



TOWN MEETING: Iowa UPDATE

Newsletter of the
Town Meeting: Iowa Project
Issue No. 13, Nov. 19, 1979

LORIMOR WINS FIRST PLACE IN IOWA COMMUNITY BETTERMENT PROGRAM



Governor Robert Ray presents the 1st Place award in the 255-425 population category to Lorimor Booster representatives Jack Kilpatrick, John McAdam, Maxine Kilpatrick, Sally Brown, Lillian Dowler and Rev. Kathy McDougal.

Lorimor won first place in its population division in the 1978-79 Iowa Community Betterment Program state competition. It is the first year Lorimor participated in the state-wide program and competed against 20 other towns in its size category, for the \$500 first prize.

Six members of the Lorimor Boosters were present at Vets Auditorium when the award was announced. M.C. Frosty Mitchell said, "This town wouldn't allow itself to turn over and die. There has been a resurgence of community spirit that is unbelievable."

A leadership award was also presented by Governor Robert D. Ray to the Lorimor Community Boosters for community involvement during the past year.

The three projects entered in the competition were the month long 1979 Christmas Festival, the set-up of an emergency vehicle service, and the 1979 Children's Summer Program.

LENS SEMINAR NOW OFFERED

LENS (Leadership Effectiveness and New Strategies) a five session seminar developed by the ICA, is being offered in Iowa for the first time. Rick Loudermilk, director of the national faculty was in Des Moines recently introducing several corporations and communities to this motivational tool.

LENS is a process that focuses people on their business or community issues and provides motivational methods for creating proposals and making practical decisions to deal with the issues.

Two LENS seminars in the midwest have been held, one with HEW in Kansas City and another with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. For further information contact the ICA office in Lorimor.

MINI-PARK RESULT OF ST. JOE VISIT

The ICA and Lorimor Boosters hosted for a day 12 people from St. Joseph, Missouri, who were interested in what Lorimor has done for itself.

Boosters members did a brief orientation to the community with slides of 'before' and 'after' scenes. Other members explained how certain programs were accomplished. In teams of three they then took a tour of the community. The afternoon was a workshop on events that would catalize community participation in the visitor's neighborhood in St. Joe.

One group planned the creation of a mini-park complete with dedication. On November 10, several from Lorimor traveled to St. Joe to witness the dedication of their mini-park planned in Lorimor only 7 weeks earlier.

GROUND BREAKING FOR NEW INDUSTRY

September 18, 1979, ground was broken for a new factory in Lorimor, Mother Lode, Inc. a sewing industry planning to begin operation in January 1980. Virgil Criss, President of the Lorimor Community Development Corporation, broke the ground with a golden spade. The LCDC raised \$10,000 in the community and received a 90% building loan through Small Business Administration to construct the building.

One woman attending the ceremony said, "This is one of the most exciting things that has happened to Lorimor."

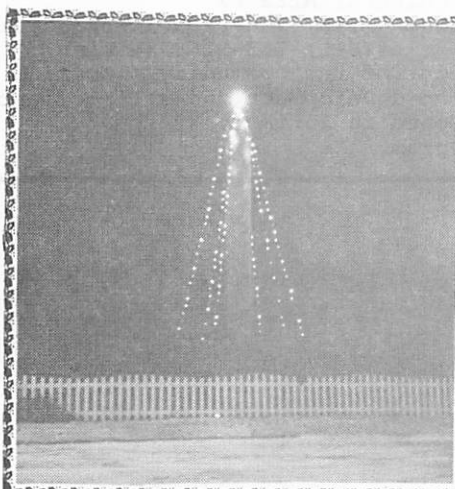
The sewing company is expected to employ 17 people in its first year.



BEE INDUSTRY LOCATES IN LORIMOR

Swadley Honey Farms, which operates approximately 1000 bee hives between the Missouri border and Winterset, Iowa, is constructing a warehouse in Lorimor and will begin operation here.

The warehouse will be used for equipment storage and extraction of honey. The bees wax will also be melted down and sold. The extracted honey is marketed in Chicago and Omaha.



*You Are Invited - Nov. 30, 1979
at 6:30 pm for the
Lorimor Festival of Lights*

Join others for the official opening of the Christmas season in Lorimor, highlighted by the Crowning of the Snow King and Queen (a senior citizen couple) a Procession down Mainstreet lighting the Christmas lights and culminated at the water stack for the lighting of the 110 FOOT COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS TREE!

Following there will be a bonfire and hayrides, Bingo, and a Christmas Mall with refreshments and gifts.

WHAT'S NEXT ?

LEADERSHIP TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Human Development Training School

This fall the Institute held the first three week Human Development Training School (HDTs) in North America. The school is an intensive 3 week program designed to equip local community leaders with the basic skills to do comprehensive community development in their own community.

Each week of the school includes a technical orientation cycle in Economic, Social or Cultural development, a Leadership Methods Lab, Skills Tutorials, Talks on local community and the times, and Roundtable discussions. Each week also includes an excursion and a celebration.

