

District III Digest

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Prairieland Housing Development Project Update... Four Down, Four to Go!

Prairieland Housing Development (PHD) is in the process of closing on its fourth sale of a Governor's House developed using one of the "split foyer" designs in White Lake. The house is located in a growing subdivision on the east side of town. The neighborhood is close to the school and the home features three finished bedrooms, entry foyer, and double garage. The lower level is also framed so that the rooms are already defined and will be easier to finish.



PHD House in White Lake

PHD has strived to develop housing in rural communities to increase their tax base and assist first time homebuyers realize the dream of home ownership. The medium used by PHD is the Governor's House program created by the South Dakota Housing Development Authority. PHD orders the homes and they are delivered to the site. Once placed on the foundation, garages and entries are added by local contractors. The homes are then placed on the market targeted to low income homebuyers.

Four homes remain in PHD's first project, located in White Lake, Alexandria, and Emery. Please see the newsletter insert for locations, styles, and prices.

PHD is currently considering Lyman County as the next development location. In response to recent economic trends, the scale of the Lyman County may be adjusted to minimize investment risks. For example, PHD may develop three or four homes instead of eight.

If you would like to learn more about Prairieland Housing Development and what we can do for your community, please call Eric at the District III office at (605) 665-4408.

District III Offers Assistance to Innovative Workforce Development Partnership

District III has been working closely with two of the educational institutions in our region on a workforce development project. The Regional Technical Education Center (RTEC) and Mitchell Technical Institute (MTI) are making a joint effort to bring more training dollars to the region. As a result, District III has recently written and submitted three grant applications on behalf of the Regional Technical Education Center (RTEC) to the US Department of Labor.

The first of these was for \$75,000 under a solicitation called "Workforce Investment Act – Small Grassroots Organizations Connecting with the One-Stop Delivery System". If successful, funds will be used for a case management specialist who will act as a guidance counselor of sorts in providing support and encouragement to individuals as they navigate the wide variety of training resources available to them.

The second grant application was for the solicitation called "High Growth Job Training and Initiative Grants for the Advance Manufacturing Industry". RTEC applied for \$958,300 in partnership with Mitchell Technical Institute (MTI) to deliver a two-tract approach to advanced manufacturing training which will provide a traditional two year degree in machine tool technology or skill upgrades to the James Valley region. This opportunity is highly competitive with only 10-12 awards anticipated nationwide.

(Continued on page 2)

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

2	Director's Corner
2	District III Announcements & Deadlines
3	District III Website Traffic Increasing
4	Areawide Business Council Update
4	Small Business Development Center Report
4	New Addition to GIS Staff
5	GIS Partnership with DOT Recently Featured in Professional Publication
5	Annual STC to be held in Oacoma
5	Governor's House Program Guidelines
5	South Dakota Housing Program Info



DIRECTOR'S CORNER

By Greg Henderson

John Stekly

The untimely loss of John Stekly has left a void in the leadership of Platte and the region. "Doc" Stekly was an unabashed advocate for his community and rural development. He possessed a rare combination of energy, persistence, and a razor sharp wit. I could always count on John to put elected officials on the spot at our annual legislative dinners. He knew his facts and wasn't shy about expressing dissatisfaction with public policies.



Leadership is something many people aspire to and few effectively utilize. John Stekly made a difference by being actively engaged in the life of his community. His accomplishments will continue to bear fruit far into the future. □

"Leadership is an opportunity to serve. It is not a trumpet call to self importance."

--Author Unknown

Partnership

The region is benefiting from an emerging partnership between the Mitchell Technical Institute (MTI) and the Yankton-based Regional Technical Education Center (RTEC). The entities are working together on two federal workforce development proposals. Their combined efforts may bring additional training dollars to the region which will enhance technical education for high school students and manufacturing employees.

More information about this joint effort is in the article on the front page of this edition of the District III Digest. □

State Water Plan Applications Due October 1st

The State Water Plan was established by the state legislature in 1972 to implement state policy on water resource management and to identify projects needing funding assistance. Potential water and wastewater projects need to be on the plan in order to be eligible for funding assistance from the South Dakota Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and other state and federal sources. The upcoming deadline for State Water Plan applications is October 1st, although applications are accepted on a quarterly basis.

