

NewsLetter

Business and Economy

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July 2023 | Issue No. 15



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Annual Report



Fridays on Forest Tropical Summer Fun

Live music, great food, cold drinks, snowcones, and family fun on Forest, at the next event on July 28th!



Brush Up, Barton County

This seasonal incentive has been awarded to 3 this year and used to spruce up homes in Barton County.



New Incentive for Barton County Residents

Renew Incentive helps residents on material costs for aging homes.

Childcare

ABCC Secures \$2.23M Grant from KS Children's Cabinet Child Care Capacity Accelerator Grant

The Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund has announced the approval of an impressive \$43,593,294 in grant funding awards, benefiting 52 organizations and partnerships across the state. Among the top recipients, Advancing Barton County Childcare (ABCC) proudly ranks in the elite top 4 awards for Kansas communities, receiving a substantial grant of \$2,238,630. This remarkable achievement propels ABCC's mission to establish affordable and accessible childcare facilities within Barton County.

ABCC's aims to address the escalating demand for childcare capacity within our community, while also catering to the workforce needs of the region. Spearheaded by Great Bend Economic Development (GBED), ABCC has assumed

the crucial responsibility of securing funding and constructing cutting-edge group daycare centers in Barton County. With the pressing demand for reliable and accessible childcare services in mind, this significant grant will propel ABCC forward in realizing their vision of establishing the first two premier daycare centers in Barton County.

The first facility, which will be located at Farmer's Plaza on the corner of 10th Street and K-96 Highway, is now fully funded, thanks to this substantial grant. ABCC will mark this momentous milestone with a groundbreaking ceremony scheduled for July 20th at 10 am. The event promises to be a moment of celebration and anticipation, as ABCC unveils exciting developments surrounding their endeavor.

The Accelerator Grant, awarded by the

Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund, will enable ABCC to collaborate with community-based teams, including early childhood providers, champions, employers, and economic development leaders. Together, they will forge ahead in their collective efforts to create affordable and accessible childcare seats throughout the region.

GBED and ABCC is deeply grateful for the unwavering support of the Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund, whose recognition of this project's importance will significantly contribute to the fulfillment of the organization's mission.

Watch for updates on our social media channels, or go online to: www.gbenedinc.com/abcc

Groundbreaking for ABCC's first daycare center set for July 20th @ 10am, K-96 and 10th Street





Great Bend Alive Celebrate Arts

GB Alive's 1st Flashmob unites GB dancers and Barton Arts Movement returned to the Art Alley

Great Bend Alive's first flashmob (pictured above) couldn't help but smile as they danced to Jason Mraz's "I Feel Like Dancing." After a few weeks of rehearsals, they pleasantly surprised the crowd during a break in the live music. The dance community of Great Bend truly united for this occasion, with representation from all the local dance studios, Barton Community College dancers, dance for mobility, and enthusiastic community members who simply love to dance. Danika Bielek, the dance instructor from Barton, provided the choreography and guidance for the performance.

The event also featured an exciting pop-up art gallery called Art Alley, presented by the Barton Arts Movement (BAM). Over 250 individuals cast their votes for BAM's People's Choice Award, fondly known as the BAMMY, and this year's deserving recipient was Chance Mitchell from Hoisington. Despite the evening being cut short due to lightning and an approaching storm, guests at Friday on Forest described the night as nothing short of outstanding even though lightning and an approaching storm brought the night to an early end.



Great Bend Alive #FridaysonForest

On July 28th, GB Alive Celebrates Summer with a Tropical Fridays on Forest

Great Bend Alive, the downtown arm of Great Bend Economic, is thrilled to unveil the next Fridays on Forest Event, returning on July 28, 2023. Immerse yourself in a tropical paradise as Forest Avenue transforms into a vibrant block party, spanning from Williams to Main. We are grateful to Equity Bank, our esteemed event sponsor, for adding an extra touch of excitement to the festivities. Get ready to groove to the live music, Double Take, while indulging in mouthwatering delicacies and refreshing beverages from our delightful vendors. We celebrate summer and tropical style, so don't forget to don your Hawaiian shirts, and make sure to bring your chill vibes along. Join us for an unforgettable night of fun, laughter, and the vibrant spirit of Great Bend Alive's Fridays on Forest Event.

