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Business and Economy

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Kelly's Grit, Grace, and Garden Sense

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Fridays on Forest Oktoberfest

Fridays on Forest celebrates as the Germans do with Oktoberfest in September. Join us Sept 29th downtown. Don't miss this one!

IGNITE Heats up Finalists to be announced on Sept 8th, but tickets are on sale now! You



don't want to miss this LIVE finale where one business will be awarded \$50K in prize money!



HireWorks takes shape for Nov. 8th

Job Fair, Business Expo, and an educational session will be on the agenda for the Grow Workforce partnership reboot, HireWorks!

Annual Report



'Pop' by the greenhouse to shop or call for a consult on your landscaping needs.

Kelly's Garden Sense Kelly Moder, Owner, and Lead Designer 134 NE 10th Ave. Great Bend, Ks 67530 PHONE: 620-282-7170 www.kellysgardensense.com

Green House Hours:

Labor Day Sale Hours 8/28-9/3 Mon - Fri: 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. Sat & Sun: 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Find them on:

Instagram Facebook <u>TikTok</u> houzz

Entrepreneurship

KGS, a Pop of Color

Kelly's Garden Sense Showcases the Beauty of Nature with an Eye for Design

Tell us about you and your business:

As a 3rd generation entrepreneur, you could say being a business owner is in my DNA. I've always had a passion for design, and I love color. Having roots in this community keeps me personally invested. I want to see our community flourish, both literally with elevated landscapes and in the sense of a growing a business that cares more about the people over just the products and profits. I've developed through Grit and Grace in my journey as a business owner and I work every day to share those same values with others. By combining what I love and what I do, my work doesn't feel like a job ... it's living out my passion! Sometimes that's shopping for the latest trends to share with my clients and sometimes that's playing in the dirt or with the Greenhouse cats. I hope to set an example for other business owners and female leaders in our community, that you can love what you do, and it can flourish in our area!



Tell us about your business

Kelly's Garden Sense is a residential and commercial landscaper, creating beautiful landscapes and colorful outdoor spaces in Great Bend, KS, and the surrounding area. Kelly is a leading, certified Landscaper and outdoor designer in central Kansas. With the addition of our second Greenhouse in Spring 2023, we now have 2 main service lines, **1**) Full-Service Landscape Design and Seasonal Pottery delivered to your door – We bring the Greenhouse to you and **2**) D.I.Y. (Do It Yourself) Seasonal Retail Shopping and Events in the Greenhouse. We grow, or bring in, the highest quality plants and latest trends to buy and plant on your own. We are a crew of 9 passionate and trained individuals.

We take a truly personal approach and deliver landscapes and products a cut above the rest. We work to help you design a landscape or pottery that is uniquely YOU but stands out from the crowd! In working with commercial clients, we can help you translate your brand into a landscape that creates a first impression that WOWs and lasts.

How did you get the idea for your business?

Kelly's Garden Sense started with two pots and a handful of annuals. I quickly became hooked and it became my goal to provide my clients with something truly unique beyond just pottery to landscapes and designs that are truly unique. Why be ordinary- when you can have extraordinary! Last year Kelly's Garden Sense completed over 600 seasonal pottery designs for local homes and businesses!

We are open for consultation regular business hours 9a.m. – 5 p.m., so feel free to call or message us during that time. We are currently booking large scale landscaping jobs into spring 2024, so feel free to reach out anytime about projects you have in mind for your home or business.

We also have seasonal Greenhouse hours where anyone can come and shop retail, in addition to special after-hours events hosted at the Greenhouse once per season. Check our website <u>www.</u> <u>KellysGardenSense.com</u> for current Greenhouse hours and special Kelly Moder, Owner, and Lead Designer, pictured by the largest KGS greenhouse showed grit and grace through the storm damage in July of this year. Shop the greenhouse or call for a consult so your garden can have blooms like the one pictured below.





The July storm with straight linewinds and a possible tornado left damage as it passed through Great Bend. Kelly said that they are still fixing and replacing damaged equipment and supplies, like the large greenhouse (pictured to the far left).

events or follow us on Facebook and Instagram @KellysGardenSenseKS.

