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Insert: Transportation Quarterly

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HIGHLAND RECEIVES KAN STEP GRANT

The City of Highland recently received a \$299,050 KAN STEP Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) through the Kansas Department of Commerce for the construction of an \$827,800 multi-purpose building. Once completed, the building will serve the community in two ways, as both a community center and a as a fire station for Doniphan County Rural Fire District Number 2 (DCRFD #2).

The project will solve many community issues, most notably the lack of a multi-purpose building. Currently, residents of Highland must drive 30-40 miles for a facility capable of accommodating large gatherings. Once completed, the building will be available for such gatherings, including public meetings and other events, as well as an emergency triage center in the event of a natural disaster. Another result of the project is an improved fire/ambulance district which currently responds to over 400 calls annually.

Unlike many CDBG projects, the KAN STEP program is an ongoing, non-competitive, self-help option for

communities to address water, sewer, and public building needs through local volunteer labor and donated material. Communities must demonstrate readiness, capacity, and documented



The new community center and fire station will be located on the site pictured, located within the city of Highland.

cost savings in order to qualify for funding. A 40 percent savings must be demonstrated to be eligible for this program which may be documented as match through the use of volunteer labor.

To date, 80 community members

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MO-KAN PREPARES STORM WATER PLANS

Mo-Kan Regional Council has been asked to help produce a MS4 (Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System) Stormwater Plan for Buchanan County and Country Club Village. These plans are designed to establish practices that assist municipalities with controlling flood and erosion damage, reduce runoff pollution to streams, and improve water quality locally and to neighboring communities.

The stormwater plans outline six Best Management Practices or BMP's

for each community. BMP's are techniques used to control stormwater runoff, sediment control, as well as management decisions to prevent or reduce pollutants from a non-point water source, such as a car wash, construction site or stream bank. The six BMP's include: Public Education and Outreach on Stormwater Impacts, Public Involvement and Participation, Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimina-

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COLLISION REPAIR SPECIALIST, A MKDI SUCCESS STORY



Dale and Janice Eaton with Collision Repair Specialists located in St. Joseph, Missouri are proud of the business they started in 1983.

Dale started the business in a one-car garage with a dirt floor and a wood burning stove. They soon purchased their first home, along with a six-car garage. In the next year they added six more stalls to the garage and purchased a tow truck. Business kept growing so quickly that they soon became a 24 hour 7 day a week business.

Dale and Janice decided to move the business to a more visible location, and in 1993 they purchased a building in the 4900 block of St. Joseph Avenue. In just four years at this new location, their business became so successful that they decided to open a second location. This is when Mo-Kan Development, Inc. entered the picture, helping them through their expansion with a 504 Fixed Asset Loan from the US Small Business Administration.

In 1997 they opened their second location at 3405 South Belt Hwy. In 2000, Mo-Kan Development, Inc. recognized Collision Repair Specialists as "Small Business Of The Year." In 2001 they consolidated both businesses

into one location. Collision Repair Specialists is currently located at 3900 Frederick. They are very proud to have served the St. Joseph community for over 24 years and look forward to providing their quality service for many years to come.

MKDI has been the source for small business loans in Missouri and Northeast Kansas, since 1982. Since then, they have processed loan requests for the purchase and expansion of multiple businesses in both states, including motels, restaurants, convenience stores, small offices, light manufacturing companies and many more.

Entrepreneurs who are interested in starting or expanding their business may be eligible for this program. With only 10 to 20 percent of personal financing needed, MKDI may be able to finance a portion of the remaining funds for their business venture. A bank chosen by the customer must fund 50% of the project costs, then MKDI may process a SBA 504 Loan for the remaining costs.

MKDI has three loan officers on staff that can supply more information. Call (816) 233-3144 or email john@mo-kan.org.

HIGHLAND RECEIVES KAN-STEP FUNDS

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have agreed to participate. The volunteer activities include painting, site clean-up and preparation, providing meals, carpentry, as well as other activities. Community members have also volunteered to provide excavating equipment, lifts and other machinery. Highland's architect, BG Consultants, Inc. estimates the community will rec-

ognize a savings of \$314,139 in volunteered labor and \$134,000 in donated materials. The City of Highland and DCRFD#2 provided \$80,000 for construction and the Highland Cemetery Association donated two acres of land for the building site. Anticipated completion date is next year.

