



Resource Team Report Hartford, South Dakota

February 5-7, 2007

A Governors 2010 Initiative

Acknowledgements



The Community Resource Team Assessment Program is coordinated by the South Dakota Rural Development Council to help fulfill Goal #4 of the Governors 2010 Initiative to “*Brand and Develop South Dakota’s Quality of Life as the Best in America by 2010*” by stabilizing rural populations through community development.



This program is made possible through the collaborative efforts of over 150 volunteers representing 50 plus organizations throughout South Dakota.



The program is also made possible through financial contributions made by the State of South Dakota (Governors Office of Economic Development), USDA Rural Development, and the South Dakota Community Foundation.

At the local level, this process would not be possible without the many hours of volunteer service from your local planning taskforce and local financial sponsors.



Special recognition to South Dakota’s Elected Officials including Governor Mike Rounds, Senator Tim Johnson, Senator John Thune, and Representative Stephanie Herseth for their continuing support for the South Dakota Rural Development Council. Also, special thanks to the Council’s Board of Directors for initiating this program in South Dakota



South Dakota
Community Foundation

Thank you to everyone who contributed to making this Assessment a success!

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February 5-7, 2007

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Executive Summary

I have a confession to make.

Prior to the assessment team's arrival in Hartford, I didn't know a whole lot about your community. My knowledge consisted of information I had heard or seen in the media. I knew the West Central Trojans were a force to be reckoned with in football and I knew Hartford needed to build some new schools because every time the wind blew to a certain speed, you had to cancel classes (I'm well aware it's an exaggeration from the media!)

Needless to say, I was in for a lesson. Our team saw the product of a proud community that knows how to do things right. Hartford is a clean, well kept town that has a lot to offer. Considering the close proximity to Sioux Falls, I was surprised at the diversity of the business district.

Because of forward thinking community leaders Hartford is on track to become even better. We were impressed to hear that plans are in place to have a reliable water supply for the future and that water and sewer lines are already updated or in the process of becoming so. The proposed curb, gutter and sidewalk projects, while a bit controversial, I guarantee will be something Hartford will never regret doing.

These infrastructure projects are tough on communities...they drain the City checkbook and quite frankly, wouldn't it be more fun to put money into playground equipment at the park rather than sewer lines under the street? I have to hand it to you for sticking to your guns and preparing for the future.

Hartford has a number of progressive thinking citizens that have great ideas of how to make a place they call home an even better place to live. Now that the infrastructure plans are in place, it's time to do what I call "the fun stuff." We heard people say they would like to see a walking trail, an improved swimming pool, more shopping choices, more playground equipment at the parks, etc...

Hartford is on the threshold of remarkable things. This report is a place to begin planning for that future. While Hartford certainly has the basic tools needed to assure a vibrant and successful future, this report will give your community some ideas as to where to look to the outside for assistance. But the core responsibilities for developing ideas and making sure things move forward resides at the local level.

The recommendations in this report cover a broad range of issues, from business recruitment to a sports complex. Many of the projects are large and will take years to complete. However, there are many recommendations that are smaller and can be achieved relatively easily. These ideas provide a place to start and a contact person to get the wheels rolling.

Setting priorities for Hartford is the first step. Participation in the upcoming priority-setting meeting is vital. The efforts must reflect your entire community and that requires participation-both great and small. Once this has been done, you can begin to develop strategies for how you want to accomplish your objectives in the next 2, 5, 10 and 20 years.

The South Dakota Rural Development Council is a great resource and Shawn Pritchett, the executive director, is willing to help in any way they can. Please feel free to call upon any of the resource team members for additional advice as you move forward with your efforts.

On behalf of the resource team, I want to personally thank your community for the hospitality extended to us during our stay. We ate a lot, laughed a lot and met a lot of really great people....as far as I'm concerned, life doesn't get much better than that. Special thanks to Roland VanDerWerff and the planning committee for their organization of the assessment. Thanks also to the community for their enthusiastic participation in what will probably go down as the coldest community assessment in history.

I love small town success stories and I look forward to hearing about Hartford's in years to come.

Sincerely,

Karen Burket
Resource Team Leader

Introductions by Resource Team Members

Bill Hansen (Centerville Development Corporation Coordinator): I want to thank the community of Hartford for your warm hospitality and enthusiastic involvement during your community assessment. I enjoyed listening and getting to know you during the three days we spent in Hartford. Hartford has made good strides the past few years in developing infrastructure and housing. I think you are in a great position to seize opportunities that are a result of the growth in the Sioux Falls area. It was my pleasure to work with all of you and I sincerely hope the information we are providing is useful to you in planning your exciting future.

Dean Nielsen (Retired Local Government Official): I would like to express a large thank you to all the citizens of the Hartford community who made this assessment process, my first one, a very enjoyable experience for me. It was a tremendous learning experience. The City of Hartford employees, officials and citizens provided great hospitality and displayed a tremendous willingness to participate in this assessment process. I have worked with communities throughout Southeast South Dakota; I understand and appreciate your challenges of community growth. Your enthusiasm is remarkable, your leadership is dedicated, and your potential for success is great. I will follow the results of this assessment and observe your progress in the upcoming years.

Somer Ortman (City of Canistota Mayor): I truly enjoyed my time in Hartford. You have a friendly, caring community and I look forward to watching Hartford grow successfully into the future. You are a small town with a lot of potential and I think that you will find your community assessment will benefit you greatly. Thank you for sharing all your ideas and aspirations, for the opportunity to learn more about Hartford and especially for your hospitality. God Bless.

Rachael Sherard (Avera Rural Health Institute): I would like to thank Cecile Binker, Roland VanDerWerff, the city of Hartford, the Hartford Economic Development Corporation and the many volunteers for organizing numerous details that made this community assessment so informative and enjoyable. I would also like to thank everyone who took the time to participate in the listening sessions and the community meeting on a cold snowy Wednesday night. The community's involvement is a testimony of Hartford's true desire to be poised for significant growth! I would also like to thank all of the businesses that provided the resource team with genuine hospitality and wonderful meals. I would especially like to thank the Pizza Ranch for allowing us to use their facility as our "home base". And lastly thank you for allowing me to learn more about Hartford; it will be fun to watch your community to grow!

Kevin Strickler (USDA Rural Development): It was a great opportunity to serve on the Hartford Assessment team. You have a wonderful community and many things to be very proud of. I was impressed with the great turn out at all of the listening sessions (especially on such cold nights). I look forward to watching Hartford complete the projects that you plan to do. You have a strong community and I have no doubt you will accomplish what it is you want.

Process for the Development of This Report

The South Dakota Rural Development Council (SDRDC) has provided a Resource Team to assist the City of Hartford, South Dakota in evaluating the community's assets and liabilities and in developing suggestions for improving the environmental, social and economic future of Hartford.

The City of Hartford coordinated the Community Assessment locally. Roland VanDerWerff served as the community planning leader and with the help of many local volunteers serving on the planning taskforce, developed the agenda, coordinated logistics, and publicized the assessment within the local community.

The Resource Team toured the town and surrounding area and interviewed over 150+ individuals during the three-day period from February 5-7. The team interviewed representatives from the following segments of the Hartford community: City, County Government., EMS, Law Enforcement, Fire, Business, Retail, Industry, Commercial Club, Development Corporation, Housing, School Faculty, Administration and School Board, Parents, Daycare Providers, Farmers, Utility providers, High School and Jr. High youth and more. Each participant was asked to respond to three questions designed to begin communication and discussion and to serve as a basis for developing an action plan. The three questions were:

- **What do you think are the major problems and challenges in Hartford?**
- **What do you think are the major strengths and assets of Hartford?**
- **What projects would you like to see completed in two, five, ten, and twenty years in Hartford?**

Upon completion of the interviews, the team met to compare notes and share comments following three days of intense study. The team then agreed that each team member would carefully analyze the things said, synthesize what they heard with their knowledge of programs and resources, prepare their notes and suggestions, and then forward these items to be combined into SDRDC's final report to Hartford.

An oral report was presented to the residents of Hartford on February 7, 2007. Following the oral report, a formal written report was prepared and presented to the community of Hartford. A community follow-up and prioritization meeting will be held in Hartford after this report is distributed and made available to the community at large.

*Hartford, South Dakota
February 5-7, 2007*



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City of Hartford Administrator
PO Box 727
Hartford, SD 57033
605-528-6187
cityhart@unitelsd.com

Hartford Community Assessment Agenda *February 5-7, 2007*

Monday, 2/5/07

TIME	TITLE
4:30 PM – 6:00 PM	Resource Team Meets
6:30 PM – 7:30 PM	Listening Session: City Council/Open
7:30 PM – 8:30 PM	Listening Session: Fire/EMS/Public Safety/Health

Tuesday, 2/6/07

TIME	TITLE
8:30 AM – 9:30 AM	Listening Session: Developers/Consultants/Utilities
9:30 AM – 10:30 AM	Listening Session: Church Leaders
11:00 AM – 12:00 PM	Listening Session: Seniors
1:15 PM – 3:00 PM	Community Tour
3:45 PM – 4:45 PM	Listening Session: Educators/School Board
6:30 PM – 7:30 PM	Listening Session: Planning/Zoning/HADC
7:30 PM – 8:30 PM	Listening Session: Sports/Recreation

Wednesday, 2/7/07

TIME	TITLE
8:30 AM – 9:30 AM	Listening Session: Middle School Student Council
9:45 AM – 10:45 AM	Listening Session: High School Student Council
11:00 AM – 12:00 PM	Listening Session: Seniors and Parents
1:00 PM – 2:00 PM	Listening Session: Agriculture and Area Businesses
2:00 PM – 6:00 PM	Resource Team Preparation
7:00 PM – 8:30 PM	Town Hall Meeting



The Governors 2010 Initiative is the comprehensive strategic plan for economic development in the State of South Dakota over the next five years. The Community Resource Team Assessment Program is one piece of this initiative, with the mission of helping rural communities advance their community planning. The Community Assessment Program helps to develop a local community/economic development plan that is unique to the community, while at the same time, fitting in with the state's overall 2010 Initiative

The following Goals and Objectives were identified in the Governors Statewide 2010 Initiative

Goal 1: Double Visitor Spending from \$600 Million to \$1.2 Billion by 2010

- 1A. Change the way we market South Dakota
- 1B. Focus new energy and investment on expanding the fall shoulder season for visitors in order to increase the percentage of tourism revenues for this season to 42 percent
- 1C. Expand investment in tourism's peak season through greater use of partnership and cooperative efforts
- 1D. Develop a statewide "One-Click, on-call" reservation system by 2005
- 1E. Capitalize on the existing outdoor opportunities in our state

Goal 2: Increase GSP (Gross State Product) by \$10 billion by 2010

- 2A. Promote the creation and development of new businesses that will contribute \$6 billion to the GSP
- 2B. Promote the growth / expansion of existing businesses that will contribute \$4 billion to GSP
- 2C. Promote agricultural and natural resource development in South Dakota

Goal 3: Become a Recognized Leader in Research and Technology Development by 2010

- 3A. Secure Homestake Mine for use as an underground science laboratory
- 3B. Improve ranking to at least 30th nationally for NSF funding
- 3C. Development research and technology infrastructure at our universities with the private sector
(Emphasis on research that can be commercialized and will benefit South Dakota)

Goal 4: Brand and Development South Dakota's Quality of Life as the Best in America by 2010

- 4A. Enhance South Dakota's image to young people in an effort to retain and import young adults
- 4B. Enhance History and Arts as a tool for economic development and cultural tourism
- 4C. Stabilize rural populations through community development
- 4D. Stimulate affordable homeownership, rental housing, and day care facilities in South Dakota communities which evidence a need.
- 4E. Improve cooperative efforts with the Native American Tribes

Goal 5: Uphold Our Commitment to the 2010 Initiative as a Work in Progress

- 5A. Assign implementation to Department of Tourism and State Development
- 5B. Create ongoing update and accountability structure for 2010 Initiative

Following distribution of this Community Resource Team Assessment Report, the South Dakota Rural Development Council will convene a follow up priority-setting meeting in the community to help focus on select set of goals and objectives based on the data collected during the assessment and the recommendations included in this report.

What We Heard From What Was Said

After listening to citizens of Hartford, the Resource Team reviewed what was said and condensed the comments down to major themes that will be addressed in the team member reports. (These are in no particular order of priority).

Major Theme/Sub Themes	Page Number
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THEME: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	
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SAFETY

SUB THEME: Sidewalks

Challenge: In many sessions, the participants expressed the need to add sidewalks where they currently do not exist and to maintain or repair the existing sidewalks.

Recommendation: Sidewalks are normally the responsibility of the property owner. The city can require, by ordinance, that property owners install and maintain sidewalks. A master plan for sidewalks should be developed that reviews the status of existing sidewalks and where new sidewalks must be placed. Upon completion of this inventory the city needs to make sure their ordinances can provide the guidance for property owners to complete the sidewalk installation and maintain the sidewalks.

Most city sidewalk projects are financed by the city utilizing general tax dollars or a loan based on sales tax revenue. Sidewalks can also be done by assessing the property owners via a “special assessment” for the cost of the project. In many instances property owners can complete their own sidewalk projects in accordance with a city standard. These options could put an undue strain on some of the landowners since the city has experienced an aggressive program for assessed street projects. Few grant programs exist that provide assistance in this area. Most grant programs that are slanted toward infrastructure improvements usually cover areas related to streets and underlying water/wastewater infrastructure. Therefore, if a sidewalks program is pursued in the community, be aware that costs for the projects must rely on local funding either through the city or through local assessments on related property owners.

Depending on where the sidewalks are located, sidewalks have been installed or replaced as part of a South Dakota Department of Transportation (SDDOT) funded project under the Community Access Program. These types of SDDOT financed projects usually involve Main Streets, streets to schools, elevators, and/or industrial park projects. Since a state highway (SD 38) divides the city, the leaders should explore all possibilities with the SDDOT for a bike trail in conjunction with the highway could also compliment the needs for a sidewalk.

Resources:

South Eastern Council of Governments
1000 N. West Ave., Suite
Sioux Falls, SD 57104-1332
Phone: 605-367-5390
lynne@secog.org
www.secog.org

SAFETY
Crosswalks

Resources: Continued

USDA – Rural Development
Timothy W. Murray
1820 North Kimball, Suite C
Mitchell, SD 57301
Phone: 605-996-1564 ext. 4
Fax: 605-996-0130
tim.murray@sd.usda.gov

HUD CDBG funds
Governors Office of Economic Development – GOED
711 East Wells Ave
Pierre, SD 57501
Phone: 605-773-5032 or 800-872-6190
Fax: 605-773-3256
www.state.sd.us/goed

SD Department of Transportation
700 East Broadway Ave.
Pierre, SD 57501-2586
Phone: 605-773-3265
www.sddot.com

SUB THEME: Crosswalks

Challenge: A great concern expressed by the community is the hazard that SD Highway 38 and Western Avenue present for conflict between pedestrian and vehicular traffic. The alignment of these two major streets physically splits the community. This conflict poses potential danger for pedestrian traffic as well as other vehicular traffic. This is very evident near the high school where the conflict seems the greatest. Students come from a residential area that is across the highway from the school. Within the near future, development to the west of Western Avenue will also become a challenge.

Recommendation: The community should work closely with the South Dakota Department of Transportation (SDDOT) to create crosswalks on SD Highway 38 and to make sure there are adequate approaches to provide enough pedestrian waiting area for these crosswalks. It may be necessary to use more distinct markings and warnings for pedestrian safety. The city should be creative in the use of pedestrian/bike trails to support the work needed for crosswalks. The current speed limits should continually be monitored to ascertain the appropriate reduction to ensure the safety of the pedestrian and vehicular traffic.

SAFETY

Lighting

To address safety concerns for public roads, the community should contact Cliff Reuer, Traffic and Safety Engineer with the South Dakota Department of Transportation (contact information below). Some funding is available for various safety improvements projects including the Roadway Safety Improvement Program (RSI). Each year, RSI programs about 10 to 15 projects where there is a high incidence of accidents. The program has about \$2.5 million available each year for major projects, providing up to 90% of project costs with a 10% local match.

This department also administers the Federal Section 402 program that can help pay for materials, such as signage, for certain safety improvements projects.

In order to provide the greatest safety benefits for all pedestrians in crossing vehicular facilities, the city should conduct a thorough review of their ordinances to assure they are current for minimizing the conflicts between pedestrians and vehicles in crosswalks and school zones.

Resources:

South Eastern Council of Governments
1000 N. West Ave., Suite
Sioux Falls, SD 57104-1332
Phone: 605-367-5390
lynne@secog.org
www.secog.org

Cliff Reuer, Traffic and Safety Engineer
SD Department of Transportation
700 East Broadway Ave.
Pierre, SD 57501-2586
Phone: 605-773-5361
www.sddot.com
<http://www.sddot.com/fpa/lga/traffic.asp>

SUB THEME: Lighting

Challenge: A number of the listening session respondents expressed concern about lighting of streets and park areas throughout the community. This is a public safety issue for residents at nighttime, particularly in regard to activities occurring in the park and other parts of the community.

