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4 Blackford County Preview

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"Small towns have something that suburbs and big cities cannot possess, by nature of their size: In a small town a person has a greater chance of actually making a difference," says John M. Schultz, author of "Boomtown USA: The 7 and 1/2 Keys to Small Success in Small Towns."

Schultz's book dissects the workings of smaller towns, and focuses on what residents can do to make their community a "winning" one.

It is a subject Schultz has quite a bit of authority on, considering he owns the Agracel Incorporation, known as the "Can Do" Company, who deals with industrial development.

Thursday, Oct. 27 will be the day Schultz lends his knowledge to Blackford County, speaking at the next 4 Blackford County meeting.

The community retreat will take place at the Lake Placid Conference Center, 397 S. 200 E. in Hartford City. There will be a complimentary buffet dinner at 5:30 p.m., after which Schultz will give his presentation.

Residents are able to dedicate the time toward bettering Blackford County, thanks to a grant given by the Lilly Endowment that allows community leaders to team with Winning Communities, Inc., a community planning consulting company.

"I have been impressed with the determination and spirit of the people of Blackford County, because they already have their sleeves rolled up and are ready for action," said Jim Dittoe, president of Winning Communities, Inc.

"The visionary process is most valuable for Blackford County because it is not a study, but an action plan. We have had more than 100 people from throughout Blackford County who have generated specific ideas from identified goal areas, which we will flesh out during this process so that practical results will occur."

The 4 Blackford County meeting on Oct. 27 is open to all citizens of Blackford County. To make a reservation please contact the Hartford City Chamber of Commerce by calling 765-348-1905.