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“Promote Hoven” Survey Also Reveals Needs

A few months ago, the Hoven Service Club Survey Committee gathered information on the strengths and needs of the Hoven community. The committee is grateful for all the constructive ideas submitted. Strengths were published previously. Now it is time to consider needs.

“The survey shows that though Hoven has many strengths that other small communities do not have, and though the local organizations and volunteer talents in the community are the envy of many, Hoven could definitely use improvements in several areas,” says Vern Rausch, Service Club President.

In no particular order, the most mentioned needs were:

- Because Highway 47 and 20 bring about 100 semis and many tourists, hunters, and fishermen through Hoven daily, many expressed the need for wider shoulders on Highway 47 north of Hoven. Being the only stretch of 47 without wide shoulders, it is not only unsafe but also mandates lower speed limits.

- We need to encourage travelers, both those on business and pleasure trips, to stop and spend more time. Shower facilities for truckers, a laundromat or washers/dryers for truckers and campers, and more incentives for hunters and fishermen to stay, such as the Knights of Columbus Hunters’ Feed before opening of pheasant hunting, and the Swan Lake Sportsman’s Club Feed were suggested.

- Because the “Cathedral of the Prairies” is already a tourist attraction, it was suggested that incentives to stick around longer should be available there. Suggestions included tourist information and maps, a mini museum, and discounts at local businesses.

- Some of the projects suggested require larger investments. Those include a car wash, a bed and breakfast, a local museum, and apartments with attached garages.

- Further website development could better promote Hoven and its surrounding economic area.

- Greater promotion of Hoven’s excellent municipal airport to bring more commerce and visitors was suggested.

- For those visiting or seeking to stay in Hoven, a list of available apartments, camp sites, houses for rent and houses for sale should be readily available.

- The benefits of home employment jobs in Hoven should be made known. Cable network will soon be coming to the Hoven rural area and will facilitate people who have in-home computer jobs.

- Local employers are always expressing the need for qualified help in these uncertain economic times. Not just the Service Club and employers, but also all Hovenites, can help make job seekers aware of area opportunities.

“The Service Club, which is the promotion arm of the Hoven City Council, is very appreciative of the support given it by the Council and community,” Rausch stated, “and we encourage offers of help to implement suggestions.”