



November 2010

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Cozad Telephone Company Cozad, NE

Cozad Telephone Company (CTC) is a third generation, family owned, independent local exchange carrier (ILEC). It was founded in 1902 as Cozad Mutual Telephone Company and was operated in that matter until 1933. In 1933, Marcus D. Young bought controlling interest and in 1946, Neil N. Young, after serving in the United States Navy during World War II, returned home and managed Cozad Telephone Company. The current owner of CTC, Mark Young, returned in 1980 after graduating from college to help in the family business.

Cozad Telephone has surpassed many milestones over the years, including:

- 1957: Installed step by step central office. Brought direct dialing to its customers.
- 1981: Buried entire copper outside plant which made its network more reliable.
- 1982: Installed first digital central office. Brought custom calling features to customers.
- 1996: Installed first toll fiber. (Long distance calling).
- 1997: Started providing dial-up internet services.
- 1999: Installed second digital central office, further enhancing customer calling.
- 2003: Buried fiber to the curb. Brought high speed internet, DSL, to all its customers.
- 2008: Installed first soft switch central office. An internet protocol (IP) switch.
- 2010: In the engineering phase of burying Fiber To The Home (FTTH) with a tentative start date of spring 2011.

Cozad Telephone Company has seen many changes in the past 108 years but remains committed to providing a complete TDM and IP fiber optic network in Cozad and the surrounding area.



CTC prides itself on offering the best Customer Services available, including:

- Customer services available 24x7x365 with one local call
- 10 full time employees
- Business office hours Monday-Friday 8 am-5 pm to better serve customer needs

CTC offers flexibility in providing your network needs, including:

- CTC can provide all of the most popular business enterprise services today.
- CTC provides a fiber optic network which can offer GigE services. This ensures that adding new devices into your network is as simple and painless as possible.
- CTC is dedicated to providing stable and highly flexible network solution.

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ABLE Update

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Talk about a crazy month! November was one of the busiest for me since I became the ABLE Coordinator almost a year ago.

We kicked the month off with an entrepreneurship retreat for high school students who have a special interest in entrepreneurial activities. This led to the formation of Dawson County Youth Entrepreneurship (DCYES), which, in turn, has led to possible new business ideas for Dawson County. The goal of this project is to not only create a new business, but to also connect the students with the available resources in Dawson County. I am encouraging all adults in the community that are interested in entrepreneurship or the DCYES group to contact me and get involved. Our

young population needs you!

Also in November, Connecting the Dots, a new career education program, was introduced to Dawson County high school sophomores. Students went through a real-life decision-making simulation, allowing them to make their own choices concerning education and career options. The program was coordinated by UNL Extension and hosted by the ABLE program. We will need to make a few changes for next year, but overall it was a success!

Lastly, I attended the Governor's Conference on Rural Development in Kearney the middle of November, sitting in on sessions related to technology growth for communities, new resources that

are available to small businesses and communities, and claiming your place on Google Maps. The Nebraska Community Improvement Program Awards Banquet took place that evening, with the ABLE program winning an award in the Youth Involvement and Leadership category for the ABLE Elementary Vehicle Day in Gothenburg. Thanks for all your help Gothenburg FFA Chapter!

As always, please let me know if you have any questions, comments or concerns!

November was a great month with many things to be thankful for. I hope that you are all finding joy during this busy Holiday Season. Have a great December!



NIFA First Friday Club

On Friday, November 5th, Ted Simpson and Steve Peregrine from the Nebraska Investment Finance Authority (NIFA) hosted a First Friday Club event in Lexington at the new Legend Oaks clubhouse facility. An overview of NIFA programs and services were presented by Mr. Simpson and Mr. Peregrine. Also partnering in the housing informational meeting was Dawson Area Development (DAD), NE Department of Economic Development, and USDA. Each agency gave a presentation on their housing products, projects, and services. Those in attendance were given the opportunity to ask questions of all the agencies.