Projects requesting placement onto the plan must include a preliminary engineering study and should be ready for implementation within two years. If no construction occurs within this period of time, the project will be dropped from the list unless an application is resubmitted. If you are unsure whether your project is already on the plan or may be due to expire, District III has the current list of projects on the plan.

District III staff will be assisting several communities with their State Water Plan applications.

If your community needs assistance, or if you have general questions about the application process, please call the District III Office or send us an email at districtiii@districtiii.org. □

DISTRICT III ANNOUNCEMENTS & DEADLINES

- SEPTEMBER 4: LABOR DAY – OFFICE CLOSED
- SEPTEMBER 13: EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING IN WAGNER
- SEPTEMBER 15: MARY CHILTON FOUNDATION APPLICATIONS DUE
- OCTOBER 1: CONSOLIDATED APPLICATIONS DUE
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT APPLICATIONS DUE
STATE WATER PLAN APPLICATIONS DUE
DEADWOOD FUND APPLICATIONS DUE
- OCTOBER 9: NATIVE AMERICAN DAY – OFFICE CLOSED
- OCTOBER 11: FULL COMMITTEE & EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETINGS IN TYNDALL
- OCTOBER 15: SRF APPLICATIONS DUE

Your "one stop shop" for economic development is now easily accessible on-line. For information on...

- Funding Programs
- Planning Assistance
- Marketing Assistance
- Housing Programs
- GIS/Mapping Services
- Areawide Business Council
- Small Business Development Center
- Regional Classified Ads
- Census Information
- Business Support Services
- Tourism
- And Much More



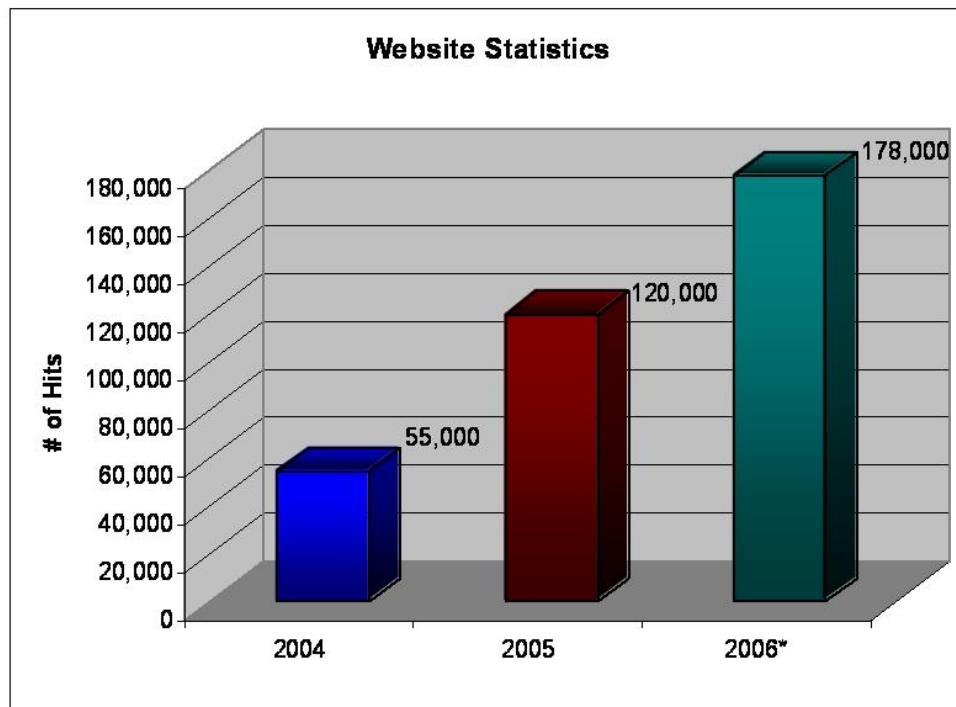
District III Website Statistics Show Significant Increase in Usage



Welcome to District III

- FUNDING PROGRAMS
- TOURISM
- REGIONAL INFORMATION
- COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
- HOUSING
- GIS
- DISTRICT III INFORMATION
- ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

In the Spring of 2004, the District III Committee made the decision to “overhaul” the regional website. After several months of preparation, the new website was launched in the fall of 2004. The chart below illustrates the number of “hits” to the website each year. The 2004 figure includes the number of hits with the old District III site and then the last few months once the new site was launched. The 2006 figure only includes the number of hits through August 7th, 2006.



