

NewsLetter

Business and Economy

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Fuller Industries Inc.

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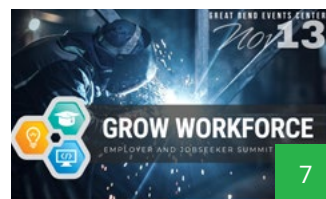
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2023-2024 Annual Report



CO.STARTERS Core Next Session begins Sept. 18th

CO.STARTERS Core is a 10-week entrepreneurship class for "starters"



Grow Workforce Summit Nov 13

Learn more about the upcoming Grow Workforce Summit, sessions, keynote, panel and more!



Fridays on Forest Homecoming Edition

Fridays on Forest fills the gap between the Great Bend Homecoming Parade and Football Game on Sept 27th!



From Door-to-Door Sales to Industry Titans: Read our Q & A with Joe Mann, Fuller Industries VP/GM

Fuller Industries Inc.

Joe Mann, Vice President and General Manager
15 SW 40 Ave, Great Bend
620-792-1711

www.fullerindustriesllc.com

Fuller Industries Inc.

The Resilient Journey of Fuller Industries

Tell us about you and the business

Fuller is a manufacturer of industrial products primarily focused on commercial janitorial products such as hand soap, cleaners, and floor finishes.

Another focus area for us is contract manufacturing and private brands for industry-leading distributors and retailers looking to differentiate their house brand against national competitors.

We have also developed and launched two new product lines, one of which is monopods which are focused on sustainability. These water soluble pods (think laundry

FUN FACTS

- We produce nearly 900,000 gallons of products in five-gallon buckets each year. That's way more than enough to fill the swimming pool at the Summer Olympics!
- Fuller Industries makes enough hand soap each year to fill 5 million dispensers.
- Fuller Industries produces enough plastic bottles each year that, if stacked on top of one another, they would reach the moon.
- We produce enough floor finish each year to coat 8,000 basketball courts!

or dish pods, but for surface and floor cleaning) resonate extremely well in the market, as they reduce waste and customer's carbon footprint.

We intend to reopen our retail outlet store, but we are still remodeling the interior from last year's hailstorm; we don't have a firm date as of now.

We still make brushes, specialized products used in aerospace and agriculture; customers include Boeing and John Deere. This makes up about 15 percent of our business, but the chemical business is growing much faster.

Why did you choose to locate your business in Barton County?

In 1973, the Fuller Brush Company was owned by the Sara Lee Corporation, and they moved the factory from Hartford, Conn., to Great Bend. Fuller became a staple in the local business community and a major employer.

Today, although streamlined from the early years, Fuller Industries Inc. continues the legacy of founder Alfred Fuller who said: "Make it work. Make it last. Guarantee it no matter what."

Barton County is a wonderful place to do business. Fuller has been here for over 50 years, and the communities in the area have always supported our business.

As Fuller plans its future growth, our plans are to remain in Great Bend. We had a sister plant in Canada and a year ago we began consolidation to Great Bend. That consolidation will be complete by November.

What inspired you to start your business?

In January 1906, Alfred Fuller of Nova Scotia founded the Fuller Brush Company in the basement of his sister's New England home. That led to the Hartford, Conn., facility.

Over the years, the grew from door-to-door sales, the ubiquitous Fuller Brush Man, to a global brush company.

Side note, Dick Clark, the Rev. Billy Graham, Dennis Quaid and Joe DeMaggio all sold Fuller Brushes at one point in their lives. Also, Red Skelton starred in the 1948 movie, "The Fuller Brush Man" and Lucille Ball starred in the 1950 film, "The Fuller Brush Girl."

Entrepreneurship Resources with Great Bend Economic Development

Entrepreneurs are the key to success in rural communities. If you have interest in creating a business, reach out to us today for help with business planning, financial analysis and access to start up loan funding. Great Bend Economic Development partners with many experts in the entrepreneurship field to bring you all the resources you need to get started successfully.





A glimpse inside the Fuller Industries factory, where innovation meets tradition in Great Bend

On our tour, Joe Mann showcased some of the innovative technology at Fuller Industries. Below, 'Martin' the robot system adds automation to the shipping process by reading barcodes, wrapping, and preparing pallets for shipment.

