



Green County Area Entrepreneurs & Inventors Club

Monthly newsletter

January 2009

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SBDC Offers Free Business Counseling

Small Business Development Center Counselor Gary Smith travels to Monroe on Fridays to meet with clients at Blackhawk Technical College. If you want to talk to someone about your business idea or need help with a business plan, business idea exploration or business direction, Gary is the person to talk to. Make an appointment to meet with him by calling his Platteville office at 608.342.1038

Free Entrepreneur Webinar Available

The UW Extension has a webinar series available with monthly programs that cover pertinent topics for entrepreneurs and their communities. The web address is [http://www.extension.org/pages/Entrepreneurs and Their Communities Webinar Series](http://www.extension.org/pages/Entrepreneurs_and_Their_Communities_Webinar_Series). Programs are archived so you can follow the series.

Welcome to the Green County Area Entrepreneurs & Inventors newsletter. We want to highlight this month's meeting and share resources that you might be interested in looking into. Our goal at Green County Development Corporation is to open a dialogue with the entrepreneur and inventor—so that we can learn from each other and grow our businesses in Green County. If you have any suggestions for meeting topics or other resource opportunities, please let us know by emailing us at enews@greencountyedc.com.

Fuzzy to speak on staffing small businesses

MONROE, Wis. – Gerald "Fuzzy" Karlen, small business owner, will speak on staffing considerations at the Monday, January 5, 2009 Green County Area Entrepreneurs & Inventors Club meeting, 6:30 to 8:30 PM in the Monroe Clinic hospital's New Glarus Room, 515 22nd Avenue, Monroe, Wisconsin. The event is free to the public and refreshments are served. Green County Development Corporation (GCDC) hosts these monthly meetings, held the first Monday of each month.

Karlen opened Fuzzy's Audio & Video Company on Monroe's west side approximately 14 years ago. The store continues to be the "source" of audio and video equipment for the community, and Karlen has expanded his services to meet the needs of his clients. The stories of his experience will highlight what he

learned along the way as he went from being a solo entrepreneur to managing staffing quotas, payroll considerations and handling employees. His story has some unique points since he provides service and retail options to his clients.

In addition to Karlen's presentation, Dave Vobora, Business Development Director for Southwest Wisconsin Community Action Program, prepared a handout to help those attending learn what they need to know to start hiring employees for their business. That handout will be available at the meeting along with other information and resources.

Networking among attendees will be encouraged in the evening's program. At the De-

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Networking wins!

At the December 1, 2008 Green County Area E&I Club Meeting, the focus was on our members and invited guests.

Seven entrepreneurs and

inventors shared what they are currently doing with their business, what they hope to do with their business and the challenges they are facing.

The evening was a great networking event to learn what your peers find work, what they want you to know to grow your business and what they are anxious

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About GCDC

GCDC, a multi-jurisdictional economic development corporation, was formed to bring professional economic development expertise to its member communities to create a competitive advantage to spur job creation and new investments. The organization leverages the resources of the county and its municipalities to ensure economic health and success of Green County communities and businesses. Visit the GCDC web site at www.GreenCountyEDC.com

“Life’s ups and downs provide windows of opportunity to determine your values and goals. Think of using all obstacles as stepping stones to build the life you want.”

Marsha Sinetar

Please join us on January 5 at 6:30 PM in the New Glarus meeting room at the Monroe Clinic hospital for a great time of learning and encouragement. If you need directions or other information, please don’t hesitate to call us at 608.328.9452.

See you in January!

Sincerely,

Susan Wetherington
Green County
Development Corporation
Monroe, WI 53566

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about, along with dreams for the new year. The momentum gained at the December meeting is nothing that we want to stop. At each meeting, entrepreneurs



and inventors will be invited to share about their business in addition to great speakers on current topics of interest. If you would like to share your business or inventions with the group, contact us at enews@greencountyedc.com and we will add you to the meeting agenda.

Fuzzy

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December 1, 2008 meeting, attendees opened up the networking channel by sharing about their businesses, their successes and unique challenges. The evening celebration opened up an avenue for those attending that provided hope, encouragement and resources that only other entrepreneurs and inventors can understand. The momentum started at the December meeting will be carried into the new year, as businesses share their stories in addition to speakers with pertinent information or inventors and small business owners. “When we created this club in April 2007, our goal was for the attendees—club members—to gain a better awareness of what is available in the county for resources and support and to create an opportunity for sharing among our members. If they encourage each other, the peer network built not only strengthens their businesses but the community and county business structure as well,” said Anna Schramke, CECD, executive director of GCDC.

The 2009 program ideas are being prepared at this time and future meeting topics will be shared at the January meeting.

For more information about the Green County Area E&I Club or about the meetings, please contact GCDC’s office by calling 608.328.9452 or email gcdc@tds.net.



Check out information for inventors and entrepreneurs on the Green County Development Corporation’s website at www.GreenCountyEDC.com.