of the cities and businesses that the UMRVDC has impacted with our work.

UMVRDC Staff and Board members started the day at the Maynard Event Center with a presentation by Jacki Anderson on the Department of Employment & Economic Development (DEED) Small Cities Development Program (SCDP). We were also joined by Bill Kashmark of Prairie Five Community Action Council who works closely with the UMRVDC on SCDP projects.

We boarded a Prairie Five Rides bus in Maynard and drove through town while Bill pointed out some of the businesses and homes that were rehabilitated through SCDP grant funds. Jacki also talked about the SCDP funds that helped the city of Maynard build the Event Center.



From there we drove to Clarkfield, where we again saw many SCDP rehabilitation projects. Bill was able to give us great insight into how important the SCDP program is to our cities and recipients; he shared many examples of people who would not have been able to stay in their homes without the help of SCDP. We were also able to see how the UMRVDC Revolving Loan Fund has made an impact on Clarkfield businesses. We toured Clarkfield Family Foods, where RLF funds were used for remodeling and purchasing new coolers. We also toured

(Bus Tour continued inside)

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University of Minnesota Extension and Minnesota Intelligent Rural Communities (MIRC) Offer Business Internet Workshops

You've probably been hearing a lot about MIRC...Minnesota Intelligent Rural Communities. The UMRDC continues to be one of the Blandin Foundation's 11 demonstration communities across the state, and is the only "region" selected for the program. Each demonstration community is working to bring a network of resources and support to rural Minnesota individuals and communities, especially those unemployed and seeking employment, small businesses, coalitions of government entities, and local leaders.

Last year several introductory broadband classes were offered throughout the region, and this fall we are pleased to offer a second series of business internet workshops. The fall line-up for free workshops is listed below. Workshops will be presented by the University of Minnesota Extension educators. We hope you, your business and your community can take advantage of these great opportunities!

Financial Transactions Online..... Montevideo
Thur., Oct. 20, 2011, 5:30-8:30 pm
Montevideo Middle School Computer Lab
1501 William Ave, Montevideo
Register at 320-269-5527 or angela@montechamber.com

Participants will explore the use of online check-out tools like PayPal and online banking platforms to help make more informed decisions.

Google ToolsGranite Falls
Thur., Oct. 27, 2011, 5:30-8:30 pm
Minnesota West Granite Falls Campus Computer Lab
1593 Eleventh Ave, Granite Falls
Register at 320-564-2255 or eda@granitefalls.com

Participants will set up a Google account and learn how to use Gmail, Calendar, Google Docs and Google Talk to make operations more efficient.

Marketing Your Website.....Canby
Thur., Nov. 3, 2011, 6:00-9:00 pm,
Canby High School Computer Lab, Rm 109
307 1st Street W, Canby
Register at 507-223-7295 or cityadm@canby.mntm.org

Learn the most effective ways to market websites. Topics

include getting found by search engines, viral marketing and using online tools like e-newsletters to drive traffic to your site.

Roadside Advertising in a Digital AgeClara City
Thur., Nov. 10, 2011, 9:00 am-12:00 pm
Clara City Library
126 N. Main Street, Clara City
Register at 320-847-2142 or cityadmin@hcinet.net

Learn how digital maps not only describe in detail how to reach a destination, but give advice on the goods or services and why this should be a key part of your business marketing. Gain the know-how and learn the tools to get on digital maps.

Websites Simple to Complex.....Appleton
Thur., Nov. 17, 2011, 5:00-8:00 pm
Appleton/Milan Elementary School Computer Lab
349 Edquist Street S., Appleton
Register at 320-289-1981 or dawn.hegland@umvrdc.org

Learn about the options available for creating a business website including the free and easy to use resources, moderately priced customizable websites, and more complex websites. Learn tips related to working with web designers and programmers, and understanding pricing.

Mobile e-Marketing Dawson
Thursday, November 30, 2011, 6:00 to 9:00 pm
Lac qui Parle Computer Commuter
Dawson City Building Parking Lot, 675 Chestnut Street
Register at 320-598-3403, ext 0 or 320-598-7976
or eda@lqpc.com

People everywhere are using hand held mobile devices like iPhones, Android phones or tablets to search the Internet. Find out how to build your own mobile website or app, and how you can integrate QR codes and digital coupons into your business.

Using Social Media in BusinessBenson
Thursday, December 1, 2011, 5:00 to 8:00 p.m.
Benson Public Library Computer Lab
200 13th St. N., Benson
Register at 320-843-3618 or
beneschamber@embarqmail.com

Explore basic fundamentals of popular social networking sites, see examples of other businesses using social media, and learn potential benefits social media could bring to your business and community.



