

Community Development e-Newsletter
January 2006

Myra Moss, Extension Specialist, Community Development, Editor

The Extension Community Development e-Newsletter attempts to strengthen ties to our professional audiences. We are always interested in seeking your input and suggestions regarding the improvement of this e-newsletter. *This month we are including a link to a short Zoomerang survey that we ask you to fill out with your suggestions for improvements. Thank you in advance for your willingness to help us serve you better!*

<http://www.zoomerang.com/survey.zgi?p=WEB224W9VH36DP>

Upcoming Training and Conference Opportunities

SurveyGold Pro Training

Interested in collecting and reporting local community data but not sure how to start? Want to provide a valuable service for which many local agencies and organizations are willing to pay? To learn how, plan to attend the SurveyGold Pro software training workshop to be held on January 10.

SurveyGold Pro is the survey software used by the Ohio Business Retention & Expansion Initiative which can make primary data collection and reporting easy. The ability to use the software can enable you to serve as your local community's resource for conducting online, written, and telephone surveys. Similar to Zoomerang and SurveyMonkey, SurveyGold Pro software makes developing questionnaires, gathering data (when used in an online format), reporting results in graph and text form, and generating written reports incredibly easy. (For more information and to download a 30-day trial version, go to surveygold.com). For more information contact Greg Davis at 614-292-6356 or davis.1081@osu.edu

Jennifer McSweeney Land Use Conference Update

The 2006 Jennifer McSweeney Land Use Conference will be held on March 31, 2006 at Fisher Auditorium on the OARDC Campus in Wooster. Please Mark your calendars. A brochure will be available by the end of January.

Extension Center Activities

Sustainable Development Center:

Sustainable Comprehensive Plan Program Wins Awards

The Kent Bicentennial Plan, a sustainable comprehensive plan designed and implemented by the SDC in collaboration with the City of Kent and Kent State University, has been recognized with another prestigious award for its innovative citizen participation and public collaboration process. The Ohio City Managers Association will recognize Kent and Extension during their upcoming meeting at the end of January. Last fall the International City Managers Association also awarded Kent with a Program Excellence Award for Citizen Participation for the Bicentennial Plan. In addition, the Innovation Groups has invited Kent and Extension to present the Bicentennial Plan Public Collaboration project at their May 2006 Transforming Local Government National Conference. If you are interested in finding out more about this award-winning innovative approach to citizen participation and comprehensive planning, please contact Bill

Grunkemeyer at grunkemeyer.1@osu.edu or Myra Moss at moss.63@osu.edu. The full report of the Bicentennial plan itself can be found on the City of Kent's web site, Special Reports, Comprehensive Plan: www.kentohio.org.

The SDC is currently involved with four other Sustainable Development programs throughout the state. West Chester Township, the Swanton Area and Marion County have all completed the community outreach/visioning with draft reports prepared. The city of Salem has almost concluded its vision process, and will begin to write the Comprehensive Plan in February. For information on these projects, please contact Dan Remley for West Chester at remley.4@osu.edu, Ernie Oelker for Salem at oelker.2@osu.edu, Myra Moss for Swanton or Marion at moss.63@osu.edu.

Extension Center at Lima:

Knowledge Economy Community Project

Successful communities in Ohio are moving progressively into the Knowledge Economy. What does it take for a community to understand, reinvent and position itself to take advantage of these opportunities? An inter-disciplinary team of Extension Professionals is piloting an intensive project to help a community understand and capitalize on Knowledge Economy opportunities. Dubbed the "Community Project Team", we will work with a community to develop base indicators for the Knowledge Economy, perform research and analysis, develop appropriate strategies, and then develop or identify educational programming to fulfill these strategies.

The team is currently developing threshold indicators and is in the preliminary stages of identifying a community. Partial funding for the project is being supplied by a Community Development Program area seed grant. Team members include Greg Davis, Myra Moss, Robert McCall, Tanja Nihiser (OSU Lima Strategy Store), Cindy Torppa, Bill Grunkemeyer, Jill Clark, Cindy Bond-Zielinski, Niki Nestor-McNeely, Joe Lucente, Don Breece and Jerry Thomas. A major goal of our effort is to share new programming through the ability to replicate this process in other communities. For more information contact Jerry Thomas at thomas.69@osu.edu or 419.422.6106.

Extension Center at Wooster:

Practical Application of Land Use Tools Education

John Conglose, Extension Specialist at the Center in Wooster is currently working on updating the Morrow County Zoning Resolution with the Morrow County Zoning Commission. He is also working on updating the Huron County Land Use Plan with the Huron County Land Use Plan Task Force and is doing the same with a Task Force in Columbia Township in Lorain County. The Existing Land Use Tools team will be starting work in January on updating the Wyandot County Comprehensive Land Use Plan which will lead to developing a County Zoning Resolution. The curriculum developed by the Existing Land Use Tools Team can be utilized to assist educators and community leaders in updating land use plans, subdivision regulations and zoning resolutions. If educational assistance of this nature is needed please contact John at conglose.1@osu.edu.

Articles/Journals of Interest

Do Communities Bounce Back from Major Job Losses?

"Job Shocks: Resuscitation or Suffocation? How local economies react after suffering a major decline in employment" is addressed in an article in the Nov. 2005 Fedgazette. Do local economies bounce back or merely find a "new normal"? In light of Ohio communities recently impacted by plant closures, this information is particularly relevant.

Source: www.minneapolisfed.org

New Journal on Community Development Investment Now Available

The Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco's Center for Community Development Investments is pleased to announce the publication of the inaugural issue of the *Community Development Investment Review*. The mission of the Review is to explore the most pressing issues facing the CD investment field by inviting academics and community development practitioners to present articles addressing both theoretical and practical approaches to CD investing.

The latest issue of the *Review* explores the New Markets Tax Credit program: how well it's working, its impact on low-income communities, and how investors have solved some of the practical issues around using the credit. The Review is available online at <http://www.frbsf.org/publications/community/review/122005/index.html>. The Center for Community Development Investments is online at <http://www.frbsf.org/cdinvestments/>.

Web Resources

Check the following resources for advice shared by 25 of the top economic developers in the U.S. at a recent executive forum:

Web Resources... www.companyslueth.com; www.specialissues.com/lo/;
www.mytopo.com; www.salesandmarketing.com; www.nasvf.org;
www.wikipedia.org; www.searchmarketing.yahoo.com/rc/srch

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