

EDA Business Round Table Meeting
January 26th, 2006 7 p.m.

EDA President , Sherry Hines, started the meeting by introducing the members of the Harmony Economic Development Board: Steve Cremer, Mark McKay, Greg Turner, and Roxanne Johnson, City Administrator, Jerome Illg, and Cris Gastner from the SE MN Development Corp.

Cris is employed by the City to assist the EDA and the businesses of Harmony. Cris worked for the Minnesota Timberwolves in sales and marketing, Lake City Golf Course, and worked for an IT Company in sales and marketing.

Cris is available to assist Harmony EDA with economic development and planning for the city, such as marketing, land acquisitions, expansions, and grants or state programs. Cris is at the City of Harmony office every Thursday and one Friday every month. Cris is available resource to local businesses at no expense to the business itself.

Sherry also welcomes any one interested in attending the EDA meeting to join us at 4 pm on the first Thursday of the month at the City building in the City Council meeting room.

Cris Gastner took over the program with many great ideas coming from the EDA for the City and the businesses.

The EDA wanted to have this Round Table for the business to help the new business owner and existing business owners meet and learn more about each others business. We should all be ambassadors for Harmony and keep in mind cross marketing where we may be able to send our customers to other local business for goods and services.

The EDA will also learn from these meetings and discussions what local businesses need and ideas for new business - goods and services that could be developed in Harmony whether by an existing business looking to expand or diversify, or by creating a new business entirely.

Then, the business owners were asked to introduce themselves and tell one thing about their business that someone else may not know.

Jeremy Krugel - Wheelers Bar & Grill - open year around and still have skating
Dwight & Cory Scrabeck - Scrabeck Construction- building high energy homes
Stuart Morem- Morems Electric - they have been in business 66 years
Steve Cremer - Harmony Enterprise- started up by local business men getting together and manufacturing ice fishing shelters
Brian Krambeer- Tri-County Electric- supplies electric with Dairyland Power for over 70 years
Allan & Janie Dahl- Prosper Lumber - Been in business since 1912
Barb & Dave Knabel-Newell House & Greenfield Inn - operating two Bed & Breakfast's

in Harmony

Jim & JoAnn Johnson- D & D Variety- now offering instant prints from your digital camera.

Fred Pfremer - P & H Implement - been in business over 54 years selling

Roxanne Johnson- RE/MAX Select Properties - been in business going on 12 years and purchased a RE/MAX franchise a year ago. Roxanne offers a free Market Analysis for people that would like to get rid of their monthly PMI payment on their home.

Tracy & Mike Peterson - Owners of the Klip Joint, offering a full service salon, have been in business 12 years

Kerry & Jane Kingsley - Kingsley Merchantile- something new for them is being able to sell bulk paint and dry wall to local contractors at a competitive price

Richard Nethercut- Nethercut Law Office- Attorneys office has been here for 30 years, Dick has been here for 24 yrs.

Linda Grover- City Council - yes she still lives in town!

Vicky Tribon- CPA since 1972 and on her own since 1979- she keeps saying “next year will be better”

Greg Turner- First Southeast Bank- the bank has been in business in Harmony over 120 years. They are now offering a Health Savings Account that can lead to a retirement account.

Julie Teslow - Julie's - massage therapy - been in business over 11 years and she says many of her customers shop, eat, and use services in this Harmony.

NAPA- Sherry & Steve Hines- been in business since 1979- they don't only sell car parts, they sell spot out and window cleaner.

Diana Nelson & Vicki Ball- from Gunderson Lutheran Clinic in Harmony - in the process of getting a Digital Radiology on board at the clinic, using grant money and community support. Open 5 days a week. They are a separate business and operated totally independent of the Nursing Home Facility.

Eric Rhinerson- Yesterdays Future- restoration & refinishing of wood work and furniture Have a service range across the Midwest. They also repair furniture.

Mark McKay- City Council - Wondering how many people in the room, knew how many places sell dog food in Harmony? That's why we are here- to learn more about our fellow business owners have to offer.

Steve Donney- Primevest Investment Services and Life & Health Insurance.

Myrna Luehmann- Fillmore Central Schools- thanks the local business for hiring students and if you are looking for workers give her a call.

Marcia Love- I Love Antiques- purchased the brick building on the corner of Center and Main. Which had been the newspaper office until 15 years ago.

Ralph & Carol Beastron - Scandinavian Blooma, and Clover Gallery - open 7 days a week, and the Gallery has over 70 consigned artist. They have closed their B & B.

Lynda Koliha - Koliha Insurance - recently purchased the business in 2003, offers notary service, sells Mary Kay Cosmetics, and covers all your insurance needs.

Jennie Bishop- Niagara Cave, Amish Tours, & Essence of Harmony- The cave has been in business since 1934, and they have recently purchased both Amish Tour businesses in Harmony, the gift store will not be handling Amish items, they will have a gift store caring other items.

Slim Maroushek- Slim's Woodshed- Wood carvings, museums, and sells wood pieces.

800 carvings from New York have been donated to his museum. They do shows all over the country.

Lloyd Peterson- High Pointe Coverings- they do barn curtains, and sell coast to coast.

Also, making and selling wool mattress and woolen air mattress.

Art Gallery on site, coffee is always on, stop in any time.

Brad Hoiness- Harmony Foods- they do deliver to shut ins, just call the store, and they would appreciate ideas on what we would like to see in their store.

Jerry Rollie- Harmony Newspaper- they print 6 different papers a week and have over a 25,000 circulation. Their goal is to cover all community events.

Dave Kinglsey- Kingsley Guest House and Mayor of Harmony

Eric & Lori Slindee- Slindee Pharmacy - has been in business since 1982, currently struggling with medicare program for prescriptions. Lori has a Guest House in Harmony also.

Dacia Bestor- Dacias On Main- total hair care salon, tanning, nails, and pedicures since 1990. They draw clients in from other communities, plus Harmony.

It was great to hear how long many of these business have been in Harmony .

Cris Gastner stated that our goal is to open lines of communications between the business themselves and EDA & City to promote and support each other.

Cris & Jerome are working on a new City Website that will be easier to keep update and fresh and more consumer friendly. The website will also have on line polling to see what interests there may be in certain issues pertaining to our city.

We would also like to compile an Asset Inventory Database for new and existing residents of Harmony to refer to for goods & services in Harmony.

We also hope to find the gap that would expose opportunities for future business.

Questions the EDA would like the group to address regarding issues facing our local business such as: traffic patterns, business survival tips, should you be incorporated or an LLC, and how to use the local resources.

Comments on the KTTC commercials were that they were good, majority of feedback was positive, so the EDA went ahead with another year at the EDA's expense. Donations of support are welcome. This is a hard thing to measure for results, however we would like for business to ask visitors what brought them to Harmony.

One business brought up that she would love to have a website for her business but has no idea where to start. Discussion followed getting the Tech Master Class from the high school involved helping businesses build websites.

Dacia Bestor shared her experience with youth service workers from the high school and encouraged others to try the service.

Brian Krambeer- Tri-County encourages energy efficient incentives and programs to help with cost. Energy audits through the city office for residential and commercial, or call Morem Electric. He also felt the support of the SEMN Development Corp along with the City was a very valuable asset to the community.

Cris Gastner closed with a brief synopsis about EDA projects presently going on in the City, and reinforced that we need to keep in mind, that many people come as visitors and decide to make Harmony home.

Adjourned at 8:30 pm.