THANK YOU



*For your donations to the
Connecting the Dots event!*



Elwood Earns Economic Development Certification

Elwood was recently designated as a Nebraska Economic Development Certified Community

DECEMBER 3, 2010 (LINCOLN, NEB.)-

Elwood is the latest Nebraska community to successfully become Nebraska Economic Development Certified.

"We are so grateful to receive this certification after 18 months of hard work by many community leaders," said Jen Wolf with Dawson Area Development.

"Elwood is honored to be the smallest Nebraska community to receive this certification and we're excited about moving forward with the help of this program," said Jim Varvel, Security First Bank.

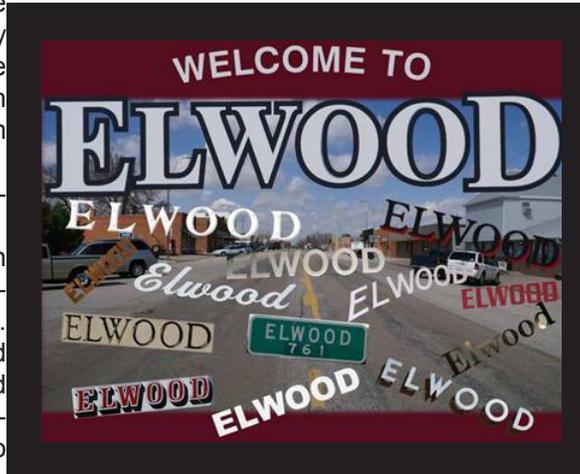
Elwood's projects and accomplishments include:

- The Wheatfield Addition program that consists of 15 free residential lots for home construction. Currently five lots have completed homes. The program was created to improve available housing in Elwood and encourage new people to move there.

- The offering of a Small Business Revolving Loan Program to help with business transition and development.

- Elwood Area Foundation, which is strong and actively helping grow the community and school.

- The Annual Gosper County Fair & Lions Club County-owned Carnival annually attracts thousands of visitors to Elwood in late July to volunteer and enjoy its offerings. The carnival is fully owned and operated by the county.



- Elwood Care Center, a skilled nursing home and assisted living facility is fully owned and operated by Elwood. Its census remains strong and

the Village continues to make improvements to the Center.

"Elwood has taken advantage of every opportunity that comes its way," said Terry McMullen, Nebraska Diplomats president. "They are now taking the lead and showing all of Nebraska's communities what a doable... and rewarding...process this is."

The Nebraska Economic Development Certified program, sponsored by the Nebraska Diplomats, is one of a handful nationally that recognize communities' economic development preparedness. The Nebraska Department of Economic Development administers the application process.

For information about Elwood, contact Jim Varvel at 308-785-3366.

For information about the Nebraska Economic Development Certified Community program, or a full list of certified communities, visit: <http://www.neded.org/content/view/380/669/> or contact Linda Black at 308-991-2986, or linda.black@nebraska.gov.

November Leadership Class - Government and Energy

November's class for the DAD Leadership Class started with Senators Wightman and Carlson, from the 36th and 38th districts, highlighting legislative issues in the state and how they were elected to their positions.

The topic switched to Energy with informative presentations by Rick Nelsen, NPPD, and Gary Stauffer of the NE Municipal Power Pool.

The morning was complet-

ed by an interesting overview of the NE Dept. of Environmental Quality by Joe Francis.

Lunch was served at Mac's Creek Winery and Vineyards followed by a tour of their facilities.

The communities of Cozad, Gothenburg, and Lexington and Dawson County were represented by their respective elected officials or administrative personnel as they gave the class an overview of each type of local government that exists

in our area.

The day ended with educational presentations and a tour of Cornhusker Energy Lexington, LLC.

Class members are in the process of attending their respective City/Village Council meetings, a County Commissioners meeting, and their local School Board meeting.



CTC Contd.