To the left, Mann displays a few of Fuller's concentrated cleaning products. These small, highly concentrated cleaners are easier and cheaper to ship, saving on both costs and storage space. The far-left product is a concentrated window cleaner!



In 2012, the consumer division, still Fuller Brush today, moved back to the Northeast. The commercial division remained in Great Bend and became Fuller Industries.

In 2013, Fuller Industries LLC was purchased by local investors, including Innovative Livestock Services.

In September 2021, GDI of Ontario, Canada, purchased Fuller Industries LLC and Fuller Industries INC. was born.

If you could share any positive feedback to another company hoping to open in the Barton County market, what would it be?

Great Bend and Barton County are great places to do business. The local economies are growing and there is a positive vibe amongst the business community here.

Folks here are so supportive, and there is that healthy "Kansas nice" mentality and that strong Midwestern work ethic. They are great people.

What obstacles have you faced and how did you overcome them?

Fuller Brush was state-of-the-art in 1973, but it is not 1973. Every business has seen dramatic changes in the last five years, let alone 50.

There are still some of those old

machines in operation, making repairs and maintenance difficult. More importantly, they are not as efficient as state-of-the-art machinery. And lot of infrastructure needs to be updated.

The Manufacturing landscape has changed significantly over the years; businesses must be agile, nimble, find their niche and fill it. Fuller Industries Inc. has done that.

We've invested millions of dollars in new equipment, including automation and robotics, with more on the way.

On July 16, 2023, the massive wind and hailstorm that ripped through the area also targeted Fuller. Our roof was totaled, and we as well sustained damage to much of the building's contents and interior.

We are still recovering from that, and it has delayed some of the planned expansion and growth. But, a silver lining, we seized the opportunity to do some much-needed and long-overdue remodeling for the moment.

And, of course, like other businesses, finding employees has been challenging. But we are working with Great Bend Economic Development Inc., the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce and Barton Community College to establish partnerships so we can find the right matches for our staffing needs.

Limited Spots Remaining for Sept 18th CO.STARTERS Core



From IDEA to ACTION



www.gbedinc.com/costarters

Time is running out to secure your spot in the upcoming CO.STARTERS Core program, a ten-session initiative designed to equip entrepreneurs with the tools and connections they need to bring their business ideas to life. Hosted by Great Bend Economic Development, Inc. (GBED), this program

will run from September 18th through November 20th, with sessions held on Wednesday evenings.

CO.STARTERS Core, a globally recognized program, offers practical business modeling methods and connects participants with a supportive community of peers and mentors.

Entrepreneurs will have the opportunity to build and test small models, receive real-time customer feedback, and refine their business plans to ensure long-term success.

Facilitated by Regan Reif and Jeremy Elliott, the ten-week program is valued at over \$2500, but thanks to sponsorships, the fee is

only \$300. Participants who attend at least 8 of the 10 sessions will receive a \$100 rebate.

With limited spots available, interested entrepreneurs are encouraged to apply today. To learn about CO.STARTERS in Barton County, visit www.gbedinc.com/costarters.

**DO YOU
NEED**

**TAX
CREDITS**

Great Bend
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The tax credits we have available currently are 75% credits from Network Kansas. We've participated in this program for 4 years now! Email Sara Arnberger for more information: director@gbedinc.com

Organization

Asked & Answered: Innovation Center

Click this to watch the full "Asked & Answered" on YouTube.



The following is a transcript summary from the Asked & Answered: Innovation Center video recorded on August 6th and posted on Facebook, Instagram, and TikTok, addressing questions about the new Innovation Center set to break ground this fall.

Good morning,

This is Sara Arnberger, president of Great Bend Economic Development, with another "Asked and Answered" update. Today, we're discussing the Great Bend Innovation Center, a project many have questions about.

Last night, we announced the center's location at the frontage lot on Farmers Plaza at K-96 and 10th Street. This project has been in the works for about four years, and it's exciting to see it coming to life. The Innovation Center will focus on technology, innovation, entrepreneurship, workforce, childcare, and healthy living.