Recommendations: There are several potential solutions for addressing this need in the community. The first step is to identify high priority areas where additional lighting may be necessary to address public safety issues. This can be accomplished by surveying

SAFETY

Lighting

community residents and identifying the geographic areas where residents have the most concern. For example, during the youth session, the youth commented on the need for additional lighting in the park – specifically around the area of the skateboard park. The youth felt that additional lighting would not only increase utilization of this facility, but that it would enhance safety in this area during evening hours and avoid other less desirable activities from happening (such as the distribution and/or use of prohibited substances).

Once priority areas have been identified, contact your local electricity provider. They will be a primary resource for you as you look to implement possible solutions. In my previous experience, I worked on a church board that was looking to address lighting issues with our parking lot. Working cooperatively with the electrical provider, we were able to have additional lighting installed and we were then charged a monthly fee for the equipment and electricity. A similar solution may be possible for the city's public areas.

Also, stay in communication with the South Dakota Department of Transportation regarding your concerns. As they enhance trunk mileage in and around Hartford, upgrading the lighting could potentially be another simultaneous improvement. There may also be funding for public safety projects available through SDDOT that could be utilized for targeted lighting enhancements.

Lighting will also need to be addressed as part of the regulations for new residential development. A minimum level of lighting should be required within your subdivision ordinances.

In areas of historical significance, I would encourage you to contact the South Dakota Historical Society as they may be able to provide you with technical assistance in the design and implementation of lighting that is sensitive to historical preservation.

Resources:

Sioux Valley Energy
PO Box 216
Colman, SD 57017
1-800-234-1960

South Dakota Department of Transportation
700 E. Broadway Ave
Pierre, SD 57501-2586
605-773-3265
605-773-3921
www.sddot.com

SAFETY
Law Enforcement

Resources: Continued

South Eastern Council of Governments
1000 N. West Ave., Suite
Sioux Falls, SD 57104-1332
Phone: 605-367-5390
lynne@secog.org
www.secog.org

South Dakota Historical Society
Jay Vogt, Director
900 Governors Drive
Pierre, SD 57501-2217
605-773-3458
sdshswebmaster@state.sd.us
www.sdhhistory.org

SUB THEME: Law Enforcement

Challenge: During several of the listening sessions, we heard a number of citizens voice the need for increased law enforcement presence in the community.

Recommendation: With the close proximity to Sioux Falls, the community of Hartford contracts with Minnehaha County to provide law enforcement. From what I understand, this is an agreement that works well for other communities around Sioux Falls as well as Hartford. Many residents said they thought the contracting for law enforcement was a good idea and it saved on tax dollars. Our team was impressed with the fact that Mike Milstead and Jim Hoekman attended the assessment listening session concerning EMS and law enforcement. Kudos to the school for having an officer in the schools program.

While the agreement works, as a team we heard some concerns from citizens that we feel would be in the community's best interest to be addressed. In all of the community assessments we've been involved in, most of the time the students will say "the law enforcement is too aggressive," "We have too many cops," "The police need to let kids be kids." We usually chalk it up as just that, kids being kids.

We heard something different from the students in Hartford. There was a genuine concern of illegal activities going on in the community...these activities involved a compromise in the safety of citizens. We also heard concerns from the parents in the community.

While this isn't an issue we are going to go into depth into, we thought the community should be aware of the situation. We would encourage Hartford to create a committee

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Fire and EMT Recruitment

that consists of representation from different sectors of the community (include the kids!) and come up with some solutions to the situation.

Again, we know your community is receiving exceptional law enforcement coverage through your current contract. We just want your community to be sure things aren't being overlooked.

SUB THEME: Fire and EMT Recruitment
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Challenge: Hartford currently has a limited number of EMTs and firemen serving in their departments. This causes concern for volunteer burnout and delayed response times.

Recommendation: First of all, I want people to know I've written on this topic so many times that it will sound a lot like my other recommendations in other reports. However, the message is important no matter where you live. Without a sufficient number of emergency personnel, the community risks delayed response times.

During our listening session with the two departments we heard that the number of individuals that are available for calls is limited. I'm not quite sure if I understood the entire set up with neighboring towns and the district, so I apologize if I'm a bit off mark with my recommendation. The ideas presented are focused on recruitment of EMS volunteers, but would work for the fire department also.

Being in EMS, I understand what a commitment the job is, but it is probably the favorite thing I do. I would not trade the friends I've made and the people I've helped for anything. As Hartford and neighboring communities look at recruitment of EMTs, think outside the box. An ad in the paper isn't going to cut it, there needs to be more of a personal approach.

How do we recruit members for EMS so volunteering for service is not a burden? First and foremost I want it to be said that I think we shoot ourselves in the foot when it comes to recruiting volunteers. We tell everyone how much time it takes. We complain about the testing to become an EMT. We whine about the recertification requirements. We talk about getting calls in the middle of the night and so on and so forth. If you think about it, why would anyone sign up for service? Would any "normal" person want a part of that?

When talking with people, promote the good things about the job, not the bad things. If someone says, "How can you be an EMT? Doesn't it take a lot of time?" Answer, "Yes, it does, but I love it because..."

We need to focus more on promoting the friends we make and the feeling we get from helping others. There is no other group of people I would want in charge of my family if they needed EMS than the people on my ambulance service. Other services out there

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Fire and EMT Recruitment

may have fancier equipment or paramedics, but I'm convinced no one will go above and beyond like small town EMTs.

When recruiting, it's important to acknowledge the test is tough and the hours stink, but that shouldn't be our focus. Tell a recruit you will help them through the training and that once they are through it, you'll help them with calls until they are comfortable. I'm afraid we look at new volunteers as being "fresh meat" and we are so anxious to lift the burden, that we overwhelm them.

When we recruited this last time in Platte, we really did an all out publicity blitz in the newspaper and had EMTs seek out others they thought would be good candidates. We did funny things like "The Top Ten Reasons to be an EMT." With that we put funny things like "you get to see what everyone really looks like at 4AM," "you get a warm, fuzzy feeling in you heart when you help someone," and "you don't have to worry about the pay putting you in a different tax bracket" (because there isn't any!)

We also had EMTs write letters to the editor about what they like about being an EMT. I'll admit it, I had to write most of them (trying to get guys to write a letter to the editor is like pushing a rope) and most everyone just signed off on it, but it worked. People seemed to respond to that.

During the training we enlisted the help of community volunteers to feed the class. Everyone seemed to appreciate that as it made it easier for them to get to class on time and it was one less thing to worry about. We also had a veteran EMT assigned to each class night so they could help with questions, training, etc....It is nice for new recruits to hear that the National standards they are tested on are by no means the way things are done on rural, volunteer services. Let's face it, the training is overwhelming and it is great to have someone say, "You just need to get through this training, and then things are more realistic on the ambulance service." (Does the term "load and go" ring a bell?)

When recruiting, it is vital to educate the community as to how much money is saved on taxes by having a volunteer service. We compared what surrounding towns with paid services are paying in taxes compared to Platte. We also made a plea to business owners to make it possible for EMTs to leave work during the day to go on a call. Platte had been struggling with filling day shifts because employers weren't allowing employees to leave work or they had to clock out if they did. We really worked the fact that those businesses would be paying so much more in taxes if it weren't a volunteer service. I firmly believe people should not have to lose money if they volunteer to be an EMT. Make businesses aware of the alternatives.

I want to recommend that you explore the possibility of paying your volunteers something. Even if it is something small, the current volunteers appreciate it. I know a number of our EMTs use the payment to do something with their family or save it to buy something for the household. Granted, it's not much, but it is a gesture that is appreciated and used to compensate for time away from families. At least, look into providing financial support for educating new EMTs.

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Fire and EMT Recruitment

I also want to recommend the community consider celebrating EMS week. This would include the fire department and the ambulance service. These people work hard and donate numerous hours of time away from their jobs and families. It doesn't take much to make someone feel appreciated. Maybe do an appreciation supper or something like that.

I wish I had a number of resources to give you, but the answers to the recruitment problem really lie in your own community. You have to find a way for people to step up to the plate. I'm listing the State Department of Public Safety as a contact to see what other communities have done. Give me a call and we can brainstorm some ideas.

For information regarding EMT training please take advantage of the resources below.

Resources:

Office of Emergency Medical Services
South Dakota Department of Public Safety
118 W. Capitol
Pierre, SD 57501
Bob.graff@state.sd.us
www.state.sd.us/dps/EMS

Karen Burket
Platte Ambulance Service EMT
PO Box 336
Platte, SD 57369
605-337-2895

Bureau of Labor Statistics
U.S. Department of Labor
Occupational Outlook Handbook
Emergency Medical Technicians and Paramedics
www.bls.gov/oco/ocos101.htm

South Dakota Emergency Medical Technicians' Association
www.sdemta.org
Visit the "EMT Thoughts" Link

National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians
www.nremt.org

SAFETY
Fire Station

Training Resources:

Stacy Grace
Training Officer/NAEMT SDEMTA
605-201-0406
Grace12073@hotmail.com

Barb Jorgensen
Eastern Specialist/EMS Liaison
barb.jorgensen@state.sd.us

Yankton County Emergency Medical Services
www.yanktonems.com/education.html

Western Iowa Tech Community College
www.witcc.com
EMS Training Catalog
www.witcc.com/pdf/catalog.pdf - pp. 110 and 128

SUB THEME: Fire Station

Challenge: Many respondents expressed an interest in the construction of a new fire station.

Recommendation: You are commended for recognizing the need to expand fire protection services as your community grows. Providing emergency services in a growing community like Hartford is a constant challenge. Efficient, modern fire protection can reduce property insurance rates, making housing costs in your community more affordable. Adequate fire protection is a key ingredient to continued growth in your community.

Some communities have successfully incorporated a community center into their construction plans for a new fire station. This concept maximizes the use of the community space; giving fire department personnel extra space for training and meetings and providing the community the opportunity to use the space for numerous events. As an added bonus, in general these types of joint facilities seem more popular with taxpayers.

As a non-profit entity, the fire department relies on 'fire protection contracts' with the city of Hartford and the surrounding townships. This funding mechanism is an adequate method of providing service but it does require extensive negotiation and cooperation among the various city and township officials. As an alternative, you may wish to explore the possibility of forming a fire protection district. Fire protection districts have

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Fire Station

the ability to levee taxes thus shifting control over the finances more to the fire district. Additionally, fire protection districts have the authority to issue bonds, a somewhat more stable debt funding mechanism.

Financing Options:

- (1) USDA Rural Development Guaranteed & Direct Community Facility Loan program. These funds can be used to construct, enlarge, or improve community facilities for health care, public safety and public services. Eligible entities include public bodies or non profit corporations. With the direct loan program, USDA can extend the terms to a maximum of 40 years with an interest rate around 5%. The guaranteed loan program uses local lenders to help build a facility with a guarantee from USDA.
- (2) Community Development Block Grants might be an option. Hartford does not automatically qualify for this program based on 2000 census income data. A locally conducted income survey is an alternative way to potentially qualify for this program. A survey may show that income levels may have changed enough in the last seven years to meet the 51% low-to-moderate income requirement of the program (especially if the service area of the fire department expands in areas beyond Hartford's city limits).

The South Eastern Council of Governments (SECOG) can assist you in applying for a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), conducting a CDBG eligibility survey, and other loan and grant programs. You may also contact Rural Development to discuss financing options.

Resources:

South Eastern Council of Governments
Lynne Keller, Director
1000 N. West Ave. Suite 210
Sioux Falls, SD 57104
605-367-5390
lynne@secog.rog

USDA – Rural Development
2408 East Benson Road
Sioux Falls, SD 57104
Phone: 605-330-4515
Fax: 605-330-4595
<http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/sd>

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Resources: Continued

Community Development Block Grant
Steve Harding
Governor's Office of Economic Development – GOED
Department of Tourism and State Development
711 E. Wells Ave.
Pierre, SD 57501
605-773-5032
goedinfo@state.sd.us
<http://www.sdgreatprofits.com>

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Rural Emergency Medical Service Training and Equipment Assistance Program
Health Resource Services Administration
Evan Mayfield – Program Contact
301-443-0835
emayfield@hrsa.gov
<http://www.fedgrants.gov/Applicants/HHS/HRSA/GAC/HRSA-05-116/listing.html>

US Department of Homeland Security
US Fire Administration
Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program
16825 S. Seton Ave.
Emmitsburn, MD 21727
301-447-1000
301-447-1346 (Fax)
www.usfa.fema.gov/grants/afgp

Federal Emergency Management Agency Publication: “Funding Alternatives for Fire and Emergency Services”

Download a copy at <http://usfa.fema.gov/downloads/pdf/publications/fa-141.pdf>

Or request a hard copy at <http://www.usfa.fema.gov/grants/fedguide/funding.shtm>

This publication was written in 2001, so the information on Federal programs is dated. But the information regarding Local fundraising strategies might be particularly useful as you seek alternatives to your current funding options.

More information on Fire Grants:

- http://cms.firehouse.com/content/section/gen_section.jsp?sectionId=12
- <http://hazmat.dot.gov/hmep.htm>
- <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/odp/>

COMMUNITY IDENTITY

Welcoming Newcomers

COMMUNITY IDENTITY

SUB THEME: Welcoming Newcomers

Challenge: Hartford has experienced a phenomenal amount of growth in the past few years, and that growth is expected to continue at a rapid pace. During the assessment process, our team heard from proud citizens that said, “Hartford is a great place to live and raise a family.” What a great compliment! So, how can a town make newcomers feel welcome and share the sense of “community” that lifetime residents experience?

Recommendation: There are a number of reasons people move to small, rural communities. During our stay in Hartford our team heard people had moved there because of affordable housing, the schools, the cost of living, low crime rate, etc... While these are all very important things in making a choice of a place to call home, I think communities underestimate the friendly neighbor factor. People that live in smaller communities may be giving up some of the conveniences larger communities have, but at the same time they are also gaining a sense of belonging and community that larger places may not be able to instill.

I have moved with my family to four different communities in the span of 15 years. Each time was an unsettling experience because of all the details that needed to be ironed out as we were relocating. Many of the details are just little things; things locals don't give a second thought to...but they are important nonetheless. Sometimes I think the community “lifers” just assume people know what the community has to offer and figure everyone else does, too. If we don't make newcomers feel welcome or just assume they'll hit the ground running, we are doing them a disservice.

When I think of a welcoming program for Hartford, I think of the mandatory basket with a City brochure, some business flyers and maybe a small souvenir of some sort. While this is a thoughtful gesture, I think the idea can be tweaked a bit to be even more beneficial.

There are so many details involved in relocating a family that it can be overwhelming. For example, the brochures in a basket can't tell a person where to get the kids' haircut after school or where I can get an oil change. Brochures don't tell a person what time a certain church starts or where I can pick up a gift for a birthday party.

Many people move to Hartford because of the small town atmosphere, but I don't think your work is done once you've hooked them. You've got to set the hook and reel them in!

I encourage you to do the brochures, fliers and coupons from local businesses, but it shouldn't be a leave it on the doorstep thing. I truly think there needs to be a “people person” doing the delivering. Every community has them...they are the person who

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Shopping Local

everyone knows and likes and could make anyone feel at ease. Now send that person with a basket to make an initial contact and you've added a touch of small town friendliness. This human contact cannot be underestimated. Have that person offer to meet or go for lunch, do a tour of town. Let them know all of the great things that can be done (and bought!) in Hartford.

Have that same person follow up in a few weeks with the newcomer. That's when the initial shock of the move has worn off and the family is attempting to get into some sort of a routine. That's when the little questions start popping up. A follow up phone call or a visit by a local would be able to assist with those issues. I know this is something I personally would have appreciated immensely.

A welcoming committee could be a branch of the Chamber or some other community organization, but it should include all sorts of people with different backgrounds. This would make it more likely to have a connection with a newcomer. For example, after the initial meeting, the person may learn that the family is Lutheran. What a perfect opportunity for someone from the Lutheran church to give them a call and invite the family to church (better yet, pick them up or meet them there, so they don't feel like a stranger!).

I would encourage the welcoming committee to work with the City as they would know when someone moves in because of water hook-ups. Good communication between entities would make this a fairly painless process. Hartford has a number of people who would serve as excellent ambassadors, and who knows you just may make a new friend in the process!

SUB THEME: Shopping Local

Challenge: With the community of Hartford being so close to Sioux Falls, it is imperative to educate residents and emphasize the importance of shopping locally.

Recommendation: I've written on this theme for assessments before and there is very little in economic development that I feel as strongly about. It is vital that residents know the importance of shopping locally. If our residents don't support our hometown businesses, how can we expect others to?

A couple of years ago I read an article about hometown shopping that has stuck with me to this day. The gist of the article had to do with small town shoppers voting every single day as to whether or not they will continue to have a grocery store, a pharmacy, a lumberyard, etc...The voting is done with dollars. A vote to have the present services continue is cast each time the consumer purchases something locally. If the dollar is spent outside of the community, it is a vote of indifference of continued services.

