



# Audubon County Economic Development Corporation

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## ACED TIDBITS

April 2008

The Audubon County Endowment Fund has just awarded nearly \$61,000 in grants. This program is phenomenal! Last year \$79,000 was awarded and this fall there will be more grants awarded. We are now at nearly \$100,000 in grants available annually. These awards will go on forever.

The Audubon County Endowment Fund was established by local citizens to improve the quality of life in Audubon County, now and in the future, by making grants to support local non-profit organizations and projects.

By creating a fund or contributing to the Audubon County Endowment Fund, you have the ideal opportunity to make an impact **forever**. You may know precisely which organizations you want to support and if not the local advisory board will handle that for you. Iowa offers a 20% tax credit for gifts to a permanent qualified community foundation. Your tax preparer can provide details and any of the local advisory board members will be glad to visit with you. Contact information, gifting information, and grant applications are available at [www.auduboncounty.com](http://www.auduboncounty.com), just click "Endowment Fund".

The Southwest Iowa Foundation, Inc (SWIF) has just announced that it will start a new 2008 SWIF Challenge Grant Program to county foundations. Bottom line is that if Audubon County will raise \$50,000 in new money during 2008, SWIF will match it with \$50,000. We need you! What a great additional amount of grants that will provide.

The Workforce Needs Assessment Survey for the counties included in the Western Iowa Advantage Region (WIAD) was conducted from September through December 2007 by Iowa Workforce Development. WIAD membership includes the following counties: Adair, Audubon, Carroll, Crawford, Greene, Guthrie, Ida, and Sac. The goal of the survey was to collect and analyze data regarding the demand for workers and the skills required of the workers in the area.

Surveys don't usually provide exact numbers because of the small number of responses; in this case 16.6 percent. Many that do not respond do not have job vacancies and are less likely to respond to workforce issues. However this survey does provide valuable information. Here are a few items that may be of interest to you.

- The estimated 2008 job vacancies are 1,960.
- Vacancies are 72.3 percent full time and 27.7 percent part-time.
- Vacancies are 94.4 percent permanent employment and 5.6 percent are seasonal or temporary positions.
- Most vacancies are in Production, Education, Office & Administration, and Healthcare, in that order.
- Vacancies require 49 percent Hard Skills, 37.6 percent Soft Skills, and 12.9 percent Basic Skills.
- 90.5 percent of employers with vacancies provide job training.
- Internet is under used by employers in this region when posting openings.
- 49.3 percent of the companies plan to add job positions in the next 1 year and 35.8 percent in the next 1-2 years.
- Workers who became eligible for retirement in 2008 and prior is 2410. Many continue to work and this figure grows by approximately 950 per year.
- 72.5 percent of employers are actively pursuing programs to retain their retiring workforce.

Most job vacancies will be in the manufacturing, office & administration, and health care occupations. Employers are looking for workers with the right set of occupational skill, which are job specific skills. These skills can be acquired from employer-provided training as well as community college and workforce training programs.

The Audubon Downtown Revitalization project will be completed this summer and will offer many great benefits to Audubon and the area. The 1900's ERA Streetscape design, John James Audubon Statue and Plaza, the Bird Walk Trail with its mosaic art work, the WPA mural of John James Audubon and numerous items of interest at the cultural center and in the downtown area will help make downtown a visitors destination.

In conversations it is often discussed if our small rural towns have a workable business plan for the downtown area. Downtown is truly a business (or should be) and often is funded by the city and is focused on planning for the future of downtown. An association is needed to make and administer the downtown business plan.

The business plan lays out strategies to pursue key goals which are typically for a 2-5 year period. Some goals may be:

- Maintain downtown as the social center of the community.
- Maintain a diverse mix of uses.
- Maintain retail health.
- Encourage live-work units downtown.
- Retain and expand the unique pedestrian character and small town ambience.
- Maintain an effective downtown association.
- Increase downtown business association revenue.

The association will want to keep downtown nice looking and do some promotions, but also be involved in the bigger picture of keeping property values high, ensure a good business mix, and be very hands-on about it.