A common question is funding. The building, estimated at \$7 million, is three-quarters funded through grants and donations. We're still securing additional funding, but none of it is

coming from city or county budgets.

Another concern is hours of operation. The center will have secure access for members of the Fab Lab, commercial kitchen, and other facilities, even after business hours.

Here's what's included in the center:

Fab Lab: A makerspace with 3D printers, flight simulators, drones, plasma cutters, CNC machines, welders, and commercial sewing machines.

Commercial Kitchen: Serving as a central kitchen for childcare providers, an incubator for startup restaurants, and a space for cooking classes taught by K-State Research and Extension, University of Kansas Health Systems, and Barton Community College.

Leafy Green Farm Pod: A pod for growing various crops, focusing on youth involvement and entrepreneurship.

Co-working Space and Computer Lab: A space for remote workers, students, and community members, equipped with Mac computers and

Adobe software, and offering language learning.

Childcare Rooms: Catering to after-hours and overnight care for shift workers.

Meeting Rooms: High-tech rooms for rent, suitable for Zoom meetings and team training.

Podcast and Broadcast Studio: A space for creating professional marketing videos.

Our offices will be located at the center, and we are working with partners to run the various facilities and programs.

We understand there may be concerns or negativity about new projects. However, we are committed to creating opportunities and inspiring growth in Barton County. We're aiming to complete the center by the end of 2025.

Thank you for your support. Please reach out with any questions via email at director@gbdinc.com or call the office at 796-2407. Let's continue to speak positively about our community and embrace the opportunities ahead. Thank you, and have a fantastic day.



BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE GROW WORKFORCE PARTNERSHIP:



REGISTER TODAY: WWW.GBEDINC.COM/GROWWORKFORCE

Workforce

Grow Workforce Summit Returns

Great Bend Economic Development (GBED) announces the 2024 Grow Workforce Summit, a premier event designed to inform and inspire employers and managers in the Barton County area. This year's summit, organized in collaboration with the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce, Barton Community College, KansasWorks, and local business professionals, promises to be an invaluable resource for the local workforce.

The Grow Workforce Summit offers a comprehensive agenda, including educational sessions, an inspiring keynote speaker, panel discussions, networking opportunities, and a job fair. During the job fair, job seekers will benefit from specialized breakout sessions led by experts from KansasWorks, Barton Community College, and seasoned career coaches, focusing on the essential soft skills needed to thrive in today's job market.

Event Details

Date: November 13, 2024

Location: Great Bend Events Center, 3111 10th Street

Schedule:

- Workforce Sessions 9am
- Lunch & Keynote Speaker (Phillip Kelley): Noon to 1:30 pm
- Networking and Resource Fair for Employers: 1:30 pm to 2:15 pm
- Workforce Panel Discussion: 2:30 pm to 3:30 pm
- Job Fair & Business Expo: 4:30 pm to 6:00 pm

The luncheon will feature keynote speaker Phillip Kelley, Founder of Purpose-Driven Coaching, Overcomer Academy, and Iceberg Leadership, and former team Chaplain/Character Coach for the Kansas City Chiefs. Phillip will share his insights on leadership, purpose, and overcoming challenges in the workplace, aiming to motivate and inspire all attendees.

Attendees will have the opportunity to explore the various resources available to the business community, gain new insights through workforce sessions, and connect directly with local employers during the Job Fair. Exciting giveaways and innovative opportunities for business exposure are just a few of the additional highlights of the event.

Registration and Sponsorship: To secure your spot at the Grow Workforce Summit or inquire about sponsorship opportunities, please contact GBED staff at info@gbedinc.com or visit www.gbedinc.com/growworkforce. Early registration is highly recommended, as space is limited.

Join us in elevating our workforce strategies, empowering our businesses, and contributing to the continued prosperity of the Barton County area. We look forward to seeing you at the Grow Workforce Summit on November 13th!