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Shopping Local

Shopping locally is a tough issue for communities like Hartford that have so many people traveling to and from work in other communities on a daily basis. Let's face it, we are all guilty of shopping out of town. There will always be those who will drive a distance to purchase flour because it is 50 cents cheaper and, quite frankly, they will always look for an excuse to go elsewhere. However, a shop local campaign aimed at consumers that want to keep (or even improve!) the quality and quantity of services presently offered is worthwhile.

It is vital for businesspeople to lead by example. If a patron can't get a particular item in their store, by all means make a suggestion as to where else the item can be found in town. In order to make businesses aware of what each has to offer, maybe a "Business Spotlight" in the local paper would be beneficial. Don't assume everyone knows what your business has to offer...get the word out. (I've lived in Platte for 10 years and just found out I can order window shades at the hardware store!) Another idea would be implementing a program which has the "Development Corporation Business of the Month." The business owner could speak at the monthly development corporation meeting explaining their business, goals, etc...I think these two ideas put a face with a business storefront. It makes people realize these are the businesspeople who support our church groups, our sports activities, fundraisers, etc...

It is also important that any City purchases that can reasonably be made in town are. Again, the City and its businesspeople lead by example. If you don't purchase items in town, how can you expect citizens to? This sounds simple and obvious, but be mindful of it.

Whenever there is a community fundraiser or benefit and local stores donate to the cause, be sure everyone knows it. Local businesses are constantly being hit up for goods or "in kind" donations. It's important to let everyone know the grocery store donated the pancake batter and sausage for the pancake benefit. Let people know the local hardware store and elevator sponsored a young lady in the Miss Teen SD pageant. Whatever it is, people should know about it.

I think small towns are guilty of asking for donations and not giving credit where credit is due. Sometimes it's as if we expect local businesses to "ante up" and most are happy to help. But those businesses should get the positive advertising along with their donations. Do the megastores in larger cities donate to all of the small town causes? Absolutely not. Moral of the story...don't take advantage of a good thing.

There are a few things we do in Platte that I think are beneficial to the shopping local cause. In the local grocery store, there is a sign as shoppers walk in that states how much it costs to drive to the local megastore. Then the sign asks the shopper if they have saved that much driving rather than shopping locally. It really caused a bit of a rumble for awhile, but the reason it did was because we are all guilty. We got over it and I know this particular shopper thinks twice about everything purchases out of town. The awareness this sign has caused is priceless.

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The major thing Hartford businesses have to offer that bigger cities can't is service. It may not be feasible for a smaller business to offer the low prices discount stores offer, but service is the element that can even the playing field. Small business owners need to go "above and beyond" in services offered. It can be something as simple as free gift wrapping, free delivery of groceries on Tuesdays and Thursdays, free set up of appliances, etc...ask for these services in larger cities and the businesspeople will ask what planet you are from.

I have an example of how important service is. I wanted to buy an artificial Christmas tree, did some price comparisons and found the one at the local hardware store was about \$20 more than out-of-town. I bit the bullet and bought it in town. Took it home, set it up, the middle section of lights didn't work. Called the hardware store, the owner brought a middle section from another tree to the house, helped set it up and took the one that didn't work back. Would that have happened if I had bought it in a discount store? Absolutely not. Even if it was an inconvenience for the store owner to deliver a replacement (it was his idea, not mine!), he had one hugely satisfied customer who went out and told everyone what had happened. You cannot put a price tag on the PR that business owner did that day.

I am a firm believer in never underestimating the importance of looking a customer in the eye and saying thank you after a transaction. Not the mandatory, "Thanks, don't let the door hit you on your way out," you receive at large stores where they have no idea who you are, but a genuine, make-you-feel-good thank you. This is so vital in making a lasting impression. When we were in Hartford, we experienced excellent service at the restaurants and stores we were in. Something as simple as good customer relations can be the deciding factor as to whether or not that customer refers your town to others or if they make a repeat visit.

Another aspect Hartford would benefit from promoting would be to point out how much time is saved by doing shopping in Hartford. There may not be the selection there is in other communities, but that isn't necessarily a bad thing. Less selection means you're in and out in less time (does it matter if there are only three types of lettuce rather than ten to choose from?). People are well aware that time is a valuable commodity, use that for promotion. Shopping in Hartford means no traffic, no lines, no wait and that translates to time...something that should be pointed out to shoppers.

Another part of shopping locally involves educating the public on the importance of keeping their dollars at home. The City of Howard put their youth to work on a school project that showed residents the impact shopping locally had on their tax revenues. Even with the strong economy Hartford has, it's imperative to keep the issue in front of people. Maybe request a copy of the report from Howard to see if it would be something the school could work with the City on.

Watertown has an Uptown Watertown organization that has developed a plan to help business owners improve the outward appearance and signage on their stores. Kay

COMMUNITY IDENTITY

Chamber of Commerce

Solberg, a local business owner and community promoter, may be able to provide some information as to how they promote shopping in Watertown.

I also think it would be beneficial to include smaller communities around Hartford in promotions. Sometimes pride and competition in small communities gets in the way of common sense. Small towns need each other if they are going to survive. It is just as easy for patrons to drive to Hartford as it is to a larger community, so you might as well encourage it.

Other information regarding Chamber of Commerce activities are found in the following section.

Resources:

Karen Burket
Platte Development Corporation
PO Box 283
Platte, SD 57369
605-337-2895
mkb@midstatesd.net

Miner County Community Renewal
(Youth Shopping Local Study)
Randy Parry
605-772-5153
parryr@allinancedcom.net

Kay Solberg
Classroom Connection
Watertown, SD
650-886-3040

SUB THEME: Chamber of Commerce

Challenge: Various members of the Hartford community brought up the idea of organizing a Hartford Chamber of Commerce, or some other form of community leadership umbrella.

A Chamber of Commerce in a community is responsible for creating and maintaining a strong businesses climate, primarily for its members, as well as enhancing the environment for which a community thrives (i.e. enhancing the quality of life).

COMMUNITY IDENTITY

Chamber of Commerce

This issue is an important one for Hartford to address in order to successfully handle the growth they are experiencing and will continue to experience in the next 2, 5, 10 and 20 years.

Recommendation: Hartford has much of the framework in place that would compliment the creation of a Chamber, it simply has not been identified as so. The framework currently in place is:

- A Director of Economic Development / City Administrator
- Hartford Development Corporation
- An Active Mayor, City Council and Building/Zoning Committee
- A Strong School Board
- Common Goals and Concerns the Community wants to see accomplished

If Hartford wants to research the idea of organizing their own Chamber, they should form an exploratory committee made up of business leaders in the community. Meet with other local Chambers, such as Brandon and Sioux Falls, to get a better feel for the need of a local Chamber.

Whether or not a Chamber is the best option will depend on the goals most important to Hartford at this time. Currently, you have the framework in place to enhance and encourage growth and to attract new businesses and residents to the community. A Chamber would be a compliment to this, as it would focus on the health of current businesses. The question will be whether or not the businesses currently in Hartford would all be willing to financially support a Chamber to get it off the ground.

In order to achieve the goals Hartford wants to accomplish, with or without a Chamber, there needs to be strong, regular communication between all of these essential groups that make a community strong. One of the things our panel saw in evaluating the Hartford community was that there was not common knowledge of what each community group was working to accomplish.

Each entity must be aware of the others' goals and intentions so that they can strategize ways to help each other accomplish common goals in the most efficient and effective way. By working together and keeping each other informed, the community will avoid wasting time and money on overlapping or contradicting ideas. This could be accomplished through regular meetings between chairs/directors of the various committees. Each group should focus on their strengths and provide each other with any supportive information they may have.

An area Hartford should focus on is creating a marketing plan. By having a marketing plan in place, Hartford will achieve buy-in and support from the community because everyone will share a common focus. It will also provide the possibility of cooperative marketing, in which the various groups (mentioned in the framework) can pool their funds to achieve advertising success.

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We were made aware that Hartford is currently in the process of working with a professional advertising/marketing agency, which is a positive start. It is crucial that at least one representative from each of the community groups be involved in these planning meetings so that all groups stay aware of the direction Hartford is going into the future.

A resource that we found out Hartford has not utilized, but should look into, is a community foundation. If a community can start their own community fund, matching grant monies may be available through the South Dakota Community Foundation. This is money Hartford could utilize for various economic development and community improvement projects well into the future.

Resources:

Brandon Chamber of Commerce
P.O. Box 182
109 N. Pipestone Avenue
Brandon, SD 57005
Contact person: Deanna White, Chamber Coordinator
(605) 582-7400
www.brandonvalleychamber.com
Email: brancofc@alliancecom.net

The Brandon Chamber would be a useful resource as to how a smaller growing community can benefit from having a Chamber.

Sioux Falls Area Chamber of Commerce
200 N. Phillips Ave. Ste. 102
Sioux Falls, SD 57104
Contact person: Evan Nolte, President
(605) 336-1620
www.siouxfallschamber.com
Email: enolte@siouxfalls.com

Sioux Falls is the largest operating Chamber of Commerce near Hartford, and they consider themselves the Sioux Falls *Area* Chamber of Commerce, which consists of Minnehaha, Lincoln, McCook, and Turner counties. There are currently six businesses in Hartford that belong to the Sioux Falls Area Chamber of Commerce, which allows the Hartford business community to cast a small voice in the betterment of the Sioux Falls 'Area', of which they are included. Although Hartford will benefit a little from the recruitment of residents and businesses to the Sioux Falls Area (for those businesses and families that want the small town atmosphere), they cannot depend on this alone. However, Hartford can look to the Sioux Falls Chamber as an information resource and for some promotional assistance.

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Community Appearance

Resources: Continued

Sioux Falls Development Foundation
200 N. Phillips Ave. Ste. 907
P.O. Box 107
Sioux Falls, SD 57101-0907
Contact person: Jeff Eckhoff, Director of Rural Development
(605) 339-0103
www.siouxfallsdevelopment.com
Email: jeffe@siouxfalls.com

South Dakota Community Foundation
207 E. Capitol – Box 296
Pierre, SD 57501
(800) 888-1842
www.sdcommunityfoundation.org

SUB THEME: Community Appearance
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Challenge: Hartford businesses have located on highway 38 to capitalize on traffic flow; in addition several new housing developments have also been established. It is a challenge to blend new growth with historic Hartford. Residents also commented that maintaining public and private properties was a challenge.

Recommendation: A community's appearance touches everyone living in, working in and driving through Hartford. We all make judgments on perception, which is often based on first impressions and appearances. A "Community Clean Up Day" can provide quick successes for community residents to rally around. It is difficult for some to properly dispose of items that cannot be disposed of in the weekly garbage pick up, for example old appliances, old cars, batteries, paint, branches, the list goes on and on. Designating a "Community Clean Up Day" (weekend or if needed multiple weekends) to collect items that cannot be disposed of through weekly garbage pickup will yield immediate results. Youth are a resource to assist those that may need help raking, sorting, and hauling things to the curb. The youth at West Central voiced a desire to assist with activities to improve their community; and volunteer activities are an important part of college entrance and scholarship applications. In the past, the National Guard has been willing to assist with picking up items for disposal. Another option could be to use the city equipment or equipment owned by local individuals.

In some areas of South Dakota, county and city government work together to tear down old buildings and homes using city equipment or equipment owned by local individuals. The primary cost to the landowner would be for gravel, dirt fill and grass seed in the area where the foundation was located.

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Community Appearance

“Paint a Thons” are also common in some communities. Homeowners could apply to have basic repairs made and a fresh coat of paint. Volunteers of all ages and ability levels can work together to spruce up a house on a weekend. Paint South Dakota is a program through the SDHDA that provides paint supplies and materials to community volunteer efforts. Another option would be for local businesses donate the paint and supplies or in some cases the homeowner may be able to afford the cost of supplies but would greatly appreciate assistance with the labor.

Local city ordinances are also in place. Enforcement of the ordinances can take time and can be quite challenging. It may be possible to assist homeowners in meeting the ordinances through community clean up efforts. Community cleanup efforts require volunteer coordination and labor. I would encourage the community to recognize the successful completion of each individual activity with a picnic or some type of social activity. What better way to celebrate community cleanup than with a picnic in the park at the end of the day!

Individuals moving to Hartford will be looking for all types of housing; to some, historic homes are very appealing. The United States Department of Agriculture offers two programs to assist individuals in buying, building, improving, repairing and rehabilitating homes. The South Dakota Historical Society created the Deadwood Fund, which provides grants ranging from \$1,000 - \$25,000 for projects that retain, restore or rehabilitate historic buildings and structures for residential, commercial or public purposes. The State Historical Society also manages the Rehabilitation Tax Credit program. This Tax Credit program assists with the rehabilitation of historic buildings, those built before 1936 by providing federal tax incentives based on the rehabilitation costs.

Through the South Dakota Legislative action, certain property tax benefits are available to rehabilitate historic structures in SDCL-19A-20. An eight- year moratorium would be placed on the property tax assessment of certified improvements on a qualifying historic building. Property tax assessments may not be increased due to the certified rehabilitation of the building.

The Main Street Center created a new historic tax credit fund “The Small Deal Fund” to help bring investment to the smaller rehabilitation projects often found on Main Street. The fund invests in smaller rehabilitation projects that are typically too small to attract conventional tax credit investors. The program purchases state historic tax credits.

Local city ordinances are also in place. Enforcement of the ordinances can take time and can be quite challenging. It may be possible to assist homeowners in meeting the ordinances through community clean up efforts.

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Volunteerism / Youth Involvement

Resources:

South Dakota Housing Development Authority
PO Box 1237
221 S Central Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501-1237
605-773-3181
605-773-5157
www.sdhda.org

South Dakota State Historical Society
900 Governors Drive
Pierre, SD 57501-2217
605-773-3458
605-773-6041
Email: sdshwebmaster@state.sd.us

Preservation Services Fund
535 16th Street – Suite 750
Denver, CO 80202
303-623-1504
303-623-1508
<http://www.nationaltrust.org/help/grants.html>

Main Street Center - National Trust for Historic Preservation
1785 Massachusetts Ave. N.W.
Washington, DC 20036
202-588-6219
202-588-6038
www.mainstreet.org

South Eastern Council of Governments (SECOG)
Lynne Keller
1000 N West Ave., Suite 210
Sioux Falls, SD 57104
605-367-5390
www.secog.org

SUB THEME: Volunteerism / Youth Involvement
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Challenge: As Hartford grows, so will its need to find a way to encourage new and existing residents to become involved in the community. Current volunteers are getting

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Volunteerism / Youth Involvement

stretched too thin and some are reaching the point of burnout. One of the most serious areas lacking volunteers is the EMS and Volunteer Fire Department.

Hartford would also like to see increased involvement of younger people in the community. The challenge is, many of the younger people in the community commute to Sioux Falls to work (so they are unavailable during the day) and they have young families to care for and spend time with in the evenings and on the weekends.

Recommendation: No matter what size a community is, unfortunately, there are never enough volunteers. In order to attract volunteers, Hartford needs to be creative in their promotion and offer a variety of volunteer opportunities that appeal to different interests.

According to a survey by the Points of Light Foundation, the number one reason people do not volunteer is because no one asked them! Being asked by someone you know, being asked personally, and asking for an individual to use their unique talents are all ways to increase volunteerism in your community.

In the area of EMT volunteerism, some communities are establishing scholarship funds, tax credits, tax abatements and other financial incentives to attract new volunteers. Limitations on financial resources, however, are a significant barrier. Other communities are trying to interest high school and college-aged youth to participate in the programs on a pilot basis in the hopes that having people involved at an early age will mean that they will become active volunteers in the future.

Hartford could also look at starting a local Jaycees Chapter. This is an organization that helps young adults (ages 18-40) get to know each other through participation in volunteer projects in the community. These projects include Toys for Tots at Christmas time, painting houses of those who do not have the physical and/or financial ability to do so, and hosting a haunted house for families to enjoy at Halloween, among many other activities. It also requires a minimal time commitment (4 hours a month) and financial obligation so it can appeal to a wide range of busy people.

If you have not done so already, Hartford could look at bringing the various volunteer groups together and establish a special local “recruitment week”. Most research has shown that people will be more likely to volunteer if they are personally invited to participate. Setting up a special week for recruitment could increase visibility, leveraging attention from local Media. During this week, solicit the assistance of current volunteers to go out into the community to talk with potential participants. Set up a volunteer fair or a booth at Jamboree days, the county fair, etc. By working together with other groups that need volunteers in Hartford, you can combine your efforts and reach the largest possible audience.

Hartford should also utilize its website for promoting volunteer activities. This will set a precedence for current and new residents that volunteerism is important to Hartford. It will also give new residents a resource to meet people and feel like they are part of the community.

