



SEAGO NEWS AND DIGEST

VOLUME 1 ISSUE 5

MAY 2011

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- CALENDAR OF EVENTS NOW ONLINE
- USDA AWARDS
- UNITED WAY AND SBDC
- SAFFORD GROWS
- NEW CDBG due dates

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BOOST ATTENDANCE AT YOUR EVENT

Why, oh why did so few people show up for our awesome event?

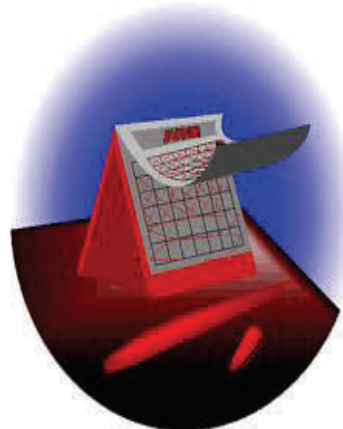
This lament is repeated all-too-often across the SEAGO Region and there is a simple solution. - stake a claim to the date of your big event on the Five Year SEAGO Calendar of Events.

The last weekend of April 2011 is a good example. Excellent venues, terrific programs, once-a-year events all falling on the same two days.

At a recent mayor-manager meeting for example, Willcox, Douglas, Bisbee, Sierra Vista, and Tombstone

have conflicting events.

Since we often pull attendees from the same pool of fun-seekers, involved citizens and intellectually aware people, Thus a larger, more regional viewpoint will help everyone.



So please consider "claiming the date" in advance on the SEAGO Regional Calendar of Events. We have been publishing the calendar for the past few months in the News & Digest but we have now expanded to a full five year format for your use and convenience. With the Centennial Year fast approaching, please let us know which dates you want to claim. Click the link to write:

[CALENDAR of Events](#)

or call

520-432-5301 x 210

SEAGO EDD Introduces Priceless Partner Award

In the heat of the day, or the bitter cold of the night one man stands steadfastly against the onslaught of budget cuts and uncertain economic times.

For over 25 years the Southeast Arizona Community Action Program (SEACAP) has provided a wide range of services to those in most need, without fanfare outside the glare of spotlights or fame.

The Arizona Department of Housing handles their Eviction Prevention and Emergency Home-

less Housing (EPEH) Program through SEACAP. Services include: rental eviction prevention, mortgage foreclosure help, rental security, and help with utility deposits, and utility payments.

SEACAP also administers the much-needed U.S. Dept. of Energy Weatherization Program, installing insulation, and energy efficient windows and doors to residences in most need.

SEACAP is a member of the Association of Arizona Food Banks and Arizona Community

Action Association. These are but a few of the credits earned over time by the Director, visionary, key individual, and the Charter winner of the SEAGO EDD Priceless Partner Award—Librado "JR" Ramirez.

Please join us in congratulating this dedicated and selfless social services soldier.

You may reach Mr. Ramirez by calling (928) 428-4653 or e-mail Mr. Ramirez at sacati1001@qwestoffice.net

International Trade Event Review

By Tom Reardon, City Council, Sierra Vista

Over 100 attendees, and numerous rave reviews reveal that this was a big success.

A follow-up meeting is in the works.

Please link here to complete follow-up questions..

I attended the Mexico/U.S. Business Networking Conference held at Cochise College, Douglas campus on April 8 at the recommendation of Akos Kovach, Economic Development Planner, SEAGO. The conference was organized and hosted by Mark Schmitt, Director, Small Business Development Center, Cochise College.

The City of Sierra Vista (SV) booth was excellent; Kay Daggett's introductory remarks were praised by Kovach and others. The Mall at SV had a display and representation. The SV component of SCORE was represented by Fred Willetts.

We had the opportunity to meet with Mayor Jesus Reginaldo Moreno Garcia,

Cananea, Sonora and members of the Cananea Chamber of Commerce. Mayor Moreno suggested that the Mayors and City Councils of SV and Cananea meet jointly to discuss matters of common interest to both "sister cities" including commerce.

The senior representative of the government of the Republic of Mexico was Jose Mario Juarez Lopez de Nava from Mexico's equivalent to the U.S. Department of Commerce. Señor Juarez outlined the advantages of trade with Mexico and his government's eagerness to continue trade with the State of Arizona.