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

My roots run deep in Barton County. Our Greenhouses are located on family land in the North East corner of Great Bend (134 NE 10 Ave. Great Bend KS 67530). I want to see our community continue to flourish. We're doing just that by elevating one landscape at a time with seasonal pottery and full-service landscape design.

Why do you like to do business in Barton County?

Barton County is Home. If I can improve it, one landscape at a time ... I'm doing my job!

What inspired you to start your business?

I have some amazing examples of leadership and entrepreneurship in my family. My dad is my biggest inspiration and encourager in what I am building. I'm working to create a legacy that makes us all proud.

What did your startup plan and timeline look like?

Our business developed organically from a couple of pots and a handful of annuals. Over the past years, we have had to take risks to continue to grow and thrive. We started by expanding to build a greenhouse and beginning to locally grow product that is made for the Kansas heat. We outgrew our first Greenhouse the moment it opened and began plans to expand again, almost immediately.

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

Have integrity in what you do and a passion that doesn't waver. Have we made mistakes? Sure, but we work through it with grit and grace. Our clients have been some of our biggest cheerleaders

Do you have any advice for entrepreneurs starting out?

Plan for the unexpected and keep strong relationships in the business community. When it rains, it pours ... and in Kansas that can mean rain comes with high winds and extremes in weather. Summers are already busy for a landscaper but when you add in a storm that takes down part of the Greenhouse, we were stretched thin. We strive to collaborate with many local businesses, and they were there to help when we needed it in the aftermath of the storm.





Anything else you'd like to share about your business experience thus far?

Don't be afraid to be different. Opening a landscaping service without a location was not typical when I started. I created relationships with other local vendors/ businesses and showed clients the benefits of working with someone who came to their door long before I had a greenhouse full of plants and the work I am now known for. This flexibility and full-service "to-your-door" service is something that makes us different and something we continue to offer.

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.











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 <u>marketing@gbedinc.com</u> with your feedback.





Great Bend Alive

#FridaysonForest

September Fridays on Forest brings a German tradition to downtown GBK

Great Bend Alive, the downtown arm of Great Bend Economic, is hosting the next Fridays on Forest Event on September 29th, 2023. Sponsor for the evening's event is Spectrum CPA Partners. They are encouraging guests at Fridays on Forest to donate to Operation Christmas (read more about the cause and how you can help on the Oktoberfest on Forest Facebook event). Spectrum will be pulling down the west end of Forest and live music by Homebrew will

be on the east side of Forest. In addition to great music, attendees can also enjoy delicious food from Lumpy's, Los Dos Potrillo's, Flatlanders - Stone Fired Pizza, and The Spread Catering, and drinks from our alcohol vendors include: Los Dos Potrillo's, Lumpy's, Charlie's Place, and Dry Lake Brewing.



Big Shout Out to Barton's Baseball Team! Half the team set up our event in triple-digit heat, and the other half helped with tear down as a storm rolled on Forest Ave. Thank you, guys!







Great Bend Alive

Volunteers needed for Fridays on Forest events

Each event needs 12 volunteers to be gatekeepers. Organizations, Individuals, or businesses can volunteer at Fridays on Forest events.

Volunteering as a gatekeeper is a fantastic opportunity to contribute to your community and have a bit of fun while doing it! Being a Fridays on Forest gatekeeper seems like a great way to ensure everyone enjoys the event while maintaining a safe and orderly atmosphere.

For anyone interested in joining this endeavor, following the **link** to sign up as a volunteer is the first step. It's also important to be punctual for your assigned time, as reliability is crucial for making the event run smoothly.

Remember, it's not just about enforcing rules; it's also about spreading joy and ensuring that everyone has a memorable experience at Fridays on Forest. And who can resist the added perk of two drink tickets to enjoy the festivities yourself?



looking to be a part of something special, and ready to don the gatekeeper badge, go ahead and sign up. Let's make Fridays on Forest the talk of the town and keep Great Bend alive and lively!

So, if you're 21 or above,



Entrepreneurship

IGNITE Competition is Heating Up

10 businesses made it to the Semi-Final Round of IGNITE

The anticipation is palpable as the IGNITE Rural Business Competition reaches its boiling point. With the top 10 businesses currently engaged in the intense semi-final round, undergoing in-person pitches to our esteemed entrepreneurship committee, the race to the finals is on. This October 5th, the crescendo of this captivating journey will culminate in a live showdown at the historic Crest Theater in Great Bend, Kansas.