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Volunteerism / Youth Involvement

Resources:

Office of Emergency Medical Services
South Dakota Department of Public Safety
118 W. Capitol
Pierre, SD 57501
Contact person: Bob Graff, Director
(605) 773-4031
Email: bob.graff@state.sd.us
www.state.sd.us/dps/EMS/

U.S. Junior Chamber Jaycees
P.O. Box 7
Tulsa, OK 74102-000
(800) JAYCEES
Email: directorcommunications@usjaycees.org
www.usjaycees.org

Publications:

Conely, Mary. *Strengthening Rural America*
Provided by the Points of Light Foundation and the Annie E. Casey Foundation
Found at:
<http://www.pointsoflight.org/programs/neighboring/resources/pdfs/RuralEffPractices.pdf>

This is a publication of best practices and lessons learned about volunteer management in rural communities.

Conely, Mary. *Connecting Rural Communities: Volunteering and Neighboring*
Provided by the Points of Light Foundation & Volunteer Center National Network
Found at:
<http://www.pointsoflight.org/programs/neighboring/resources/pdfs/ConnectingRuralCommunities.pdf>

Macduff, Nancy. (1996) *Volunteer Recruiting & Retention: A Marketing Approach.*

McCurley, Stephen & Vineyard, Sue. (1986) *101 Ideas for Volunteer Program.*

Fisher, James C. & Cole, Kathleen M. (1993) *Leadership and Management of Volunteer Programs: A Guide for Volunteer Administrators.*

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Volunteerism / Youth Involvement

Resources: Continued

Websites:

Points of Light Foundation @ <http://www.pointsoflight.org>

The Points of Light Foundation & Volunteer Center National Network engages and mobilizes millions of volunteers who are helping to solve serious social problems in thousands of communities. Through a variety of programs and services, the Foundation encourages people from all walks of life — businesses, nonprofits, faith-based organizations, low-income communities, families, youth, and older adults — to volunteer.

Volunteer Resource Organization @
<http://www.pointsoflight.org/resources/volunteerresource/>

VolunteerResource.org is a comprehensive virtual library for the most up-to-date information on volunteering, volunteer management, and effective engagement of people and resources to solve community problems.

Service Leader @ www.serviceleader.org

This site provides information on all aspects of volunteerism.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

SUB THEME: Business Recruitment

Challenge: Recruit new businesses or industry that will provide job opportunities locally.

Recommendation: Business recruitment is very competitive. Every community is trying to recruit businesses to come to their community, which makes business recruitment a process that requires a lot of commitment that may not materialize into success until many years down the road.

Certainly, one of the best ways to recruit businesses is to tap into your own local entrepreneurial talent. Many of the successful industries located in rural communities started locally and grew over time. Encourage and support your local people to develop and expand businesses in the community. Be proactive about working directly one-on-one with businesses to determine what ways you can help them be more successful. Ask them what things the city and/or development corporation can do to help them make their businesses more successful and promote potential expansion. Whether it is access to capital, training, or something else, promoting retention and expansion of your existing business base should be a top priority.

In terms of business recruitment, some of the most successful recruiting efforts are with those entrepreneurs or businesses that have a past connection with Hartford. They may have left the area and want to come back. Look to past residents and alumni. These often become the most loyal and committed businesses to the community.

Work to attract businesses that fit your community by identifying your niche. Identify unique attributes that make Hartford the best place to locate a specific business. Identify what businesses and services are needed. A motel and family restaurant were a couple of popular suggestions we heard in our listening sessions. Given your proximity to Sioux Falls and the proposed northwest interstate interchange development, have you thought about how this impacts Hartford and how you might be able to capitalize? There are people interested in starting retail and service businesses in Hartford. Do they know who the go-to person is in the community that they can speak with confidentially about their plans to develop businesses in the community? This is a critical service that can be provided by the city and/or development corporation. Having a confidential business resource person can help encourage potential entrepreneurs/investors and help coordinate/assist with such things as land acquisition, zoning, access to capital, etc.

How do you market the community and the industrial park? Marketing is product differentiation. How is Hartford different or unique? What do you have to offer that no one else has? What do you have that Brandon, Tea and Harrisburg do not have?

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Business Recruitment

Build on your strengths:

- Proximity to Sioux Falls
- Existing Industrial Park
- Proximity to I-29
- Developed Infrastructure
- Good Labor Force
- Population Growth
- Growth in NW corner of Sioux Falls
- Excellent School System

Successful economic development and business recruitment is the result of establishing and building relationships. One of the most important relationships in a community is the relationship between the City and the Development Corporation. These two organizations need to be operating in lock step with one another. There needs to be open lines of communication at all phases of project development. It is essential for these organizations to work together to achieve their common goals.

Another key relationship is with the Governors Office of Economic Development. Work closely with your regional representative, Steve Watson. He will keep you posted on recruiting possibilities. As part of the Minnehaha County Economic Development Association, (MCEDA), you also have the opportunity to work with Jeff Eckhoff. Jeff brings a wealth of experience in economic development and has many relationships that have developed into successful business recruiting efforts in Minnehaha County. The South Eastern Council of Governments, as the area's planning district, is also available to assist with surveys, community planning and grant writing services.

The most important thing to keep in mind is that recruiting opportunities do not happen overnight. They are often a result of building long term relationships. Seriously committing to business recruitment and industrial park development takes courage because the benefits of your work are usually 10 to 15 years after you begin your initial efforts. During that time, the community may wonder why and for what reason money was committed to a project that did not create immediate benefits. This can be challenging, especially for elected officials and board members who answer to the general public. Educating the public in terms of the long-term strategy and preparing the public to wait for many years to see success is a vital component of your business recruitment and industrial development strategy.

In terms of developing your industrial park, consider whether the current site meets the long term needs of your community. Is the location's proximity to the interstate conducive to the needs of potential businesses? Your most likely candidates for business recruitment include distribution centers, manufacturing, and back office businesses. Each of these industries has different requirements in terms of access to the interstate, infrastructure needs, land requirements, and labor. Understanding the needs of these different businesses is key to how you develop your industrial park.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Business Recruitment

Developing an industrial park takes commitment from the city, the development corporation, and the general public. Commitment must be in the form of not just financial resources, but also of leadership. As stated above, the city and development corporation must be in lock step to make this goal a reality. Industrial park development is one part infrastructure and one part marketing. But without some infrastructure and a site plan in place, your marketing efforts may not bear fruit.

Site and infrastructure development are the hard part and probably the portion that will require the most long-term financial commitment. Planning is crucial. Select a site that is conducive to the businesses that are most likely to locate in the community. Site plans will change over time as businesses commit to locating in the industrial park. Developing a flexible plan that anticipates changes upfront is crucial. Infrastructure is a core and often overlooked component. The industrial park must have access to and connection with the city's current water and wastewater systems. Site selection must recognize this and anticipate the capacity of the city's system to absorb growth. Certain sites or areas may be less expensive to develop than others in terms of infrastructure. Work in conjunction with the city's engineer to develop a plan that reduces the cost long term. Even within an individual site, development of one section or another may make sense from an infrastructural perspective. This all needs to be understood and planned for early on in the process.

Also, don't forget about zoning. If you are planning for light industrial, then the site should be zoned accordingly. Recognize how adjacent properties are also being developed or may eventually be developed. For example, if housing is planned nearby, how will the location of industrial zoned property impact the future development of adjacent areas? The answers can be different even depending on what type of housing is developed (i.e. mobile home parks, affordable housing, mid-range housing, high-end housing, etc).

Jeff Eckhoff is your central resource in terms of providing technical assistance in this area. Jeff has a wealth of experience in working with other communities surrounding Sioux Falls to promote development of industrial property. Recognize, however, that the leadership and commitment to this project must come from the local level. It may make sense to develop a special committee made up of representatives from city staff, elected officials, development corporation board members, and the general public to take the lead in these efforts. This will ensure that everyone is involved and communication is open as your move forward with this type of project.

Financing industrial park development is crucial. Local funds will be necessary to make this project happen. There are grant and loan funds available for some infrastructure development in industrial parks but the grant funds are generally limited to opportunities where a business has committed to actually locating in the park. Thus, some communities have chosen to do some infrastructure development initially using local funds and then being prepared to access other grant programs when a business is committed to locate at the site.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Business Recruitment

There have been cases where funds have been secured through special congressional line item appropriations (HUD EDI grants) for infrastructure development prior to securing a committed business. This is usually worked out directly between the community and South Dakota's congressional offices. Keep in mind, however, that congressional line items are becoming increasingly rare given current federal financial constraints. But this is an option you may choose to pursue. The remainder of the initial infrastructure development could be funded through loan programs administered by the South Dakota Department of Environment and Natural Resources and/or USDA Rural Development. Depending on the type of infrastructure (i.e. water vs. sewer), eligibility requirements will apply. But between these two entities, loan funds could be potentially secured. The South Eastern Council of Governments can assist you in developing applications and walk you through the process of accessing these programs.

Once a business is committed, primary grant resources available to you may include a Consolidated Water Facilities Construction Program Grant (SD DENR) and/or a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) for water/wastewater infrastructure. CDBG may also be potentially used for industrial road improvements. Another grant resource for road improvements includes the Industrial Park Road Grant Program administered by the South Dakota Department of Transportation. Again, the South Eastern Council of Governments can provide assistance in accessing these programs at a point when a business is ready and committed to locating in the industrial park. CDBG is a program through which Hartford does not automatically qualify to submit applications to, but this can become an option if:

- 1) An income survey can justify that 51% of the Hartford population is low-to-moderate income as defined by the CDBG program; or
- 2) The business locating in the park hires employees that are 51% low-to-moderate income (CDBG special projects account).

Another tool utilized by other communities to fund infrastructure development is Tax Increment Financing (TIF). This can be put into place when a business is committed to locating in the industrial park. (This can be done prior to a commitment, but the TIF may expire before any business chooses to locate there). TIF essentially takes the tax funds generated by the improvements to the location, such as the business's building and site improvements, and dedicates that tax funds for infrastructure improvements. This strategy has been utilized in several other communities and can be another tool in your arsenal for helping to attract potential businesses.

Some communities have also funded development of industrial parks through a second penny tax. But be prepared to forfeit your equity to attract a prospective business.

Putting up a spec building is another strategy you may pursue. As with infrastructure improvements, however, few grant resources exist to help fund this type of project unless a business is committed. Some communities have secured a USDA Rural Development Rural Business Enterprise Grants (RBEG) for this purpose, but again it is my understanding that a committed business is necessary. Contact USDA Rural

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Business Recruitment

Development directly for more information on this program and how it may be utilized to fund a building.

If you choose to build a spec building, keep in mind that you will need to build something that will generate the most interest from potential businesses. That means taking into consideration the size of the building and its construction.

Some communities, like Lennox, built a spec building for business recruitment. A spec building is a marketing tool, but be prepared to have it sit to empty for several few years, Lennox's spec building sat empty for many years. And while it did not generate an occupant right away, it did allow the community to at least be considered by several businesses looking to locate in the Sioux Falls vicinity. Now, two new businesses have moved into their industrial park. Again, it took a lot of commitment on the part of the community to sit on a building for many years without seeing much benefit. Residents were critical of the development corporation and the city for taking this risk, but now that businesses are moving to Lennox, they look like heroes. It may be the opportune time for Hartford to consider a spec building, with the expected growth in the area. Not many communities have the patience and courage to try it.

Marketing is the other core component to consider. But without a real product to sell, and without at least some infrastructure in place, your marketing efforts may not induce the type of immediate results you would like. Infrastructure development and marketing must be done hand-in-hand to produce the most benefit. Recognize all of the tools that you have to offer and include these in your marketing efforts. For example, will the community commit to utilizing TIF financing to support infrastructure development once a business commits to locating in the industrial park. Promote your tax abatement policies so businesses know that you have that available as well. Use your website and brochures to promote your community, industrial park, labor pool, land/buildings, educational system, quality of life assets, special programs and incentives. More and more businesses are looking to the internet to research communities. An attractive useful website is an excellent opportunity to make a good first impression.

Resources:

Lincoln & Minnehaha County Economic Development Associations

Contact: Jeff Eckhoff

Commerce Center, 200 N. Phillips Ave, Ste. 101

Sioux Falls, SD 57101-0907

Phone: 605-339-0103

Email: jeffe@siouxfalls.com

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Business Recruitment

Resources: Continued

Governor's Office of Economic Development (GOED)

Contact: Steve Watson

2329 N. Career Ave.

Sioux Falls, SD 57107

Phone: 605-367-4517

Email: steve.watson@state.sd.us

South Eastern Council of Governments

Contact: Lynne Keller

1000 N. West Avenue, Suite 210

Sioux Falls, SD 57104

Phone: 605-367-5390

lynne@secog.org

www.secog.org

Steve Harding

Community Development Block Grant Program

Governor's Office of Economic Development – GOED

Department of Tourism and State Development

711 E. Wells Ave.

Pierre, SD 57501

605-773-5032

www.sdgreatprofits.com

USDA Rural Development

Contact: Kevin Strickler

2408 Benson Road

Sioux Falls, SD 57104

Phone: 605-330-4515

Email: Kevin.strickler@sd.usda.gov

South Dakota Department of Environment and Natural Resources

Foss Building

523 E Capitol

Pierre, South Dakota 57501

605-773-4216

SD Department of Transportation

Office of Local Government Assistance

Paula Huizenga and/or Terry Jorgensen

700 E Broadway Ave

Pierre, South Dakota, 57501

605-773-3921

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Housing (Affordable)

SUB THEME: Housing (Affordable)
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Challenge: One of the recurrent issues that came up during the assessment was the availability of quality affordable housing. It was stated that there is a need for starter homes in the community.

Recommendation: Housing may be one of the most important aspects of economic development, not to mention the wealth building potential for the individual homeowner. Having quality affordable housing is an important aspect of a broad-based economic development strategy.

Hartford's close proximity to Sioux Falls makes the community well situated to experience significant population growth in the near future. In fact, at the time the team visited the community, there were two housing developments set to get underway on the south side of Hartford. Based on information gathered from residents and community leaders, the planning and zoning board has worked diligently with the developers to ensure these new developments are well-planned and will be an asset to the community.

A review of 2000 U.S. Census Bureau statistics (available at www.census.gov) provides some significant insight into the housing situation in Hartford; (see Table 1). For example the Median Household Income (MHI) in Hartford of \$48,333 compares favorably with Sioux Falls (\$41,221) and the entire state of South Dakota (\$35,282). Additionally, the median home value in Hartford of \$93,000 is lower than Sioux Falls (\$101,700). In short, Hartford residents have higher incomes and lower housing costs than their counterparts in Sioux Falls; making housing more affordable for the citizens of Hartford both in terms of its initial cost and as percent of Median Household Income.

Table 1. Population, Age, Housing, and Income Data

	Population	Median Age	% Owner Occupied Hsg Units	Median Home Value	Median Household Income
Hartford	1,844	32.2	80.6%	\$ 93,000	\$ 48,333
Brandon	5,693	31.3	80.5%	\$ 113,100	\$ 58,421
Tea	1,742	28.2	84.1%	\$ 97,400	\$ 50,671
Harrisburg	958	30.1	85.1%	\$ 95,400	\$ 51,196
Sioux Falls	123,975	33.0	61.1%	\$ 101,700	\$ 41,221
State	754,844	35.6	68.2%	\$ 79,600	\$ 35,282
Entire U.S.		35.3	66.2%	\$ 119,600	\$ 41,994

Although the census data appears to present a healthy outlook for affordable housing in the community, there is a perception among some residents that there is a lack of affordable housing options. To clarify this issue, you may wish to consider conducting a housing survey/housing assessment to try to quantify if there really is a lack of affordable

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Housing (Affordable)

housing in Hartford. The South Eastern Council of Governments can provide assistance to you in developing and conducting a housing assessment.

The Governor's Home project, a South Dakota Housing Development Authority feature, offers new housing at affordable pricing and now also a variety of home styles, in addition to the original traditional ranch style. Placed on a full basement with an attached two-car garage, these new styles become very difficult to distinguish between some "stick-built" homes.

The new housing developments that will get under way in 2007 should include some affordable housing opportunities. The best strategy in providing affordable housing may be to work closely with the planning and zoning board and the developers to ensure affordable housing is being planned in these new housing developments.

There are a number of programs available on a wide range of topics that may be used for home financing. Some of the programs include:

1. South Dakota Housing Development Authority (SDHDA)
 - Employer Mortgage Assistance Program (EMAP) – Works with employers to provide funds for down payment and closing cost assistance to their employees through low-interest second mortgages
 - First Time Home Buyers Program – below market fixed interest mortgages processed through a local bank
 - Loan Assistance Program (LAP) – provides down payment, closing cost and gap financing in connection with a home purchase
 - Mortgage Assistance Program (MAP) – provides down payment and closing cost assistance in the form of a second mortgage not to exceed \$6,000.
 - American Dream Downpayment Initiative (ADDI) – provides down payment and closing cost assistance through second mortgage not to exceed \$10,000 or 6% of purchase price. Terms are zero monthly payments and zero percent interest rate. Loan is due upon sale of the home. The program is for low income families who are first time home buyers.