The term “hits” represents the number of times a web user enters a keyword (most common is “district 3” or “planning district”) into a search engine and our website comes up. These figures show a dramatic increase in the site’s exposure!

So far in 2006, the District III site averages 547 “visits” per month. This represents the number of individuals that actually access the site to get information.

The pages most frequently visited each month in 2006 were:

- Home Page
- Economic Development Page (ABC, SBDC, etc.)
- Monthly Calendar
- Photo Gallery
- GIS Page
- Staff Page
- Regional Classifieds Page

If you haven’t had a chance to visit our website, please stop by today! www.districtiii.org is packed with useful information for various types of organizations in our region. **If you have any questions about our website, please contact Annette at the District III office.**



Recapitalization Efforts

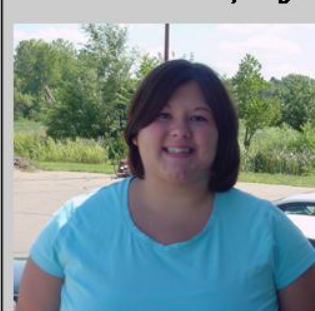
The Areawide Business Council, Inc. has recently submitted applications to re-capitalize the revolving loan fund. ABC remains busy with lending activities. In a rising commercial rate environment, ABC's low interest makes it even more attractive as a source of subordinate financing. The interest rate "spread" it provides makes a significant difference in the cash flow of projects.

ABC is again looking to USDA Rural Development for funding through its Intermediary Re-lending Program (IRP) by submitting an application to Rural Development for \$1 million. ABC can borrow these funds over 30 years at 1% with a match of 25%. ABC is also looking to partner with a new funding source – East River Electric Power Cooperative, Inc. East River can lend money to ABC through its Rural Economic Development Loan and Grant Program (REDL&G). These funds can be borrowed at 0% for 10 years. ABC is also requesting \$1 million from East River. ABC will use a \$20,000 grant from the South Dakota Community Foundation as match for the re-cap. If these applications are successful, ABC will have new capital in excess of \$2 million available for projects within the service area. We expect a decision from Rural Development and East River sometime in the fourth quarter of 2006.

If you would like information about the Areawide Business Council, please contact Lori at the District III office or visit the ABC website at www.districtiii.org/ABC/.

New Addition to GIS Staff

Kendra Shaddick has been hired to work with the District III staff on various GIS projects. She comes to us from Paw Paw, Illinois. Kendra graduated from Augustana College in Rock Island, Illinois with a Bachelor's Degree in Geography. She also completed an internship with the Rock Island County Highway Department, in which she



used GPS technology to collect points identifying bridges, culverts, and signs throughout the area. Kendra has been in Yankton since May 2006 and is currently working on various GIS projects, such as parcel projects and E-911 mapping. **Welcome aboard Kendra!**



SBDCs Expand Services to Specialized Industries

As a part of our strategic planning process, the Small Business Development Centers across South Dakota are developing areas of expertise in specialized industries. Governor Rounds' 2010 Initiative served as a guide in establishing these areas for our organization. SBDC staff are specifically gaining greater depth in the following areas:

- Tourism related businesses
 - * *Bed & Breakfast/Hotels*
 - * *Hunting/Fishing Outfitters*
- Native American owned businesses
- High Growth Companies
- Relationships with Institutions of Higher Education

Sue Stoll, Regional Director of the Yankton SBDC is chair of the Hunting/Fishing Outfitter committee. This responsibility led her to the first annual South Dakota Sport Hunting Association Summer Conference and Trade Show in Dallas, SD on August 4-5, 2006. This association's board of directors realized the need to create an event for businesses in the hunting industry. Opportunities were abundant for networking; seeing other lodges, habitat, and production operations; meeting with suppliers and vendors; and staff training. Governor Mike Rounds opened the conference with remarks and encouraged the association's members to work with their surrounding communities as we all strive to make South Dakota the premier wing-shooting destination. The conference was well received and should be a "must attend" for any businesses reliant on revenue from the hunting industry. In addition to the great recreation that hunting provides South Dakota residents, this industry attracts considerable outside dollars into South Dakota. SBDCs throughout the State are willing to consult with businesses in this industry to help make them successful. These businesses in turn will make South Dakota's economy stronger.

