

Clinton Regional Development Corp.

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Greetings!

• MAYOR WYNN RECEIVES AWARD!

On September 20th, Hon. LaMetta K. Wynn, was one of four outstanding women selected to receive the first "African American History Maker of the Year" award from the African American Museum of Iowa. The awards were presented at a Gala Event held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

CRDC Staff attended the September 20th Gala along with many of Her Honor's family and friends from the Clinton region. The dinner, speakers, and program performed by the Gateway Dance Theatre were amazing. A short video on the lives of each of the four honorees, Mayor Wynn included, was presented. Learning about these four women, their lives and contributions to society, not only to people of color but to their communities, our country, and society as a whole, was truly awesome!

In the Clinton Region, Mayor LaMetta Wynn is already considered to be an African American Woman History Maker of any year. We are so pleased that this prestigious honor was formally awarded to her on September 20th.

CONGRATULATIONS MAYOR WYNN on another well-deserved honor! We're so proud of you!

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Since 1953, the Clinton Regional Development Corporation has offered professional, client-driven, site selection services. Our goals are to enhance the regional business climate, attract new investment, expand existing industry, and encourage quality new jobs.

A "Scorecard" tracking our monthly sales-marketing activities is available to investors on our Web Site @ www.clintondevelopment.com. User ID: crdcnbr Password: crdcweb. Investors who would like more details about our current project mix, please contact

• CRDC FUND B GRANT

In mid September, Clinton Regional Development Corporation (CRDC) received a \$35,000 award from the Clinton County Community Development Association's Fund B Grant Program.

The award will be used to offset costs of a "master plan" that will establish both short- and long-term development goals of the Lincolnway Railport. Once rail service is granted by the Union Pacific, and given the fact that the demand for rail service increasing, one would expect the Railport to draw a great deal of attention from industries that require rail access to meet their operational needs. A comprehensive plan provides direction on how to better position the Railport to be more attractive to these industries.

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Steven Ames, President & CEO, at sames@clintondevelopment.com.

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• REALTORS' ROUNDTABLE

On September 12, CRDC hosted a commercial-industrial Real Estate brokers and agents in the Region. The intent of the luncheon was to enhance our professional relationships and to develop channels of communication for quickly identifying suitable properties for prospective clients looking to expand or relocate within the region. This network serves a dual purpose of helping businesses impacted by the Liberty Square Redevelopment Project identify find new homes.

CRDC maintains a database of available properties in the region, called "Location One Information System" (LOIS). Although we have immediate ability to market sites already included, occasionally we have a need that can't be met by our existing inventory. Establishing a relationship with local realtors allows us to keep abreast of new inventory and better meet the needs of those exploring relocation, expansion, or investment opportunities in our region.

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• CLINTON 20/20

Clinton 20/20 is a concerned group of regional citizens and business leaders working toward a strategic plan to make the Clinton region the #1 place to live and work. The committee has partnered with the Clinton Area Chamber of Commerce and Clinton Regional Development Corporation (CRDC) to facilitate their goals of:

- Encouraging citizen participation in developing our region's future
- Keeping the community informed of ongoing progress in our region
- Creating a strategic plan for ensuring high quality of life
- Motivating our young people to live, learn, and play in our regional community

The Clinton 20/20 committee held two informational and feedback sessions on Monday, September 17, 2007, in the Graphic Arts Technology Center of Clinton Community College, Clinton, Iowa. Approximately 40 citizens attended the event.

The committee presented the following topics of discussion and regional opportunities based on research of status comparisons: (1) Job opportunities (2) Readily available, exceptional health care (3) Development projects (4) Citizen opportunities to drive projects and legislation; and (5) High quality education. Transportation is the number one reason new businesses and industry move to a community. This is just one of our area's unique economic advantages. The committee also mentioned that annual legislative trips have returned over \$52 million to our Region.

The committee plans additional meetings within the next

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few weeks to follow-up on suggestions and comments from the audience, and to continue to move forward. There are a lot of positive things going on here, and with the ideas and input from the community, we can make the Clinton Region a #1 place to live and work.

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• **ASHFORD'S "STATE OF THE UNIVERSITY"**

On September 10, 2007, Andrew Clark, President & CEO of Bridgepoint Education, gave Ashford University's annual "State of the University Address" at the Durgin Center. To say that things have turned the corner would be an understatement. The campus has the largest freshman class since 1999. With 525 students, enrollment at the campus is up 29%. Ashford University, including their on-line and campus enrollment, has well over 10,000 students.

The administration is currently investigating plans to refurbish or replace existing buildings, and is also planning a second campus, which would allow onsite enrollment to grow 3,000 to 4,000 students! Andrew Clark remarked that the current campus would remain open, and would serve as the University's College of Education. In addition to Ashford's future plans, they have already invested \$1.5 million in their location in Lyons Business and Technology Park.

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• **JO-CARROLL RENEWABLE ENERGY EXPANSION**

Jo-Carroll Energy announced it will construct a \$140 million power generation plant on a 60-acre site located between Thomson and Savanna, IL. The plant will not be using coal or gas to generate power, but will instead use renewable bio-mass fuels, specifically waste wood chips, corn fodder and switch grass. The residual steam will be piped to the near-by Danisco plant to be used in their manufacturing processes, allowing them to shut down two gas-fired boilers.

Construction of the 80 mega watt plant will begin in 2009 with an opening date planned for 2012. Over 250 construction workers are expected to be employed during the construction phase, and the plant will create 30 full time jobs with a median income of \$77,000. The economic impact of the facility is forecasted to provide a \$1.68 billion dollar shot in the arm to our Regional economy.

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• **INDUSTRIAL SPOTLIGHT - WIDE RIVER**

WINERY

Can the production of a wine be considered an industry? Of course! Whole communities have been built around the wine industry. What would Napa County, California, be without wine? Could Clinton County become the next wine capital? If Wide River Winery has their way, then maybe...

In August of 2005, Dorothy O'Brien and her husband decided to start bottling wine and selling to the general public. Thus, Wide River Winery was born. Wide River Winery is located at 1776 Deer Creek Road, Clinton Iowa, and is currently producing six different wines that can be purchased at Hy-Vee in Clinton:

1. **Ms. d' Meaner White** - This delightful white wine is made from Chardonal grapes. It is off-dry, meaning that it has an ever-so- slight, sweet taste. We think of Ms. d' Meaner as a party gal who livens up your gathering.
2. **Felony Red** - This full-bodied, dry red is made primarily from Norton grapes. It is dry and has been aged in American oak barrels. Felony Red has a big personality--if you are at a party, you just can't ignore it.
3. **White Oak** - This is a dry, white wine, barrel fermented in American oak barrels. We call it our "Big White Wine."
4. **Blushing Testimony** - A sweet rosé with personality. Perfect for summer picnics or when you're just wishing for summer.
5. **Sweet Justice** - A real "sweetie." Made from Concord grapes, this wine is as sweet as can be.
6. **Pursuit of Happiness** - An outstanding dessert wine. Made from Norton grapes and blended with natural flavors, this wine is guaranteed to make you smile!

I am hoping that at the next dinner you host, attend, or cook, whether it be a special occasion or just dinner for two, you will experience the delicious taste of fine wine from Wide River Winery, made right here in Clinton, Iowa.

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• BOSTON RECRUITMENT TRIP PLANNED

Steven Ames will be spending the first week of October in Boston calling on site selectors, developers, real estate professionals, and businesses, including UFP Technologies of which our local Moulded Fibre is a division. Appointments are still being made with the hopes of getting a sizeable number of sales/marketing opportunities. A recap of the trip will be in our October Newsletter.

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