In addition to great music, attendees can also enjoy delicious food from Lumpy's, Los Dos Potrillo's, Joe's Grill, and Lana's Catering & Goodies, in addition to our alcohol vendors, Los Dos Potrillo's, Lumpy's, Charlie's Place, and Dry Lake Brewing.

Our season of Fridays on Forest is in full-swing, so mark your calendar for the **last Friday of each month between now and October**. Many sponsorships and partnerships are already in place but if you, your business, or your organization would like to get involved, please reach out to GBED staff at 620-796-2407 or marketing@gbedinc.com.

Curious about volunteering? Sign up at: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0E4AACA62DAAF4C34-fridays>

Share your pictures on social media with the hashtag: #GBAlive, or email them to marketing@gbedinc.com, so we can share your love for #DowntownGBK.

For the latest updates follow Great Bend Alive on:

-  Facebook
-  Instagram
-  TikTok
-  GBEDinc.com/gbalive








Volunteer Fun Facts

Volunteers only work one-hour shifts, and receive 2 drink tickets for their time!





FRIDAYS



FOREST

Event Sponsor
EQUITY BANK

MUSIC, FOOD, DRINKS, AND FAMILY FUN

JULY 28 | 5 - 9 P.M.

LIVE MUSIC - DOUBLE TAKE

FOOD VENDORS: LUMPY'S, LOS DOS POTRILLO'S, LANA'S CATERING & GOODIES, & FLATLANDERS
ALCOHOL VENDORS: LOS DOS POTRILLO'S, CHARLIE'S PLACE, LUMPY'S, & DRY LAKE BREWING

FOREST STREET BETWEEN MAIN & WILLIAMS
WWW.GBEDINC.COM/DOWNTOWNEVENTS





Housing

Loft Grant Awarded to The Zarah Project

Representatives of MyTown LP, namely Mark Bitter, Sheryl Cheely, and Mark Mingenback, were presented with a check worth \$265,650 by Great Bend Economic Development on Wednesday, June 7th. This check was awarded to MyTown LP as they were selected as recipients of the Loft Grant. The Loft Grant program aims to support property owners in revitalizing the upper levels

of buildings located in Great Bend's downtown area. Mark Bitter expressed that upon completion of the project, there will be a total of 24 new residential units available.

MyTown LP had acquired the Zarah building, situated on the southeast corner of the intersection between Lakin Avenue and Main Street, back in 2008. In collaboration with the Loft Grant and a

financial assistance of \$1.425 million received from the Kansas Housing Resources Corporation, the investors of MyTown LP are undertaking a substantial project valued at approximately \$6 million. The objective is to transform the previously vacant upper floors of the building into studio, one-bedroom, and two-bedroom apartments, targeting individuals or families with moderate incomes.

GBED remains committed to promoting economic growth and community development. Through initiatives like the Loft Grant and the new incentive program, GBED strives to create a vibrant and thriving environment for residents, businesses, and visitors in Barton County.

Visit <https://www.gbедinc.com/downtowndevelopment> for more information.



Main Street, Looking Southeast from Lakin Avenue, Great Bend, Kansas

The Zarah has been a staple in downtown Great Bend, formerly a hotel. The Zarah will be renovating the 2nd and 3rd floors to create 24 residential units.



Mark Bitter, Sheryl Cheely and Mark Mingenback, representing MyTown LP, accepting a check from Great Bend Economic Development, Inc.'s Communications Director, Lee Ann June.

Entrepreneurship

Contestants are locked in

IGNITE moves into next phase

Excitement fills the air as the contestants of IGNITE Rural Business eagerly await the first round of judging. From all corners of Barton County, aspiring entrepreneurs with innovative ideas and a deep passion for rural development have come together to showcase their business concepts. The

atmosphere is buzzing with anticipation as each contestant hopes to impress the esteemed entrepreneurship committee with their unique strategies, sustainable practices, and dedication to uplifting rural communities. The participants have poured their hearts and souls into

their ventures, addressing various industries.

Stay informed by following

@GBEDinc on social media and on IGNITEks.com.

Ticket sales for the live final (October 5th) will open soon.



www.igniteks.com

DO YOU NEED TAX CREDITS

Great Bend
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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.

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 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.

