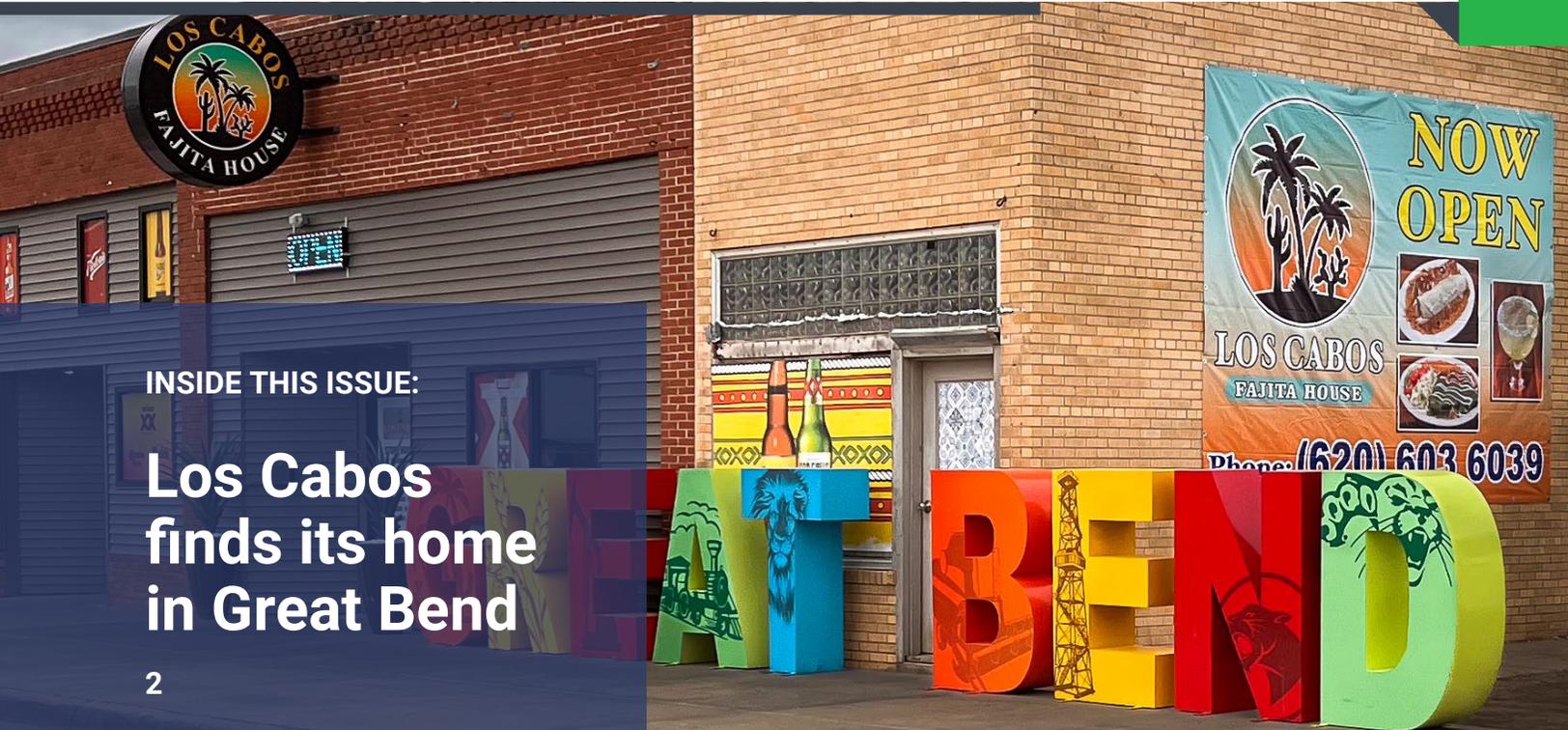


NewsLetter

Business and Economy



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GB Alive attends MSA 2023 in Boston

Great Bend Alive send a few board members to learn more about Main Street America and their affiliates



Fridays on Forest partners with LMFA

Lovegrass Music Festival Association brings bluegrass to the entertainment district. Fridays on Forest kicks off April 28th!



