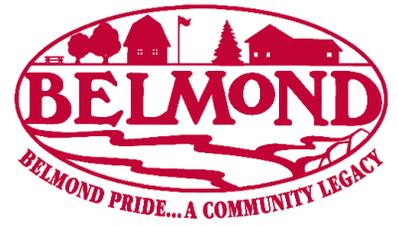


BIDCO Update



"Promoting Economic Growth and Development"

Jan 2009

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Watching the nightly news lately is becoming a real chore. Everything appears to be crumbling around us and all the news is bad. Things close to Belmond are also showing the effects of the global economy and it would be pretty easy for all of us to fall into the same negative spiral.

In short, things are bad. However, its impact on the Belmond community will be partially how we react to the situation. Within the BIDCO board we have been talking about ways that we can circle the wagons if you will and focus within. This is not to say that we've stopped looking for new business or industry. We just realize that during this type of business climate it's equally important to take care of what we have.

To aid in this effort, we set goals that try to focus on community involvement and betterment. Many of our board members helped with the school move late in December. This effort was a great example of the town coming together for a common cause. The local museum move was also aided by many Chamber and BIDCO members. These items may not sound like much but it helps lay the foundation for larger projects that might be on the horizon.

What's next? At this point no one really knows. Please keep us posted regarding your business in Belmond and let the BIDCO board know if there is anything we might be able to do for you in these troubled times.

Dan Lovgren

FEATURED BUSINESS

Richard O. Jacobson Elementary School

During the holiday break over 50 school staff and volunteers completed the long awaited move from the Parker/Ramsey complex to the newly constructed Richard O. Jacobson Elementary School.

The move is the culmination of over 8 years of planning, fundraising and construction. In addition to the new elementary building the \$12.6 million project includes relocating and updating the athletic complex as well as air conditioning and remodeling the Jr./Sr. High School.

Funding sources consisted of \$6.2 million bond referendum, \$1.4 million earmark from local option sales tax, \$1 million Luick Memorial Trust donation, \$500,000 Harkin Grant and private donations totaling \$3.5 million. The September \$2.4 million gift from Dick Jacobson along with other private donations of \$1.1 million completes the fundraising.

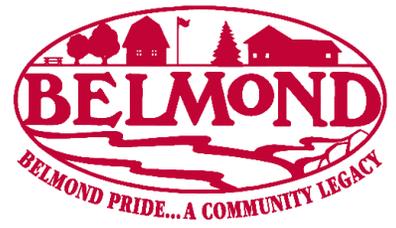


Dick Jacobson is a 1954 Belmond graduate, philanthropist and founder/operator of Jacobson Companies in Des Moines. Jacobson Companies have grown significantly from its beginnings in trucking and warehousing. Through the generosity of Dick Jacobson and many others the vision of offering local students the best education along with opportunities in the performing arts and athletics has become a reality.

The Belmond/Klemme School District employs 119 professional and support staff. On site enrollment totals 739 students. For more information about this project and other school matters you may contact Superintendent Larry Frakes at 444-4300 or get on the web at www.belmond-klemme.k12.ia.us.

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FEATURED BUSINESS

Richard O. Jacobson
Elementary School; Cont.



Check out this web site regarding the floods of 2008. The site has a link to many interesting photos and facts from the flood. Let's hope we don't have another occurrence like last year.

<http://www.rio.iowa.gov/>

