

# CCSP Quarterly Report



## Economic Development:

- 1/2 cent county sales tax overwhelmingly passed for economic development
- Economic Development Corporation of Clark County formed and Executive Director Paul Harvel hired. Paul is currently the President of the Arkansas State Chamber of Commerce. Shawmie Carrier has been hired as the Economic Development Director for Clark County. Shawmie is currently serving in Cross County's economic development commission and Chamber of Commerce.
- The Arkadelphia Regional Economic Development Alliance was formed as the first ever county-wide united organization of the Economic Development Corporation, Arkadelphia Chamber of Commerce, Gurdon Chamber of Commerce and CCIC using the CCSP plan as a guiding document.
- A Renewable Energy Task Force has been formed to research the use of wood by-products after a visit to the National Renewable Energy Lab in Colorado. Research has identified residual wood products left after harvesting trees as the source of power to generate electricity in the county.
- \$165,000 in city clean-up funds donated to all interested cities and Arkadelphia has started Phase II of this effort. To date Gurdon has cleaned up 34 houses, has 25 more on the ready list. Arkadelphia has cleaned up 16 properties with 2 more on the pending list. Deaton's Cleaners has been purchased and will be renovated into loft apartments. Gum Springs has used grant money for property clean-up.
- \$90,000 grant submitted for construction of regional fire training center in industrial park
- \$50,000 grant submitted for implementation of the Business Retention & Expansion Program (BR&E)
- An Arkadelphia city master plan has been completed with current efforts to improve the entry routes from the Interstate in progress
- Cranford-Johnson-Robinson-Wood, Arkansas' Largest Advertising Firm has been hired to market Clark County

## Education:

- 24/7 Daycare funded and is currently under construction - \$1,000,000 received for the project
- Clark County Childcare, Inc. formed to oversee the operations of the new 24/7 daycare
- \$45 million bond approved by OBU Board of Trustees for construction
- Peake Elementary awarded a \$3,000 grant to purchase tables for outside classroom and playground equipment
- Gurdon Public Schools have completed an effort to raise money to build a new auditorium
- Henderson State University is preparing to construct a new and modern health and fitness center on Highway 7/67
- Henderson State University has made plans to expand their Nursing School
- The City of Arkadelphia and Ouachita Baptist University have completed a land swap to allow the beginning of a \$45 million entrance and residence hall project on Ouachita's campus; The Ouachita Bluff property which was acquired in this swap by Arkadelphia has already had preliminary work done by an architectural firm to develop the bluff area into a Caddo Indian and Outdoor Recreation Center.

## Healthcare:

- Ambulance provided for Amity area in cooperation with Baptist Health
- Plans for physician in the Gurdon clinic in cooperation with Baptist Health
- Kindergarten Spring Round-up completely funded by United Way

## Housing:

- Completion of Phase 1 of "The Gardens" retirement housing by Billy Bunn - a \$7.5million project
- Groundbreaking for "Somerset Housing Subdivision" on Highway 8 by SADC - a \$2.5 million development project with total value of \$18.5 million after construction of houses

## Leadership:

- Steering Committee and Finance Committee formed for implementation of the CCSP
- Initial research has been done for a local Boys and Girls Club and a board of directors is being organized
- Planning process has been adopted and implementation started in 3 cities in Iraq based on the CCSP

## Tourism:

- Donation of \$500,000 building for the Clark County Tourist Information Center in Caddo Valley
- Furnishings and equipment support for the Clark County Historical Museum
- Streetscape Project continues on Clay Street in Arkadelphia with new sidewalks and lighting
- The Clark County "Round About Artist Tour" was given money for marketing and promotion of its 1st ever event
- A \$100,000 grant for mountain bike and hiking trails at Lake DeGray has been submitted for consideration

## Other:

- 2 full time staff positions have been provided to support the CCSP
- Over 150 county residents participate in monthly subcommittees meetings. The entire CCSP goals and action steps have been prioritized
- Future research needs developed for all 6 areas of CCSP interest and initial steps taken to start the process
- A CCSP Volunteer Brochure has been developed for use by local residents and groups who want to personally become involved in the efforts