Workforce

Central Kansas Jobs, an Enhanced Platform for Employers

Central Kansas Jobs has undergone a significant website overhaul, emphasizing our commitment to connecting talent with career opportunities. Our upgraded platform is designed to empower employers and streamline the hiring process, featuring new enhancements for a better user experience.

Users can now create profiles and establish distinct company profiles, fostering seamless collaboration within organizations. A notable addition is the "Featured Company Highlight," allowing companies to showcase their profiles in a scheduled display for \$50 per month, providing heightened visibility to potential candidates.

While we introduce premium features, posting jobs and viewing resumes remain free for employers and job seekers, ensuring an inclusive and accessible platform. Explore the revamped website at www.centrankansasjobs.com to leverage these new features and make Central Kansas Jobs your strategic partner in building successful teams.

A green and white graphic with a torn-edge effect. At the top, it says "ARE YOU HIRING?" in large, bold, white letters. Below this, a list of four bullet points in white text: "FREE JOB POSTINGS", "CREATE A COMPANY PROFILE", "LOOK THROUGH RESUMES", and "ADVERTISING AVAILABLE". At the bottom, the website "centrankansasjobs.com" is written in white, and the "central kansas JOBS" logo is displayed in large green and white letters.

Focus Areas

Follow along on our journey

We are elated with the momentum gained and plan to continue to capitalize on the current progress and continue pushing forward on many ground breaking projects.

If you are interested in *investing* in GBED projects, we would be happy to keep you updated on any specific categories of interest. The upcoming project categories that we will be seeking funding for are as follows:

- * Housing
- * Childcare
- * Entrepreneurship
- * Apprenticeships

Anything you want to see in these newsletters that was not included? Please reach out to marketing@gbedinc.com with your feedback.



Fridays on Forest Homecoming Edition

Fridays on Forest has a time change for September 27th and the launch of the Love, KS Campaign in Barton County

Great Bend Alive, the downtown arm of Great Bend Economic Development (GBED) announces special timing and theme for the September 27th Fridays on Forest. The event will happen on Forest Avenue, from “the Landing” on Williams to Main between 3 pm and 7 pm. Great Bend Alive is happy to move the event between the Great Bend Homecoming Parade and the high school football game. The special homecoming edition of Fridays on Forest will feature live music, food vendors from Lumpy’s, Los Dos Portillo’s, Brand 17 BBQ, and Freaking Delicious Cheesecake Co., plus our drink vendors, Los Dos Portillo’s, Lumpy’s, Charlie’s Place, Can Do Drinks (non-alcoholic beverages) and Dry Lake Brewing. September’s Friday on Forest sponsor, Equity Bank, was thrilled to move the time to capture the audience that turns out for the afternoon parade celebrating Great Bend schools, clubs, sports, and homecoming candidates.

GBED added Barton County to the Love, KS campaign created by the Kansas Department



Learn More: www.gbenedinc.com/downtownevents

of Commerce in partnership with Kansas Tourism. This campaign is a professional talent attraction initiative. Love, Kansas is a love letter from the Sunflower State to anyone seeking a new pace of life. Kansas is one of the most cost-effective states in America, reaching out to future Kansans to showcase why this beloved state is a vibrant place to live, work, and play. To accomplish this goal Kansas Tourism and Commerce are partnering with communities/cities/towns within Kansas to lead campaigns using Love, Kansas as a guide. Stop by “The Landing”, the new

parklette in downtown Great Bend during September’s Special Homecoming Edition of Fridays on Forest for more information on the campaign, GBED’s Reverse Recruiting Incentive, and giveaways.

The Love, Kansas campaign makes it easier for those returning to Kansas and those wishing to make Kansas their home, showcasing a more fulfilling lifestyle. This is where GBED’s Love, KS committee assembled from Ellinwood, Bushton, Claflin, Great Bend, and Hoisington, began the local campaign for Love, KS. Since Fridays on Forest is themed

“Homecoming” the committee is using this great timing to share reasons why locals stay or have returned to central Kansas. The local Love, KS committee needs your help to further the mission showcasing why, when you take a new look at the Sunflower State,

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Click the image below to see our TikTok from last month!