On September 8th, we will unveil the exceptional finalists who will be vying for victory in the ultimate showdown at the Crest Theater. This landmark event promises not only high-stakes competition but also an empowering platform for emerging businesses in Barton County. The top three to five businesses that secure their spot in the finals will vie for a coveted grant, each representing a remarkable opportunity for growth and innovation. The grand prize of \$50,000 awaits the first-place winner, with second place taking home \$30,000 and third place securing \$10,000 to fuel their entrepreneurial dreams.

The journey of these competitors can be closely followed through the engaging narratives shared on Great Bend Economic Development's (GBED) social media channels and the official competition website, igniteks.com. This competition isn't just about the numbers—it's about fostering creativity, innovation, and empowerment among Barton County's entrepreneurs. The IGNITE



Rural Business Competition stands as a testament to our commitment to effecting positive change in our community.

The live finale, set to unfold in the iconic Crest Theater, a cornerstone of downtown Great Bend, promises an unforgettable experience. With assistance from Barton Community College's Director of Theatrical Activities, Dan Williams, and Gary Parr of Parr Sound & Lighting, the stage will be transformed into a shark tank-style set, infused with the energy and excitement of this inaugural event. Enthusiasts and supporters are cordially invited to secure their seats by purchasing tickets at gbedinc. com/ignite or igniteks.com. Doors will open at 6:30 pm, offering attendees

the chance to purchase refreshments in the Crest Theater's lobby. For our esteemed VIP Sponsors, an exclusive reception awaits on the balcony, complete with dedicated wait staff.

Sponsorship opportunities and ticket purchases can be explored further online at igniteks.com. Join us in celebrating innovation, entrepreneurship, and the remarkable spirit of Barton County's business community. Be part of history at the IGNITE Rural Business Competition Grand Finale—where dreams take center stage. For details on how to become a sponsor the IGNITE Live Finale, please go to www.igniteks. com, please reach out to GBED staff at 620-796-2407 or email at marketing@gbedinc.com.

Tickets On Sale Now!

The IGNITE competition live finale is happening Oct 5th. It's going to be incredible! Over \$95,000 in total prize money will be awarded to the 3 most viable businesses. Imagine the energy, the ideas, and the opportunity all in one place. You won't want to miss it! Grab your tickets now and be part of this celebration of rural entrepreneurship! **igniteks.com**

Workforce

HireWorks presented by the Grow Workforce Partnership is taking shape

In an endeavor to create a smaller footprint on the day while achieving significant impact, Great Bend Economic Development, in collaboration with our workforce partners, moves forward with the event formerly known as Job Fest, taking place on November 8th. As we rethink our approach and ensure that we maximize interest and attendance while aligning with our goals.

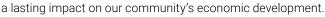
Our commitment to the community remains unwavering, and we are eager to bring

back incentives for job seekers through captivating giveaways, along with introducing innovative ways for businesses to gain exposure in the area. To add to the event's vibrancy, we are thrilled to incorporate food trucks that will create a lively and enjoyable atmosphere for everyone in attendance.

Furthermore, in our pursuit of fostering meaningful connections between the business community and resources available through the Barton County Workforce Connection group, we are hosting a Employer-Focused Panel before the job fair and business expo kicks off. The panel will focus on retention and recruiting for employers and managers that hope to created a culture of long term employment. Following the panel, those in attendance can network and have on-on-ones to dive deeper in the topics.

Mark your calendars for November 8th, and join us for this reimagined event that promises to be a day of growth, networking, and inspiration. To stay informed and receive updates on the event, be sure to subscribe to our newsletter at www.gbedinc.com.

We look forward to sharing this empowering experience with you, and together, we will make





MEET OUR PRESIDENT

lirector@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 sharpened her skills in marketing, planning, and communication at the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce, and now 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 GBED's momentum, Lee Ann is invested in seeing the Great Bend area thrive.



Welcome to ABCC! **Early Childhood Education** For Barton County Children

EARN MORE

Childcare Progress starts from the ground up

We understand that many of you are eagerly anticipating updates on the Advancing Barton County Childcare Center. We receive calls from our community members on a weekly basis, inquiring about waiting lists for daycare spots and job opportunities at the new facility. We greatly appreciate your enthusiasm and interest in this important project.

