

Construction begins on first Pocket Neighborhood Home

ECIA's non-profit, East Central Development Corporation (ECDC), and partners have begun construction on the first home in the Bear River Cottages Pocket Neighborhood.



The foundation has been poured; underground plumbing work is wrapping up; and the first home floor decking will be constructed in the coming weeks. Gas lines and underground electric cabling will be next. For more information on the updates of this project, check out our new newsletter, "the Bear River Update" on our website at: <https://ecia.org/pocketneighborhood/newsletters/>. If you're interested in purchasing a home or finding out more information on the homes available, please contact us at 563-690-5732.



ECIA Assists with \$5.4 M Grant

Dubuque County has been awarded a \$5.4 million BUILD grant for road and trail projects. The funding comes from the U.S. Department of Transportation's Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development program. An additional \$5.1M of local match has been committed to the project.



ECIA's Director of Transportation Planning and Transit Services, Chandra Ravada assisted with writing the grant. Partners for this project include the Iowa Department of Transportation (IDOT), the City of Dubuque, the Dubuque Metropolitan Transportation Study, the State of Iowa, John Deere Dubuque Works, the Jule, Greater Dubuque Development Corporation, and several local developers.

ECIA Receives AFP Award

We were honored to receive the Judge's Award from the Greater Tri-State Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals for our work with small cities and non-profits in furthering their efforts to develop important projects and infrastructure in their communities.



Pictured from ECIA is Kelley Deutmeyer, Jennifer Walker, Holly McPherson, and Marla Quinn. We were extremely honored by this award as ECIA's work is often behind the scenes in a supportive role and not always in the front.



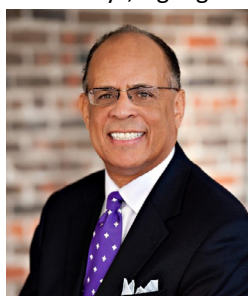
Hometown Pride boosts Clinton County



Hometown pride revolves around a community coaching program designed to develop leaders to promote cultural and economic vitality by sprucing up towns in Iowa including improved roadways, signage and community entryways.

Hometown pride's community Coach, Francis Boggus has been working side-by-side with

communities to evaluate immediate goals, develop a plan to tackle them, arrange leadership training, and empower those leaders to keep the momentum going.



So far, several successful projects have been completed, such as:

- The Delmar Splash Pad, which has already hosted concerts, farmers market sales, vendor shows, and a Halloween Fright Night.
- Lost Nation has completed a new RV camping area at the Rustic Park that will welcome their first campers in the Spring of 2020.
- DeWitt's Frances Banta Waggoner Community Library is undergoing construction of an addition that will triple its size.
- Grand Mound received a replica historic train depot moved into the city by one of its former residents, Don Kent.
- Calamus and Wheatland are looking into the possibility of creating bridges and a trail between the communities.
- Low Moor has received grants towards including additional amenities at their baseball park as well as increase its size.
- Clinton is working on revitalizing its downtown by repurposing buildings and creating a mural through a grant from Paint Iowa Beautiful and the Clinton Downtown Alliance.
- Camanche aims to improve their biking/walking paths that connect to Clinton.

Hometown Pride is a five year partnership with the Keep Iowa Beautiful program. 2020 will be the third year of the initiative. ECIA is excited to see such success with Hometown Pride and look forward to hearing more in future years!



ECIA Annual Report Available Online

ECIA's 2019 Annual Report is now available online. Click the link below to see the many 2019 successes. <https://ecia.org/pdf/FY19ECIA-AR.pdf>



ECIA Welcomes New Employees

We're excited to welcome new ECIA employees: Walter Nims and Caitlin Siemionko.

Walter has been hired as Lead and Building Code inspector. He was previously a project manager at Dubuque Window and Door and will now be assisting with our Lead program and inspections.



Caitlin has been hired as the Special Programs Advocate. She was previously a Victim Witness Coordinator at the Dubuque County Attorney's office and will now be assisting with ECIA's many special programs such as HUD Lead, USDA training, and county-wide meetings.



EIRHA Award

The Eastern Iowa Regional Housing



Authority was just awarded Mainstream Vouchers to assist 30 households. The program will begin in February 2020. The funding will assist heads of households that are at least 18 years of age or older and less than 62 years of age, and who:

- Have a disability
- Is determined to have a physical, mental or emotional impairment that:
- Is expected to be of long-continued and indefinite duration;
- Substantially impedes his or her ability to live independently, and is of such a nature that the ability to live independently could be improved by more suitable housing conditions; or
- Has a developmental disability

Eligible families will be pulled from the Section 8 HCV waiting list with a preference to those:

- Currently experiencing homelessness
- Previously experienced homelessness and currently a client in a permanent supportive housing or rapid rehousing project

Visit eirha.org or call 563-556-4166 for more information.

EIRHC Awarded HTF Funding

ECIA's Eastern Iowa Regional Housing Corporation (EIRHC) branch



was awarded \$284,181 in housing trust funding. The housing trust fund will be taking grant applications in 2020 for housing related projects. More details to be announced in Spring of 2020.



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