Barton Co. YEC Results & Awards

Barton County youth brought new ideas, and new iterations of ideas to this year's competition.



Maria Lopez and a few of the servers from Los Cabos Fajita House pose by the new 3D art installation celebrating the city of GB.

Los Cabos Fajita House

Maria & Juan Lopez, Owners

619 Main Street

Great Bend, Ks 67530

PHONE: (620) 603-6039

[Find them on Facebook](#)

Los Cabos Fajita House

Hours:

Monday: Closed

Tuesday - Thursday: 11:00am-9:00pm

Friday & Saturday: 11:00am-10:00pm

Sunday: 11:00am-8:00pm

Entrepreneurship

Los Cabos Fajita House

Making a home in Great Bend and bringing along authentic Mexican food

Briefly tell us about yourself

My name is Maria Lopez and my story in Kansas began when I married my husband Juan Lopez 6 years ago. We first lived in Pratt for 5 years and now I have lived in Great Bend for 1 year. The history of the restaurant began 15 years ago when my father-in-law and his family opened their first restaurant in Pratt. Now, he told us that it would be our turn to take care of one in Great Bend. We are located at 619 Main St.

Tell us about your business

All the ideas for new dishes and drinks arise thanks to the fact that our family loves cooking. Our dishes satisfy many palates. And we also come up with new dishes after we go to Mexico. Inspired by authentic Mexican food, we hope to offer you the best.

My husband and I have been decorating to our liking and we hope our clients like it too. Our hours of operation are Tuesday through Thursday from 11:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., Friday and Saturday from 11:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., Sunday from 11:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., and on Monday we close so that all our staff can rest.



The bright decor in and around Los Cabos Fajita House is a source of pride for Lopez and family. The interior has recently added new lighting, stop by to see what is new including new food and drink specials.

Why did you choose to locate your business in Great Bend?

We always saw that Great Bend was a good place for a Mexican restaurant.

Why do you like to do business in Barton County?

We love Great Bend, we find it to be a small place but cozy and friendly.

What inspired you to start your business?

Our family encouraged us to have a designated place for us to work.

What did your startup plan and timeline look like?

We were lucky to find a restaurant with almost all the necessary equipment. We decorated it and we want to remodel it on the outside in the future.

Do you have any advice for entrepreneurs starting out?

Go for it! Follow your dreams, work hard, and always believe in God.

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.



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

Visit our [Facebook page](#), to see our specials for the week. If you haven't tried our dishes yet, come visit us. We have a great variety, and we also have American food.

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

The biggest obstacle is the lack of staff. We want to have the best service but sometimes we don't have the full staff.



Learning and Growing as an Entrepreneur in Barton County

Great Bend Economic Development celebrated Global Entrepreneurship Week in November 2022 with a video series. We at GBED want to continue to spotlight these businesses throughout the year as we celebrate those entrepreneurs that have been successful. We hope to inspire the next wave of entrepreneurs with the wisdom these featured Barton County businesses have learned!

This month we highlight Amy Habiger with Yours Truly Gifts and Flower Shop in Great Bend and Lyons. Amy shares her about her journey and advice to new entrepreneurs.

Watch Amy's interview:



DO YOU NEED 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.

Great Bend ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
A Barton County Partnership for Growth



Great Bend Alive

Main Street America, Main Street Now 2023

New Ideas/Emerging Trends, Education, and Gained Insight into Main Street

Great Bend Alive is Great Bend Economic Development’s downtown development arm. These organizations are both a member of the Kansas Main Street Association and National Main Street, as well. The Main Street Now 2023 conference was largest in its history. With 1,900 “Main Streeters” in attendance, the conference was attended by Main Street Executive Directors, board members, Economic Development staff, and city partners

Two of GB Alive’s executive board members, along with GBED Staff attended the 3-day conference. Many sessions were case studies of programs that were created to cultivate assist organizations with the FOUR pillar approach: Preservation, Street scape & Design, Economic Vitality & Development, or the Events & Promotions. Having many sessions in each time slot the GB Alive Team split up to divide and conquer. A wide variety of communities were represented, from communities of 500 and up to the 20 Main Street Communities from Boston.

