

NENEDD LINK

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May 5, 2009

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CLARKSON ADDS NEEDED FIRE HALL TO LIST OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Positive projects, success stories hallmark of CDBG program (April 15, 2009) Clarkson, the “Center of Czechland” in Colfax County, also is the “little community that could.” Small, but mighty, Clarkson has aggressively pursued a number of economic development projects since 1995. Its most recent endeavor involved receipt of \$250,000 in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding in the public works category to first demolish a dilapidated house to clear the way for a new \$650,000 10,000-sq-ft. fire hall. The Nebraska Department of Economic Development administers the state program while the cities of Omaha and Lincoln receive separate allocations.

This week, Nebraskans statewide are celebrating Community Development (CD) Week, which highlights and touts the importance of the federal CDBG program, which for 23 years, has significantly impacted the basic community and economic development needs of communities throughout the nation. Governor Dave Heineman will host a special award ceremony and proclamation signing on April 16 at the Nebraska State Capitol to recognize the week of April 12-18 as CD Week here.

Clarkson’s original fire hall, built when fire trucks were much smaller, was very energy inefficient and cramped

with little room for equipment. Training classes or activities had to be held outdoors.

The Northeast Nebraska Economic Development District (NENEDD) helped coordinate and tabulate an income survey of Clarkson residents. Once information was gathered, NENEDD helped the fire department form a plan. Fire personnel toured other fire stations for design ideas. The Clarkson Fire Foundation made a sizeable donation before an application was submitted for CDBG funding. Other donations from citizens and businesses were used to replace tiling with carpeting in the meeting room, and provide a fully-equipped kitchen. The fire hall, dedicated this past February, houses the 44-member volunteer fire department and rescue squad staffed by 23 EMTs, nine first responders, and a paramedic.

Clarkson also is home to Bluebird Nursery, the largest perennial grower in the Midwest, the historic 1913 Clarkson Opera House, a new medical clinic facility, newly-expanded Clarkson Public Schools, Memorial and Clarkson City parks, Bohemian National Garden, Clarkson Bakery, featuring Czech-made baked goods, and Toman City Market, which produces specialty sausages, bacon and wieners.

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FREE GOVERNMENT GRANTS: DON'T TAKE THEM FOR GRANT-ED

“Because you pay your income taxes on time, you have been awarded a free \$12,500 government grant! To get your grant, simply give us your checking account information, and we will direct-deposit the grant into your bank account!”

Sometimes, it's an ad that claims you will qualify to receive a “free grant” to pay for education costs, home repairs, home business expenses, or unpaid bills. Other times, it's a phone call supposedly from a “government” agency or some other organization with an official sounding name. In either case, the claim is the same: your application for a grant is guaranteed to be accepted, and you'll never have to pay the money back.

But the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), the nation's consumer protection agency, says that “money for nothing” grant offers usually are scams, whether you see them in your local paper or a national magazine, or hear about them on the phone.

Some scam artists advertise “free grants” in the classifieds, inviting readers to call a toll-free number for more information. Others are more bold: they call you out of the blue. They lie about where they're calling from, or they claim legitimacy using an official-sounding name like the “Federal Grants Administration.” They may ask you some basic questions to determine if you “qualify” to receive a grant. FTC attorneys say calls and come-ons for free money invariably are rip offs.

Grant scammers generally follow a script: they congratulate you on your eligibility, then ask for your checking account information so they can “deposit your grant directly into your account,” or cover a one-time “processing fee.” The caller may even reassure you that you can get a refund if you're not satisfied. In fact, you'll never see the grant they promise; they will disappear with your money.

The FTC says following a few basic rules can keep consumers from losing money to these “government grant” scams:

- **Don't give out your bank account information to anyone you don't know.** Scammers pressure people to divulge their bank account information so that they can steal the money in the account. Always keep your bank account information confidential. Don't share it unless you are familiar with the company and know why the information is necessary.
- **Don't pay any money for a “free” government grant.** If you have to pay money to claim a “free” government grant, it isn't really free. A real government agency won't ask you to pay a processing fee for a grant that you have already been awarded — or to pay for a list of grant-making institutions. The names of agencies and foundations that award grants are available for free at any public library or on the Internet. The only official access point for all federal grant-making agencies is www.grants.gov.
- **Look-alikes aren't the real thing.** Just because the caller says he's from the “Federal Grants Administration” doesn't mean that he is. There is no such government agency. Take a moment to check the blue pages in your telephone directory to bear out your hunch — or not.
- **Phone numbers can deceive.** Some con artists use Internet technology to disguise their area code in caller ID systems. Although it may look like they're calling from Washington, DC, they could be calling from anywhere in the world.

