



The Lafayette Developer

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Serving the Communities of Lafayette County

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TIF FOR AG GROWTH?

I recently presented a seminar on Tax Incremental Financing and offered some of my own ideas as to how a community can ensure success using this investment tool to encourage development, jobs and growth.

Since the presentation, I have been contacted by some public officials to see if we could use existing or modified TIF rules to create agricultural or rural TIF's to promote new farm, tourism, and environmental projects.

As we look at more energy efficient farming, manure maintenance, rural road improvements, campgrounds, trails, and public access to our forests and waterways, it makes sense to explore every funding avenue available.

It is still very expensive to reduce energy consumption on a farm for example, but if the farmer could use some of his or her own taxes to offset the costs it may become more affordable without creating a new burden on other taxpayers, new taxes, or deficit spending.

Wisconsin became the leader in dairy and other agriculture venues because of an early investment in roads and other infrastructure. Today, to maintain or regain our lead, we need to look at modernizing our farms, encouraging more local and sustainable production, and competing in a global environment.

TIF is one small building block in the process but its use in a rural environment has been very limited. It at least deserves a look.

[The notes from my TIF class are here.](#) I would be happy to put together a presentation for your community or group on any development related subject.

FIND IT ALL HERE!

Every Business, Every
Community, Every
Professional...

FutureLafayette.com

The listing on these sites is free and can be entered by you directly or by LDC.

Call (608) 776-8080

or email Ken at:

Ken@FutureLafayette.com.

A special thanks to the communities and the county for the support to make these free services available.

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## LINKS

[Business Card Search](#)

[Ideas For Lafayette](#)

[Community Websites](#)

[Cheese](#)

[New Businesses](#)

[How To Start A Business](#)

## PASS IT ON

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Our list of emails is small and I need an army of you to help market this region. So...

FORWARD THIS EMAIL!

and if you want to be on my list for updates and notes email me at:

Ken@FutureLafayette.com

Lafayette County General Store OPEN Daily 10 am to 7 pm

JOIN SENATOR SCHULTZ TUESDAY AUGUST 9TH

"Home grown jobs" is the focus for a regional agricultural development.

State Senator Dale Schultz organized the three-part event with stops at the Wisconsin Innovation Kitchen in Mineral Point, a luncheon in Belmont with Mike Powers as guest speaker, and the Lafayette County General Store in Belmont. Schultz warmly invites anyone to participate in one, two, or all three parts of the event. The only cost is for lunch and participants need to provide their own transportation.

Mike Powers and his staff at DATCP help entrepreneurs start and grow businesses involving food production and processing. Before joining DATCP Powers worked with landowners, farmers and ranchers, in six states, with residential development and renewable energy projects, managing real estate, overseeing marketing and assisting with business development. [More Details HERE.](#)

10:00 to 11:00 a.m. at the Wisconsin Innovation Kitchen in Mineral Point
Luncheon from 11:30 to 1:00 p.m. at McCarville's My Turn Pub in Belmont
1:30 to 2:15, is a stop at the Lafayette County General Store in Belmont

The Lafayette Developer

BRIEF UPDATE!

I, (Ken) will be out of town later this week for my daughters wedding! If you need anything contact Ela in the county office or Dave Dunnam or Alice Gilman at the store. I will be back on Monday.

I have also been asked to serve on a regional development committee being established by the new President, Duane Ford. I think SWT and UWP can help lead a strong team on development in the region.

We are also working on some small loans from our revolving loan fund. If you are starting a new business please give us a call.

THE GENERAL STORE
AND FARMERS MARKET

We have found a corn vendor for the store that has some of the sweetest and most tender corn we have ever tasted. It should be available for the next few weeks.

Our little market continues to grow and you will find craft vendors as well as produce every Friday afternoon.

Feel free to call the store to see what we have that evening. The store number is (608) 616-0532.

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If we can help your business do not hesitate to call (608) 776-8080 or email at: [Ken@FutureLafayette.com](mailto:Ken@FutureLafayette.com)

Please note that all the services and all the work LDC does is supported by your local community and the County.

## HISTORY DOES REPEAT ITSELF

In 1989 - 1994 (20+ Year ago) I sat on a committee to explore bringing the then relatively new concept of high speed internet to the Fox Valley. This group along with many other created a network of fiber cable to link our local schools with the UW System and the internet. The resulting network successfully brought internet connectivity to many of the local schools and libraries in the state and is still functioning today. It is important to note that there were no affordable private options at the time. Option B was a 1200 Baud Modem. Wiscnet has helped reduce the cost to the taxpayer and actually helped the private sector by establishing many of the early switches and fiber systems that are now used by the private sector.

Fast forward 20 years, today the telcos are arguing that UW-related projects that garnered federal stimulus funding needlessly duplicate existing broadband networks and use public dollars to unfairly compete against local Internet providers. Trade groups representing these companies also note state statutes dating to 2005 prohibit UW institutions from offering, reselling or providing telecommunications services, including data and voice over Internet services.

I am running out of space but this claim is one of the most unfair I have ever seen. The private sector is suggesting because they, in some areas, have caught up with Wiscnet, Wiscnet should now go away - Even though it is more efficient and cost effective. In rural areas where private carriers can not make enough profit the reply is -- tough luck.

I am now anxiously awaiting the lobbyists and lawyers from McDonald's to suggest that hot lunch programs needlessly duplicate existing food networks and use public dollars to unfairly compete against local food providers.

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## OUTSIDE THE BOX

Stupid is as stupid does.

*Forrest Gump*

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PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITES AT EITHER

[www.FutureLafayette.com](http://www.FutureLafayette.com) or [www.LafayetteCounty.org](http://www.LafayetteCounty.org)  
and [www.FutureLafayette.com/store](http://www.FutureLafayette.com/store)

**Come grow with us today!**

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## EATING LOCAL

Buying and eating locally produced food is good for you and good for the economy.

There are many ways to eat local: shop at farmers markets, sign up for a CSA subscription, plant a garden, visit food stands and buy locally produced foods. Even at the local grocery store much of the produce is now local, look for it - ASK for it. Be aware of the seasons and eat food that is available locally in season. Avoid strawberries shipped in from South America in February and indulge in the local varieties here in June. For birthdays, holidays or for other occasions, give locally made gifts such as preserves, honey or cheese. Ask your elected representatives to support legislation that helps sustainable farmers and promotes the market for local and sustainable food.

Thanks for looking!

## HELP SUPPORT US

The Lafayette Development Corporation and the Lafayette County General Store are a network of our members and supporters.

Without your ongoing support and involvement we have no properties to fill, no jobs to create and no products to market.

Become a member, serve on a committee or get involved TODAY!

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Don't forget to

"Dine Lafayette"

[All Restaurants](#)

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**GET LISTED**

Your Lafayette County business should be listed on the...

[FutureLafayette.com](http://FutureLafayette.com)

...website. We are always in the processing of updating the site so feel free to call (608) 776-8080 or email Ken at:

[Ken@FutureLafayette.com](mailto:Ken@FutureLafayette.com).

There is no charge for these listings and any business in the county may participate.