Travel teaches you many things, not the least of which is that downtowns matter. Downtowns are the heart and soul of our communities. They are also an indicator of larger social and economic trends. For many years, the decline of America’s downtowns was an indicator of a larger trend of people and jobs leaving cities for our far flung suburbs. Now, our downtowns are coming back to life and they are a harbinger of larger social, economic, demographic and technological trends.



Placemaking is the art of creating public spaces that foster community, inspiration, and connection.



Sara Arnberger, Lee Ann June, Molly Bailly, and Ryan Fairchild represented Great Bend Alive, GBED’s Main Street organization at the National Main Street Conference in Boston, March 27-28.

Great Bend Alive

Fridays on Forest Kicks off on April 28th

Fridays on Forest begins the year with bluegrass, a Lovegrass Experience

Great Bend Alive, the downtown arm of Great Bend Economic Development (GBED), and the Lovegrass Music Festival Association (LMFA) are excited to announce their partnership for the upcoming Fridays on Forest Kick-Off event on April 28, 2023. The event will take place on Forest Avenue, from Williams to Main, following a ribbon-cutting ceremony at 5 p.m. to open the entertainment district for the 3rd season. Ahead of their three-day music festival at Lake Wilson State Park in August, Lovegrass is bringing bluegrass to Fridays on Forest with three highly acclaimed bands, Gravel Yard from Arkansas, the Brook Blanche Band from Wichita, and Old Fangled from Lawrence.

In addition to great music, attendees can also enjoy delicious food from Lumpy's, Los Dos Potrillos, Reperks, Brand 17 BBQ, and Mock N'Roll, in addition to our alcohol vendors, Los Dos Potrillos, Lumpy's, Charlie's Place, and Dry Lake Brewing.

Great Bend Alive is looking forward to another great season of Fridays on Forest with a few new additions, and many amenities Great Bend has gotten used to having in the entertainment district. Mark your calendar for the last Friday of each month between April and October for all the Fridays on Forest events. 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://volunteersinaction.galaxydigital.com>, and become a fan

Coming soon...

Great Bend Alive Merchandise

Want to wear your support for Great Bend Alive and Fridays on Forest? We have got you covered! Web store is coming soon!!

GREAT BEND ALIVE PRESENTS

Fridays on Forest

A LOVEGRASS EXPERIENCE
WITH PERFORMANCES BY
GRAVEL YARD
OLD FANGLED • BROOK BLANCHE

.. April 28, 2023 ..
5:00-9:00 P.M.

LIVE MUSIC • FOOD • GAMES • DRINKS

.. BROUGHT TO YOU BY OUR SPONSORS & PARTNERS ..

MARMIES
MAKE IT HAPPEN GREAT BEND KS

GREAT BEND ALIVE
Fridays on Forest

THE LOVEGRASS EXPERIENCE
CONCERT SERIES

LOVEGRASS
MUSIC FESTIVAL
KANSAS BLUEGRASS SINCE 2017

FOOD VENDORS:
LUMPY'S, LOS DOS POTRILLOS,
BRAND 17 BBQ, REPERKS,
& MOCK N'ROLL

ALCOHOL VENDORS:
LOS DOS POTRILLOS, CHARLIE'S PLACE,
LUMPY'S, & DRY LAKE BREWING

FOR MORE INFORMATION
WWW.GBEDINC.COM/DOWNTOWNEVENTS

KEY: Food Vendors, GB Trivia, Food Vendors, Band

Another great season kicks off on April 28th. **Great Bend Chamber of Commerce Ribbon Cutting will be at 5 pm sharp** to usher in the new season. Immediately following the ribbon cutting, the music will begin and vendors will be open for business! No ticket needed, everyone is welcome!

of Great Bend Economic Development to stay up to date on projects/events for which you can provide assistance. Another way to stay informed is to follow Great Bend Economic Development and Great Bend Alive on social media.