2. USDA Rural Development
 - The 502 Direct Loan program is designed to make loans to buy, build, or improve homes. They are made available to people with very low or low incomes. Loans are made for 100% of the appraised value with a repayment period of 33 years. The interest on the loan could be subsidized to as low as 1% based on income and the price of the home.
 - The Guaranteed Rural Housing Loan is similar to the Direct 502 except that the applicant obtains a loan from a commercial lender and USDA guarantees it. This loan can also be made for 100% of the appraised value. Many times, these loans will be purchased by South Dakota Housing Development Authority, which results in a lower interest rate to the borrower.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Housing (Affordable)

3. South Eastern Council of Governments
 - Affordable housing loans available for qualified homebuyers (joint partnership with USDA Rural Development's 502 programs).
4. US Housing and Urban Development (HUD)
 - Insured mortgages for single family to four-family homes made through local banks.
5. Veterans Administration
 - Home Loan Guaranty – Home loan guarantees for veterans, certain service personnel and unmarried surviving spouses.

Resources:

USDA – Rural Development
2408 East Benson Road
Sioux Falls, SD 57104
Phone: 605-330-4515
Fax: 605-330-4595
www.rurdev.usda.gov/sd

South Dakota Housing Development Authority
PO Box 1237
221 South Central Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501
Phone: 605-773-3181
Fax: 605-773-5154
www.sdhda.org

US Department of Housing and Urban Development
2400 West 49th Street, Suite I-201
Sioux Falls, SD 57105
Phone: 605-330-4223
www.hud.gov/southdakota

Federal Home Loan Bank – Des Moines
Community Investment
907 Walnut Street
Des Moines, IA 50309
800-544-3552 Ext. 1173
www.fhlbdm.com

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Housing (Accessible)

Resources: Continued

South Eastern Council of Governments
Lynne Keller, Director
1000 N. West Ave. Suite 210
Sioux Falls, SD 57104
605-367-5390
lynne@secog.rog

U.S Department of Veterans Affairs
VA Regional Loan Center
1 Federal Drive
St. Paul, MN 55111-4050
800-827-0611
www.vba.va.gov/rostpaul.htm

SUB THEME: Housing (Accessible)
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Challenge: There were several references in the sessions mentioning the lack of accessible housing units; (accessible to persons with disabilities and/or mobility impairments).

Recommendation: Accessibility of individual homes is at the discretion of the homeowner; however; Multi-Family projects should meet the current accessibility requirements. Several federal laws have been enacted to ensure fair and open access to housing. The Fair Housing Amendments Act deals with modifications to existing rental projects while the Americans with Disabilities Act provides design guidance for new construction and renovations of existing rental projects. The planning and zoning board should be aware of these federal requirements as well as Uniform Federal Accessibility Standards and any additional state laws regarding accessibility.

Resources:

Prairie Freedom Center for Independent Living
301 South Garfield, Suite 8
Sioux Falls, SD 57104
(800) 947-3770
(605) 367-5630
<http://www.pfcil.org/>

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Housing (Apartments/Elderly)

Resources: Continued

Fair Housing of the Dakotas
533 Airport Road, Suite C
Bismarck, ND 58504
(888) 265-0907
(701) 221-2530
<http://www.ndfhc.org/>

SD Coalition on Citizens with Disabilities
221 S Central
Pierre, SD 57501
605-945-2207

SUB THEME: Housing (Apartments/Elderly)
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Challenge: Some residents identified a need for additional apartments for families and for elderly residents.

Recommendation: Apartments are ideal for new families that want to move into your town. They are highly sought after by younger individuals who are not yet interested in yard work or making the commitment of a home purchase. In addition, rental apartments are an attractive alternative to senior retirees, as well. They could certainly be marketed to your local school personnel and to surrounding communities as a home base for commuters.

Constructing and managing apartments is a major long-term investment. Before making these major commitments, developers and financing entities require a professional market study to help determine the need for rental units, size of the units, and total units needed. Because of the cost of commissioning these studies is significant, the least costly option may be to continue to foster a positive environment in which developers use their own resources to build and manage new apartment projects. Many of the things your community has already accomplished, like major investments in infrastructure, new subdivisions, and the local planning and zoning work have already established a positive economic environment in Hartford.

If the community believes strongly in the need for rental housing and it is decided that a more direct role is needed in bringing rental projects to the community, one alternative is to form a Housing Redevelopment Commission (HRC). Other communities with HRC's have used Essential Function Bonds to finance and construct town homes and other rental projects.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Housing (Apartments/Elderly)

Following are some programs that can be used to finance rental housing:

1. USDA-Rural Development's 515 Program for rental housing loans is direct loan program available for the development of apartments for persons with low to moderate incomes. A portion of the units developed may be awarded subsidies to assist the low income tenants in paying their rents. Funding is limited to communities listed on the Rural Development approved listing.
2. USDA-Rural Development's 538 Program for rental housing loans is a guaranteed loan program available for the development of apartments for persons with low to moderate incomes. Funding is limited to communities listed on the Rural Development approved listing.
3. South Dakota Housing Development Authority (SDHDA)
 - HOME Program – developers can apply for funding to develop affordable rental housing. Based on the range of incomes that appear to be interested in rental housing in Hartford, it may be appropriate to develop a mixed-income property with some units targeted to lower income tenants and other units unrestricted.
 - The Housing Tax Credit Program can be used if it is determined through your housing survey that there is a need for a larger rental complex, developers may be enticed to pursue funding through the Housing Tax Credit program to develop housing for lower income families.
4. The Federal Home Loan Bank has loans and grants available for the development of affordable housing.

Resources:

USDA – Rural Development
2408 East Benson Road
Sioux Falls, SD 57104
Phone: 605-330-4515
Fax: 605-330-4595
www.rurdev.usda.gov/sd

South Dakota Housing Development Authority
PO Box 1237
221 South Central Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501
Phone: 605-773-3181
Fax: 605-773-5154
www.sdhda.org

US Department of Housing and Urban Development
2400 West 49th Street, Suite I-201
Sioux Falls, SD 57105
Phone: 605-330-4223
www.hud.gov/southdakota

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Main Street Revitalization

Resources: Continued

Federal Home Loan Bank – Des Moines
Community Investment
907 Walnut Street
Des Moines, IA 50309
800-544-3552 Ext. 1173
www.fhlbdm.com

SUB THEME: Main Street Revitalization
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Challenge: Revitalize and beautify Hartford’s Main Street.

Recommendation: In Hartford, many of the new businesses have chosen to locate along Highway 38, where most of the traffic is. Main Street in Hartford is similar to Main Street in many communities, with some older structures and some vacant buildings and lots. Hartford’s Main Street area is fairly small, two city blocks long, which is a manageable area to beautify or redevelop if that is what you chose to do.

The appearance of the Main Street makes a first and lasting impression on visitors. According to the Main Street Center – National Trust for Historic Preservation, communities need a four-point approach to build a sustainable and complete community revitalization effort, including:

- **Organization:** Of human and financial resources to work together to achieve your revitalization goals.
- **Promotion:** Project a positive image of Main Street to live, work, shop, play and invest in the Main Street District.
- **Design:** Get the Main Street buildings into top physical shape. Capitalize on your best assets. Provide an inviting atmosphere through attractive window displays, parking area, building improvements, street furniture, signs, sidewalks, street lights and landscaping.
- **Economic Restructuring:** Recruit compatible new businesses that respond to today’s customer’s needs.

It is not always easy to convince businesses or building owners to make improvements and often requires a great deal of tact in the approach. It may take financial incentives to encourage businesses to make the needed improvements. The USDA Rural Development RBEG program and South Dakota Community Foundation are a few programs that may provide money to non-profits to provide a low interest revolving loan fund for business revitalization projects. Most of these programs are competitive and require local matching funds.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Main Street Revitalization

Historical buildings, like the Mundt Building, may qualify under several programs for revitalization. The Main Street Center historic tax credit fund purchases state historic tax credits. The State Historical Society's Rehabilitation Tax credit program promotes rehabilitation of historic buildings (built before 1936) by providing federal tax incentives based on rehabilitation costs. Preserve South Dakota provides financial assistance through programs such as the Historic Preservation Revolving Loan Fund and the Façade Easement Program. The Deadwood Fund, also through the South Dakota State Historical Society, makes loans and grants to purchase, restore or develop historical property for residential, commercial or public purposes. Deadwood grants are in the range of \$1,000 to \$25,000. Because of high costs associated with preserving historical structures, utilizing the services of an architect is encouraged when considering the feasibility of these types of renovation projects.

In some cases where buildings have been allowed to deteriorate beyond repair, it may be most feasible for the owner to deed the property to the City and take the tax write-off. The City could then clear the lot and hopefully attract a new business.

South Dakota no longer has a Main Street Program. However, cities like Sioux Falls and Brookings do have their own programs. Iowa has one of the most successful Main Street Programs in the country. Iowa's former Main Street Program director and current Team Leader of Iowa Downtown Resource Center, Thom Guzman, did some work with the Brookings Main Street Program. The community of Hartford may want to consider developing its own Main Street Organization. It could be set up as a 501(c)(3), so you could accept donations and apply for grants. Relatively inexpensive projects such as banners, benches and plantings could be a volunteer project for this group.

Beyond the beautification aspects, successful Main Street Programs identify their own unique niche' for their down town area to pull people in from the surrounding area. With the population growth in the community and your close proximity to Sioux Falls, Hartford's Main Street has great potential if you can identify something to draw people to your down town area. Maybe it could be the location for your new community recreation center or a "sit down" restaurant with home cooked meals. Some communities are known for their antique shops and others for promoting the arts. You could possibly schedule special community events or entertainment to draw people in.

Resources:

Governor's Office of Economic Development (GOED)

Contact: Steve Watson

2329 N. Career Ave.

Sioux Falls, SD 57107

Phone: 605-367-4517

Email: steve.watson@state.sd.us

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Main Street Revitalization

Resources: Continued

USDA Rural Development

Contact: Kevin Strickler

2408 Benson Road

Sioux Falls, SD 57104

Phone: 605-330-4515

Email: Kevin.strickler@sd.usda.gov

South Eastern Council of Governments

Contact: Lynne Keller

1000 N. West Avenue, Suite 210

Sioux Falls, SD 57104

Phone: 605-367-5390

Email: lynne@secog.org

www.secog.org

Main Street Center – National Trust for Historic Preservation

1785 Massachusetts Ave, NW

Washington, DC 20036

Phone: 202-588-6219

<http://www.mainstreet.org>

South Dakota State Historical Society

900 Governors Drive

Pierre, SD 57501-2217

Phone: 605-773-3458

sdshswebmaster@state.sd.us

www.sdhistory.org

Preserve South Dakota

PO Box 113

105 S. Pierre St.

Pierre, SD 57501

Phone: 605-945-0409

info@preservesd.org

www.preservesd.org

Main Street Sioux Falls, Inc.

122 S Phillips Avenue, Suite 110

Sioux Falls, South Dakota 57104

Phone: 605-338-4009

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Planning and Zoning / Managing Growth

Resources: Continued

Downtown Brookings, Inc.
Contact: Doris Roden
308 Fourth Street
Brookings, SD 57006-1918
Phone: 605-692-1554
jdroden@brookings.net

Iowa Downtown Resource Center
Contact: Thom Guzman
200 East Grand Avenue
Des Moines, IA 50309
Phone: 515-242-4733
Email: thom.gusman@iowalifechanging.com
www.iowalifechanging.com/community/community/downtown.html

SUB THEME: Planning and Zoning / Managing Growth

Challenge: This challenge is summarized in one citizen’s statement “Rapid growth is a blessing, but also a challenge, we need to keep ahead of it”. To accomplish this goal the participants believed growing the right way is crucial and the zoning requirements play a big part. This requires adhering to the comprehensive plan and taking the zoning enforcement taking up a notch. The zoning board needs to be resilient to change but also hold to and enforce the zoning currently in place. The community wants to stick to plans with appropriate updates and continue to move forward.

Recommendation: An old saying is the planning process is that if you fail to plan, in reality what you are doing is planning to fail. Communities are always facing this dilemma. If the community where you work, play, and live does not have a plan for the future, ultimately the community may fail to adapt to change. Therefore, they will fail to take advantage of opportunities. This is not the case in Hartford; however the residents are very aware of this concept and desire never to reach this point in the city’s development.

The City of Hartford has a Comprehensive Plan in place, and based on the responses in the listening sessions, there is a great deal of community support for sticking to a plan to guide and manage Hartford’s potential future growth.

A comprehensive plan is an attempt to establish guidelines for future growth in Hartford. The plan should be all inclusive approach at addressing the issues of future growth in Hartford. This is the official manner of local government to adopt the plan into local law. This is used as the policy guide to guide decisions regarding development of the city.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Planning and Zoning / Managing Growth

The key principle of the comprehensive plan is it is an instrument to be used by the leaders of Hartford who establish the policies and make the decisions regarding physical development. The basic requirements the plan needs to fulfill are: it must be general, comprehensive, long range, and focus on physical development. This should be a policy statement that relate to the design proposals for community goals and social and economic policies.

The city of Hartford has developed the critical components to guide future growth and development. They must adhere to the plans and make sure to take the necessary actions to keep these plans current to provide for plans that are 10 to 20 years in the future. They will want to make sure updates are a community-wide effort. As with this community assessment, they will want all interest groups to have a part in determining what the future vision.

Resources:

South Eastern Council of Governments
1000 N. West Ave., Suite
Sioux Falls, SD 57104-1332
Phone: 605-367-5390
lynne@secog.org
www.secog.org

QUALITY OF LIFE

Sports Complex

QUALITY OF LIFE

SUB THEME: Sports Complex

Challenge: The community voiced a pronounced need for an expanded sports complex for softball, baseball and soccer.

Recommendation: The city park currently has a couple of ball diamonds, but in almost every listening group, we heard that there is a need for a larger sports complex to allow the Hartford youth the opportunity to play ball in town rather than to go to other communities. If a new, larger sports complex was developed, Hartford could be the community to draw additional youth from other areas rather than sending your youth to other towns for that opportunity.

In one of the listening sessions it was mentioned that a 40 acre parcel was identified for developing the sports complex. I am not sure what the ownership status is on that, but if community groups could join forces to work out the details and go to the owner with a unified plan, your chances of successfully negotiating the deal should be greatly improved. Development of this sports complex could become part of Hartford's capital improvement plan.

The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks Department provide grants for recreation complexes under the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). These grants are competitive, are prioritized and scored according to State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) for your class of municipality (Hartford is a Class 2 municipality). The following items are ranked according to 2002 SCORP Master Plan:

Item	New Development Ranking	Renovation Ranking
Basketball Courts	High Priority	High Priority
Softball Diamonds and Facilities	High Priority	High Priority
Tennis Courts	Low Priority	High Priority
Baseball Fields	Low Priority	High Priority

Since **new development** of softball fields rank higher than baseball fields or tennis courts and **renovation** of baseball fields and tennis courts rank as high as other priorities, maybe consider moving all softball fields to new development location and make improvements to existing park for baseball and tennis.

The LWCF provides 50/50 matching grants for outdoor recreation improvements. Grants range from \$3,000 to \$50,000. Swimming pools, playground equipment and ball field development are all eligible projects. Before applying, the recreational area must be

QUALITY OF LIFE

Sports Complex

acquired and dedicated to outdoor recreation use in perpetuity. Our planning district, SECOG, may assist with the grant application process.

A smaller funding source for softball and baseball field construction and renovation is the Minnesota Twins Fields for Kids Program. This provides grants ranging from \$1000 to \$5,000 for fields used primarily for the youth. Eligible projects include upgrading essential field components, like new sod, infield, fencing and dugouts. Lights, bleachers, grandstands, scoreboards and restrooms do not qualify.

If the area you are considering to purchase has any environmental issues, and the land is considered “blighted” or “scarred”, Brownfields Program may be available through the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR). The community of Parker is using this grant to help develop their new sports complex.

Resources:

Department of Game, Fish and Parks

Contact: John Simpson

Joe Foss Building

523 East Capitol

Pierre, SD 57501

Phone: 605-773-5490

John.Simpson@state.sd.us

South Eastern Council of Governments

Contact: Lynne Keller

1000 N. West Avenue, Suite 210

Sioux Falls, SD 57104

Phone: 605-367-5390

lynne@secog.org

www.secog.org

Twins Fields for Kids Program

TWINS COMMUNITY FUND

HaiVy Nguyen

34 Kirby Puckett Place

Minneapolis, Minnesota 33415

Phone: 612-375-7523

http://minnesota.twins.mlb.com/NASApp/mlb/min/community/field_for_kidsl.jsp

QUALITY OF LIFE

Swimming Pool

Resources: Continued

Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)

Contact: Kim McIntosh – Brownfields Program

Joe Foss Building

523 East Capitol Avenue

Pierre, SD 57501-3182

Phone: 605-773-3296

www.state.sd.us/denr

Parker Development Corporation

Contact: Mark Kasten

170 N Main Street

Parker, SD 57053

Phone: (605)297-4305

Email: mark.kasten@parkersd.org

www.parkersd.org

SUB THEME: Swimming Pool

Challenge: We heard a number of comments regarding the swimming pool. Many thought the pool needed to be renovated and many others felt a new one should be built. One thing people seemed to agree on was the fact that the current pool is not an adequate size to accommodate the number of swimmers Hartford's population growth has added.

