



**Inside this issue:**

JDA 2015 in Review	2-3
Happy New Year from Harvest Gardens	4
Ellendale Sanford Health New Year's Day Hours	4
Thank You to the Holiday Makers	4

## Starion Financial receives SBA Director's Award

Starion Financial received the Director's Award from the North Dakota District Office of the Small Business Administration (SBA).

Lenders are chosen annually for their commitment to small business financing using SBA programs. Starion is among the top six North Dakota lenders being recognized and was the third largest lender of SBA loans in the state. In fiscal year 2015, Starion approved 18 loans and nearly \$1.7 million in small business financing

under the SBA's loan program.

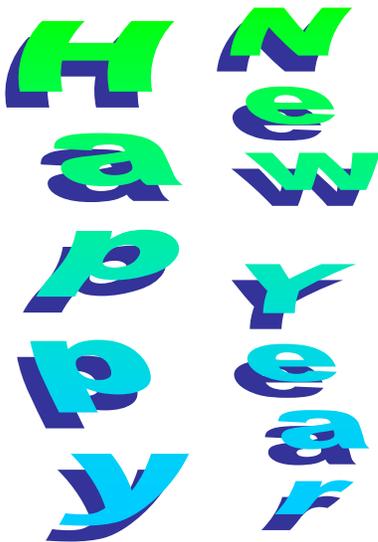
"As a family-owned business, it has always been ingrained in Starion's culture to partner with local businesses," explains Craig Larson, Starion president/CEO. "We work with them to ensure long-term success because when small businesses flourish, entire communities benefit. That support is important at every stage of business and Starion is proud to provide the support and services small



businesses need to grow and succeed."

This is the sixth year that Starion has received the SBA Director's Award.

In fiscal year 2015, which ended September 30, SBA assisted small businesses in North Dakota through 254 loans valued at over \$71 million.



## Chamber of Commerce's Quarterly Lunch and Learn Meeting

The Annual meeting of the Ellendale Chamber of Commerce will be held Tuesday, January 12, 2016 in the Woodland room at the Fireside Restaurant at 12 noon. Gary Dathe, president of the Chamber, will give a brief review of the 2015 year, and we're hoping that Don Frye, JDA, will be able to attend this meeting and also give a few statements regarding new businesses in Ellendale that opened up this past year.

We will also be voting on new Chamber Board members. The 2015 Board members are, Gary Dathe, president, Bob Johnson, vice president, Tyler Reisenauer, treasurer, Ian O'Brien, Jamie Eberle, Vicki Hack and Tina Flaherty, executive director. The 3 year terms for Gary and Ian are up; Vicki Hack, due to conflicts with her work schedule, has resigned. Vicki has one year left of her term. We will vote for new Board members on the two

3 year terms and the remaining one year of Vicki's term.

As always, come and enjoy a soup and sandwich lunch buffet and a great time of community enrichment. Please note that the cost of the lunch is now \$6.00, which is still a conveniently low price.

**See you at the Fireside Restaurant's Woodland room January 12, 2016 at 12 noon!**

## JDA 2015 in Review

The Ellendale JDA had a busy and successful 2015 working on a number of projects intended to make Ellendale a great place to live and work. In early 2015 the JDA, Ellendale Chamber and the Ellendale City Council held a joint planning session. The major focus was to identify key areas that need to be targeted for improvement and growth. The areas identified were the following:

- Community Image
- Industrial, Commercial and Residential Growth
- Improved Public Works
- Continued Strong Economic Development Efforts
- Water and Energy availability
- Business District Revitalization
- New and Affordable Housing Developments and opportunities

Work was done in each of these identified areas in 2015. Under the Community Image segment each of the organizations have taken a positive approach to improving Ellendale's Image. The City Council is working on ways to improve the community appearance and remove eyes soars within the city limits. The Ellendale Chamber has developed a new promotional program and improving some of the long time events and adding new marketing programs for their members and our community. The Chamber is also working on improving their outreach efforts to businesses in the area.

The Ellendale JDA has worked with Regional, State and Federal organization all across North Dakota to bring Ellendale to their attention as a great place to work and live. Providing each of them with information about our area and information on the projects that we are working on to help Ellendale grow. The JDA is also working on recruiting new businesses to Ellendale.

In addition, plans have been put in

place to attend the Aberdeen Home Show in 2016 with a display to promote our community as a great place to live with one of the best educational systems in the region. This effort is intended to promote Ellendale as a great living option for those who work in the region.

In late November the Ellendale JDA was interviewed by KFGO in a 30 minute segment to talk about our community and progress during 2015. During this program we talked about our community efforts and programs we have put in place that have led to some of our success in 2015 and the last few years.

One of our most successful areas of work in 2015 was the effort to bring new businesses to our Community. Four new Commercial/ Industrial businesses relocated to or expanded to include Ellendale as their home.

Witte Custom Manufacturing began construction of a new manufacturing facility in North Ellendale. This facility when completed will employ up to 13 new full and part time employees in Ellendale. Witte Custom will manufacture products for the Ag industry in and surrounding North Dakota as well as other locations in the upper Midwest. The JDA, City and other development partners helped to make this project happen in Ellendale and will be a great addition to our community.

Tank Custom Manure Hauling choose Ellendale as its new home. The Ellendale JDA, Dickey County JDA and the Bank of North Dakota as well as a local lender partnered up to assist this new business operation. Tank Custom Hauling will provide needed Ag services to livestock operations located in North and South Dakota. This business will add new job opportunities as well as a new customer to a number of Ellendale businesses which they will need

supplies and services from to address their business needs.