For the latest updates follow Great Bend Alive on:



Entrepreneurship

2023 Barton County Youth Entrepreneurship Challenge Results

Barton Youth awarded for entrepreneurship skills

Barton County's third annual Youth Entrepreneurship Challenge was an eye-opener for the new competitors, while the seasoned competitors took their presentations up a few notches. On March 8, 2023, Barton County's YEC Tradeshaw was held at the Great Bend Event Center. 7th Grade to 12th Grade student participants competed for cash prizes and can go on to the State Level with NetWork Kansas.

The judging panel was made up of a wide array of business professionals including Jessica Milsap, MPIRE Realty Group, David McMillan, representing the Masonic Lodge, Shawn Powelson, Landmark Bank, Regan Reif, University of Kansas Health Systems, and Krystal Schartz, Peoples Bank & Trust. Before the students took to the trade show floor, GBED hosted a lunch/mixer for judges and students as an icebreaker to help the students to connect with the

judges before presenting before them. Students were given some questions to ask the judges, such as 'How do you handle the work-life balance?'. Regan

Reif answered this by saying

that she prefers to say it is a "work-life integration",

and she turned it around

to ask those students with functioning businesses how

they handle it as well. All in

all, it was an impactful dialogue between the two groups.

BARTON COUNTY
YOUTH ENTREPRENEURSHIP CHALLENGE



Following the trade-show portion of the event, the winners were announced.

For the third and final year she could compete, Kiley Stevenson won first place and walked away with \$1000 in prize money. She will also go on to the State competition (KEC). Kiley is a senior from Ellinwood High School and will go on

Pictured are the winners and judges from this year's competition. Congrats to the winners and a big thank you to the judges, partners, mentors, and sponsors!

to the State Level of Competition with NetWork Kansas. This year she pitched her business The Cookie Caddy. Second place went to Danielle Davis, Sugar N Spice Co, and she received \$750 in prize money. Danielle was new to the competition but has been running the business for a few years already. Third place went to a team from the Great Bend Middle School. Sydney Bailey and Callie Umphres competed with their concept business, Little Friends Daycare, and walked away with \$500. Fourth place went to Tucker Loesch with his business Loesch Mfg. Tucker walked away with \$200, plus \$250 for winning the People's Choice Award! People's Choice was a close race again this year! Thank you to everyone that came to the event and supported our youth entrepreneurs!

This competition, brought to Great Bend by Great Bend Economic Development and the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce, was created to challenge our youth, encourage our business community to partner with and mentor our younger generations, and foster an entrepreneurial spirit, and is a partnership with NetWork Kansas. Event Sponsors included Barton Community College, Nex-Tech, and Gottschalk Equipment Sales. Encouraging youth entrepreneurship is essential for the development of a dynamic and innovative society. Youth entrepreneurship provides young people with an opportunity to develop critical thinking, problem-solving, and creative skills, which can benefit them throughout their lives. It also promotes economic growth by creating new businesses and employment opportunities. Youth entrepreneurs bring fresh ideas and perspectives to the table, often leveraging technology to develop innovative solutions to long-standing problems. Overall, supporting youth entrepreneurship is crucial to building a strong economy and creating a brighter future for the next generation. To learn more about YEC or watch videos of the contestants, go online to www.gbenedinc.com/yec.