UMVRDC Welcomes New Staff

If you've visited the UMRDC office recently, you've probably noticed some new faces.

We have a new administrative assistant, Jackie Sigdahl. Jackie is a familiar face to many in Appleton, as she was employed at Corrections Corporation of America for 18 years as Manager of Human Resources. Jackie lives in rural Madison with her husband Gary and their three children.

We have also been joined by Lindsey Knutson, our new transportation planner. Lindsey received a Bachelor of Science in Interior Design and Bachelor of Arts in Art History from the University of Wisconsin—Madison. She received a Master's Degree in Urban and Regional Planning at the University of Minnesota—Twin Cities Humphrey School of Public Affairs. She has a background in transportation planning including transit, trails, and bicycle and pedestrian planning. Lindsey is originally from Hudson, Wisconsin, and currently lives in Appleton.

Stop in and say hello the next time you're in Appleton and meet our new staff!



Jackie Sigdahl



Lindsey Knutson

Welcoming a New Commission Member



We would like to introduce one of our newest commission members, Jim Schmaedeka.

Jim is the representative for Chippewa County Townships, and has been on the Louriston Township Board for ten years. He is also on the Chippewa County Township Association Board. Jim has farmed in Chippewa County for 35 years. He has been married to Lori for 32 years, and they have two children: daughter Kayla in Denver, CO, and son Justin, who lives on his grandparent's farm.

We look forward to working with Jim and hearing his perspectives as a long-time resident of our region. Welcome, Jim!



Jim Schmaedeka
Chippewa County Townships

Mission

Enable the region to thrive through assisting local governments

Contact us:

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UMVRDC Hosts Two-Day MIRC Tour for Blandin Foundation and NTIA

On September 26th and 27th, the UMRDC hosted Blandin Foundation staff and representatives along with two Department of Commerce National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) Representatives who were in Minnesota monitoring Minnesota Intelligent Rural Communities (MIRC) projects.

The tour began Monday night at the Lakewood Lodge in Ortonville with Vicki Oakes, EDA Coordinator, presenting an overview of the joint Ortonville School/EDA MIRC project. The project is helping local businesses create an online presence through either websites or web pages connected to the EDA website. It is one of six projects in the region that was funded by the MIRC program.

The tour continued on Tuesday in Madison with a firsthand look at the Lac qui Parle Computer Commuter. Pam Lehmann, EDA Executive Director, and Mary Quick, Computer Commuter Coordinator, talked about the outreach that was happening because of the Computer Commuter. The group then continued on to the Dawson/Boyd School, where Principal Keri Bergeson

showed off their rehabilitated Multi-Collaboration Center; and then a stop in Appleton at Pioneer Public TV where Les Heen, General Manager, told the group how they were developing content for the PBS series "Need to Know" which will look at rural broadband challenges and opportunities.

The two-day tour ended Tuesday afternoon where the group joined a University of Minnesota Extension workshop. The workshop was to familiarize local economic development professionals with the upcoming series of broadband classes being offered throughout the region.

The tour was a success, and a great showing of projects, collaboration and the dedication our region has to furthering technology. Bernadine Joselyn, the Blandin Foundation's Director of Public Policy and Engagement, wrote a note of thanks to the region, saying she left the tour feeling "impressed and INSPIRED!"

For more information about the region's MIRC projects visit our website at www.umvrdc.org or call the UMRDC at 320.289.1981.

Prairie Waters Hosts 2011 Annual Gathering

There were approximately 55 people in attendance at Tokheim Stoneware near Dawson on August 31st for the Western Minnesota Prairie Waters Annual Gathering.



The attendees of this year's Annual Gathering were treated to a free Tokheim Mug specially made for the event, appetizers made from local foods, and freshly-pressed grape juice from Lac qui Parle Valley Vineyard. Gene and Lucy Tokheim gave guests a tour of their studio and kiln, put on a demonstration of throwing a pot on the potting wheel, and let people explore their wonderful farm. It was a superb setting for a gathering!

Our goal in hosting an event like the Annual Gathering is to highlight the hidden treasures in the Prairie Waters region, while

educating people about Prairie Waters and the work we do to promote our area as a regional great place to live, work and play. This allows us to advertise collaboratively and produce the Visitors Guide and maintain the www.PrairieWaters.com website.



Lucy Tokheim gives guests a tour of the kiln.

Please let your city and county representatives know that Prairie Waters Regional Tourism is important to you! Prairie Waters is supported by the counties of Chippewa, Lac qui Parle, and Swift and the cities of Appleton, Clara City, Dawson, Granite Falls, Hanley Falls, Madison, Marietta, Milan, and Montevideo.

For more information about Prairie Waters, visit www.PrairieWaters.com or call 888.888.5432.