Great Bend Alive

Discover Great Bend's Rich History and Vibrant Art Scene with the New Great Bend Alive Tours App

Explore the heart of Great Bend like never before with the newly launched Great Bend Alive Tours app! Now available on the Google Play Store, Apple Store, and online, this innovative app brings the stories and artistry of our downtown to life through self-guided tours that are as engaging as they are informative.

The Great Bend Alive Tours app currently features two captivating tours:

- **Historic Downtown Tour:** Take a stroll around the courthouse square and neighboring streets as you uncover the rich history of Great Bend. Learn the fascinating backstories of historic buildings and discover the sites where significant structures once stood, shaping the town's heritage.
- **Downtown Art Tour:** Immerse yourself in the creativity that adorns our city. This tour highlights the vibrant murals and

sculptures that decorate downtown Great Bend, with exclusive interviews and audio clips from the talented artists behind these works.

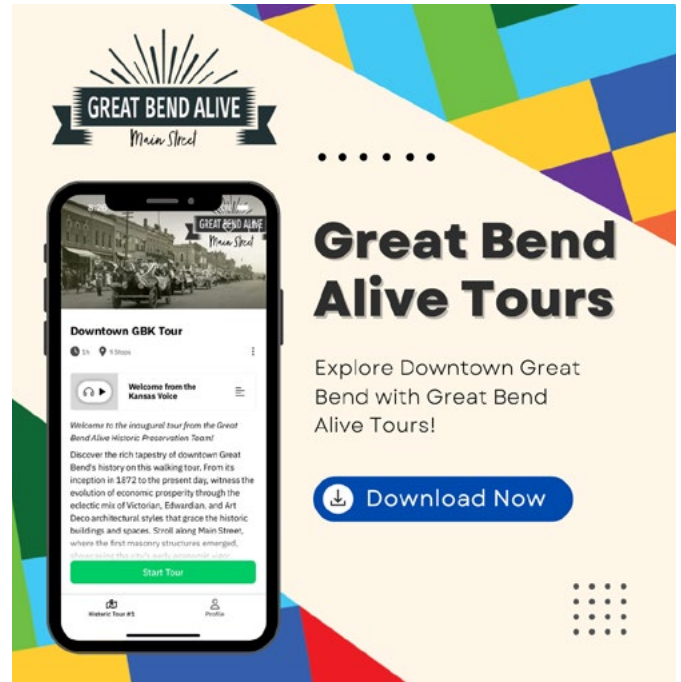
Whether you're a local, a tourist, a history buff, or an art enthusiast, the Great Bend Alive Tours app offers something for everyone. Designed for users of all ages, the app provides an enriching experience that can be enjoyed at your own pace.

Advanced Features for an Enhanced Experience

With GPS-guided navigation, the app leads you effortlessly from one stop to the next. Along the way, you'll find photos, videos, audio narration, and links that add depth and context to each location.

Endless Potential for Future Exploration

"The potential for this app is virtually endless,"



said Lee Ann June, Communications Director for Great Bend Economic Development. "We have plans to use it with downtown events held by Great Bend Alive, the City of Great Bend, and others. The Great Bend Alive Preservation Team is also excited to develop new tours focused on historic events and properties in the area."

Download Today and Start Exploring

The Great Bend Alive Tours app is available for immediate download on both the Google Play Store and the Apple Store. Alternatively, you can access the tours online. To get started, visit www.gbgedinc.com/tours.

[Google Play](#) [Apple](#)
[WEB](#)

Continued from Page 9

you're going to Love, Kansas. Stop by on September 27th for details.

The final, final Fridays on Forest of 2024 is next month on October 25th from 5 pm to 9 pm with a costume contest, and fun with the sponsors.

What to Expect? Come after work with your friends, family, or coworkers and sit outside with a beverage in your hand, enjoying great food, great music, and a great time! Alcohol will

be served in the district but CANNOT be brought into the district from outside. NO smoking and no pets in the district, thank you!

This is a family-friendly atmosphere, so feel free to bring the whole gang! There will be security to ensure the safety of you and our properties. Worried about bathrooms? Don't be, we've got you covered! Bring your appetite—you'll have plenty to choose from!