Housing

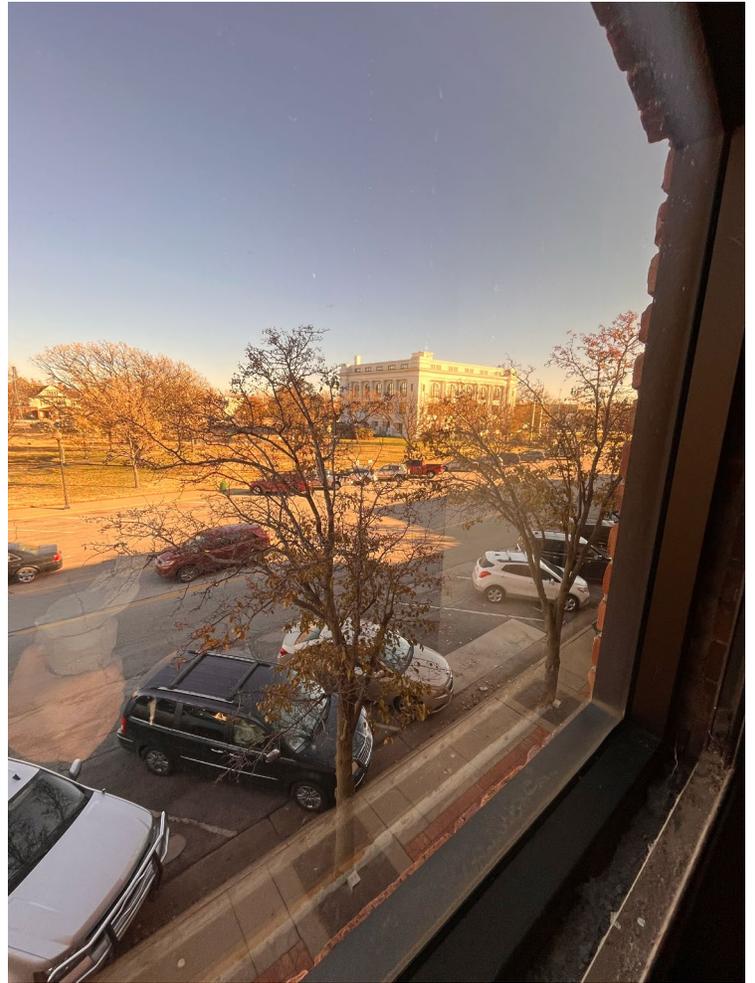
Loft Living

Did you know... There is around 256,000 SF of unused upper floor space in our downtown?!

The loft grant project was created to help property owners close the gap on usable space. We want to see livable downtown space, expanded business space and overall more opportunities for an active downtown corridor.

Loft living is an exciting and unique investment opportunity that offers a one-of-a-kind living experience. By investing in a loft, you can own a piece of history, as many loft buildings were once used for commercial or industrial purposes before being transformed into trendy, upscale residences. Loft living offers a modern, open-concept living space with high ceilings, large windows, and unique architectural features. In addition, lofts are often located in trendy and highly sought-after urban neighborhoods, offering easy access to local amenities, cultural attractions, and public transportation. Investing in a loft is not just an investment in real estate, it's an investment in a lifestyle - one that is both exciting and fulfilling. So why not take the plunge and invest in loft living today?

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



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.



The sign is up, and the search is on for a construction manager at risk. ABCC, Inc. is moving forward with this project and the hope for more in the future.

Childcare

ABCC is moving forward

Childcare Center is coming

Advancing Barton County Childcare, established by Great Bend Economic Development, has taken on the task to find the funding for a \$1.6 million group daycare in Great Bend to serve up to 59 children. Sara Arnberger said applications have been received for the site director position and the project will soon be sent out for bids.

The RFQ (request for quote) for construction managers has been sent out, and once the construction manager is chosen, they will lead the bid process for subcontractors.

The 4,500 square-foot daycare center is anticipated to be the first of multiple daycares built around Barton County. The first site is at 10th Street and K-96 Highway. To learn more go online to: <https://www.gbedinc.com/abcc>

Entrepreneurship

IGNITE Rural Business, is it the time to start your business in Barton County?

IGNITE Rural Business awareness campaign has begun! Commercials are airing on TV, streaming, and digitally, along with our organic social media campaigns. Have you seen one yet? We are targeting all of Kansas in the hopes of driving more business to Barton County. This competition aims to empower, support, and nurture entrepreneurs in Barton County, promoting creativity and innovation as part of our mission to have a positive impact.

Learning and growth opportunities are only the beginning when you take the leap into entrepreneurship. This competition can provide that as well as the opportunity to receive feedback from judges, mentors, and other industry experts. You will soon find that opportunities are all around, to learn from other entrepreneurs.

How to participate

For details on how to join the IGNITE competition, deadlines, and requirements, please go to www.igniteks.com

for a full list of information. However, if you would like to get your business involved as a mentor or being a sponsor of the live event, please reach out to GBED President, Sara Arnberger at director@gbedinc.com.

