

North Omaha Development Project

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Ed Cochran
Executive Director

What a productive summer we've had in NODP. We have seen three new financial institutions open their doors, the high ropes obstacle course began operations, Omaha public schools has introduced a state-of-the-art science and engineering center at

Omaha North High Magnet School. And this is just what has taken place on Ames Avenue, one of areas in which NODP has spent a lot of time.

Since I began here in January 2008, we have been involved in over \$36 million worth of capital investment in the North Omaha community. In addition, over 150 jobs are new or retained and 44 people have participated in workforce training projects.

We are happy to see the investments being made in North Omaha.

As we continue to realize

the fruits of our labor we must remember that economic development takes time. We appreciate your patience and support. If you have comments or concerns please let us know.

Thank you all.

Ed Cochran



Photo courtesy of Kevin Langin, First National Bank. Artwork inside the new First National Bank at 50th & Ames Ave.

Invest.

Empower.

Succeed.

The North Omaha Development Project is a commitment of the Greater Omaha Chamber, African American business leaders, corporate leaders, elected officials and the North Omaha community to make important investments in North Omaha.



Another New Financial Institution Opens Its Doors on Ames Avenue

Centris Federal Credit Union became the third financial institution in the last 60 days to open its doors on Ames Avenue in North Omaha. On Aug. 30, Centris had a grand opening for their new facility on 4804 Ames Ave. Kevin Parks, CEO of Centris Federal Credit Union said, "North Omaha is a great opportunity as we look to the future. There is a lot of redevelopment taking place. We are very pleased and proud to be in North Omaha."

"The refurbished location is the culmination of the efforts

of many individuals. We are delighted to have another one of our partner financial institutions invest in North Omaha" said Ed Cochran, executive director of NODP. We've been working with Centris for over a year and we are very pleased that this project has come to fruition.

Centris joins First National Bank of Omaha, who on June 28 opened their brand new facility on 50th Street and Ames Ave. and SAC Federal Credit Union who masterfully

converted a former Hollywood Video location into their new facility on 31st and Ames. "Clearly, these financial institutions all see an opportunity to serve their customer base and make a profit. We believe these institutions will not only attract other business investment, they will help finance it as well," said Cochran. This brings the total to six financial institutions in seven locations on Ames Avenue in North Omaha between 52nd Street on the west and 30th Street on the east.



Photo credit: [Metropolitan Community College](#)
MCC Institute for the Culinary Arts

Save the Date for January 27, 2011!

NODP will host its third annual meeting on Thursday, Jan. 27, 2011 from 5:30 - 7 p.m. at Metropolitan Community College's Institute for Culinary Arts located at North 32nd Street and Sorensen Parkway.

Those attending will receive an update on NODP's 2010 accomplishments and a preview of 2011 goals.

Ed Cochran, executive director of NODP, said, "We had over 200 participants at the 2010 annual meeting and expect at least that many in 2011."



Community Action Planning Meeting

'The One' Radio Station for North Omaha

William King, owner of 1690 'The One,' a new radio station focusing on North Omaha, aims at spreading both a positive message and good music. The One, which airs on 1690 AM, began broadcasting this October. King is currently the only employee on staff, but accepts volunteers interested in learning more about the radio industry. The format will be talk radio and "old school" recordings consisting of music from the 60s, 70s, 80s and 90s. He also hopes to create new shows, act as a vehicle to display local talent and said that "advertising sponsorship rates are very affordable. Depending on the time of day, a 30 second commercial could run for as little as \$5 to as high as \$21."

King, an ex-probation officer for the Douglas County Courts, is also

something of a local hero as he received the Woodmen of the World Lifesaver Award in August of this year.

King received seed capital and leasing assistance through the efforts of the North Omaha Development Project's capacity building committee and its strong focus on capital and access to credit. The One is set up as a community access radio station, which allows it to have a 501(c)(3) status and accept donations. King will also have a membership drive as well as put on what he likes to call The One-dollar campaign.

"We are happy to see this station come on the air" says Ed Cochran, executive director of the North Omaha Development Project, "It's long overdue. In the future, we plan to set aside a regular slot for

discussions relating to NODP."

The radio station uses the new 'low power broadcast technology' and is the first license of its kind in the Midwest. This was made possible by legislation introduced by U.S. Rep. Lee Terry's office. Initially, the station coverage area will be approximately 10 square miles roughly from North 80th Street to the riverfront, but King is looking for partners to expand the stations coverage throughout the rest of North Omaha and into western Omaha as well. However, if you are out of the broadcast area, you will be able to listen online at: www.1690amtheone.com King says his radio station is "the voice of the voiceless."



King & Barack Obama- '09. President Barack Obama- '09.

North Omaha Community Planning and Visioning Session a Success!

The final Empowerment Network North Omaha Village Zone action planning session was Tuesday, Sept. 28, at Omaha North High Magnet School. Michael Maroney, chair of the NODP Housing Task Force and president of Alliance Building Communities; one of the partners in the North Omaha Village strategy said, "This planning process is another piece in

the ongoing efforts to significantly increase business and housing investments in North Omaha."

Over 150 residents, stakeholders, neighborhood associations, businesses, faith community, and elected officials attended the session to view plans for the Malcolm X/Adams Park area, 30th and Parker, 24th and Lake Street Corridor and 16th & Cuming Streets Corridor.

"The vision builds on the original NODP plan", says Ed Cochran, executive director of NODP. Willie Barney, president of the Empowerment Network says, "The next steps will be implementation of the transformation plan that will start in 2011."