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CLARKSON FIRE HALL, CONTINUED

Communities statewide are invited and encouraged to celebrate and publicize CD Week at the local level. Housing, infrastructure, public works, and business development are a few areas that receive critical assistance through the CDBG program. The National Community Development Association initiated national Community Development Week in 1986 to remind Congress of the importance of the CDBG program.

For information on CD Week, contact Sara Watson at 800-426-6505, 402-471-4168, or ded.ncip2@nebraska.gov

To visit further about the project in Clarkson, contact Linda Cech at 402-892-3100 or clarksn@megavision.com

HHS PROPOSALS SUBMITTED ON BEHALF OF CITY OF NORFOLK

The Northeast Nebraska Economic Development District in partnership with the City of Norfolk submitted eight proposals to the State of Nebraska, Department of Health and Human Services. Health and Human Services (HHS) issued a Request for Proposal for the purpose of selecting locations for customer service centers. NENEDD submitted a 50 seat existing building proposal, two (2) 50 seat new building proposals, a 75 seat existing building proposal, a 75 seat new building proposal, a 100 seat new building proposal, a 100 seat existing building proposal and a 150 seat existing building proposal.

The City of Norfolk, local business community, as well as the Greater Norfolk Economic Development Foundation and it's membership, committed to a pledge of \$100,000 to be provided as a local incentive to assist local bids on the HHS Call Center project. This incentive provides support to the awarded proposal and reflects the motivation and dedication the community has creating new opportunities.

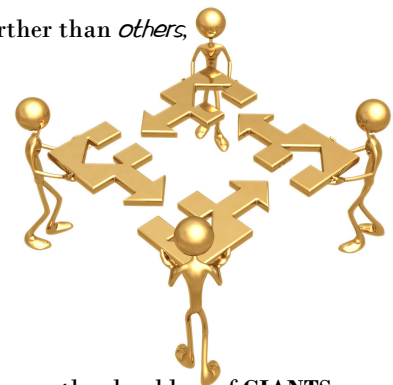
NENEDD partnered with a variety of businesses and other entities in order to do research for the project and also to gain support of local officials for the project. The contributions of Norfolk Area Chamber of Commerce, Workforce Development, NPPD, Black Hills Energy, the City of Norfolk, Great Plains Communications and Northeast Community College made were greatly appreciated. There was a tremendous amount of local business and private sector support shown for the call center project, job and revenue potential.

FREE GOVERNMENT GRANTS, CONTINUED

- **Take control of the calls you receive.** If you want to reduce the number of telemarketing calls you receive, place your telephone number on the National Do Not Call Registry. To register online, visit www.donotcall.gov. To register by phone, call 1-888-382-1222 (TTY: 1-866-290-4236) from the phone number you wish to register.
- **File a complaint with the FTC.** If you think you may have been a victim of a government grant scam, file a complaint with the FTC online at www.ftc.gov, or call toll-free, 1-877-FTC-HELP (1-877-382-4357); TTY: 1-866-653-4261. The FTC enters Internet, telemarketing, identity theft, and other fraud-related complaints into Consumer Sentinel, a secure online database available to hundreds of civil and criminal law enforcement agencies in the U.S. and abroad.

The FTC works for the consumer to prevent fraudulent, deceptive, and unfair business practices in the marketplace and to provide information to help consumers spot, stop, and avoid them. To file a [complaint](#) or to get [free information on consumer issues](#), visit ftc.gov or call toll-free, 1-877-FTC-HELP (1-877-382-4357); TTY: 1-866-653-4261. The FTC enters consumer complaints into the [Consumer Sentinel Network](#), a secure online database and investigative tool used by hundreds of civil and criminal law enforcement agencies in the U.S. and abroad.

☞ I have **SEEN** further than *others*,



it is by *standing* upon the shoulders of **GIANTS**.

Issac Newton

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LEGAL NOTICES

The May Board Meetings are scheduled for Wednesday, May 27th, 2009 at NENEDD Offices, 111 S 1st St, Norfolk, NE

NED, Inc. Board of Directors begins at approximately 7:00 p.m.

NENEDD Board of Directors begins at approximately 7:15 p.m.

AGENDAS & MINUTES

Agendas are kept current. A copy can be obtained by contacting Thomas Higginbotham, Executive Director at (402) 379-1150, Ext. 103. You may obtain current Board Meeting minutes at: www.nenedd.org/publications If you are unable to access the internet, please call Mickella at (402) 379-1150 to request a copy.

Fun May Facts and Strange Holidays

Memorial Day first observed, May 5, 1866.

Empire State Building opened May 1, 1931.

Mother's Day became a public holiday, May 9, 1914.

Lewis and Clark began trip up Missouri River, May 14, 1804.

May 1 is Mother Goose Day and Save The Rhino Day

May 3 is No Socks Day and Have A Coke Day

May 12 is Limerick Day

May 15 is National Chocolate Chip Day

May 24 is National Escargot Day