Victor Gonzales, director of the

Douglas Economic Development Corporation, along with Kovach and Carlos Valenzuela, a Douglas based economic development consultant stressed that border towns are safe while media reports are overblown.

Matt Baker of the U.S. Dept. of Commerce emphasized the role of assistance available from the U.S. government to obtain market research, export financing and ways to mitigate obstacles. (The "path" to the most efficient interaction with the resources of the Dept of Commerce is via SEAGO.) Editors note: Councilman Reardon's complete report with attachments is posted online at: www.seago.org under the Announcements tab.

Are you a non-profit? Be sure to attend on

May 19,

2011 at Cochise College, Sierra Vista campus, Student Union Conference Room



Don't miss the Fourth Annual Synergy and Social Services Workshop, a "must attend" event non-profits operating in this area.

This event is co-sponsored by United Way of Cochise County and Cochise College.

There will be an opportunity on the

Getting Your Message Out

agenda for each organization attending to introduce their nonprofit and talk about their mission.

A very informative segment will be delivered by Pat Wick, the Assistant General Manager of Sierra Vista Herald.

Also on the agenda is Ed Rosko, Cochise College Director

of Creative Services who will present a segment on marketing.

Dan Abrams is on the agenda to present an informative and helpful segment on radio promotions and nonprofits.

Mark Schmitt is also on the agenda to showcase Social Media Marketing. To register please contact: training@cochise.edu or call 520-515-5492.

SEAGO CEDS 2010-2015 GOES LIVE

The long-awaited SEAGO CEDS 2010-2015 will soon be available online. The meetings, surveys and questionnaires are behind us. Prior to posting online individual communiqués will distribute electronic versions of the CEDS to each city, county and to the San Carlos Apache Tribe.

Over two years in the making, the CEDS is a testament to perseverance, persistence and professionalism.

Arguably, the CEDS is voluminous, yet

readers will easily locate what they want to find in the Table of Contents and skip directly to their own member profile, project list, that handy Web site, phone number for grants or other resources.

As promised, the CEDS is truly a living document with interactive capability.

Regional goals, implementation steps, measurables and

an outline for establishing regional cohesiveness, business retention, regional cross-promotions, new business - industry-manufacturing attraction and valuable demographic profiles serve to promote the SEAGO Region.

From scenic sights to Old West charm, ancient art to contemporary sculptures this CEDS will not just sit on a shelf, it is a valuable resource document that comes alive for each and every user/reader.

New Business Park in Safford, Construction Begins

The first unit in the first phase of the River View Development is under construction along Eighth Avenue, in Safford.

The building will house a USDA Service Center. The development is slated to eventually consist of 54 industrial/commercial units stretching out from alongside Eighth Avenue just north of First Street.

The phasing plan has the industrial/commercial units eventually forming a perimeter around half of a planned multi-family development consisting of about

480 units. Phase one consists of six industrial/commercial units. The first two lots are being sold and developed by Desert View Management LLC, a partnership between developer Ted Prina and real estate owner and manager Jason Stearns.

Phase one lots are all Eighth Avenue frontage half-acre lots that have final plat approval from the county. The second phase has preliminary plat approval and is slated to consist of 12 larger lots set on a little more than 10 acres.

The rest of the development land is owned by Prina as well. Nearly all of the

construction is being performed by local vendors, and Kouts and Sons Inc. is the building's general contractor.



Prina said he is glad to have some construction going on in the county again and is hopeful it is just the tip of the iceberg.

"Arizona will be a boom again," Prina said.

This story was published in the Eastern Arizona Courier.

For the complete story [link here](#)

USDA Rural Utilities Grant

Jonathan Adelstein, national administrator for USDA Rural Utilities Service (RUS), was in Arizona in March to announce funding for distance learning and broadband projects in Arizona.

Among the three projects announced is a \$246,586 grant to the Cochise County ITV Consortium/Cochise Technology District. Funds will be used to offer classes online and to connect rural and border schools.

The RUS grant requires a match from the Consortium, which can be satisfied

through all of the high schools through dollars and in-kind funding, such as purchasing needed equipment. The Cochise County Superintendent's Office is also helping with the match.