Workforce

Barton Community College and Medicalodges Join Forces to Launch Apprenticeship Academy

Barton Community College has partnered with Medicalodges, Inc. to launch the Medicalodges Academy: Pathway to Learning and Earning, an apprenticeship program that combines classroom instruction with paid on-the-job training. The program offers training in various healthcare fields such as nursing and dietary management. Barton Community College aims to support workforce development by providing on-the-job training, technical instruction, and industry-recognized credentials through apprenticeship programs. Medicalodges was chosen as the first partner for the academy due to its commitment to offering learning opportunities while earning a wage. The community is invited to learn more about the program at an event on June 14. The partnership between the college and Medicalodges is expected to enhance the future workforce and support career advancement in the healthcare industry.



Representatives from Barton Community College staff, board of trustees, and students of the apprenticeship program, Medicalodges Academy, along with Medicalodges staff and administration, and the Kansas Grant Manager for TalentGro a division of Hamilton-Ryker (Lana Gordon).

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 director@gbedinc.com if you feel like you might qualify.



Housing

Brush Up BC

Paint and Supplies Incentive utilized by Barton County Residents

One of the existing programs offered by GBED is Brush Up Barton County, which provides grants for paint and supplies to eligible homeowners for exterior painting projects. Online applications for Brush Up Barton County can be accessed at www.gbedinc.com/housing. With a dedicated annual budget of \$5,000, GBED is able to allocate up to \$1,000 per project, helping homeowners enhance the visual appeal and preservation of their properties.

GBED remains committed to promoting economic growth and community development. Through initiatives like the Loft Grant and the new incentive program, GBED strives to create a vibrant and thriving environment for residents, businesses, and visitors in Barton County.

Pictured are two homes in Barton County that the homeowners took advantage of this grant!

Visit <https://www.gbedinc.com/housing> for more information.



Click the link above or go online to www.gbedinc.com/housing for more information on this incentive program!

Housing

GBED launches BC ReNEW, a 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

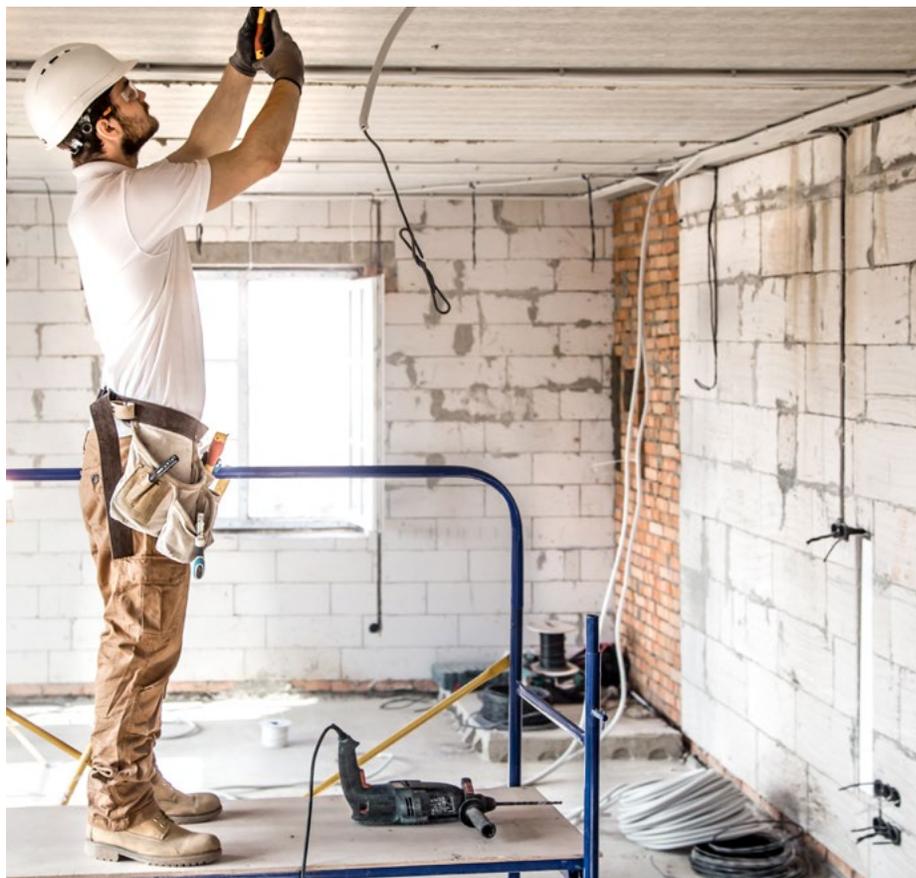
application and inform the homeowner accordingly. Documentation, including before and after photos, will be required for verification purposes.