MO-KAN APPLIES FOR NEIGHBORHOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAM TAX CREDITS



Mo-Kan is located at 1302 Faraon St. in St. Joseph.

Mo-Kan Development, Inc. (MKDI), Mo-Kan Regional Council's sister organization, recently applied for \$150,000 in Neighborhood Assistance Program (NAP) tax credits through the State of Missouri's Department of Economic Development to help renovate the offices. This is a 50% tax credit program that can be used for capital

campaigns. If successful, the project would generate \$300,000 to be used on renovating and repairing the offices.

The renovation project will focus on three components:

1. Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) improvements (wheelchair access, rest-

rooms, parking, sidewalks, and ADA signage)

2. Improving the facilities energy efficiency

3. Modernize and remodeling of the building, including the board room.

This funding is important as it will allow us to preserve resources (both financial and natural), better

serve our customers, and allow equal access for everyone.

During its 25 years of existence, MKDI has assisted in over 172 projects, which in turn led to the investment of over \$118.8 million in private funding and the creation/retention of over 3,354 jobs. Being a 501c3, MKDI is eligible for the NAP tax credits.

STORMWATER PLANS

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tion, Construction Site Stormwater Runoff Control, Post-Construction Stormwater Management in New Development and Redevelopment, and Pollution Prevention/Good Housekeeping for Municipal Operations. Both plans are to be in place by the Spring of 2008.

MO-KAN TO PURCHASE EQUIPMENT FOR HOMELAND SECURITY

In April, 2007 the Governor's Homeland Security Advisory Committee approved over \$892,000 worth of equipment, planning and training requested by the Region H Homeland Security Oversight Committee. These funds include the purchase of over \$562,000 in interoperable communications equipment that will be distributed to over 30 jurisdictions in the 15-county region. This equipment includes 81 portable radios and 139 mobile radios that will be distributed to law enforcement agencies, fire districts, ambulance districts, cities and counties.

The remainder of the funds will be used to purchase a mass casualty

trailer stocked with emergency medical supplies. This mobile unit will be housed in Nodaway County, but available for use throughout the entire region.



The mass casualty trailer will be similar to the to the trailer pictured above and left which was purchased by the Hospital Association and is housed at Heartland Health in St. Joseph.



Funds will also be used to purchase five trailers for the Red Cross that will be used during natural and manmade disasters. These trailers will be stocked with sheltering supplies, including cots, pillows, and blankets. They will be placed in

various locations across Region H and available to all jurisdictions.

Finally, three positions were created using the homeland security funds. A mass care specialist was hired to assist the American Red Cross with the placement of the sheltering trailers and to coordinate volunteers, an emergency services training coordinator was hired to facilitate training, workshops and exercises throughout the region, and an agri-terrorism planner was

hired to assist local jurisdictions with adding an agri-terrorism strategy to their emergency operation plans.

For more information about Homeland Security in Region H, contact Jackie Spainhower at jwilson@mo-kan.org or 816-233-3144.



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MO-KAN REGIONAL COUNCIL AND MO-KAN DEVELOPMENT, INC.

MO-KAN TO HOST LUCA WORKSHOP

On October 11, 2007, Mo-Kan will sponsor a bi-state LUCA instructional workshop from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Commerce Bank located at Ashland & Karnes Rd. in St. Joseph. LUCA is short for Local Update of Census Addresses and this workshop will instruct community officials on the proper way to conduct the LUCA program in their communities.

This program is designed so that local officials may update local addresses in preparation for the 2010 Census. Making sure everyone is counted is vitally important for several reasons including future grant funding and possible congressional redistricting.

Mo-Kan may be available to assist with this process at various levels. For more information contact Tom Bliss at 816-233-3144. For more information specifically about LUCA visit www.census.gov/geo/www/luca2020/luca.html.

CDBG UPDATES

Cosby, MO—Wastewater System
Obtaining easement

Plattsburg, MO—Downtown Revitalization
95% Complete, clock tower to be installed

Cameron, MO—Industrial Infrastructure
Final specs and design

Cameron, MO—Valleybrook Housing
75% complete

Highland, KS—Community Bldg/Fire House
Grant awarded, open comment until 7-26-07

Trimble, MO—Sewer Improvements
Contracting with Mo-Kan