

September, 2020

I. HOUSING RECRUITMENT

- A. **Sidney** – Our current apartment occupancy as of the start of September is 92%, which is only a 1% drop from June and a 5% drop from March.
- B. **Sidney** – Sent contacts over to the manager of Coyote Flats RV Park so that they can market out to HR departments. Manager says tenants are coming in slowly but surely.
- C. **Sidney** – Sent over vacancy rate information on multi-family complexes over the past four years, per request, to an oilfield company representative.
- D. **Sidney** –The Dallas Build Expo date has been confirmed for October 28th and 29th, but has officially moved locations due to Kay Bailey Hutchison Center being unable to host. The expo will now take place at Market Hall. We will be promoting multifamily housing development in Carlsbad and Eddy County.

II. WORKFORCE RECRUITMENT

- A. **Sidney** – I sent out the resume to our membership for an individual seeking employment in Carlsbad with a background in instrument technician, construction skills, and some college coursework.
- B. **Sidney** – Sent over resumes I had on file to Lakeview Christian Home for an administrative assistant position.
- C. **Sidney** – Had a meeting with the new Director of Community Education & Workforce for NMSU Carlsbad. We discussed the workforce education needs here in Carlsbad and Eddy County and future ideas for NMSU-C programs.
- D. **Jeff** - Unemployment for Eddy County was 9.8% for August, down nearly a point from last month. The state as a whole is at 11.3%, with our neighbors in Lea County at 15.3% and Chaves at 11.7%.

III. EDUCATION

- A. **Sidney** – Spoke with Jamie Cherry about updates on Perkins applications and how I can be of assistance. I am working on filling out regional descriptions in the Perkins portal and reaching out to folks who might like to serve on the board later this year.
- B. **John**- Met with Mike McNair of NMSU-Carlsbad about workforce education program. Mike is new person at college that is charged with increasing workforce education opportunities at our local college. Suggested a survey and meeting with representatives of all our local industries at CDOD to gather information on needs and tailor programs for our community workforce.

IV. OIL, GAS & ALTERNATE ENERGY

A. John – Am attending the Mayor’s Energy summit this month on the 24th from 9 to 11 AM. It is being held virtually this year due to the travel and gathering restrictions brought on by COVID.

B. John- Following a September 5th CCA article on a national news release from a CDOD member announcing the cancellation of a pair of gas plant in Eddy County, I sent a message to our local government affairs coordinator of that company asking if there was anything the CDOD or community can do to help. I also asked about their other large planned construction project that was planned for Carlsbad. These are locations that the CDOD assisted on site selection with in prior years.

V. MANUFACTURING

A. Jeff – Work continues on assisting a broker find potential office space for a company. They are looking for 5,000 – 6,000 square feet of office space. If you have anything that might work, let me know. I have sent over a few responses from CDOD members I received last month through e-mail.

B. John- Met with and provided information on our RLF program and other opportunities to manager of a local manufacturing company.

VI. NUCLEAR

A. John- Spoke with several members and other interested people about what they could do to provide comments on the ELEA/Holtec Project. Public comment closed this week and several of our members indicated that they submitted supportive comments for the project.

B. Jeff –Updated the Eddy Lea Energy Alliance website for a meeting held on September 9th. Also updated the site to reflect changes in roles for the group.

VII. RETAIL/RESTAURANTS/ENTERTAINMENT/HOSPITALITY

A. Jeff – Project Daddy Dough has resumed property searches. We had worked on this a couple of years ago, but nothing came to fruition then. I have spoken with the franchise owner several times recently and have been providing them with potential spots to locate. They are looking for between 1200 and 1500 square feet, with a possible drive thru. If you have or know of anything that might work, let me know.

B. Jeff – Still awaiting the results of lease negotiations between the new tenant lined up to fill in the former Beall’s location at the Carlsbad Mall. Once they come to terms, we can make a formal announcement.

C. Jeff – Big O Tires opened on September 18. They are located at 4212 National Parks Highway.

D. Jeff – Planet Fitness continues to evaluate locations for Carlsbad. They have been in touch with a couple of property owners recently. I have facilitated the exchange of information on properties with them.