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 quality 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.



Did You Know?



Marketable Statistics

How about some spending pattern facts?!

Our area spends \$1.19 million on processed fruit annually.

That's \$117 per household annually on juice, canned fruit, and frozen fruit!

STI: Spending Patterns Food: Fruits, Vegetables (Annual)	Walmart 0-5 min				Walmart 0-10 min				Walmart 0-20 min			
	Aggregate Expenditure Estimate	%	Average per Household	Market Index to USA	Aggregate Expenditure Estimate	%	Average per Household	Market Index to USA	Aggregate Expenditure Estimate	%	Average per Household	Market Index to USA
Processed fruits	\$ 468,184	13%	\$ 112.86	80	\$ 810,023	14%	\$ 117.81	84	\$ 1,192,565	14%	\$ 117.61	84
Frozen fruits and fruit juices	\$ 57,435	2%	\$ 13.85	79	\$ 99,090	2%	\$ 14.41	82	\$ 146,321	2%	\$ 14.43	82
Frozen orange juice	\$ 5,642	0%	\$ 1.36	82	\$ 9,600	0%	\$ 1.40	84	\$ 14,345	0%	\$ 1.41	85
Frozen fruits	\$ 45,157	1%	\$ 10.89	78	\$ 78,125	1%	\$ 11.36	82	\$ 115,368	1%	\$ 11.38	82
Frozen fruit juices	\$ 6,641	0%	\$ 1.60	78	\$ 11,371	0%	\$ 1.65	81	\$ 16,618	0%	\$ 1.64	80
Canned fruits	\$ 87,158	3%	\$ 21.01	81	\$ 150,349	3%	\$ 21.87	84	\$ 221,041	3%	\$ 21.80	84
Dried fruit	\$ 37,853	1%	\$ 9.12	81	\$ 65,087	1%	\$ 9.47	84	\$ 96,279	1%	\$ 9.49	85
Fresh fruit juice	\$ 58,741	2%	\$ 14.16	80	\$ 102,102	2%	\$ 14.85	84	\$ 150,686	2%	\$ 14.86	84
Canned and bottled fruit juice	\$ 227,000	7%	\$ 54.72	81	\$ 393,391	7%	\$ 57.21	84	\$ 578,235	7%	\$ 57.02	84

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
- * Entrepreneurship
- * Childcare
- * Apprenticeships

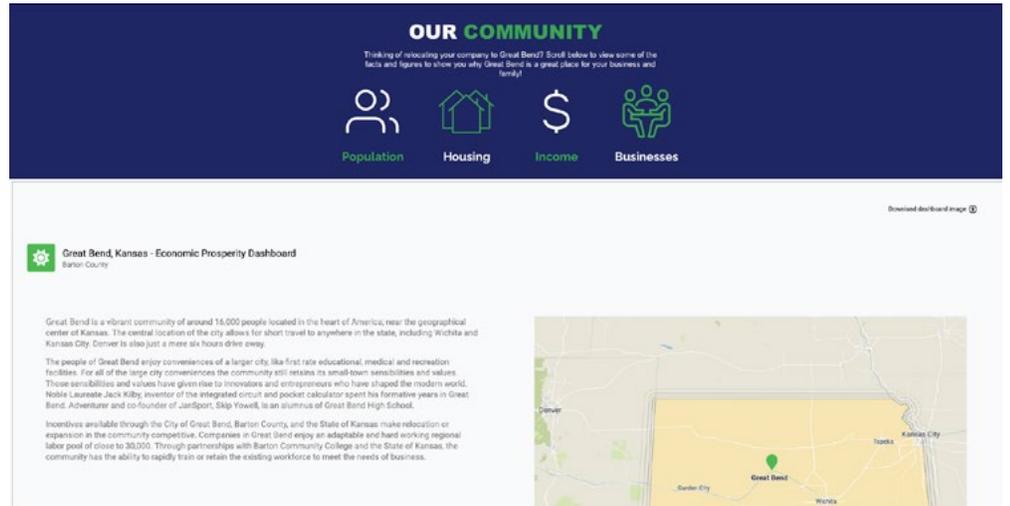
Anything you want to see in these newsletters that was not included? Please reach out to marketing@gbedinc.com with your feedback.