Great Bend Alive

Great Bend Alive Takes the Reins of Downtown Christmas Window Decorating Contest

Great Bend Alive, the downtown development arm of Great Bend Economic Development, is excited to announce that it has taken on the Downtown Christmas Window Decorating Contest, previously organized by the Rosewood Santas Around the World Committee.

Supported by a generous anonymous donor, \$3,000 in prize money will be awarded: \$1,500 for 1st place, \$1,000 for 2nd place, and \$500 for the People's Choice award. The contest aims to light up all downtown stores, enhancing the holiday spirit and promoting holiday shopping.

"Our team is reaching out to downtown businesses about participating," said Sara Arnberger, Executive Director of Great Bend Alive. "If a business opts out, we'll find a group to decorate the window for them. Those interested in decorating vacant windows can also contact us, as availability is limited."

The application deadline is November 8, 2024. Judging will occur between November 21-29, with winners announced on December 3. For



more details or to apply, [email info@gbedinc.com](mailto:email_info@gbedinc.com) or call 620-796-2407.

Let's make downtown Great Bend shine this holiday season!

What is a Kansas Main Street?

Kansas Main Street Organizations are a self-help, technical assistance program that targets revitalization and preservation of downtown districts through the development of a comprehensive strategy.

Main Street America™ leads a movement committed to strengthening communities through preservation-based economic development in older and historic downtowns and neighborhood commercial districts.



For the latest updates follow Great Bend Alive on:

Facebook



Instagram



TikTok



GBEDinc.com/mainstreet



Organization

Our organization thrives because of the passion and dedication of our board members. Each one brings a unique perspective and a heartfelt commitment to our mission. In this section, we're excited to share not only the personal "why" behind their involvement but also a glimpse into their businesses and personal lives. Their stories inspire us and remind us of the impact we can achieve together. Read on to learn more about the motivations that drive our incredible board members to make a difference in our community.



Meet Board Chair

Paul Snapp

I believe active economic development for Great Bend and Barton County is critical to our future success. I see a lot of positives in our community that we can build on to make this an even better place to live. I was excited about joining GBED's Board because I have been involved in a number of economic development initiatives and I observed the good work GBED was doing before I joined the Board. I am excited about the purchase of the former Highland Hotel property by GBED. I think there is potential for it to turn into a very important plus for our community. I am also encouraged by more emphasis being placed on new housing for our community. First Kansas Bank recently added on to our Bank in Great Bend. Our Great Bend Bank has grown seven fold since we moved into our new building in 2007, we simply need more space to accommodate additional growth.....a good problem to have.

- Paul Snapp

MEET OUR PRESIDENT

director@gbedinc.com



Sara Arnberger is a native of Great Bend, Kansas and located back to the area to pursue the opportunities with economic development. Sara comes to Great Bend Economic Development with a bachelors degree from Friends University and close to 10 years of experience in management and customer service. Her experience combined with her passion for the area is sure to spur new growth.

COMMS DIRECTOR

marketing@gbedinc.com



Communications Director, Lee Ann June, is a longtime local with a love for community. She is excited to join forces with GBED to promote and grow Barton County. Bringing a comprehensive set of skills that are valuable to the organization, she is delighted to contribute her talents to GBED's efforts. Mother of two, former business owner/instructor, and creative; she brings a unique perspective to this position. Motivated by the momentum, Lee Ann is invested in seeing the Great Bend area thrive.

MARKETING & EVENTS INTERN

intern.team@gbedinc.com



Hi! I'm Charley Sander, the newest addition to the team at Great Bend Economic Development. Born and raised in Great Bend, I am continuing my academic career at Barton Community College with a focus on marketing. I hope to further my skills in marketing while I learn alongside my new team! I'm excited to be a part of something so big and have the opportunity to give back to my hometown.

Entrepreneurship

Semi-Finalists present this month, Finalist announced September 27th



As the competition intensifies in preparation for the live finals on October 10, 2024, at the historic Crest Theater in downtown Great Bend, these outstanding entrepreneurs (and semi-finalist) have distinguished themselves with their innovation, dedication, and growth potential.

