

# SEEDS OF GROWTH

A Newsletter from the Crossett Economic Development Foundation

## From the Director's Desk

An Update from Mike Smith

The Crossett Economic Development Foundation is pleased that the voters of the city of Crossett continue to support economic development in our city. For the fourth time the voters have elected to continue the quarter-of-a-penny dedicated to economic development.

This quarter-of-a-penny funds the development of our industrial park, hosting of prospects, grant writing, and existing business development and retention. This funding has allowed the Crossett Economic Development Foundation to form close working relationships with the Arkansas Economic Development Foundation, the city of Crossett, and many business partners, such as Weyerhaeuser, and the AL&M Railroad, just to name a few. These partnerships, allow our community to have a much larger footprint and to reach many more prospects than would otherwise be possible.

As long as the city of Crossett allows, we will continue to work to develop our local economy and bring in new and exciting opportunities for our workforce. Thank you for your continued support of our activities.

 **CROSSETT**  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION

# Revitalizing Our Community Center

We are excited to announce a significant boost to the Crossett Community Center Initiative with a generous grant from Weyerhaeuser. A total of \$45,000 has been awarded, with \$15,000 from Weyerhaeuser's giving fund and an additional \$30,000 from their Strategic Partnership Fund. This grant will play a pivotal role in the ongoing efforts to enhance and preserve this vital asset in our small town.

As outlined in our initial article,

The Crossett Community Center, nestled on the corner of Main and 2nd Street, has been a central hub for a myriad of events, from weddings and banquets to conferences and board meetings. The building, with its rich history dating back to its days as the Georgia Pacific Mid-Continent Headquarters, has become integral to our small town's population.

The grant funds will be instrumental in addressing critical needs outlined in our grant application, including the replacement of the deteriorated outer wood siding on the building. Many panels have suffered from rot, posing a threat to the building's integrity and making it susceptible to water damage. The removal of the decorative structure from the front of the building is also on the agenda, enhancing the overall aesthetics and visibility of the Crossett Community Center.

This support from Weyerhaeuser is a testament to their commitment to community development. The improvements funded by the grant will not only address structural concerns but also contribute to energy efficiency and lower operating costs. By enhancing insulation through siding replacement and repainting, we aim to create a more comfortable environment for guests, while simultaneously reducing the community center's carbon footprint.

The Crossett Community Center has proven to be a versatile venue space, accommodating events ranging from conferences and workshops to class reunions, banquets, and weddings. With the grant from Weyerhaeuser, we can ensure that the building remains a community treasure, serving the needs of Crossetteers for years to come.

As we move forward with the renovations, we express our sincere gratitude to Weyerhaeuser for recognizing the importance of investing in local assets. The grant will not only preserve the Crossett Community Center but also contribute to the overall appeal and vitality of the Crossett Central Business District.

We look forward to sharing the progress of these enhancements and welcoming the community to an even more improved and aesthetically pleasing Crossett Community Center in the near future.

# 4th Quarter Lunch and Learn with the Crossett Area Chamber of Commerce



Our foundation recently had the privilege of partnering with the Crossett Area Chamber of Commerce to host the fourth quarter Lunch and Learn event on Thursday, November 16th. This special occasion was extended to include regional partners from across all of southeast Arkansas, fostering a sense of unity and collaboration among communities.



The event, held at the Crossett Community Center, featured distinguished guest speakers who shared valuable insights on community development and the symbiotic relationship between industries and regions. Clint O'Neal, the director of the Arkansas Economic Development Commission, took the stage to discuss the benefits of uniting communities and industries. His address emphasized the importance of creating an inviting environment for all, laying the foundation for sustainable growth.



Katherine Andrews, the director of the Department of Heritage: Outdoor Recreation, brought a unique perspective to the table. She delved into the profound impact of outdoor tourism on economic development. Highlighting its influence not only on industries directly supporting outdoor activities, such as outdoor apparel shops, but also on attracting professionals crucial to the development of various sectors.

These Lunch and Learn events play a crucial role in

bringing together community leaders and partners, providing a platform for fostering collaboration and teamwork. The knowledge shared by the guest speakers resonated with the audience, emphasizing the power of unity in creating thriving and vibrant communities.