GBED

Website Houses 2022-2023 Annual Report, as well as, New Data & Stats Tool

Population, Housing, Income, Business all on a dashboard

Great Bend Economic Development has efficiently utilized a visually appealing data dashboard to effectively communicate the key advantages of the community to site selectors and businesses conducting online research. This dashboard serves as a comprehensive resource, providing concise and accessible information that highlights the community's selling points. By simply clicking on the image, users can seamlessly navigate to the new data center, gaining further insights into the opportunities and benefits offered by Barton County.



Annual Report: Driving Economic Growth in Barton County

It is with great pleasure and a sense of accomplishment that we present the Annual Report for Great Bend Economic Development, summarizing our achievements, progress, and the overall economic landscape of our thriving city. Over the past year, we have witnessed remarkable growth, innovation, and collaboration that have propelled Barton County toward becoming a regional hub for economic prosperity.

At Great Bend Economic Development, our mission has always been to foster sustainable economic growth, attract investment, create job opportunities, and enhance the quality of life for our residents. This report aims to provide an in-depth overview of our initiatives, strategies, and the remarkable outcomes that have transpired as a result of our collective efforts.

Click the **ANNUAL REPORT** (below) for more information and to read through the full 2022-2023 report. Or find the link on the home page of our website www.gbenedinc.com

Annual Report



Upcoming Events and Business Education

11
JULY

Mapping Your Pathway to Success

Tuesday, July 11, 2023
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM Cost: \$24
RC, 145 , 12345 College Blvd. Overland Park, KS
<https://ce.jccc.edu/courseDisplay.cfm?schID=38038>

19
JULY

Small Business Marketing Meetup

Wednesday, July 19, 2023
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM Cost: \$35
RC, 145, 12345 College Blvd. Overland Park, KS
<https://ce.jccc.edu/courseDisplay.cfm?schID=35160>

12
JULY

How to Start a Business

Wednesday, July 12, 2023
5:30 PM - 7:30 PM Cost: \$FREE
Topeka Shawnee County Public Library 1515 SW 10th Ave., Topeka
<https://ksbdc.ecenterdirect.com/events/27905>

27
JULY

Kansas Retail Sales and Compensating Use Tax

Thursday, July 27, 2023
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Cost: \$20
RC, 234, 12345 College Blvd. Overland Park, KS
<https://ce.jccc.edu/courseDisplay.cfm?schID=35160>

18
JULY

Trademark & Copyright Basics

Tuesday, July 18, 2023
1:30 PM - 4:00 PM Cost: \$30
RC, 145, 12345 College Blvd. Overland Park, KS
<https://ce.jccc.edu/courseDisplay.cfm?schID=35131>

27
JULY

Kansas Sales and Compensating Use Tax for Construction Contractors

Thursday, July 27, 2023
1:30 PM - 4:00 PM Cost: \$15
RC, 234, 12345 College Blvd. Overland Park, KS
<https://ce.jccc.edu/courseDisplay.cfm?schID=38056>

19
JULY

IRS Small Business Tax Workshop

Wednesday, July 19, 2023
1:00 PM - 5:00 PM Cost: \$45
RC, 145, 12345 College Blvd. Overland Park, KS
<https://ce.jccc.edu/courseDisplay.cfm?schID=35131>

28
JULY

Fridays on Forest

Friday, July 28, 2023 - Luau on Forest
5:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m. Tickets to get in: FREE
Forest Street between Main & Williams in Great Bend
Learn more: [greatbendlive](https://www.greatbendlive.com)

[Calendar on the www.gbedinc.com](https://www.gbedinc.com)
[Home Page has class descriptions & links.](#)

Education

Small Business Development Center Online Classes

IRS Small Business Tax Workshop

Thursday, July 13, 2023
2:00 PM - 3:00 PM
Cost: \$FREE
<https://secure.com>

Employee Retention Credit Program

Wednesday, July 20, 2023
Cost: \$FREE
<https://secure.com>



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



In the next issue



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

Let's keep in touch

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Instagram



LinkedIn



TikTok



Website