The opening of Growing Minds Child Care helped to address one of the most important needs of every community. "Quality Day Care and Early Learning opportunities" for our young Ellendale and area families. The Ellendale JDA took the lead in assisting this new service in our community. In addition, The Dickey County JDA and a local lender joined in completing the funding needed for this important business facility remodel and needed resources.

Another new addition to our business community is Ranger Aerial Spraying. The Ellendale JDA assisted in locating facilities that they could relocate to from South Dakota. They will provide Ag aerial spraying services needed in our area of North and South Dakota. The Ellendale Airport will provide them with a great facility for them to fly from to meet their customer's needs. They will complete their move to Ellendale early in 2016.

The City is working to address the Public Works area that was identified in the planning meeting. They continue to make needed repairs and improvements of our streets, water storage and other infrastructure. This is to ensure our community is a great place to live and work with quality city services. Too many times this is overlooked as an important part of Community Development but our City Council understands the importance of this segment.

Economic Development continues to be one of the important areas that the Ellendale JDA, City Council and Chamber focus on for our community's future. Crossroads Community Advisors LLC continues to work on all segments of community development. They provide experienced staffing as well as needed technical services to help Ellendale grow and expand opportunities.

## JDA 2015 in Review—continued

Business District Revitalization is key to the success of any community. The Ellendale JDA has made this one of their top priorities. Harvest Gardens new facilities opened in 2015 and has been a great addition to our business community. They have had an important impact in bringing new customers to our community. The JDA helped put together important parts of the funding for the project as well as a local lender and the RED River Fund which Ellendale is one of the founding members.

Several years ago the Ellendale JDA put in place several new funding programs to assist existing Ellendale businesses. The Funding Assistance for Commercial Enhancement or FACE Program was designed to encourage business upgrades, investments and improvements of present Ellendale businesses. This year several Ellendale Businesses have used the program.

Brenda's Grooming and Boarding used the program for an expansion and facilities upgrade. FACE Funding provided needed resources for the project and helped support this local businesses growth. This project was completed in 2015.

D & D Drive In used the PACE Program to complete important facility upgrades. These improvements were made to ensure the continued operation of this important business. D & D Drive In is now ready for a successful 2016 season.

Mahler's Village Variety used the FACE Program to help them complete their store front repair and remodel. Maher's is a key anchor to our downtown business district and their investments have helped to make our downtown area a great place to shop in the region. They continue to attract customers from a wide area and this also helps our other Ellendale businesses. They are an important part of community's future as well as our past.

Cream and Sugar used the FACE Program to complete some needed improvements to their facilities. The FACE Program provided some of the needed resources for this important Highway 281 business. Businesses like Cream and Sugar provide needed services and help to pull traffic from busy Highway 281.

Cenex Car Wash used the FACE Program to assist them in their development of a much needed car wash for Ellendale. This new service helps to add to our inventory of community services and is a welcomed addition.

Southside Gas and Deli used the FACE program to make improvements in the fuel supply system. This project was completed and is now operational.

The Renewal And Modernization Program or RAMP Program. Is intended to promote single family home improvements in Ellendale had several home owners use to make improvements and upgrades. The program provides for Ellendale Buses to be provided to the home owner after the completion of a project. Information on the complete guidelines and applications are available at the JDA office.

The JDA has also worked on several other fronts. We continue to work on Live Stock Development in the area and state. We are working closely with the North Dakota Ag Department and several other North Dakota Communities on this project. North Dakota and especially the Ellendale area provides for a great place for these types of Ag businesses to relocate or expand to now and in the future.

The JDA is presently in discussion with several other business opportunities for 2016. We have identified several land sites for possible development and continue to work to identify additional locations. The JDA is working to answer questions about our community and

how we can address their needs.

During the year the JDA has also worked with Interstate Engineering on survey and plotting work needed for our projects. Their assistance has helped to ensure the sites we identify will work for our clients as well as meeting the communities needs long term.

One of the most important efforts that has been undertaken this year is monthly meetings with a member from the City Council, JDA and Chamber to discuss our efforts and to keep lines of communication open between these important partners. This important sharing of information has helped to ensure we are all working towards a common goal.

Our final area that we have been working on is new housing development. Because of past efforts by the Ellendale City Council a site was developed for new single and multi- family housing development. We are now working on how to bring this new development to Ellendale and how it may address our communities needs short term and long term.

We are working with regional and state wide organizations on how Ellendale could use their programs to help solve our housing issues. They are important partners in our efforts and we will continue to work with them on our housing development efforts.

We have hit the ground running for 2016 and hope to have a successful year again in our development efforts. We will continue to work with all of our partners and work to make Ellendale a great place to live and work.

Don Frye



P.O. Box 91  
Ellendale, ND 58436  
Phone: 701-349-4103  
Email: ellendalecoc@drtel.net

We're on the Web

Ellendalechamber.com

**ELLENDALE AREA  
CHAMBER OF  
COMMERCE**

**Building A Stronger  
Community**



Chamber of Commerce would like to extend a sincere "thank you" to a number of business who made a generous donation to the Christmas decorations in Brandenburger Park:

*Ellendale Tourism*

*Starion Financial*

*MDU*

*Chad's Electric*

*TBC*

Also to DRN for the graphic layout and publishing the Holiday calendar

*Happy New Year*

*Harvest Gardens wants to wish everyone a very happy and prosperous New Year with the blessings of great health.*

*See you this spring!*

*Jim and Brenda Johnston*