# Introducing the First Official Crossett Mayor's Youth Council

We are excited to announce the establishment of the inaugural Crossett Mayor's Youth Council. Elected by their peers, these students will serve as representatives for our youth, providing a platform for their voices to be heard. Mayor Marshall has played a pivotal role in guiding every stage of this initiative. She emphasizes the importance of involving our youth in the local government's decision-making process, not only to cultivate engaged citizens for the future but also to instill a sense of pride and dedication to our community among young people.

To mark this significant occasion, the school organized an official swearing-in ceremony, open to the public. This event aimed to honor the newly elected students and underscore our commitment to taking this initiative seriously. The honorable Judge Gibson conducted the swearing-in, with Mayor Marshall leading the ceremony. Council members CT Foster and Dan Pevy attended the event to express their support for the Youth Council.



## A Helping Hand From Local Business

We extend our thanks to Cynergy Cargo for their contribution to the Crossett Community Center. Their generosity has enhanced accessibility for all. The vibrant new bright orange wheelchair ramp not only improved safety but also embodies inclusivity, ensuring that everyone can now access the Community Center with ease.

Since being recruited to Crossett, the company has invested millions in building, equipment, and payroll as well as doing many community service projects.

# Arkansas Economic Development Foundation Luncheon



Our foundation is proud to have been a sponsor of the Arkansas Economic Development Foundation luncheon, held on October 31 at the Statehouse Convention Center in Little Rock. The prestigious event featured Lockheed Martin Chairman, President, and CEO James "Jim" Taiclet as the headline speaker, with Governor Sarah Huckabee Sanders serving as the featured speaker. As the leader of Lockheed Martin since 2020, Taiclet shared insights into the company's global impact, including its significant presence in Camden, where over 1,000 employees contribute to the manufacturing and testing of advanced launchers, precision fires, and munitions.

The collaborative effort between AEDF and the Arkansas Industrial and Economic Development Foundation resulted in a successful luncheon, with proceeds dedicated to advancing state economic development initiatives.

## Site Visit with Amanda Finney

A heartfelt thank you to the C. B. King Foundation for considering funding priority improvements for the Yale Camp Cabins application, and to Amanda Finney for traveling all the way from Fort Worth, Texas for our site visit Friday! We had so much fun highlighting this local gem, and your support is invaluable. Our mission is to ensure the Yale Camp Cabins become a place for everyone to enjoy safely, and this grant would be a significant step in the right direction. Together, we can achieve great things! Our Foundation is proud to be in collaboration with the [City of Crossett](#) to preserve a significant piece of our city's history and to make it available for all to enjoy.



# Need a Revamp Grant?

We offer a unique opportunity for business owners in Crossett. We want to help you grow your business by creating a more attractive store front. Just fill out our Revamp Crossett grant application to get started! If awarded, the Crossett Economic Development Foundation will match up to \$2,500 on projects that focus on the business facing exterior. Applications can either be dropped off at our office or emailed to Hali McNeice at [hali.mcneice@cityofcrossett.net](mailto:hali.mcneice@cityofcrossett.net).