It is very likely that an HDTs will be held in Lorimor next year, that would be open to communities in Iowa. The school is one way of sharing the learnings of the Lorimor project with other communities. Still in the planning stages, specific information on a school in Lorimor will be available after the 1st of the year.

Town Meetings Winter and Spring ? ? ?

Planning is presently underway for another major series of Town Meetings across the state in 1980. The program will be available to every community in the state with a goal of approximately 150 meetings with at least one in every county if possible.

Sponsors are now being sought so that the meetings can be held in February, March or April. If you think your community may want to be included please write or phone. Many communities have found that a second Town Meeting after a year or two is a good way to renew enthusiasm and get new people involved. Contact the Lorimor office for more information.

More Signal Communities

As reported in the March 5, 1979 issue of the Town Meeting:Iowa UPDATE, the Institute is planning ways to work in depth with more Iowa communities next year. Several types of advanced, or special focus planning events have been designed and tested over the last two years, and will be made available in Iowa next year. Further details will be forthcoming.

THE INSTITUTE OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS

The Institute of Cultural Affairs is a not-for-profit world-wide group working autonomously in twenty-nine nations with more than one hundred offices around the world. Headquarters are located in Nairobi, Bombay, Singapore, Hong Kong, Chicago and Brussels. The Institute is supported by foundations, corporations and concerned individuals, and specific programs also receive support from governmental agencies.

The Institute of Cultural Affairs is a research, training and demonstration group concerned with the human factor in world development. For some fifteen years ICA was a program division of the Ecumenical Institute. In 1973 it was formally incorporated as a separate yet coordinate group. During that same year the Institute staff was incorporated as a self-supporting, volunteer service order called the Order: Ecumenical. The work of ICA is broad and varied, ranging from management seminars for executives to comprehensive community development projects around the globe.

The Institute of Cultural Affairs operates with two directing boards: The Board of Directors and the Board of Consultants. The Consulting Board, a unique network of more than two hundred business and professional men and women located throughout the world, represents many fields of expertise. These advisors meet semi-annually to review and plan the specific programs of the Institute.

Lorimor HDP
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(515) 763-2209

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kit or Margaret Krauss, Institute of Cultural Affairs
Box 26, Lorimor, Iowa 50149 or phone (515) 763-2209 (week-days)
(515) 763-2253 (evenings)

We welcome visiting groups to Lorimor and would be happy to arrange a tour of the community. We also have available a film, "The World of Human Development" which shows human development and self-reliance going on in other parts of the world; and a slide show on what has happened in Lorimor. Both are available upon request, and make a very interesting and provocative program.

TOWN MEETING: IOWA

Institute of Cultural Affairs
Box 26
Lorimor, Iowa 50149



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Newsletter of the
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FIRST HUMAN DEVELOPMENT TRAINING SCHOOL PLANNED FOR MARCH

Lorimor, in south central Iowa, will be the site for the first Human Development Training School in the Midwest. Developed by the Institute of Cultural Affairs, the HDTs is a three week, residential school beginning Sunday, March 9 and closing Sunday, March 30.

The Human Development Training School is a comprehensive curriculum in effective methods needed by local community leadership. Its primary intent is to transfer practical economic, social and cultural development methods to residents for application in their own communities.

Lorimor, as a setting for the school plays a vital role. With a town and country population of approximately 1200, Lorimor is in its second year of becoming a demonstration of local community renewal through the Lorimor Human Development Project. The community is typical of rural areas facing problems of declining business, large proportion of elderly, no clear role for the young people, etc. School participants will be able to work with Lorimor residents who have been operating out of a comprehensive approach to dealing with Lorimor's future.

In addition to lecture and seminars, school participants will "learn by doing". As part of the cycles and labs participants will be able to apply concepts and skills through helping Lorimor residents plan and initiate new programs in the economic, social and cultural arenas. There is an emphasis on team work and group consensus as keys to effective action.

A UNIQUE TRAINING EXPERIENCE

The Human Development Training School is the result of 15 years of experimentation and research in locally initiated community development. A key part of that work has been in how individuals get trained in planning and motivational methods that enable them to be effective in today's complex times. Over 15 schools have been held since 1976, with 9 being held this year in the United States and Canada.

The Human Development Training School is a unique training experience. It is not intended to teach technical competence, but rather to give concerned community residents the basic concepts of local economic, social and cultural development along with practical experience in group planning and motivational methods.

Graduates of the school are equipped to take a leadership role in almost any aspect of community life.

LORIMORIANS PREPARE FOR THE SCHOOL

The Lorimor Project leadership core is in the midst of preparations for hosting the Human Development Training School.

A core group of 20 people have decided to meet weekly over supper to coordinate the winter activities. Foremost on the agenda is completing the conversion of an old main street building into a community center for use as the meeting hall for the school.

FACULTY BRINGS PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE

The school's greatest strength is that everything presented comes directly out of current experiences in doing comprehensive community development in local communities across North America.

Faculty for the school will include Lorimor residents, as well as ICA staff from around the country who have been working in similar human development projects.

Students and faculty work closely together in teams, both in the classroom and in the community, forming an essential collegiality in the life of the school.



