



Delmar resident is interviewed by a young student and his teacher.

## Delmar Dev. Receives \$80,000

Delmar Development was organized in 1998 and is a group of volunteers dedicated to the improvement of Delmar, Iowa. Current activities are focused on raising money for a new splash pad and basketball court to provide a fun and safe place for area residents and visitors to enjoy and attract new residents to the community.

Recently, the Clinton County Development Association announced that Delmar Development received \$80,000 for its splash pad and basketball court project which will be located in Norton Park. In late winter 2017, Delmar went through an oral history project, facilitated by the Iowa Initiative for Sustainable Communities, that had Delwood students interview long-term residents about Delmar's past, and contribute to a plan for its future. From this oral history project, the splash pad and basketball court project gained momentum, as something the community wants, for a way to be sustainable.

Making sure some young people stay in small towns is a major part of keeping them sustainable. Delmar Development has been around for 20 years and has rallied the community in several projects that make Delmar a great place to live and work. For example, one of their first major projects was to clean up and develop Norton Park and raise money for the lighting in the park. Congratulations Delmar Development!

## Cedar County named new Iowa Great Place

The Iowa Department of Cultural Affairs recently named Cedar County the only new Iowa Great Place. The Iowa Great Places program recognizes and partners with Iowans who cultivate the unique and authentic qualities of their local places – neighborhoods, districts or regions – and make them great places to live and work. Iowa Great Places receive access to professional training, technical assistance, a network of vibrant communities and passionate leaders, and other state and local resources.

"What do you love about your community?" In August 2017, students from the University of Iowa, in partnership with Iowa Initiative for Sustainable Communities (IISC), Cedar County, East Central Intergovernmental Association (ECIA), and the Cedar County Economic Development Commission (CCEDCO), set out to answer that question. This visioning process engaged the community by collecting input from longtime residents, new residents, families, retirees, etc. about Cedar County's future in group settings, one on one interviews, online surveys, and general public input sessions; supported the Cedar County Comprehensive Plan update that was also happening; and created a roadmap to transform Cedar County's future. The Cedar County: Envisioning a New Horizon vision plan was born which highlights existing great places and assets in Cedar County, as well as maps out goals, objectives, and implementation strategies for the future. The vision plan is a critical piece to Great Places designation.

In addition to designation, new and current Iowa Great Places can apply for funding this fall for projects that are tied to their community's vision plan. Great Places funding comes from an annual appropriation from the Rebuild Iowa Infrastructure Fund by the Iowa Legislature. Currently, Iowa has 45 Great Places with 13 projects in progress. The average Iowa Great Places grant award from 2014 to 2018 was \$204,000.

Other places that were given a Great Places re-designation include: City of Coo Rapids and Whiterock Conservancy, the City of Davenport's Main Street Landing, the City of Decorah, the City of Dubuque's Driftless North End, the City of Guttenberg, the Cities of Iowa City, Coralville and North Liberty, the City of Marion, the City of Perry, Van Buren County, the Downtown Dubuque Cultural Corridor, the Fairfield Cultural & Entertainment District, Downtown Davenport Cultural & Entertainment District, Cody Road & Entertainment District in the City of Le Claire, and the Cedar Falls Downtown District.

## Free In Depth TIF Training



John Danos with Dorsey and Whitney will be discussing everything you need to know about TIF!

### Topics to be Covered

- Basics of TIF; project start to finish
- Economic Development and TIF
- Municipal Financing; Bonds, Loans
- Time set aside to ask your specific questions

**Friday, August 24, 2018**  
10:00 am - 2:30 pm

**ECIA**  
7600 Commerce Park  
Dubuque, IA 52002

This is **FREE** and lunch will be provided. Please inform us if you have any dietary needs.

RSVP by August 21st to [hmcpherson@ecia.org](mailto:hmcpherson@ecia.org) or call 563-690-5738 & leave message



## New JCEA Director

Maquoketa mayor and Chairperson of the Jackson County Economic Alliance (JCEA), Don Schwenker, announced the promotion of Nicolas Hockenberry as the new Economic Development Director for the JCEA effective July 1, 2018.

Hockenberry has been at the JCEA for the past 4 years serving as Economic Development Specialist and Assistant Director. At the JCEA his experience includes business attraction, retention and site assistance; downtown and community development efforts; public speaking and media interaction; and, facilitating partnerships between civic groups and public service agencies.

Hockenberry replaces David Heiar, who will continue at the JCEA as Senior Advisor and Community Coach.

"When I accepted the Director's position 5 years ago, it was the Board's intent that would bring someone on staff who could work side by side for a few years and then take over as the Director. The plan has come together perfectly. It has been a pleasure to serve as Nic's mentor for the past 4 years. I look forward to continuing to serve Jackson County and others in the region as a Senior Advisor and Community Coach," said David Heiar.



"We are excited for Nic to move into this new role with Jackson County Economic Alliance. He will provide Jackson County with great experience in economic development, as well as new and fresh ideas to our development efforts," Schwenker said. "We believe Nic will be a tremendous asset to our communities and our businesses."



"I am thrilled by the opportunity to take on this new role at the Jackson County Economic Alliance," Hockenberry said. "Home to many great employers including large corporations, local and national retailers, advanced manufacturers, and more, Jackson County has developed a well-earned reputation as a great place to do business. I look forward to working with the Board, local governments and business community to continue enhancing and promoting Jackson County as an excellent place to live and work."

The Jackson County Economic Alliance is a private nonprofit organization focused on enhancing and promoting the economic condition of Jackson County through business development, workforce development, and community development.

## ECIA Welcomes Craig Elskamp

We're excited to announce that Craig Elskamp has accepted the position of Rehab Specialist/ Building Code Inspector here at the ECIA.

His responsibilities include grant administration, technical and advisory work in federal and state grant programs working with city and county governments, owners, housing contractors, inspectors, and the general public.



He will also provide inspection services to assure that buildings are in compliance with the adopted building codes and other relevant laws and ordinances. He was previously employed at IIW, P.C. and the Durrant Group.



Like us on Facebook today!

Phone: 563.556.4166  
Toll Free: 800.942.4648  
Fax: 563.556.0348  
Web: [www.ecia.org](http://www.ecia.org)