Recommendation: Are there any projects that cities fund that make a City Council cringe more than swimming pools? They are costly and financing is limited, but pools are a quality of life fixture that people look at when considering moving to a community.

Hartford is in a unique situation because of the close proximity of other pools and water recreation opportunities. A question arises as to whether or not the community should do the water park option, or stay with the basic pool and update it a bit. One of the first steps in planning for a pool would be to form a committee to look at all the options (be sure to include kids!). The committee could plan the design, study financing options, and communicate with the community to ensure motivation to see the project to completion.

Once a committee is formed, they should look at the possibility of what it would cost to update the current pool. The costs of a new pool could also be explored and then citizens would have an idea of what the cost of each option would be.

If the City is planning on building a new one, use some of the sources that are listed below to try to finance it. Also look into how other communities have built new ones.

QUALITY OF LIFE

Swimming Pool

Britton and Canistota would be a good example to look at. Many communities end up doing a general obligation bond by election to fund their pools.

The main grant option for financing a pool is through the South Dakota Land and Water Conservation Fund. This program provides small grants every two years for recreational projects. Contact the Southeastern Council of Governments for more information.

Financing Options

SD Land and Water Conservation Funds:

- 50/50 matching grants for outdoor recreation improvements.
- Requests are limited to no less than \$3,000 and no more than \$50,000.
- Projects may include: swimming pools, playground equipment, ball field development, etc...
- The park and recreation areas acquired, developed or improved must be dedicated to outdoor recreation use in perpetuity.
- The funding is very limited.

USDA Rural Development

Rural Economic Development Loan program:

- May provide 0% interest financing for a swimming facility
- Loan is actually made to a local cooperative, who then reloans the funds to a local municipality of non profit at 0% interest for 10 years

Community Facility Loan Guarantee program:

- Could potentially guarantee a loan made for this type of a project
- Contact your USDA Rural Development Office for more information

Rural Electric Loan Funds (REED):

Provide low interest loans for projects which are beneficial to the area as a whole.

- Financing projects include but are not limited to healthcare, childcare, distance education, fire protection, community facilities, public recreation and the arts.
- May consider lending up to 50% of a project's need with the first \$100,000 at 3% interest for up to a 20 year term.
- The project area does not have to purchase electricity from the local rural electric co-op.

South Dakota Community Foundation:

- Grant funds available for several types of project areas.

Ronald McDonald Foundation:

- Grant funds available for projects which are directly related to children's health and well being, including playground equipment.
- The applicant must be a non-profit or have 501-c3 status
- This program generally has smaller awards of \$10,000 or less for projects or programs.

QUALITY OF LIFE

Swimming Pool

Other Options

- Conduct community fundraising activities.
- Other communities have done projects where bricks are sold to assist with fundraising. People can purchase bricks and their name of choosing is inscribed on the bricks. The bricks are then used as part of the project. Maybe charge businesses a bit more for bricks since it will be considered advertising. The brick fundraising was with the new Governor's residence in Pierre and also for new playground equipment in Lennox.
- Solicit volunteer labor to lower some of the costs. Sometimes local donated labor and other in-kind contributions can be documented and serve as part of the match for a grant or loan.
- Businesses and/or individuals may be more inclined to give material donations versus cash donations. In some instances, labor and/or equipment is donated from construction companies, etc...
- Have the City put projects into their Capital Improvements Plan to budget for it through their finances and to start planning now to reserve other financing options.
- Do some Internet searches for funding. Many private corporations have grant funds available and your pool project may qualify. Make sure to follow the directions the funding source is giving you and make sure to check any deadlines the grant may have.
- With Hartford's connection to larger communities I would also encourage you to consider finding a sponsor for the project. You may be surprised at donations corporations will make in exchange for naming rights.

Resources:

South Eastern Council of Governments
1000 N. West Ave. Suite 210
Sioux Falls, SD 57104
605-367-5390
lynne@secog.org
<http://www.secog.org/>

USDA Rural Development
2408 Benson Road
Sioux Falls, SD 57104
605-30-4515
kevin.strickler@sd.usda.gov

SD Community Foundation
Box 296
Pierre, SD 57501
605-224-1025
www.sdcommunityfoundation.org

QUALITY OF LIFE

Community Center

Resources: Continued

Ronald McDonald House Corp. of SD, Inc.
2001 South Norton Ave.
Sioux Falls, SD 57105
605-336-6369
www.rmhc.com/grant/index.html

SUB THEME: Community Center

Challenge: Many respondents in listening sessions expressed an interest in the development of a community center.

Recommendation: A community center in Hartford could be a huge asset to your community because not only will it help address certain space and service needs in the community, but it will also provide a method or mechanism in which to bring the community together - both old residents and newer residents moving into the community. A community center can be a very useful way to maintain and cultivate a strong sense of unity and identity in the community.

There are various community needs that a community center could satisfy; it could be a place to have a whole set of community-minded services offered, limited only by your imagination. For example, the facility could provide meeting space for community organizations, a place to hold large community gatherings, more gym and recreational space, a wellness center, a community technology center, a place to receive public health services, a youth center, a location for the after-school program, daycare services, and perhaps even an expanded community library.

It will be important, as one of the first steps in planning a community center, that you come to a consensus of what should or should not be included as part of this center. This could be done by holding focus groups in the community or conducting a comprehensive community-wide survey to solicit feedback from local residents. Perhaps the first thing to ask is what needs to be included in the facility. For example, will it be used for community events, wedding dances, etc? Will the building need to be designed so basketball and other sports to be played in it? The public should be involved to help determine the type of facility and location. A community center can cause a strain on the budget as these facilities are almost impossible to operate solely from the revenues generated. They are typically subsidized from the city budget which can sometimes cause a backlash from those paying taxes. The other important question is to determine what residents are willing to pay for this facility.

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Community Center

The city of Crooks constructed a community center a couple of years ago. If you would like to visit with Crooks, contact Linda Hunnel, the city finance officer as a resource in your own planning if you decide to explore a community center in Hartford.

Yet another option implemented in other communities is the development of community centers as part of a school facility. This allows shared use of this facility between the community and the school, creating greater flexibility and maximizing utilization.

Careful planning, lengthy conversations, and taking time to tour community centers in other communities are a must. Multiple parties need to be involved in the conversation including the school district, city, chamber, economic development corporation, and other relevant local parties such as the school board, senior center, after-school program, etc.

Financing Options:

- USDA Rural Development Guaranteed & Direct Community Facility Loan program. These funds can be used to construct, enlarge, or improve community facilities for health care, public safety and public services. Eligible entities include public bodies or non profit corporations. With the direct loan program, USDA can extend the terms to a maximum of 40 years with an interest rate around 5%. The guaranteed loan program uses local lenders to help build a facility with a guarantee from USDA.
- Community Development Block Grants might be an option. Hartford does not automatically qualify for this program based on 2000 census income data. A locally conducted income survey is an alternative way to potentially qualify for this program. A survey may show that income levels may have changed enough in the last seven years to meet the 51% low-to-moderate income requirement of the program.
- Technology Centers: If you are looking to integrate a technology component into the community center, there are a couple of financial resources available. The US Department of Education provides grants for the development of Community Technology Centers (CTC's). CTC's must be developed in cooperation between a community based organization and a local education institution (such as a high school). The Beaumont Foundation provides grant assistance for securing technology and servicing technology centers for low-income residents.

The South Eastern Council of Governments (SECOG) is available to evaluate the possibility of a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds. The Rural Development office is also available to discuss financing options.

QUALITY OF LIFE

Community Center

Resources:

South Eastern Council of Governments
Lynne Keller, Director
1000 N. West Ave. Suite 210
Sioux Falls, SD 57104
605-367-5390
lynne@secog.rog

USDA – Rural Development
2408 East Benson Road
Sioux Falls, SD 57104
Phone: 605-330-4515
Fax: 605-330-4595
www.rurdev.usda.gov/sd

Community Development Block Grant
Steve Harding
Governor's Office of Economic Development – GOED
Department of Tourism and State Development
711 E. Wells Ave.
Pierre, SD 57501
605-773-5032
goedinfo@state.sd.us
www.sdgreatprofits.com

US Department of Education
Karen Holliday
OVAE, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW.
Washington, DC 20202-7110
202-245-7708
Karen.Holliday@ed.gov
<http://www.ed.gov/programs/comtechcenters/index.html> or
<http://www.ed.gov/programs/comtechcenters/resources.html>
Community Technology Center Startup Manual available online at:
<http://www.ctcnet.org/resources/toc.htm>

Beaumont Foundation of America
PO Box 1855
Beaumont, TX 77701
866-546-2667
www.bmtfoundation.com

QUALITY OF LIFE

Parks

SUB THEME: Parks

Challenge: Hartford is challenged to meet the expectations of its current and future residents to provide safe access to a neighborhood park system with safe playground equipment for all ages and adequate lighting to foster safe evening recreation. It is apparent that the existing park is used by all ages and viewed as an important component to the quality of life. Busy highways are viewed as an obstacle to accessing the park from current and future housing developments therefore smaller neighborhood parks with age appropriate equipment may be more desirable than one large park complex.

Recommendation: The current park is used by all ages and viewed as an important component to the quality of life in Hartford.

The Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant Fund, administered by the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks Department, will provide funding to acquire and / or develop outdoor recreation areas and general public facilities. Playground equipment, land for parks and other recreational facilities are among the eligible programs. The program provides 50/50 matching grants ranging from \$3,000 - \$50,000. A critical obligation that must be considered is that park or recreational areas acquired, developed or improved with Land and Water Conservation Funds must be dedicated to outdoor recreational use in perpetuity. Playgrounds are considered a priority recreational use facility, both new and reconstruction.

One community sold bricks to individuals for approximately \$50.00 per brick with the proceeds used to purchase new playground equipment. The individual's name (or a name of his / her choosing) was inscribed on the brick was used in the park's landscaping.

The Ronald McDonald Foundation will also fund playground equipment to entities with a 501(C)3 status. The foundation generally awards grants of \$10,000 or less for projects that are directly related to children's health and well being.

Parks and other green space can also be included as part of your zoning and permitting for new housing developments. Several communities including Brandon and Harrisburg are looking at ways to require development of parks/greenspace in newer housing developments.

Resources:

South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks
Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant and Recreational Trails Program
Joe Foss Building
523 E Capitol Ave
Pierre, SD 57501
605-773-3391

QUALITY OF LIFE

Biking / Walking Path

Resources: Continued

RMHC of South Dakota, Inc.
2001 South Norton Avenue
Sioux Falls, SD 57105
605-336-6398
605-339-2638
<http://www.rmhc.com>

Community and Urban Forestry
Aaron Keisz
South Dakota Department of Agriculture
523 E Capitol Ave
Pierre, SD 57501
605-773-3375

City of Brandon
Dennis Olson, City Administrator
605-582-6515

City of Harrisburg
Mary McClung
605-743-5872

SUB THEME: Biking and Walking Path

Challenge: Hartford is a thriving community with many of its members interested in physical fitness. The need / desire for a biking / walking path to foster physical fitness for all ages that is safe and accessible was expressed at several of the listening sessions. Attendees mentioned that a biking / walking path either around the community of Hartford or linking Hartford to Humboldt would be most desirable. Acquiring land and funding a biking / walking path can be challenging.

Recommendation: Biking / walking paths are becoming an increasingly popular mode of recreation and transportation for community residents. Some communities in South Dakota have “reclaimed” old railroad beds for biking / walking paths. Doing so naturally connects one community to another, which can also foster rural tourism and economic development. The Rails to Trails Conservancy has information on designing and constructing biking/walking paths. It is a not for profit group whose primary goal is, “Creating a nationwide network of trails from former rail lines and connecting corridors to build healthier places for healthier people.” The Rails to Trails Conservancy does not

QUALITY OF LIFE

Biking / Walking Path

provide monetary funding but does provide information, technical assistance and training for trail builders.

The South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks administers the Recreational Trails program which provides 80 percent reimbursement for the development and maintenance of recreational trails, developing trail related facilities and educational programs. Trails include, but are not limited to pedestrian / walking paths, bicycling, in-line skating, equestrian use, cross-country skiing, snowmobile, off-road motorcycling, all-terrain vehicle riding, four-wheel drive use and other off-road motorized use. Trailheads (parking and bathroom facilities) are eligible, as long as there is a direct relationship with a recreational trail. Trail maintenance equipment such as lawn mowers and trail-grooming machines are eligible through this program. Grants are accepted every two years with the next application period likely in 2007.

The Land & Water Conservation Fund, administered by the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks Department provides grants for a wide range of outdoor recreational facilities including recreational trails. The program provides 50/50 matching grants (\$3,000 - \$50,000) for outdoor recreational improvements. The recreational areas acquired, developed or improved with the Land & Water Conservation Fund must be dedicated to outdoor recreation use.

The South Dakota Department of Transportation also has a program for Biking / Walking path projects entitled Transportation Enhancement Grants. The program provides 81.95% reimbursement for projects such as recreational trails, landscaping, historic preservation and establishment of transportation museums.

Planning of a recreational trail in Hartford must be done in cooperation with the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO and included as part of the MPO's transportation planning process. The South Eastern Council of Governments administers the MPO that covers Sioux Falls and surrounding communities. As a community that is covered by the MPO, Hartford is eligible to have the South Eastern Council of Governments assist with the writing and development of recreational trail grant applications as well as coordination with the MPO planning process.

Resources:

South Eastern Council of Governments (SECOG)
Lynne Keller
1000 N West Avenue, Suite 210
Sioux Falls, SD 57104
605-367-5390

QUALITY OF LIFE

Youth Activities

Resources: Continued

South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks
Trails Program Specialist, Scott Carbonneau
Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant & Recreational Trails Program
Joe Foss Building 523 E Capitol Avenue
Pierre, SD 57501
605-773-3391
Scott.Carbonneau@state.sd.us

Department of Transportation
Office of Local Government Assistance
Paula Huizenga
700 East Broadway
Pierre, SD 57501
605-773-4831
Paula.Huizenga@state.sd.us

Rails – to – Trails Conservancy
1100 17th Street, 10th Floor, NW
Washington DC 20036
202-331-9696
<http://www.railstrails.org>
www.trailsandgreenways.org

SUB THEME: Youth Activities

Challenge: There are not enough activities for the youth to enjoy in the community. Currently, many of them go to Sioux Falls to find things to do. This is also an area that potential residents look for when they consider moving to Hartford.

Recommendation: The first way to address this issue is to use the resources already available. For example, some students expressed interest in open gym. Scheduling regular open gym time and organizing parents or other adult volunteers to supervise, could give young people the opportunity to be active in a safe environment.

Another resource could be to expand on the many activities through local churches. This is a great way for young people to grow in their fellowship and experience the positive influence of mentors and role models in the community. It would be ideal if the churches could all work together and share resources so that the youth could participate freely without feeling a denominational barrier. Open gym, movie night, book clubs, etc. would all be ways to keep youth engaged in a positive environment.

QUALITY OF LIFE

Youth Activities

Volunteering could be a positive way to keep young people active. One thing the high school students were very concerned about was the lack of volunteer opportunities available to them. They are willing and able to volunteer, and see this possible experience as a way to strengthen their college applications. For this reason, the City of Hartford can be creative in developing youth to volunteer opportunities. Volunteerism could include conducting fundraisers for community improvement projects through activities such as car washes, bake sales, or a community rummage sale. An example of this would be to raise money through a series of fundraising events to improve the park. Young people would be excited to raise money for this cause, and the community would be excited to support such activities. Food drives and community cleanup are other examples in which youth could volunteer that would benefit the community. Focused activities also provide young people life long lessons in the personal fulfillment of helping others.

Other solutions for youth activities will be addressed in the other Quality of Life issues, such as a Sports Complex and a Community Center.

Resources:

HELP! Line Center
Sara Carothers, Coordinator
1000 West Avenue North, Suite 310
Sioux Falls, SD 57104-1314
vol@helplinecenter.org
<http://www.volunteersolutiong.org/volhelp/volunteer/>

LISTENING SESSION RESPONSES

Issues and Challenges

Responses to the Question: What are the major issues and challenges Hartford?