Join the movement of entrepreneurs making a difference in the world. Enter our competition and win the support you need to take your business to the next level. Apply now!



Marketable Statistics

Do you know...

Our area spends almost 1.2 million on processed fruit annually.

That's \$117 per household annually...
That's so many smoothies!



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

Workforce

Grow Workforce Summit moves to fall

Pushing back the date to ensure more attendance and to add new resources.

In an effort to maximize interest and attendance, Great Bend Economic Development and our workforce partners have moved the event formerly know as Job Fest to the fall on November 8th. The group is committed to bringing back incentives for job seekers in those big give-a-ways, add innovative ways for the business community to get more exposure to the area, as well as add fun elements like food trucks to keep the atmosphere light. Many in the Barton County Workforce Connection group have resources our business community is unaware of, so we hope to bridge those gaps with what we are calling "farm show style" speakers throughout the day in one corner of the ballroom. Save the Date and stay informed by subscribing to our newsletter at www.gbgedinc.com.



Are you a business owner that would like to sponsor, or participate in the Grow Workforce Summit? If so, please reach out to GBED staff to join the committee, marketing@gbgedinc.com.

Focus Areas



Follow along on our journey

As we begin a new year, 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@gbgedinc.com with your feedback.

Upcoming Events and Business Education

5
April

Kansas Retail Sales & Compensating Use Tax
Wednesday, April 5, 2023
1:00 PM - 4:00 PM Cost: \$20
RC, Regnier Center, 145 - 12345 College Blvd. Overland Park, KS
<https://ce.jccc.edu/courseDisplay.cfm?schiD=35160>

13
April

Capabilities Statements and Quad Charts
Thursday, April 13, 2023
4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. Cost: \$0
Every Connect - Wichita, 111 S. Ellis Street
<https://secure.com/>

5
April

Kansas Sales and Compensating Use Tax for Construction Contractors
Wednesday, April 5, 2023
9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Cost: \$15
RC, 145, 12345 College Blvd. Overland Park, KS <https://secure.com>

13
April

Planning to Exit Your Business
Thursday April 13, 2023
9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Cost: \$35
Main Campus, Regnier Center, 145
12345 College Blvd., Overland Park, KS <https://secure.com/>

6
April

Trademark & Copyright Basics
Thursday, April 6, 2023
2:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. Cost: \$30
Main Campus, Regnier Center, 145
12345 College Blvd., Overland Park, KS <https://secure.com/>

18
April

Business Basics in a Day - How to Start a Business
Tuesday, April 18, 2023
8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Cost: \$75
RC, 145 -12345 College Blvd., Overland Park <https://secure.com/>

11
April

QuickBooks Fundamentals - for Online Users
Tuesday, April 11, 2023
8:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Cost: \$199
Main Campus, Regnier Center, 234
12345 College Blvd., Overland Park, KS <https://secure.com/>

28
April

Fridays on Forest - Kick Off!
Friday, April 28, 2023
5:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m. Tickets to get in: FREE
Forest Street between Main & Williams in Great Bend
Ribbon Cutting at 5 p.m. Learn more: greatbendisalive

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

Education

Small Business Development Center Online Classes

Bolster Your Business Through Social Media
April 5, 2023
Cost: FREE
<https://secure.touchnet.com/>

Free Google Small Business Tools
April 25, 2023
Cost: FREE
<https://secure.touchnet.com/>

Leveraging Your Social Media Communities
April 11, 2023
Cost: FREE
<https://secure.touchnet.com/>

State Tax for Retailers
April 26, 2023
Cost: FREE
<https://secure.touchnet.com/>

Start up and Start Right
April 18, 2023
Cost: FREE
<https://secure.touchnet.com/>

The Value of Short-Form Videos
April 27, 2023
Cost: FREE
<https://secure.touchnet.com/>

A Foray into Franchises with Foreman Law
April 20, 2023
Cost: FREE
<https://secure.touchnet.com/>

Your Pitch and Beyond
May 4, 2023
Cost: FREE
<https://secure.touchnet.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 Update**
- **National Main Street Conference Overview**

Let's keep in touch

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Facebook



Instagram



LinkedIn



TikTok



Website