We are pleased to share both good news and challenges in our journey to establish the childcare center. The first significant step has been taken as the official groundbreaking for the center has occurred, marking the commencement of the prepping of the sub-grade for the building pad.

However, it's essential to acknowledge that there is still a substantial amount of work ahead before we can provide affirmative responses to the inquiries we receive. While the groundbreaking signifies a promising start, several key tasks and stages must be completed to ensure the center's successful establishment.

We understand that many families are eagerly anticipating the availability of daycare spots, and individuals are keen on exploring job opportunities at the new childcare center. Please rest assured that we are committed to advancing this project efficiently and diligently, but meticulous planning and execution are vital to ensure the highest quality standards are met.

As we move forward, we will keep the community informed about our progress and any significant developments. We appreciate your patience and continued support as we work towards creating a state-of-the-art childcare center that will benefit the entire Barton County community.

Thank you for your understanding, and please stay tuned for further updates, <u>www.gbedinc.</u> <u>com/abcc</u>.



Advancing Barton County Childcare has officially broke ground as ICON Structures has started prepping sub-grade for the building pad! Both ICON and ABCC are excited to see this project kick off and start going vertical.

Housing **Great Bend Economic Development launches** BC ReNEW, a New Housing Rehab Program for **Barton County Homeowners**

Great Bend Economic Development launches BC ReNEW, a New Housing Rehab Program for Barton County Homeowners

Great Bend Economic Development (GBED) is excited to announce the launch of its BC ReNew - Housing Rehab Program in Great Bend, Ellinwood, Hoisington, and Claflin. This program aims to provide homeowners in these areas with an opportunity to upgrade their older homes while receiving a rebate grant of up to 10% for material purchases.

Under the program, eligible homeowners who occupy their properties within the city limits may qualify for a rebate grant based on the cost of their rehabilitation project. The rebate is determined as follows:

• 8.7% of material purchases if less than 90% of the materials are locally purchased, provided the material costs exceed \$10,000 per approved project.

 10.0% of material purchases if over 90% of the materials are locally purchased, provided the material costs exceed \$10,000 per approved project.

The maximum award per recipient is set at \$10,000. Homeowners and contractors must demonstrate their experience in property rehabilitation or present a plan that utilizes contracted resources to carry out the rehabilitation process.

The application process involves homeowners submitting a complete application with all the required documents to the GBED office for review by the Housing Rehab Committee. The committee will then approve or reject the application and inform the homeowner accordingly. Documentation, including before and after photos, will be required for verification purposes.

The



Housing Rehab Committee, in conjunction with the GBED Board, will review all program applications and make recommendations for approval. Ongoing rehab projects will also be monitored by the committee to provide guidance and support to owners and contractors. For the year 2023, a total of \$35,000 has been allocated to this program.

Eligible upgrades under the BC **ReNEW Housing Rehab Program** include structural improvements, energy conservation measures, and modernization projects.

BC ReNEW is committed to revitalizing the community and enhancing the guality of housing in Great Bend, Ellinwood, Hoisington, and Claflin. This program presents a unique opportunity for homeowners to improve their homes while receiving financial assistance.

> For more information about the BC ReNEW Housing Rehab Program, including eligibility criteria and application details, please visit www.gbedinc.com/housing or contact Sara Arnberger, GBED President, at director@gbedinc. com.

Interested in purchasing 75% tax credits?

Interested in purchasing 75% tax credits? Please reach out ahead of time to Sara Arnberger at director@gbedinc. com and get more information about how you can take advantage of them. Click the link below to download a pdf.

Tax Credit PDF

DO YOU NEED

Development Snapshot of our Community



Development

Attention Manufacturers!

Did you know there are funds available to assist in your expansion projects? Get in touch with us today to find out how to take advantage of the State's incentive programs for manufacturing. Whether you're expanding machinery, building space, capital improvements in general, hiring new employees or re-training existing ones, there are programs that are in place to help you and we're here to help make it happen!

Check out the list of all Kansas Business Incentives **here** and get in contact with us at <u>director@gbedinc.com</u> if you feel like you might qualify.