Visit www.empoweromaha.com or call (402) 502-5153.

NOCA Contractor Receives Major Contract

North Omaha Contractors Alliance (NOCA), partially funded by the NODP capacity building committee, provides technical and non-technical advocacy services to help companies and organizations obtain business contracts in the public and private sectors. This year KCT Contractors, owned by Virgil Richardson has received a contract from Lutheran Family Services. A new program offered by the human care organization will be moving into the Urban League, located at 3040 Lake St. KCT Contractors will retrofit space to accommodate this move. KCT, a NOCA member, has also sub-contracted with six other NOCA

members for the remodel job that will provide at least 15 jobs. NOCA has grown to over 75 members just in its first year. “We are no longer just for contractors,” says Preston Love the executive director.

“There are also other types of businesses that are members. NOCA is becoming more of a small business association based in North Omaha,” says Preston and would like to give a ‘Thank you’ to Lutheran Family Services for seeking a NOCA contractor to retrofit the 2,000 square-foot space. To become a NOCA member, contact Preston Love at (402) 991-3420.



Photo courtesy of Bev Carlson, Lutheran Family Services. Virgil Richardson of KCT Contractors.

MCC Offering EPA Training

Since 2003, nearly 9,000 acres in eastern Omaha and North Omaha have been designated environmentally hazardous by the EPA. Thanks to a soil remediation workforce development partnership, 38 Omahans from the superfund area are poised to alleviate lead contamination in jobs that also offer a living wage. The superfund area is east of 72nd Street to the riverfront.

Through efforts by the Mayor's office and NODP workforce taskforce chair Sen. Brenda Council, the EPA talked to the Greater Omaha Chamber about getting a training curriculum developed. A member of the Greater Omaha Chamber's workforce team, Andrew Rainbolt, says, "We helped connect the EPA with Metropolitan Community College to organize the training for lead remediation." The program is the first of its kind in the nation. Trained students are encouraged to protect human health through health education, participation in cleanup and interior dust control. Students in the program earned a specialist diploma and the training necessary to be ready for work. Some of the graduates landed jobs making on average \$22 per hour. Some were still going through the interview process and several went on to receive additional training. Training was provided at basic and advanced levels for prospective and current employees. This first class of students will be offered additional training in the winter quarter. For information on when new classes will begin, call (402) 738-4789.

2010 Midwest Franchise Seminar Promises to Be Bigger, Even Better

Last year it was new. This year it's improved. The second annual Midwest Franchise Seminar promises more resources, more in-depth education and more networking opportunities for both potential franchisees and business owners seeking to franchise their concepts. A project of the Greater Omaha Economic Development Partnership, the daylong event is set for Friday, Nov. 12, at the University of Nebraska at Omaha's newly-constructed Mammel Hall. Winsley Durand, director of minority economic and retail development for the Partnership, said the seminar is so comprehensive, it could have been a two-day event.

"It's going to be a little more robust in terms of the information," said Durand. "Last year, we had a lot of qualitative kinds of things with some of the franchisees talking about their experiences. This year we're going to provide much more data. "We're going to have a lot of franchise development people as well as attorneys who were successful in franchising a number of international firms. You'd be hard pressed to get their attention for an hour for what we're charging for the seminar; but attendees get access to all of these people for the entire day."

The cost to attend the seminar is \$100. In addition to networking opportunities, the registration fee includes daylong education, continental breakfast, lunch and admission to the trade fair and reception. (The price will increase to \$135 per person on Friday, Oct. 29.) Exhibitor packages are available for \$300, \$500 and \$1,000. Durand said this year's seminar is promising

more attendees and more trade fair exhibitors than last year.

"We have more people signed up than we did last year at this point. Plus, we have more booths than we had last year at this point," said Durand.

Ed Cochran, executive director of the Greater Omaha Chamber's North Omaha Development Project, said the information, guidance and resources shared at the seminar could help trigger an entrepreneurial chain reaction that leads to a stronger North Omaha.

"Economic development is critical to the rebirth of North Omaha, and much of this rebirth will be led by the entrepreneurs from this community. Franchising has proven to be one of the most reliable vehicles for entrepreneurs to develop successful companies, and we see the Midwest Franchise Seminar as a vehicle to help prime the economic development pump," said Cochran.

The seminar's comprehensive breakout sessions will follow two tracks this year: one for potential franchisees, the other for those wishing to franchise their existing business concepts. Session topics will include how to select and develop a franchise, financial considerations, marketing and legal aspects.

Franchise attorneys from the law firm Cline Williams Wright Johnson & Oldfather, LLP, an event partner, devised the curriculum and helped line up high-profile speakers from companies including Godfather's Pizza, Home Instead Senior Care and Signal 88 Franchise Group. UNO's College of Business Administration, another event partner, will have representatives on hand to talk about

one of the College's new offerings - a College of Business degree with a concentration in franchise management.

"It's really going to be a unique, world-class offering that will be available here in Omaha," said Durand.

In addition to UNO's College of Business Administration and Cline Williams, the International Council of Shopping Centers is also serving as a seminar sponsor. KFAB is the media sponsor.

The Midwest Franchise Seminar will be held from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Nov. 12. A complete agenda and additional information is available at:

OmahaChamber.org/Franchise. To register, contact Elsa Cotto at (402) 978-7943 or ecotto@selectgreateromaha.com.



Photo Courtesy of Greater Omaha Chamber
Annual Midwest Franchise Seminar