Joel Todd, Superintendent of the Cochise Technology District, said the classes will include career and technology training and provide an important bridge so that multiple schools can interact simultaneously.

"The Joint Technology Education District (JTED)/Cochise Technology District is the face of the grant because it uses rural utilities ser-

vices to connect rural schools for technology education here in Cochise County. That's a key part of it," Todd said about receiving the grant.

The Consortium, for which Willcox Schools Superintendent Dr. Rich Rundhaug is president, applied for and received the RUS grant. Cochise Technology District/JTED is the fiscal agent,

Rundhaug said, "This funding will allow us to upgrade and improve each school's equipment allowing all schools to send and receive, as well as buy a bridge, which may be located at Willcox School District. [Read full story here](#)

19th Annual Bisbee Fiber Arts Festival - May 19

The 19th Annual Bisbee Fiber Arts Festival will be held at Vista Park in the Warren neighborhood of Bisbee in conjunction with the Bisbee Farmers Market from 8:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. on May 14, 2011. The Festival will feature local fiber artists demonstrating spinning, weaving, felting, and dyeing a

variety of fibers. As in past years, there will be petting lambs, sheep shearing, alpaca, and angora rabbits. Learn about fiber raised in our area by local ranchers. Lots of hands-on activities will be offered including Learn to Knit, Weave on a Loom and Felting Beads. Our special focus this year is hemp

and hemp products. And of course, lots of yarn and items made by Guild members will be for sale. We are looking forward to this family fun event, so please plan to join us to celebrate the fiber arts!



The term "Fiber Arts" conjures up images of weaving, but there is so much more to see...[VISIT WEB SITE HERE](#)

Is that a new logo?

Well, sort of. There is something old and something new.

The colors demonstrate the refulgent future of the SEAGO Region.

Together, we make a difference.



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"SEAGO stimulates economic and social progress in our four-county region."

Where is the calendar of events?

The SEAGO Region Calendar of Events has expanded into a Five Year on-line format.

The best way to ensure your activity receives plenty of attention? Go LIVE - go to <http://www.seago.org>

Look for the "REGIONAL CALENDAR OF EVENTS" tab, located on the left hand column of features.

Have a special event coming up? Send us your information and we will help promote your event on the "ANNOUNCEMENTS" tab found at the TOP of the page. It works wonders!

Questions? Write: economicdevelopment@seago.org

**CDBG Regional Applications to
SEAGO due JUNE 1**

FY 2011 Regional CDBG Application Rounds

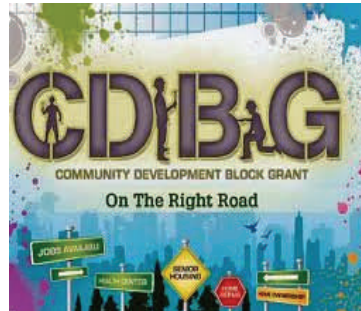
By Bonnie Williams

For those communities who will be applying for CDBG funds this year, here is an update:

The Arizona Department of Housing (ADOH) was just notified of the amount of their CDBG allocation and it is approximately 2 million dollars less than last year. ADOH anticipates releasing the amount of SEAGO's funding in early May. At this point we are expecting cuts in the range of 16-21 percent.

As soon SEAGO receives our funding amount, we will calculate each applicant's share according to the population/poverty formulas in our Method of Distribution, and release that information, and post it live on the announcement tab on the SEAGO Web site.

Currently, the SEAGO application due date has been changed to **June 1** instead of the normal May 1. SEAGO must review, finalize,



and get the applications to ADOH by **July 1, 2011**. Most of you have held off publishing your intended projects due to the budget uncertainties, but hopefully you have narrowed the possible project (s).

We recommended that entities proceed with their final publication which sets the date for the

passing of the required resolutions.

Normally at this meeting, you would be approving the actual applications. Since this process has been delayed, we will host a joint conference call of the Administrative and Executive Committees (officers of the Administrative Council and Executive Board) to accomplish this before July 1.

Your State Special Projects applications are due to the State by June 30. contact:

Kathy Blodgett
CD&R Programs Administrator
at
(602) 771-1021
or
by e-mail at :

Kathy.blodgett@azhousing.gov