The semi-finalists, who have successfully submitted their video pitches and competition materials, are now collaborating with the Small Business Development Center (SBDC) and have been paired with mentors. With ongoing support, they are refining their business plans and strategies. The businesses in the semi-final round are:

- Austin Smith, Tallen, & Teresa Smith, First Response Cleaning and Restoration
- Kameron Keener, K617 Custom Coatings
- Candace Tomlin, Mama T's
- Paxton Rein, Proper Boards & Picnics
- Ana Hayson, Rana Luna Balloons
- Danielle Lee, Ruhe Rituals
- Elle Slater, Saving Face Aesthetics Lounge
- Matthew Gerrtzen, Sundown AgriSupply LLC

In mid-September, these semi-finalists will present their pitches to the IGNITE selection committee. Based on these presentations and their business plans, up to five businesses will be selected to move forward to the final round. The finalists will be announced on September 27th,

and they will compete live at the finals for top prizes of \$50,000, \$30,000, and \$10,000.

In addition to celebrating these entrepreneurs, the IGNITE Rural Business Competition is looking for businesses sponsors for the live finale. Sponsorship levels include \$1,000, \$2,500, \$5,000, and \$10,000, providing an excellent opportunity for businesses and organizations to support local entrepreneurship while gaining visibility at a highly anticipated event. Tickets for the live finals will go on sale shortly, so be sure to save the date (October 10th @ 7 pm) and get ready to cheer on the finalists.

The IGNITE Rural Business Competition is a dynamic platform designed to empower entrepreneurs in Barton County, encouraging creativity, innovation, and community engagement. The competition offers valuable grants to deserving businesses, fueling their growth and success.

Stay informed on the progress of the competition by visiting igniteks.com and following us on social media. We'll be sharing updates about these inspiring entrepreneurs as we approach the live final.

For more information or to inquire about sponsorship opportunities, please visit igniteks.com or reach out to GBED staff at info@gbedinc.com.



Did You Know?



Marketable Statistics

How about some spending pattern facts?!

Our area spends \$1.87 million on pork annually!

That's \$184 a year per household!

STI: Spending Patterns Food: Cereals, Bakery, Meat and Dairy (Annual)	Walmart 0-5 min				Walmart 0-10 min				Walmart 0-20 min			
	Aggregate Expenditure	%	Average per Household	Market Index to HQS	Aggregate Expenditure	%	Average per Household	Market Index to HQS	Aggregate Expenditure	%	Average per Household	Market Index to HQS
Pork	\$ 736,433	4%	\$ 177.53	80	\$ 1,273,135	4%	\$ 185.16	84	\$ 1,869,797	4%	\$ 184.40	83
Bacon	\$ 163,364	1%	\$ 39.38	80	\$ 281,897	1%	\$ 41.00	84	\$ 413,963	1%	\$ 40.82	83
Pork chops	\$ 116,136	1%	\$ 28.00	83	\$ 202,188	1%	\$ 29.41	87	\$ 294,613	1%	\$ 29.05	86
Ham	\$ 140,418	1%	\$ 33.85	81	\$ 243,684	1%	\$ 35.44	85	\$ 356,984	1%	\$ 35.21	84
Sausage	\$ 156,193	1%	\$ 37.65	80	\$ 269,665	1%	\$ 39.22	84	\$ 397,131	1%	\$ 39.16	84
Other pork	\$ 160,329	1%	\$ 38.65	78	\$ 275,706	1%	\$ 40.10	81	\$ 407,118	1%	\$ 40.15	81



Housing

Brush Up BC

Great Bend Economic Development supports Brush Up Barton County, offering grants for exterior painting projects to eligible homeowners. With a \$5,000 annual budget, the program allocates up to \$1,000 per project, enhancing community aesthetics and property longevity. Learn more at www.gbetedinc.com/housing.