For information about various industries or to find out how you can obtain free business counseling, call Sue at the SBDC in Yankton (605) 665-0751. You can also visit our website at www.districtiii.org/SBDC/. □

"A business that makes nothing but money is a poor business."

-- (Henry Ford)

GIS Partnership with DOT Featured in Professional Publication

In 1995, the South Dakota Department of Transportation (SDDOT), District III, and 1st District Association of Local Governments (1st District) entered into contracts in which the Districts would provide the manpower to collect information the SDDOT needed to update their roadway inventory database. The SDDOT provided each District with a laptop computer, a GPS receiver, and GPS and GIS training, software, equipment and support. After 10 years, the partnership continues and the SDDOT views this program as highly successful. This cooperative effort was recently featured in an article in the Professional Surveyors Magazine.

Now, to maintain the state's GPS/GIS program, the SDDOT receives yearly updates from the Planning Districts of roadway changes, additions, or deletions. "Working with the Districts has brought about a new level of cooperation between State and local officials. The use of local people was instrumental in the way the GPS/GIS grew and evolved." (Professional Surveyors Magazine, August 2006.)

To view the entire article, visit www.districtiii.org under the District III Digest feature on our home page. □

Annual Spatial Technology Consortium (STC) to be held in Oacoma

All GIS users, state and local government agencies, utilities, engineering, consulting firms and universities are invited to participate in the 4th annual state GIS users group meeting, known as the Spatial Technology Consortium, on September 25-26, at the Cedar Shores Resort in Oacoma, SD.

Homeland Security remains one of the hot topics in the State and in the world of GIS, but there are also a lot of exciting new developments in South Dakota's GIS community. (continued...)



Harry Redman, GIS Coordinator
Travis Acklin, GIS Specialist

AVAILABLE SERVICES:

Internet Mapping System <http://ims.districtiii.org>
Parcel Mapping
Plat Mapping
E911 Rural Addressing
Global Positioning System (GPS) Services
Geocoding (Address location like MapQuest)
GPS Sign Inventory for Highway/Road Department
Hazardous Materials (HazMat) Mapping
General GPS/GIS Mapping
GIS Training

(4th Annual STC continued...)

Several of the State's most knowledgeable GIS professionals are scheduled to speak about what they have been doing in their respective areas and to provide valuable training.

If you are interested in attending the conference or would like some more information about what is being offered, please feel free to contact Harry at the District III office. You can also review the wide variety of GIS services that District III has to offer by visiting www.districtiii.org/GIS. □

Governor's House Program

The following guidelines are effective as of August 1st 2005:

- The price of the home is **\$33,000**
- Households of 2 OR LESS must have an income less than **\$34,900**.
- Households of 3 OR MORE must have an income less than **\$39,900**.
- Households UNDER 62 YEARS OF AGE must have a net worth less than **\$100,000**, of which no more than **\$70,000** may be in liquid assets.
- Households OVER 62 YEARS OF AGE must have a net worth less than **\$175,000**, of which no more than **\$100,000** may be in liquid assets.

To learn more about the Governor's House Program, call Eric at the District III office. □

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HERMAN PETERS, CHARLES MIX COUNTY

BERNIE SCHMUCKER, DAVISON COUNTY

RON SULLY, LAKE ANDES

DELAYNE PERSSON, AURORA COUNTY

JUDD LINDQUIST, BRULE COUNTY

ARTHUR HERTZ, GREAT LAKES OF SOUTH DAKOTA ASSOCIATION

ORGANIZATION:

Planning & Development District III is a voluntary association of city and county governments. A committee of elected officials and private citizens govern the agency by setting the work agenda and overseeing the performance of the Director and staff. The office serves a 15-county area that includes the following counties: Aurora, Bon Homme, Brule, Buffalo, Charles Mix, Davison, Douglas, Gregory, Hanson, Hutchinson, Jerauld, Lyman, Sanborn, Tripp, and Yankton. There are 59 communities and three tribal governments within the service area.

*****If you would prefer to receive this publication via email, please contact our office.*****

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**“Plans are only good intentions
unless they immediately
degenerate into hard work.”**

--Peter Drucker