- Shop space available to rent or lease
- Roof tops / number of houses attracting more businesses to locate in Hartford
- Financing / funding for roads into development areas and finding people to help put it in a low interest rate
- Attract small and large businesses
- Meeting the expectations of new residents
- More small businesses / youth employment
- Increase recreation / pool size and similar things to attract families, ball complex
- More things for the family, aren't a lot of family things to do
- More independence from Sioux Falls
- On the verge of growth where other businesses will come in
- Local employment opportunities
- Business, things for young families
- Industrial development
- Police – full time police officer, police force
- Incentive to bring people into town
- Sidewalks – hard to walk with children to daycare without sidewalks
- Young family activities – bigger parks / maybe multiple parks in different locations.
- Want to move a business to Hartford within a year and would appreciate tax incentives/ business opportunities
- Pool expansion similar to Tea's in long run may pay for itself
- Affordable housing; haven't done affordable housing for 5 years or so (130,000 or less)
- Softball / Baseball complex, working on it now
- Balancing financing and priority list
- Philanthropy
- Growth / not a lot of crime, as the community grows, values, crime rates may change
- EMT volunteers are there adequate numbers in town to respond
- County Sheriff Contracting law enforcement; turn over, political pressures make small town law enforcement difficult. Crime is a challenge and will continue to be a challenge as people feed their habits. 85 – 90% comes from organized cartel, small amount are local. Neighbors good “monitors” of neighborhoods.
- School resource officer is a good program, funding is an issue, EMS volunteers / resources available to respond is concerning. Minnehaha County will be proposing that the ½ of county force to be trained in EMS
- Maintain own identity
- Need more EMS during the day III – becoming more of a challenge

LISTENING SESSION RESPONSES

Issues and Challenges

- Need to work on medical base, ambulance issue; (share an ambulance in Hartford / Humboldt) EMS – training for IV's (EMT – I additional training); now have a pharmacy
- Need more industry
- Bedroom community so need strong community spirit
- Also need more EMS volunteers at night – major time commitment then with young families / kids hard to get dedicated time for early evenings.
- 5 – 6 EMS / fire volunteers are available during the day
- Hard to recruit young volunteers
- Need to creatively recruit volunteers for EMS / Fire Department
- Need new Fire Station – had a grant several years ago but due to circumstances it was given back; home land security, back up generator to assist individuals in medical need during natural disasters
- Growth is changing the dynamics of the community
- Infrastructure planning for population growth (fire department, trucks etc.)
- Lack of leadership at the State; local people have successfully moved forward in specific areas
- Lack of industry in town
- More evening / night time police coverage
- Incorporating new residents and getting them to feel a part of the community and encourage them to volunteer
- Keeping up with the growth for the future and options, recreation, streets, parks, schools – getting everyone on board to prepare the city for growth.
- Infrastructure will be finished in 2 years – challenges will be taking care of infrastructure that has been put in so there isn't additional residential cost.
- Staying ahead of the growth with the infrastructure, storm sewer, water etc. several changes have been made but need to stay ahead of the growth
- Higher demand for parks and similar things
- Meeting expectations of new residents – swimming pool, parks etc.
- Sticking to plans to move forward
- Competing with Sioux Falls retail – as Northeast builds
- Growth continuing to wrap the town in electrical circuits. A new power line – tie line to sub station outside of town. Keeping up with town's rebuilding
- Keep ahead of the growth, water, sewer, pools –
- Unnecessary water I/I Problems – (pump problems)
- Need more parks for children
- Street improvements, need to get Mickelson Road done and need to look at an east route out on Mickelson to I-90 to deal with growth by DOT – need a good east exit
- Planning staying ahead of the growth; expansion of anticipated growth
- Parks
- Businesses so people can shop and work in Hartford
- Commercial, residential – sticking with plans

LISTENING SESSION RESPONSES

Issues and Challenges

- Developments on the outer edges – getting kids to parks, schools safely – need to cross 38 and Western
- Not everyone is on board and different expectations / different directions. We are on the edge of everything and some people don't want to get there.
- Staying ahead of growth and being ready (natural gas); being ready to take the next "big step" – don't look too small.
- Pool, parks, etc need to expand to meet new population
- Need to capitalize on Interstate 90 – to assist with tax revenue to pay for community needs
- Long term planning, being prepared for growth
- Multiple housing plans (variety – apartments and housing)
- Mickelson Road to the east difficult how it ties into 38. 38 is supposed to be widened in 3 – 4 years. Mickelson road will need to be dealt with; need to deal with townships that are also cash strapped.
- Need to address parks – neighborhood or other means.
- Accessibility to the core of Hartford – getting kids safely to where they need to go
- Create a business district here.
- Broad plan for parks
- Western Avenue is a traffic problem – needs to be widened – dangerous
- Keep your identity, don't become anonymous
- Change
- Our churches need different facilities...I'd like to see them be more of a focus in the community. We want the church to be a central part of the community and use our facilities for meetings, etc.
- There is a need for counseling for families and couples...our church can't handle all of it on its own. There is need for more of a formalized counseling plan.
- Community pride is shown in the churches...they are a place for the community to come together. We have 4 churches in town and 2 rural...we need to be ready for the growth that will be coming to our community in the churches, also.
- We need a community center to have a place to meet...it has to be handicapped accessible for the elderly
- We need a place for the older kids (16-18). Churches are losing the older kids to drinking, etc...we need to keep them involved in the church.
- Community center
- The churches all have halls to rent, but we need something to rent where you don't necessarily need to be a member to use...something for everyone
- Affordable housing...apartments for people to rent
- Sidewalks, walking path
- If I weren't in the church, I wouldn't know how to fit in to the community
- We need to cultivate the sense of community in Hartford
- I don't have kids in school, so it is hard for me to find out what's going on
- The Catholic Church is going to build, what will we do with the old one?
- I think we should open our church to others more than what we do...I don't think we should charge outsiders to use it, it should be an outreach.

LISTENING SESSION RESPONSES

Issues and Challenges

- We need to be more supportive of everyone, not just our congregation members
- If you are new, it is hard to know where to get information on the community
- Communicating events could be improved
- We need to build the population, so we can add more businesses
- Need more development...maybe some manufacturing
- We need to keep up with the housing needs
- City needs to keep ahead of the growth
- More handicapped accessible affordable housing
- Rapid growth is a blessing, but also a challenge, we need to keep ahead of it
- We need to stick with the ordinances, we can't change them on a whim
- We have good infrastructure to accommodate growth
- Keep ahead of the number of kids we have coming here, we need to be ready at the school
- Keep up with rapid growth
- We probably need to add some industry and the rest will come
- Growth is a challenge...we are getting prepared for growth through the City
- I agree
- I like to have everything available here in town, I don't want to drive to Sioux Falls anymore
- Growth that we have will be substantial in the future and meeting quality of life issues
- Growth is an opportunity which is a challenge at the same time; significant potential
- Will continue to be a challenge for people to understand that the school district is 165 square miles
- Improvements to Hartford need to be made "aesthetically". When people look at the school district it appears that the community is divided white collar Sioux Falls commuters and the "old Hartford"
- Building 2 elementary school, business office, library – new construction
- Sense of community comes from the school and churches. School isn't enough to keep people here, will need other things here to keep people, i.e. Sunshine store. Bike ride to ice cream cone, family restaurant, quality of life issues
- City has done a lot to improve streets but has a lot to do in some areas. The core has been improved, but other areas need improvement i.e. Around the golf course; aesthetic improvements; loyalty to school but not the town.
- There isn't anyplace for kids to go to hang out. The youth go to Sioux Falls after games. Difficult to run a business as there isn't the loyalty to support them. Jr. High and High School students. Good school identity but tough to get city identity.
- School / community athletic complex
- Sioux Falls won't grow into Hartford – industrial may but not residential
- Hartford will always be its own community and important to keep that in mind
- Perception that the city doesn't have a plan; knowing that they do; the city's plan needs to be better communicated

LISTENING SESSION RESPONSES

Issues and Challenges

- It is tough on families that are lower income and they are assessed to put in the streets. Some just can't afford it...if you have to have a valuation on your property 10%...interest rates are cheaper than that
- We need to quit exporting our workers to Sioux Falls
- Work together
- We need to communicate our positives to outsiders, so we can get them to come here
- Encroachment of big box stores from Sioux Falls to here is not a positive
- Need to educate people that it may be a shorter commute to Hartford than it takes to get around Sioux Falls
- Image is a problem...Sioux Falls thinks we are "Hicksville"
- The streets around our daycare need to be paved and it will be difficult to pay for that...it will cost almost \$17,000...daycares don't make that much money
- We need sidewalks
- Our sales tax is growing...the more you shop in Hartford, the more it helps our community. People need to buy their goods here when possible
- We need to plan ahead for housing
- We put in curb and gutter, but no sidewalks...that's crazy
- It would be nice to have a fund of some sort for lower income people who can't afford to put in the streets or sidewalks
- Infrastructure / sport and recreation
- Hard to keep people focused when it is hard to accomplish anything
- More volunteer participation
- Need more cash to fund needed sports fields
- Parks and recreation is good idea to assist in attracting families
- Parks and recreation, swimming pool is packed in the evening and as the community grows, this will need to be addressed however it will take significant financial contributions. We do a good job with what we have but do need more softball / baseball fields
- Park was the reason we moved in the house we did, however the equipment is outdated and scary
- Ball fields would bring money into the community; cosmetic updates have been done i.e. landscaping however the equipment isn't safe
- Spend a lot of time in Sioux Falls and other towns for tournaments that can't be held without the facilities; maybe a sales tax could help pay to upgrade
- Live close enough to Sioux Falls to be the overflow for tournaments i.e. Basketball court
- Community entertainment facility; central entertainment location for the community
- Need a hotel / motel
- Another one or two café's to serve breakfast, lunch, short orders
- Store that you can buy clothes
- More gym space for more practice time; basketball, baseball and football; don't get to practice as much because there are so many kids

LISTENING SESSION RESPONSES

Issues and Challenges

- Place to buy t-shirts, to pick up things we need
- More gym space
- Ditto
- Community center where everyone can go and have fun; basketball courts, place for kids to play games, racquet ball, sports things
- More sports tournaments for everyone to be involved in
- Improve soccer field and more soccer fields; club sports
- Recreation center would be nice
- More room to practice wrestling
- Repave the ground at the skate park; it is cracked and isn't as good to skate on
- Park area improvements, skate park and regular park
- Locker rooms are in tough shape in the current Middle school
- The park needs some improvements
- A cop needs to be at the park during the summer because people are selling drugs there and there is crime happening
- Kids are buying drugs in the park
- We need something for big kids and little kids to do...little ones don't have something to play in
- A number of the places in town don't look nice...if it looks bad, no one wants to move in
- We need jobs for high school kids...we have to go to Sioux Falls to work...we don't want to drive if we don't have to
- A bowling alley would be nice
- A rec center or café...a place where we can hang out and get something to eat would be nice
- A number of streets don't have lights that makes it unsafe
- There are unpaved roads by the golf course
- Not everyone stops at the stop signs, either enforce it or take it out
- We don't have a lot of police watching for crime
- Our pool needs a lot of work
- It would be nice to have an indoor pool
- It would be nice to have a walking trail
- It would be nice to have a rec center...
- The park needs help...it's boring
- The little kids need more equipment at the park to play with...they get bored and there isn't enough to choose from
- I take little kids to the middle school to use the playground equipment
- Community center with a YMCA atmosphere
- Bowling alley
- Expansion for a business is tough...there isn't a lot of shop space available
- Hartford is going to grow by leaps and bounds and we need to balance that
- It will be a challenge to come up with the money to do the things this needs assessment identifies
- Sidewalks

LISTENING SESSION RESPONSES

Issues and Challenges

- Playground equipment at the park needs a lot of help
- It is tough to find volunteers
- We need to be prepared for growth
- We need to prioritize the needs of the community
- Communication to the new people...how do they find out what we have to offer?
- We need manufacturing jobs
- Ditto
- Everyone wants things...but how do we pay for it
- The schools need to be able to handle the growth that is coming to town
- Community building...can we get financing for that some way?
- Our cleanliness needs to be addressed
- Zoning needs to be stepped up...the zoning board needs to hold to the zoning that is in place and enforce it
- Our pool needs updating
- We need to bring in industry
- We should market ourselves better
- Growing the right way...the zoning needs to have a big part of it...no one wants to live next to a dump
- Sticking to the comprehensive plan is going to be important
- We need to take the zoning enforcement up a notch
- We need to bring in businesses that can add to our sales tax base

LISTENING SESSION RESPONSES

Strengths and Assets

Responses to the Question: What are the major strengths and assets of Hartford?

- Small town atmosphere
- Neighbors watch for neighbors; safety
- Small town living
- Good education
- Golf course
- Location – small town yet close to Sioux Falls (4 miles from SF City Limits with the addition of the new over pass on 38)
- People make the small town great
- Town has what you need
- Access to Sioux Falls yet far enough to have own identity
- I90 is an asset
- Sioux Falls for employment while letting people live here
- Hartford is strong minded – people are working together to make it work
- People, schools, churches – communicate the positives
- Rural water; infrastructure is about done
- City Council has done a great job planning for the future
- I 90 and HWY 38
- West Central School; sports; education
- Community / Community Spirit
- Poised for the growth that will come; 1,000 lots are plotted and are ready
- Forward thinking and planning
- Community is growing
- Community Pride
- Small town feel
- Friendly people, positive attitude
- I stayed because of the Golf Course
- People come out when they are needed – close knit community
- Hartford fit our family's needs
- EMS / Fire Department / We are a family
- Small town school
- Proximity to Sioux Falls; churches; schools
- Hartford and Humboldt working together
- Close knit group / charitable / helps everyone out
- School System, high test scores, great teachers
- Professional building, schools and golf course
- Proactive City Council
- Advantages of small town life, yet just outside of resources Sioux Falls has to offer including jobs
- Medically – clinic is established, pharmacy, more elderly have to travel the busy streets of Sioux Falls and getting needs met here.

LISTENING SESSION RESPONSES

Strengths and Assets

- Strengths are the people here, location to Sioux Falls and can still have a separate identity, prime location
- Takes a lot of volunteers to make it work
- Grocery Store
- Growing sales tax base, property tax base, ability to make changes necessary
- Grocery store
- Friendly
- Warm community
- School system and size of community
- Friendly to people moving into the community and easy to get involved
- Gem that hasn't been found by a lot of people
- Unlike some communities – Hartford has kept its own identity and hasn't developed some of the problems
- Location, churches, outlook of most people, faith,
- People, school system and chose to reinvest in the school
- Working with the City of Hartford – city has been open and helpful; want to see growth.
- Curb and gutter
- Location, 3 ways to get to work in Sioux Falls, also easy to do business in Sioux Falls; position to be accessible
- Location, Location, Location
- Personality of the community draws good people, loyal people, people are loyal to buy things locally
- People, good town to do business with, city staff, engineers
- Opportunity, have the ability to write own ticket as to where we want to go. Planning documents are in place, need to prioritize so can move forward
- Community is appealing; curb and gutter, supports growth of the town
- Progressive community, have seen a change in city vision, city council and city staff are eager to do the right thing
- People support the community; nice to work in the town
- The sense of community is good, people care about each other
- Infrastructure has really improved
- We have the basics...pharmacy, grocery store
- People have an openness to new possibilities...I think change is accepted...we don't have survival issues...
- The people are optimistic
- We have a Fellowship of Christian Athletes
- The churches will benefit from the people that are coming to Hartford to live
- We have a lot of pride in the community...people support the youth in athletics and arts, also
- The tornado relief project we did in the park was huge for us... the outreach was unreal
- Our community rallies around people in need...we do a number of benefits for people in need

LISTENING SESSION RESPONSES

Strengths and Assets

- If you are plugged into the school system, you seem to fit in, but otherwise it is hard to fit in...we need to work on that
- Our dev. corp. works well at promoting the town...maybe the churches should be members of that as it is a good way to get information out there
- We have a good City Council
- The dev. corp works hard and does a good job
- The people are great
- Our school system is second to none
- The people are our greatest asset
- We need younger people to take part in City decisions
- People run for office...we have a waiting list for being on the planning and zoning...people participate
- We have cultural/ethnic celebrations
- We chose Hartford because of the churches, and services in the community that are offered
- Our utilities are outstanding at keeping our community up to date...excellent EMS...our city workers are exceptional
- City people do a good job and our rescue people are wonderful
- Our streets are good...schools, too
- It is great the senior citizens can use the pool for their water aerobics...it is wonderful the city lets us use it
- Infrastructure, poised for growth
- Location close to Sioux Falls – I-90 is an untapped commodity
- Have an opportunity to work through the growth
- Design and infrastructure for growth
- School system, quality of teaching staff and small size of classes, strength of offerings blending of activities and athletics
- People are a major strength of the community
- People are the right mix of leave you alone to live your life but are there to support and help. People pull together when it is time.
- Affordability of housing; for the money you get the most bang for the dollar here
- Infrastructure has greatly improved especially curb and gutter
- People recognize the West Central School District across the state
- Teachers in the school were the main reason to stay, teachers are second to none
- Local businesses know your name
- Strong academic programs, stronger than athletics, but you just don't hear about the academics
- Widening 251 is great...
- Website is being developed
- Our infrastructure is a positive
- Getting a City administrator helped us a lot
- I'm glad the City put in the storm sewers by my house
- We're on the right track with housing developments
- The City tapping into rural water when it did was huge for us...that is helpful