Upcoming Events and Business Education

5
SEPT

Bridging the Capital Gap Lender Summit

Thursday September 5th - \$99.00
Reignite Center- Johnson County Community College
Overland Park, KS
<https://www.sba.gov/event/52055>

18
SEPT

CO.STARTERS Core

Wednesday, September 18th
6:00 - 9:00 pm \$300* (with \$100 rebate)
3111 10th Street, Great Bend
www.gbedinc.com/costarters

10
SEPT

Essentials of Effective Supervision

Tuesday, September 10th - Tuesday December 3rd (12 weeks)
4-7 pm. \$1,299.00
405 N Jefferson Avenue, Springfield MO
<https://www.sba.gov/event/49900>

27
SEPT

Introduction to Grant Writing

Friday September 27th
9am - 4:30 pm \$289.00
405 N Jefferson Avenue, Springfield, MO
<https://www.sba.gov/event/50156>

10
SEPT

KC Metro Area CEO Roundtable

Tuesday September 10th
12- 1:30 pm
Mazuma Credit Union 1155 NE Douglas Street, Lees Summit, MO
<https://www.sba.gov/event/51984>

27
SEPT

Special Homecoming Fridays on Forest

Friday, September 27th
3:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
No Tickets Needed Thanks to our Sponsor Equity Bank
Forest Aved between Main & Williams in Great Bend
Learn more: greatbendisalive

11
SEPT

Quick Books Online (The Basics)

Wednesday September 11th \$129.00
405 N Jefferson Avenue, Springfield, MO
<https://www.sba.gov/event/51076>

[Go to www.gbedinc.com](http://www.gbedinc.com) and scroll down to the calendar for even more classes with descriptions & links.

Education

SBDC & SBA Classes

Click on the Class Name for the Link to Registration



U.S. Small Business
Administration



[Website Basics](#)

Wednesday September 4th
12-1 pm

[Marketing Strategy](#)

Saturday September 7th
12:30-1:45 pm

[Simple steps for starting your business- basics](#)

Saturday September 14th
9:30-11:30 am

[Reading and Understanding Financial Statement](#)

Tuesday September 24th
5:30-8:30 pm \$49.00

[Demystifying Financial Foundations: Income, Assets & Cash Flow](#)

Wednesday September 4th
6-8 pm

[Social Media Marketing](#)

Saturday September 7th
2-3:30 pm

[Early Stage Business Boot Camp- Stone County \(8 Week Program\)](#)

Thursday September's 19th-
Thursday November 14th
5:30-8 pm
16407 State HWY 13, Branson West, MO

[Formula 8: Customer-Centric Problem Solving](#)

Wednesday September 25th
5:30- 8:30 pm \$649.00
4747 Troost Ave, Kansas City

[Funding your dream: Exploring Loans, Equity, Crowdfunding and more](#)

Thursday September 5th
6-7:30 pm

[Visualize your Success- Strategic Planning tools](#)

Tuesday September 10th
6-9 pm

[Fundraising for Non-profits- Basics](#)

Monday September 23rd
1-4 Pm

[Early-Stage Business Boot camp- Greene County \(4-week/ 8-week Session Program\)](#)

Monday September 30th -
Thursday October 24th
5:30-8 pm
405 N Jefferson Avenue,
Springfield, MO

[Creating Realistic Financial Projections for your Small Business](#)

Thursday September 5th
7:45-9 pm

[Midwest DoD Virtual Suppliers Conference](#)

Tuesday, September 10th
10 am - 3 pm

[Early-Stage Business Boot Camp- West Plains \(8 week program\)](#)

Tuesday September 24th
5:30-8 pm
408 Washington Avenue, West Plains, MO

[Polishing your business idea](#)

Saturday September 7th
10 am - 12 pm

[DIBBS Training](#)

Wednesday September 11th
9:30-11:30 am

[Branding for Small Business](#)

Friday September 13th
9-11:30 am

Please note that online registration will close at noon the day before each event.

“Economic development is not a science, but an art, and a combination of forces and factors that must come together in the right way at the right time.” - James E. West



Watch our 2023 Year in Review

Let's keep in touch

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In the next issue



- **Featured Business**
- **CO.STARTERS Entrepreneurship Class Update**
- **Update on Childcare Center in Barton County**
- **GB Alive, Fridays on Forest, and More!**



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