*before*



*after*



*before*



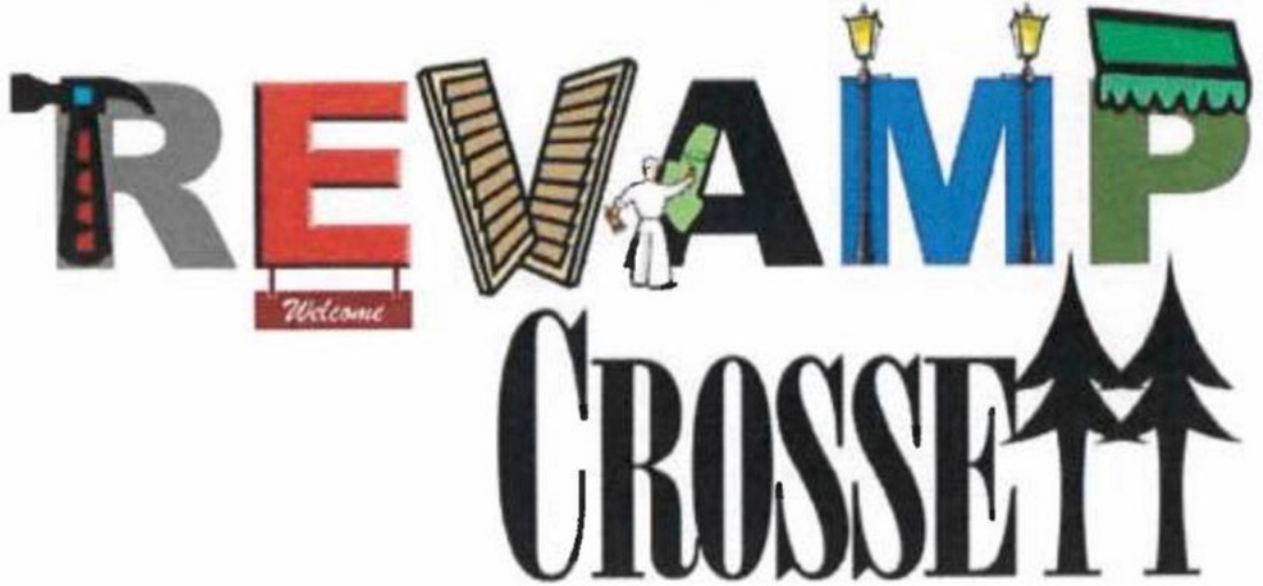
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*before*



*after*



SECTION I

Name of applicant \_\_\_\_\_

Name of business \_\_\_\_\_

Address of business. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ Fax # \_\_\_\_\_

Email address (required) \_\_\_\_\_

The applicant is \_\_\_ property owner \_\_\_ business owner \_\_\_ other  
If other, please specify \_\_\_\_\_

Do you lease/rent? \_\_\_ yes \_\_\_ no  
If yes, when does your lease expire? \_\_\_\_\_

Length of time doing business at your current location \_\_\_\_\_

Building owner (if different from applicant) \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Requested from Revamp Crossett Grant \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## SECTION II

The following are required with your application. Please check that you have included them.

\_\_\_ two color photos showing the existing building and/or property conditions

\_\_\_ any sketches of the proposed project such as measured plans, site plans, etc.

\_\_\_ paint color samples if paint is part of the project.

\_\_\_ awning colors and materials if part of the project.

\_\_\_ completed project form (attached)

\_\_\_ a one-to-three-page description of the project (please attach).

\_\_\_ copy of signed permit or permit exemption letter from the city building inspector.

## SECTION III

Please check which improvement(s) you will make under this grant.



\_\_\_ Removal of old materials (Please specify what will be removed)

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\_\_\_ safe cleaning of brick or stone exteriors

\_\_\_ repainting

\_\_\_ repair/replacement of exterior doors or windows

\_\_\_ installation of canvas awnings

\_\_\_ repainting of brick facades

\_\_\_ historic reconstruction

\_\_\_ landscaping

\_\_\_ sidewalks

\_\_\_ paving of parking areas

\_\_\_ removing old concrete foundations

\_\_\_ replacing concrete or asphalt with green spaces

\_\_\_ other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_

#### SECTION IV

How much do you estimate the total project will cost? \$ \_\_\_\_\_

How long do you estimate it will be until you start the project? \_\_\_\_\_

How long do you estimate it will be until you complete the project? \_\_\_\_\_

I understand that CEDF must pre-approve changes made during construction. \_\_\_yes \_\_\_no

SECTION V

Applicant signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Building owner signature \_\_\_\_\_  
(If different from applicant)

Email us a copy of your completed application along with all attachments to:  
Hali.mcneice@cityofcrossett.net

OR

Turn in a hard copy at:  
Crossett Economic Development Foundation  
125 Main Street  
Crossett, AR 71635

If you have any questions about the grant application process, please contact Hali McNeice by email at [hali.mcneice@cityofcrossett.net](mailto:hali.mcneice@cityofcrossett.net) or call (870) 364-8745.