Lorimor is typical of many rural communities in the midwest.



Teamwork is an essential part of the training school.

TOWN MEETING COMMUNITY VISITS

Over the next few months teams of Town Meeting volunteers will be visiting or phoning Iowa communities that have held Town Meetings. They are hoping to talk with Town Meeting coordinators and participants to find out "What's been working for you". The volunteers will also be sharing what's happening in other communities and the new programs that are being offered by the ICA.

Since the Iowa campaign over 6,000 Town Meetings have been held in the United States. Within the last year volunteers have revisited many Town Meeting communities. They have discovered a growing sense of local community renewal across this land.

AN INVITATION

Dear Friends,

For the last 18 months we in Lorimor have had an exciting time trying to create a new future for our community. We know that many of you have watched our progress with interest and we have enjoyed the many visitors and interested inquiries.

At this time we wish to extend a personal invitation to you to attend all or part of our first Human Development Training School. We need the benefit of your experience, and feel that we have some exciting things to share with other communities.

Sincerely,

Kathy McDougal

Kathy McDougal, President
Lorimor Community Boosters, Inc.

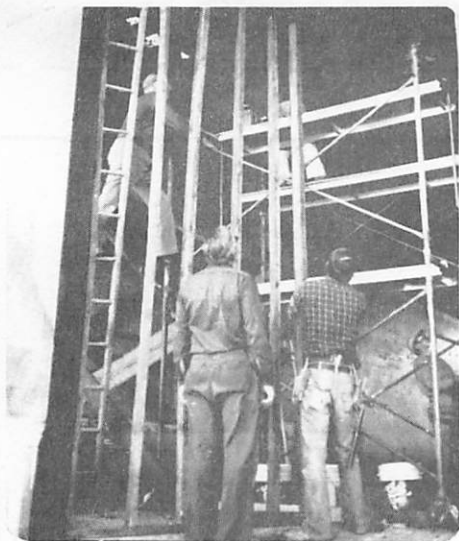
Elmer Scovel
Elmer Scovel, Mayor
City of Lorimor

Virgil H. Criss

Virgil Criss, President
Lorimor Community Development Corporation

Kit Krauss

Kit Krauss, Director
Lorimor Human Development
Project



Volunteers work on renovating old store for community center.

WHAT'S NEXT ?

LEADERSHIP TRAINING WHICH PROVIDES

MARCH 9 – 30
Lorimor, Iowa

- Methods of identifying the actual human needs in any community
- Ways to discover local resources, government services and appropriate technology available for meeting these needs
- Training in methods of corporate leadership for engaging an entire community in common planning and action
- A new self-confidence about one's ability to provide effective practical help to a community

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT TRAINING SCHOOL								
WEEK 1			WEEK 2			WEEK 3		
CYCLE	LAB	R E F L E C T I O N	CYCLE	LAB	R E F L E C T I O N	CYCLE	LAB	R E F L E C T I O N
Economic Development	Imaginal Leadership		Social Development	Community Forum		Cultural Development	Profound Humanness	
Trip	Celebration		Trip	Celebration		Trip	Celebration	

SCHOOL FORMAT

The school will be divided into three one-week sessions. The first week, March 9-16, is focused on how a community builds an economic future for itself. The second week, March 16-23, is concerned with the delivery of social services to the community and the third week, March 23-30 with building community identity and corporateness.

CURRICULUM DESIGN

In addition to the major three day cycles, each week includes a two day lab, a one day excursion, and one day (Sunday) of individual reflective time. The curriculum includes break fast and evening sessions, Monday through Friday and a celebration with the community on Saturday night. The emphasis throughout is on practical methods and concepts for empowering local communities.

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION

• The school is designed for leaders and concerned citizens from rural and urban communities. Attendance for the full 3 weeks, March 9-30 is recommended. However, a limited number will be permitted to register for shorter periods of time.

The cost of the HDTS is \$135 per individual. This covers all basic expenses, including food, lodging and program cost. A registration fee of \$45 should be sent prior to the opening date. Some scholarship funds are available.

• For persons planning to attend only part of the 3 week school cost is \$45 per week. Limited numbers of 3-day session participants may register at the weekly fee.



The Institute of Cultural Affairs is a world-wide research, training and demonstration group concerned with the human factor in world development. The ICA, a non-profit organization, presently offers programs in 32 nations. Among these programs are one day Town Meetings, community reformulation projects called Human Development Projects and other specialized consultations and seminars. The ICA receives funding from government agencies, foundations, organizations and concerned individuals.

TOWN MEETING: IOWA
Institute of Cultural Affairs
Box 26
Lorimor, Iowa 50149

CLIP AND MAIL

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
OCCUPATION _____

☐

PLEASE SEND MORE INFORMATION ON THE TRAINING SCHOOL

MAIL TO: Lorimor Human Development
Box 26

ENCLOSED PLEASE FIND MY REGISTRATION FEE FOR

Full Time
Mar. 9-30

☐

Week 1
Mar 9-16

☐

Week 2
Mar 16-23

☐

Week 3
Mar 23-30

☐

PHONE: (515)-763-2209 2253