

## CENTERVILLE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION REPORT

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**Community Development:** The Centerville Development Corporation hosted the 2019 Celebrate Centerville Gala Event on Friday, November 22<sup>nd</sup> at the American Legion Hall. Approximately 80 people were in attendance for the dinner and program that helped celebrate Centerville's accomplishments over the past year. It was a nice event for Centerville and a great way to show appreciation for those involved in the community and bring those people together. We continue to learn from this event each year and make tweaks to it. We may look to open the event up to the entire community next year in order to go attendance and educate the public on what we are doing. The Dev Corp hopes to continue to make this an annual event that will grow each year.

The Downtown Improvements subcommittee continues to prepare and plan for some of the items and projects set to be added in the downtown project effort. We now have good handle on what we hope to accomplish leading up to next year. Some more planning and coordinating will need to take place with some of the business owners and the City as we move forward. Many of these items we hope to address and accomplish right away when the weather allows in the Spring. One piece of the downtown improvements that we will accomplish yet this year is adding holiday garland to the old fashion street lamps. We are excited to get these up in the first week in December to add to the holiday feel of the downtown.

Local City Leaders continue to try and address concerns over how to keep the Senior Center Building open as costs to operate the building outweigh what the space brings in. The City is on board with taking over the bill pay and financing the space for one more year while a plan is developed. As we look for solutions to supplement costs for the building, we may look to hold additional fundraisers and revisit dues for the space. We have even started conversations with local businesses about contributing to helping keep the space open. Look for more work and changes to this space in the up coming year.

There are a couple community holiday events that are coming up in December. These primarily revolve around open houses. The Centerville Community Library will have their annual open house on Friday, December 6<sup>th</sup> during the day with the FFA Carnival and movie at the library to follow. Also, the Centerville Chamber of Commerce has coordinated the annual business holiday open house events to take place on Wednesday, December 18<sup>th</sup> in town. Several businesses will have specials, giveaways, and goodies during the day at various times and participating Chamber businesses.

The CDC held its annual meeting on Monday, November 25<sup>th</sup>. The group collaborated on setting organizational goals for 2020. This process helps the Dev Corp carry out of our vision and mission by setting measurable goals for 2020. We believe we have a lot of momentum heading into this upcoming year and want to keep that going!

The CDC is looking into an opportunity to be one of the communities awarded with a free Active Walkability Assessment. This is a grant opportunity of sorts where if successfully chosen, Centerville would receive technical assistance, provided by SDSU Landscape Architect Students in where they would be conducting various active transportation assessments and providing recommendations for improving the built environment in our community to increase walkability and active transportation. The application is due December 13<sup>th</sup>.

With the collaborative efforts of the Centerville Chamber of Commerce and the Centerville Development Corporation the east facing billboard on the corner of highways 46 & 19A has finally been rebuilt. Eli Construction has repaired the structure and it is now ready for graphics to be added. A new design has been selected and we hope to have the graphic up before the end of the year.

**Housing:** The Development Corporation officially closed on the sale of their 111 Broadway St rehab house on November 22nd. This project was lengthy and a lot of work, but in the end, it was very rewarding and worthwhile to save this 100 old home in Centerville. We are glad to have found a qualified buyer. We will now go through the process of filling out the paperwork to receive our \$40,000 grant on the project from the South Dakota Housing Development Authority in order to help offset some of our expenses with this project.

The Development Corporation hit a little bit of a snag with the closing on their 121 Iowa St house. An old alley that use to exist within the lot was never officially vacated and that still needs to be done properly before we can close. The project is complete and the Marohl's have been allowed early access to the home and have moved in. The alley should be officially vacated by mid-December and the house should be ready to close on by the end of the month.

The CDC's next spec home project at 111 Iowa St has really started to take shape over the last couple weeks. Walls have gone up and trusses have been set. We hope to have the home buttoned from the elements soon. We are still anticipating the home being available for purchase in early spring of 2020. This area of town has really transformed in a little less than a year's time.

**Business Development:** Centerville Chamber bingo is happening again this year. The bingo cards are in the Star and at local chamber businesses. The participating businesses will stamp cards when shoppers' complete certain tasks on the bingo card. The drawing goes for four weeks for chances to win Chamber Cash. The drawings are on Dec 6<sup>th</sup> (\$25) Dec 13<sup>th</sup> (\$25) Dec 20<sup>th</sup> (\$25) and Dec 27<sup>th</sup> for the grand prize of \$100. Cards will be getting turned into each Friday at noon to City Hall for the drawings. This is another nice way to hopefully get people around and shopping local.

The Development Corporation has met multiple times to determine a plan of attack for the restoration of our historic 616 Broadway St building that will be home to the new Centerville Arts, Commerce and Visitors Center. The board met at the end of November to review all the work proposals and bids that were submitted. We awarded the work to several local subcontractors and we are excited to be making this project a collaborative local effort. We will now be putting a plan together for getting started. Some work has already begun and even more work will be ramping up over the winter months. We are very excited to see this project take shape for the community!