Upcoming Events and Business Education

13 SEPT	How to Start a Business Wednesday, Sept. 13, 2023 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM Cost: \$FREE Topeka Shawnee County Public Library 1515 SW 10th Ave., Topeka https://ksbdc.ecenterdirect.com/	8:00 AM Cost: \$50
20 SEPT	How to Start a Business26Wednesday, Sept. 20, 2023208:00 AM Cost: \$FREE501 Poyntz Ave, Manhattan KS 66502-6005https://ksbdc.ecenterdirect.com/SEP	
21 SEPT	Ks Sales & Compensating Use Tax for 28 Construction Contractors 28 Thursday, Sept. 21, 2023 9:00 AM Cost: \$15 RC, Regnier Center, 145 12345 College Blvd. Overland Park https://ksbdc.ecenterdirect.com/ 28	
21 SEPT	Kansas Retail Sales and Compensating Use Tax Thursday, Sept. 21, 2023 29 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM Cost: \$20 8 RC, Regnier Center, 145 12345 College Blvd. Overland Park https://ksbdc.ecenterdirect.com/	5.00 nm -9.00 nm Tickets to get in FREE

<u>Calendar on the www.gbedinc.com</u> <u>Home Page has class descriptions & links.</u>

Education

SBDC & SBA Classes

Click on the Class Name for the Link

QuickBooks Online: Training for Beginners

Monday, Sept. 11, 2023 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM Cost: \$149

Marketing Your Business on the Internet Wednesday, Sept. 13 Cost: \$159

Small Business Marketing on a Shoestring Wednesday, Sept. 13 Cost: \$159

Using Social Media in Business Wednesday, Sept. 13 Cost: \$159

QuickBooks Online: Training for Intermediate Users Thursday, Sept. 14, 2023 9:00 AM Cost: \$149

Polishing Your Business Idea Saturday, September 9, 2023 10:00 - 11:00 a.m. CDT UMKC Innovation Center - 4747 Troost Avenue - Kansas City, MO e for the Link Marketing Strategy

Saturday, September 9, 2023 11:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. CDT UMKC Innovation Center

Social Media Marketing Saturday, September 9, 2023 1:00 - 2:00 p.m. CDT UMKC Innovation Center

Customer Discovery: Unlocking the Mystery for Success (Part 2 of 3) Wednesday, September 13, 20234:00 - 5:30 p.m. CDT 3901 Newman Rd - Joplin, MO

Social Media 102: Paid Sources Friday, September 15, 2023 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. CDT Kauffman Foundation Conf Center

Simple Steps for Starting your Business – Basics Saturday, September 16, 2023 9:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. CDT UMKC Innovation Center



Intentionally Developing Your People Wednesday, September 20, 2023 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. CDT. \$279.00 405 N Jefferson Ave, Springfield, MO

Fundraising For Non-Profits - Basics Thursday, September 21, 2023 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. CDT Kauffman Foundation Conf. Center

Transforming Conflict into Positive Outcomes

Tuesday, September 26, 2023 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. CDT. \$279.00 405 N Jefferson Ave, Springfield, MO

Customer Discovery: Unlocking the Mystery for Success (Part 3 of 3) Wednesday, September 27, 2023 4:00 - 5:15 p.m. CDT 3901 Newman Rd, Joplin, MO

High Performance Supervision Thursday, September 28, 2023 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. CDT. \$279.00 405 N Jefferson Ave, Springfield, MO



U.S. Small Business Administration

Business Planning Tools Thursday, September 28, 2023 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. CDT

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. CDT Kauffman Foundation Conf Center,

Demystifying Patents & Trademarks Thursday, September 28, 2023 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. CDT 12345 College Blvd, Regnier Center

Starting a Small Business: The First Steps Thursday, September 21, 2023

10:00 - 10:15 a.m. CDT

Diverse Business Certifications Workshop

Thursday, September 21, 2023 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. CDT

Business Financial Literacy Wednesday, September 27, 2023 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. CDT

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"Economic growth is not an end in itself, but a means to an end – a way of improving people's lives." - Paul Krugman

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In the next issue



- Featured Business
- IGNITE Update
- **Update on Loft Grants**
- **GB Alive, Fridays on Forest, and More!**

Let's keep in touch

Great Bend Economic Great Bend, Kansas 67530

620-796-2407













TikTok

