A silver tsunami of baby boomer retirements will sweep the nation in the coming years. Sixty percent of current small business owners were born before 1964, and during the next 17 years, a baby boomer business owner will turn 65 every 57 seconds.

Rural communities are especially concerned about retiring baby boomers who plan to sell their businesses. The health of small businesses is critical to rural economies. They not only provide jobs, but also important goods and services needed for rural quality of life.

Beyond economic contribution, small businesses also play a crucial role in the civic and philanthropic life of rural communities. For small business owners in rural areas, the community is not just where they conduct business — it is also their home. The economic and civic structure of the community benefits from their success.

In 2016, The University of Minnesota Extension studied how small rural communities will keep businesses as a massive generational transfer of ownership and leadership occurs. They conducted their research to help communities understand what they can do to help businesses transfer successfully.

On Friday February 8th, Extension will present the insights gleaned from their research and highlight some actions that community leaders can undertake to support successful business transitions in their town.

Sibley County Community Development along with the University of Minnesota Extension and Small Business Development Center of Mankato will be hosting a Succession Planning event for Community Leaders such as Council Members, EDA Members, Planning and Zoning, and other community boards on:

- Friday, February 8, 2019 from 11AM—1PM at the Sibley County Service Center in the Sibley Room, 111 8th Street, Gaylord, MN 55334.

This event is free of charge, but we ask that you please register. For more information or to register for this event please contact Amy Newsom at 507-237-4117 or CommunityDevelopment@co.sibley.mn.us
Progress Minnesota
seeking nominations

Nominations close January, 25, 2019

How do we define business growth? Adding jobs, increasing manufacturing capacity, innovation in product design, innovative practices, and creative reuse of existing infrastructure. If you know someone making a difference in the business environment across the state – we want to know about it. Let’s recognize them!

Who should you nominate: Entrepreneurs, individuals, small, mid and large businesses, manufacturers, nonprofits and economic development organizations – whoever is moving the Minnesota economy forward in innovative ways.

https://finance-commerce.com/progress-minnesota/

The City of Arlington offers pricing incentives when bringing 5 or more employees to the City. Please ask Amy Newsom for more information about incentives 507-237-4117.

Do you own rental property in the City of Arlington and looking to make some improvements to your property? The EDA offers a Residential Rental Rehabilitation Program. Low interest loans ranging from $1,000 to $10,000 can be used for a variety of interior and exterior projects. Contact EDA Director Amy Newsom at 507-237-4117 or CommunityDevelopment@co.sibley.mn.us for more information.
Congratulations to Matt and Dennis Johnson. They closed on a parcel of land located on the west side of Arlington on December 14th. The parcel will be the future site of Ninkasi Hops.

Sheriff Nienaber being Sworn in on January 8th.

Welcome to Steve Saxton, Commissioner for District 5.

The National Small Business Association (NSBA) is seeking leaders from the small business community to become part of NSBA’s Leadership Council. Specifically, we are seeking members who may know their member of Congress, have experience in leadership positions in other organizations, have had some experience in dealing with the media and most importantly are passionate about small business.

The NSBA Leadership Council is the premiere network of small-business leaders from across the U.S. who meet on a regular basis to identify key issues that are important to the small business community. Our members bring a wide variety of skills and interests to the table. Some volunteers like to work in the background while others like to be in front of the camera. We need all types because we have a message that needs to be communicated. We need to get the attention of our elected officials and educate them on our real-world issues.

If you are interested in becoming a spokesperson for small business and gain visibility for you and your firm while helping advance the small-business community before lawmakers and members of the media, please contact Amy Newsom.
There are always more events happening in Sibley County than we can fit into the newsletter, so make sure you look at the “THINGS TO DO” section of the Sibley County website and like the Sibley County Facebook page.

Find us on the Web: co.sibley.mn.us

Like Sibley County on Facebook!
Scan the QR Code below!

Check out BINGO in the local communities
Arlington—Tuesday 7:00PM @ Dugout
Gaylord—Thursday 7:00PM @ Neisen’s Bar
Gibbon—Tuesday 7:00 PM @ D’s Pit Stop
Green Isle—Thursday 7:00PM @ Club New Yorker
Henderson—Thursday 6:30PM @ Road Haus
New Auburn—Wednesday 7:00PM @ Dicky Bob’s
New Auburn—Tuesday 7:00PM @ Backwoods Bar
Winthrop—Monday 6:30PM @ Hahn’s Dining