CTC has a strong commitment to utilizing a flexible Broadband Access Platform for their customers, including:

- a commitment to provide all of the most popular services available
- continual upgrades and growth with technology
- simply trying to be the best provider of Telecommunications anywhere

Cozad Telephone Company has made a commitment to the area to be the leader in network services. They believe to keep Cozad viable in the economic development area that this is a must. Cozad Telephone Company has enjoyed its past 108 years and looks forward to its future with this community.

ATTENTION

VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATIONS

Would you like to showcase your organizations to residents in Dawson County?

The DAD Leadership Class can help!

Contact Mary Gohl for more information.
308.784.3902
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2010 NCIP Banquet



A crowd assembles for the 2010 Governor's NCIP Awards Banquet at the Ramada Inn in Kearney, NE (top left). Dawson Area Development put together two silent auction baskets which showcased the two vineyards/wineries in Dawson County, Mac's Creek Vineyards and 3 Brothers Winery and Vineyards. Items were also donated by JM's Gifts of Cozad, showcasing the great smalltown shopping experience Dawson County has to offer. (middle left and above right). Jen Wolf, DAD Executive Director; Mary Gohl, ABLE Coordinator; and Anne Anderson, Gothenburg Community Development Executive Director pose with Lieutenant Governor Rick Sheehy after receiving awards for Youth Involvement & Leadership Development, Arts & Humanities, and Tourism Promotion and Development (bottom left).

Connecting the Dots 2010

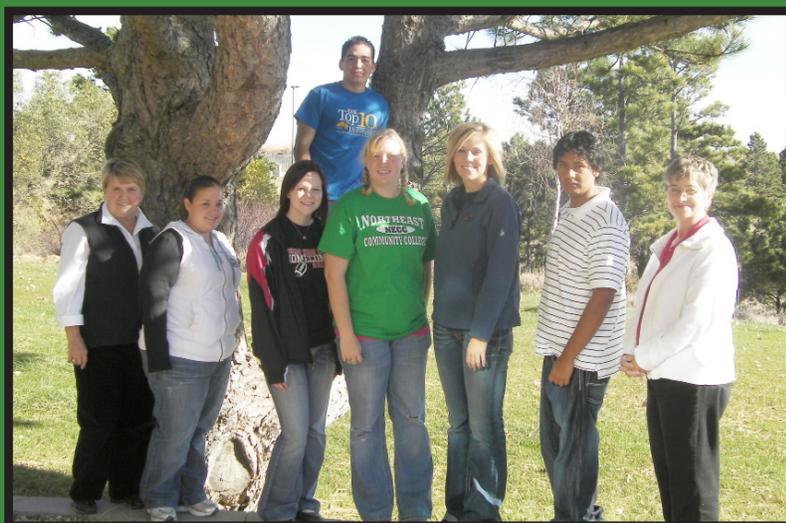


Students visited tables which featured career options from the 16 career clusters. Business professionals from Dawson County were on hand to answer any questions the students may have had and to offer advice concerning education and career choices. Business professionals also spoke to students about the importance of attaining a higher education and the opportunities that are available for them in Dawson County.

Dawson County Youth Entrepreneurship - DCYES



Students interested in entrepreneurship came together at Camp Comeca in early November to discuss possible opportunities in Dawson County. Dawson County Youth EntrepreneurShip (DCYES) was formed and a business plan is underway. These students represent various schools from across Dawson County and more students have decided to join the efforts of this group.



Middle right: Community “Mavens,” Robyn Geiser and Jen Wolf sat in on student discussion and were available to answer any questions the students had about starting a business. Bottom: (left to right) Diane Vigna, Becca Else, Jordan Starman, Roberto Gomez, Megan Portiner, Mary Gohl, Jesus Moreno, and Nancy Eberle. Vigna and Eberle are assisting Gohl, ABLE Coordinator, with the project. Gregg Christensen, Entrepreneurship and Career Education Specialist for the Nebraska Department of Education, is also providing valuable input on the project.