LISTENING SESSION RESPONSES

Strengths and Assets

- Choosing to have a City administrator has been a huge plus
- People
- The businesses get along with each other and the public
- We have a town that wants to grow, but we need to make sure we keep our identity
- Steady, positive improvement has happened in Hartford over the past several years
- Growth and location are a positive
- Our City Council has been progressive
- Land has been identified for a park / ball park complex
- Community / people hands down; warmth
- My husband's battery died the other day and the guy at Tammon Oil who he didn't know just told him to take his pickup and have it back by 3:00
- School sports, academics and extra curricular activities
- Returned to area for the school, moved business to town and the town has a great feel, and great potential on the I 90 corridor
- Marvel of the talent that the kids have at the school
- Very proud of the community how they have worked together to get where we are today
- If you think about it every single direction you come into Hartford there is new housing and it looks nice
- The two legion's worked together to accommodate the needs of a recent very large funeral, the communities are working well
- Apartments
- People who have moved in are willing to help develop the community which is a bonus
- Nice people
- Small and friendly
- Like the class size
- People and I have a lot of friends
- School and community are the right size
- Like the size of the community, school
- The community gets along well
- Safe; don't hear anything about the crime; don't have gangs
- Pool
- Sports teams
- It is helpful to have the grocery store in Hartford so we don't have to go to Sioux Falls
- I like how friendly the community is
- Size of Hartford, safe environment and while there aren't a lot of things to do there still are things to do
- Everyone knows everyone and are supportive if something happens
- Small, yet successful sports teams
- The size of community, yet it is growing, nice facilities and school

LISTENING SESSION RESPONSES

Strengths and Assets

- People are outside in the summer and you can stop and talk to them because you know them
- Know kids in classes above and below
- Growth in the school and community is good because then there were more people to know; so it would be an advantage
- It's a safe community
- We have an exceptional school system
- The people are really friendly
- We are going to grow a lot and that's OK
- We have 3 gas stations...it's nice that they can all make a living at it
- Small town values, but we can go to Sioux Falls to do a lot of things
- People all know each other
- It's a safe place
- Small town feel
- We have a lot of support for our sports teams
- Jamboree Days are fun...maybe we can do more of that
- I like that we start school together and don't get split up like they do in Sioux Falls
- We don't have our gifted program anymore...we take care of the kids that struggle, but not of the kids that want to improve
- We need to challenge our smarter students more than what we do
- We need more AP classes...they have them in Sioux Falls
- We like the smallness of our school, but would like to have more of the choices or opportunities for classes
- Some tutoring opportunities would be nice...something outside of the school
- We need to be pushed in academics more
- We have good leaders
- Strong community identities
- Grocery store
- You can get just about anything you need here
- Location
- Our people
- Location on I-90 and the closeness to Sioux Falls
- Affordability of housing is better than in Sioux Falls
- School system
- The people
- Quality of life
- Schools...the superintendent is an asset...he is good for our school
- I feel like we are getting ahead of growth and planning for it
- Water and sewer are new
- We have a good basis to build on
- Our ag business support the community
- We have a number of young business owners in the community
- The businesses network among themselves to keep business in town

LISTENING SESSION RESPONSES

Strengths and Assets

- Location
- Highways around the community are an advantage

LISTENING SESSION RESPONSES

Projects

Responses to the Question: What are the Projects you would like to see accomplished in Hartford in the next 2, 5, 10, 15, and 20 years?

- Sidewalks (for children – safe area)
- Filling in the gaps
- Spur economic growth within the city limits and getting businesses online
- Housing growth. In 5 year, see more businesses. In 20 years, more civic groups
- In 2 to 5 years - upgrade parks, pools and bike trails; 5 years more businesses ; 20 years parks, improving appearance of town, cleaning property, clean up, fix up
- Increase involvement of new residents, helping to move forward
- Bike trail system, park improvement, bike trail, 10 years- reevaluate as the community will grow substantially
- 10 yr. smaller neighborhood parks,
- 2 – 5 years bike trails, park improvement, side walks, sports complex
- Munt building – buy and renovate and put businesses in there and revitalize down town with specialty shops
- 2 years road work, 5 years industrial parks
- Focus on families; parks, individual neighborhood parks, swimming pool expansion
- Madison has an indoor swimming pool; Dell Rapids theater
- Focus community on attracting younger families and as families come, businesses will follow.
- Cleanup of the community
- Ditto
- Develop planned housing, industrial, so there is logical growth and stick with the long term growth plan cost effective in the long run
- Long term planning, zoning vision have been established, but need to stick to it; quality of life issues are important
- Motel, hotel
- Ditto
- Daycare for evenings while parents work
- Strict zoning requirements – enforced
- Sidewalks
- Ditto
- Sidewalks especially by the school
- Newer bigger fire station
- Full time ambulance and full time fire department
- Tax base for projects; housing is available so now need the jobs.
- Widen HWY 151 so traffic can flow
- Jobs
- Not sure you need industrial development because of issues; people move here because don't have the problems
- Swimming pool
- Need more things for families

LISTENING SESSION RESPONSES

Projects

- Four-lane road to Wall Lake
- Paid fire department / EMS
- Ditto
- Don't lose identity as a small town as the community grows is that what they want
- Some sort of industry but carefully choose
- Baseball diamonds
- Smaller businesses and new fire station
- 10 year – more things for kids to do; 20 year goal to be retired from fire department
- Parks; people need places for kids to go
- Swimming Pool
- Continue improvements in the parks
- Continue to promote relationships between Hartford and Humboldt
- Sports complex, fire hall
- Small businesses
- Sport complex
- Enough business to keep people local without losing identity
- Healthy controlled growth; seek the right business, an appealing impressive entrances
- Watch growth and adjust law enforcement and EMS to be proportionate.
- Sanford bubble over the pool
- Fire station, sports complex, pull community together to make things happen
- Steady growth / not overwhelming growth
- Handicapped accessible building growth
- 2 – 5 years – Expand / add parks
- Parks, walking trails
- Parks, city owns land with a creek that would make a good park, potentially could dig out and make a lake
- Softball / Baseball complex / Soccer
- 2 years – sidewalk issue to be addressed – that will finish the curb / gutter
- 5 years – sports complex – i.e. football complex / softball / soccer fields
- 10 years – industrial parks established so don't have to drive to Sioux Falls
- 20 years – something that will get people to stop in town
- 5 – 10 years more jobs – taxes are high- not everyone wants to drive to Sioux Falls, new people will be strangers but until we resolve won't be able to finance the projects
- 2 year – parks and image of community / signage on interstate
- Mickelson road and HWY 38
- 10 – 20 years get people to spend money in Hartford
- Walking trails / sports complex in 5 years to draw people to draw service business
- Long term creating interest in things that will get people to stop in
- Park issue needs to be addressed

LISTENING SESSION RESPONSES

Projects

- 5 – 10 years sports complex – needs money and land; softball tournaments; hotel; connect bike trails around town or even to Sioux Falls
- Revitalization of older homes and down town – taking care of old and new.
- City has the green way with a creek that could be developed now.
- Safe crossing of 38
- 1 – 5 years – a strategic plan by city and community that addresses the needs of parks, zoning etc. next goal 5 – 6,000 “rooftops”
- 1 - Year – hope for a new branch bank, like older buildings / homes and hope that emphasis of historical structures – historical adds character to communities
- More active volunteer participation by everyone.
- Sports complex, pools, walking / biking trail, being prepared for changes that are coming in and keeping the town friendly. Making sure stay a community that people still want to live here in 10 years.
- Financial institution that is behind local business growth
- Parks and amenities that attract people
- Short term – sidewalks; park improvements / sports complex, quality of life; mid term, retail follows house tops / roof tops; staged growth.
- Keep engineered growth finish core and moving out
- Short term staying ahead of transportation issue
- Bike trail system / sports complex will be a huge draw
- Standards, improving, updating design standards, staying ahead of planning, long term big picture acquiring land that is needed for infrastructure
- City and school are working well, need to continue regardless of facilities, combine issues
- Don't forget about the infrastructure that was redone 10 – 12 years ago and will need to be maintained
- Recreation for young families
- Boulevard trees so the town continues to look good.
- A draw for the community i.e. sports complex / outlet store
- A planned way to get new residents to feel welcome and ambassadors for the community
- Keep the community looking clean and enforce regulations
- Chamber of Commerce for Hartford – needs to be established sooner rather than later
- Civic groups, Kiwanis, Rotary etc.
- Infrastructure isn't exciting but water, sewer has been taken care of so the new family life things will be easier to get community support.
- Coordination / communication from city, school, community foundation etc. Good to work with recently but can continue to improve over time.
- New residents need to be encouraged to participate in growth planning
- We need something unique to attract people to the community...a niche market
- We are starting to focus on growth more than we used to
- We should expand our park system for our young families

LISTENING SESSION RESPONSES

Projects

- Sports complex with softball diamonds, tennis, hockey, soccer fields
- We are changing our slogan to “Hartford On the Edge of Everything”...we want an identity, we don’t need to be a part of Sioux Falls
- More jobs in Hartford, so people can work here instead of Sioux Falls
- More places to eat...an all-inclusive restaurant
- Sports complex
- Sidewalks
- I would like to see community theater
- Sidewalks need to be added...we have to make it necessary
- Something to provide jobs so people don’t have to leave town to work
- It would be nice to get more jobs...even retired people would like a part-time job
- If we have jobs here, we have people spending their money here.
- We have jobs that could be a second job, but we don’t have the primary jobs...the good paying ones with benefits
- We need poor sidewalks to be improved
- Another park would be nice...we don’t want kids to cross the Hwy all the time
- We need more crossings for people to use...DOT says we don’t have the traffic necessary to put in a light
- We need more jobs in town, so people shop in town...they don’t have to leave
- Lennox had an industrial park for years before they got anything in it...maybe that’s not what we need. Jobs like a credit card company may be helpful
- Sports complex...too many kids have to leave the community to go to Sioux Falls to play
- We need a hotel in town
- Too many people talk about what we need, but we don’t have the tax base to pull from
- We need to learn to spend within our means
- We need to entice people to shop here, not just live here...we need those tax dollars to help pay for things
- If we get a new business in town, the community needs to patronize it and support it or it goes out of business
- Continued improvement on the roads, aesthetic improvements, improve trailer park area, purchase land to see where another park, baseball field, plan in place so that in 5 years the land can be bought and implement plan. 10-years – improved pool, (Tea, Madison, Flandreau) or if possible within 5 years. Need the money to build things to attract people
- Improvements on appearance of the city, park playground equipment; pool improvements (Tea)
- Business community grow, quality of life issues
- Newspaper coverage, things that tie community together include the school and then newspaper coverage
- School, community and city come together to write the articles for the paper, a more informative newspaper; the paper will print anything; have a strong school newspaper

LISTENING SESSION RESPONSES

Projects

- Importance of aesthetic appearance make it difficult to recruit people into the community.
- Expanded and used swimming pool is a huge draw
- 210 employees – full and part time
- Need a multi year plan that is always in the front and guiding the decision making and vision. Not a shelf document; has to become part of the culture and once a year the community comes together that they feel a part of as well.
- Cosmetic changes are challenging but need to be done
- Durable entrance signs
- A “spray park” as an interim step to replacing the swimming pool as part of a comprehensive multi year plan.
- We need to promote job creation
- We need to get our website and magazine going...and that is in the works.
- In the short term, we should work on meeting the needs of the community...we don't want to be unprepared
- We need to market ourselves better
- It would be nice to have a contractor come in that could just do sidewalks for a couple of months...it would be cheaper and it makes sense
- We need to start a Chamber of Commerce...
- Take care of the sidewalk issue once and for all
- Bike path/walking path
- Upgrade the pool
- Our sports and rec. needs dire help...we are behind in that aspect
- Communication between the different entities of the community needs to continue and improve
- Walking path needs to happen...the current situation of people walking/jogging on the road is an accident waiting to happen
- We need to implement the report a college student did for us a couple years ago...there were some great ideas in there and we need to use them
- Possibly a second fire station in the Wall Lake area...
- Businesses, however with people some like restaurants will come
- Affordable housing; under \$100,000 but won't get much of a house for that price; still can build a house under \$100,000 but 960 sq foot basic home
- Moving forward with sports complex but will need government assistance
- Be able to develop and implement sports complex
- Hotel, sports complex, restaurant, chamber of commerce
- 24 hour law enforcement; realizing the cost involved in switching from county to city but would like 24 hour law enforcement
- Jobs for youth; its nice to have Sioux Falls as close as it is however it would be nice to be independent without them
- Hartford has a “cops grant” for the 3rd year that will be coming to an end at which point it will revert back to city
- Something for people to do, i.e. bowling alley, something in the winter or weekend so don't have to go to Sioux Falls

LISTENING SESSION RESPONSES

Projects

- Library access hours
- A lot of things are closed when commuters return to Hartford
- Sports leagues are outside Hartford so always driving to other communities – would be nice to have a home game once in a while
- Monday may as well be spent locally
- Business / industry
- Taxes are higher than same price house in another community, but people struggle with paying the cost
- There isn't anything to do with young kids in the day; indoor recreational activities
- 2 year – paint cross walks so people know where to cross
- Bike path if nothing else crossing HWY 38 for safe crossing
- Indoor swimming pool w/ meeting rooms
- Hotel / motel for overflow for tournaments
- Promote tourism
- Fulltime law enforcement; excessive speeding; main street has become a race track
- If the community grows 5,000 – 7,000 will need its own ambulance
- Affordable housing gap between 165,000 – 265,000 gap possibly build duplexes – w/ garages
- A “hang out” spot; place where you could get food, like the youth center connected with the church but bigger and area there for different ages
- Soda Shop with games; a place to go after games
- Burger King / fast food IIII
- Hang out place
- Restaurant in Humboldt
- More choices of restaurants
- More choices of hardware
- Recreation center, couches, gym
- Periodic supervision (checking in) would be o.k. or if there was a place for parents and a place for kids
- More summer recreational things in Humboldt
- Community Center
- Ditto
- Restaurant place to hang out
- Offer more languages in high school
- Restaurant / more jobs for kids
- FACS class in Middle School (8th grade); didn't get to do many projects
- Community Center where the parents could work out and kids could play sports
- An indoor pool
- Make the pool bigger
- Foreign language in the Middle school; in high school is to late; other foreign languages i.e. German
- A restaurant like “Tailgaters” that Brandon has

LISTENING SESSION RESPONSES

Projects

- A swimming pool something like the Tea pool or Wild Water West
- Park improvements; an open area where you could play a game either competitively or for fun; park equipment needs to be updated
- Bathrooms are always locked so can't use them
- Water fountains
- Add more equipment because there it doesn't take long to get tired of it
- A baseball field
- Running Camp longer period of time
- Tennis; and move the skate park
- Bigger weight room
- Walking trail between Humboldt and Hartford
- Elementary – K-1,2 in Hartford and Humboldt
- Public transport would be a great addition
- We need places to eat
- We need to work on making the town look nice...some parts are really run down
- Our police force needs to work on the crime
- There are kids doing drugs...we need more police presence
- Our school is adding on, but we are going to need to add on again
- I would love to have an expansion in classes...our fine arts programs are not very good...they just don't have the funding for it
- Sioux Falls schools have lots of classes that would be nice to have here...we don't have choices...would like more foreign language....
- Our community doesn't support the fine arts things as much as they do sports
- I want my kids to have opportunities that the kids in Sioux Falls have...we just don't have the choices
- An everything store would be nice to have...something where you can get a number of things
- A rec center for after prom or prom would be nice
- We have to do something about the appearance of the Main Street...it is embarrassing...it is run down
- Connect Hartford and Humboldt instead of to Sioux Falls
- How come smaller communities can have movie theaters and we can't?
- More retail businesses would be nice to have...we need choice, shouldn't duplicate everything
- We need more culture for the community...we're more than just sports
- We need to develop the area around the Interstate more
- Pool needs to be addressed in the short term
- Community center
- Getting the kids to and from school safely is a must
- Welcome committee
- A Chamber of Commerce
- The park could be fixed up relatively easily...it wouldn't cost that much
- The pool needs to be done up right

LISTENING SESSION RESPONSES

Projects

- We have the infrastructure taken care of and now we need to move onto the quality of life issues like the bike path, pool, parks
- We are marketing ourselves a lot better, but we need to work on that more
- Safety to and from school needs to be addressed
- People are looking for things for kids to do in town...when people relocate, they look for that stuff.
- We need to build with expansion in mind for the growth we are going to experience
- Need to explore a paid ambulance service
- Growth is coming, but we need to help it along
- Plan for growth ...do the residential growth and then the retail will follow
- We need to focus on major employers in the next 5 to 10 years