- E. Jeff** – I have been compiling a list of interested small business owners for the CARES grants that are going live soon. Once we have it all established as to the logistics, we will begin assisting the marketing and responses of all interested parties.
- F. Jeff** – Work continues in assisting a local business and CDOD member look for possible locations to expand within the community.
- G. Jeff** – Work has begun in the planning and implementation of the marketing plan related to the CARES grants available through the city and county.
- H. Jeff** – Work continues to assist the owner of the Cavern City Shopping Center, anew strip mall across from La Tienda, find tenants.
- I. John**- Met twice with a local restaurant owner about RLF Loan and impacts from the coronavirus.

VIII. CASCADES

- A. John**- We are now being told by the developers that the Cascades are on hold at least until after November 3rd.

IX. ADMINISTRATION

- A. John**- Passed on information to Wayne Shockey (jeshocke@nmsu.edu), our new Eddy County Extension Agent on a USDA grant program for those in area agricultural industry affected by COVID. He recently took the place of Woods Houghton, who retired.
- B. John**- Attended a web meeting with the film liaisons for southern New Mexico. The main theme was focused on trying to encourage more companies to use our area of the state for filming.
- C. John**- Attended a meeting with the NM Department of Economic Development and the Tourism Department to discuss the NM Certified Safe Program and the Governor's Public Health Orders. I have included the link here to the New Mexico Safe Certified program: <https://nmsafecertified.org> . We were encouraged to send this training link out to our local businesses.
- D. John**- Met with a reporter from Houston on the positive impact that our oil and gas industries have on our county and city. She drove around Carlsbad and outside town and looked at construction projects.
- E. John**- President Mitchell and I met with manager and owner of CDOD Member and local construction company about COVID and their business. Following this meeting I also received some information on three properties on Boyd drive that will be available for commercial development in October. If anybody is interested, please contact our office.
- F. John**- Met with Terry Brunner of Pivotal New Mexico regarding possible grant opportunities for companies and non-profits that might be slipping through the cracks. He didn't have anything in particular, but said that he would look for applicable grants and send us a list of those opportunities for us to circulate to affected businesses.

G. John- Sent information on two of our Non-Profit Members, Lakeview and CARC, Inc. to the NMOGA for a possible grant opportunity for their organizations.

H. John- Also sent out a request for assistance for Lakeview Christian Homes to help fight the terrible disease that we are all coping with. It is very serious for their industry and affects them in a way that most of us will never realize. If you are interested in helping, please contact Jody or Tracy at corporate@lakeviewchristian.com or via phone at They need personal protective equipment like gowns, masks, face shields, and goggles, as well as Pedialyte and individual snacks and drinks for our red zone those employees and residents are contained to that zone. They also have supplies to make gowns if anyone wants to volunteer to sew them. Thank you to the members that have already helped out. Your willingness to help out immediately and ask what you and your companies can give or do is what makes Carlsbad and the CDOD such a great organization to work for.

I. John- On the 10th, I met with the Eddy County Census Count Committee concerning the low self-reporting rate for Eddy county this year. The consensus was that there was not a lot of visual evidence that our communities were being serviced by the Census Walkers. On the 20th, I asked Sidney to contact the managers for the multifamily apartment complexes and the non-RV mobile home parks to inquire if they had been approached by census employees. As of that date in Carlsbad some of them had been contacted and physically visited by the census takers in the past two weeks and some others were waiting on upcoming visits this week.

J. Jeff – Efforts continue to push Eddy County residents to answer the US Census. The current self-response rate as of this writing is 54.7%. Carlsbad’s response rate is 54.4%, Artesia’s is 59.8% and Loving is 41.9%. The state’s response rate is 57.2%. Census enumerators have been going door to door since early August and will continue until the end of September.

K. John- Worked extensively and have had numerous meetings with City staff and have started working with county staff to prepare materials for the Small Business Grant Program that CDOD is going to administer. Have also attended two webinars with state officials over the implementation of this program.

L. Jeff – Sent out a national press release for the aforementioned CARES Act funding our city has received. Additionally, we shared a press release on our website related to Chevron providing support to NMSU STEM programs in southeastern New Mexico.

M. Jeff – Met with the new executive director for Carlsbad MainStreet, Ashly Key. We discussed empty properties in the Mainstreet district as well as other ways the CDOD and Mainstreet can work together on various fronts.

N. Sidney – Started taking down contact information for people who call in requesting information on the Cares Act and RLF programs.