The Audubon Industrial Park Expansion is in the annexation process and the Valley Business Park has five prospects that are still on the hook. We are doing our best to create space for current businesses to expand and for new businesses to locate. We are concentrating our new business recruitment efforts on the advanced manufacturing, renewable energy, and bioscience fields. Encourage any one you know to locate here and share the benefits of living in Audubon County where housing is affordable, schools and health care are excellent, and many recreation choices are available.

Thomas Nielsen  
Executive Director

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**FOOD FOR THOUGHT.....**

IF A MAN DOES HIS BEST, WHAT ELSE IS THERE?

George S Patton

WEAKNESS OF ATTITUDE BECOMES WEAKNESS OF CHARACTER

Albert Einstein

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**TOURISM.....** Margee Shaffer Coordinator

A big THANKS to all the exhibitors and to those who attended the "EXPLORING AUDUBON COUNTY" on April 8<sup>th</sup>. We had forty exhibitors who did an outstanding job showing their business or organization. We hope to make this an annual event and continue to make it bigger and better.

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***Save the Dates.....***

- May 3<sup>rd</sup>                      18<sup>th</sup> Annual Audubon Community Garage Sale 7:00 AM to 1:00 PM~ For details call 712-563-3780
- May 24 & 25                Tivoli Fest ~ Kimballton/Elk Horn Danish Celebration ~ For details Call 712-764-7472 or 800-451-7960
- June 1<sup>st</sup>                      Annual Flight Breakfast ~ For details call 712-563-3780
- June 14<sup>th</sup>                    Brayton Big Day ~ Barbecue & Entertainment For details call 712-712-549-2355
- June 14<sup>th</sup>                    American Cancer Society Relay for Life ~ At the Exira High School Track ~ For details call 712-268-274
- June 20<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup>              Kimballton Quasiquicentennial For daily details see [www.auduboncounty.com](http://www.auduboncounty.com) and click on the calendar and the date



# JOHN JAMES AUDUBON FESTIVAL

## SATURDAY, APRIL 26, 2008



### 9:00 - 10:30 AM BREAKFAST - MEMORIAL BUILDING

- ◆ PANCAKE BREAKFAST - AUDUBON LIONS CLUB - FREE WILL DONATION
- ◆ ART PROJECTS ON DISPLAY
- ◆ JOHN JAMES AUDUBON DOCUMENTARY FILM

### 11:00 AM PARK PLAZA & FLAG POLE DEDICATION - VFW & AMERICAN LEGION - CITY PARK

- ◆ BIRTHDAY CAKE - CITY PARK
- ◆ HAWK BIRD RELEASE - KAY NEUMANN
- ◆ STAMP CANCELLATION - LIBRARY

### 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM CHAIN SAW CARVING - JIM CLARK - CITY PARK

### 12:00 NOON FOOD SPECIALS AT RESTAURANTS AND CITY PARK

### 12:30 PM AUDUBON 5TH & 6TH GRADERS PERFORM - CITY PARK STAGE

### 1:00 PM BIRD EGG PRIZE HUNT - AUDUBON WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION - CITY PARK

- ◆ BINGO - MEMORIAL BUILDING - KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
- ◆ CAKE WALK - CITY PARK - JOHN JAMES AUDUBON TEA ROOM

### 1:30 PM JOHN JAMES AUDUBON MUSIC JAM - CITY PARK STAGE

- ◆ BOB & SHEILA EVERHART ◆ FRED SIEVERS ◆ TOM POTTS & CPO ◆ NEW LIFE DUET -  
MARION GREER & COLETTE FLAGMAN

### 3:30 PM CARVED EAGLE RAFFLE DRAWING

- ◆ SILENT AUCTION ENDS

### 5:00 & 7:00 PM DINNER AT JOHN JAMES AUDUBON TEA ROOM\* - (CALL 712-563-2541 FOR RESERVATIONS)

\*ENTERTAINMENT BY AUDUBON HIGH SCHOOL AMBASSADORS