

NEWSLETTER



Village of Bertrand December 2018

tra•di•tion *noun* **1** the transmission of customs or beliefs from generation to generation, or the fact of being passed on this way **2** a way of thinking, behaving, or doing something that has been used by the people in a particular ground, family, society, etc. for a long period of time

For me, the holiday season and traditions go hand in hand—from the oyster stew at my Grandparents on Christmas Eve to the pickle in the tree at my mother-in-law’s house to the Elf on the Shelf for my kiddos. With the hustle and bustle that this season brings, sometimes it can be difficult to find the time to dedicate to these precious moments with the ones you love. This year, think about starting—or continuing—some of these Christmas traditions. You will make memories your family will cherish for years and years to come.

Countdown to Christmas

Traditionally, an advent calendar is used to count the days until Christmas. They could be as simple as a piece of paper with flaps covering the date to fabric pockets or a box with room for small items. Or make a “Christmas Chain” with strips of paper hooked together. Write a Christmas wish or a holiday memory on each link. Every day until Christmas, open a door or remove a link. One year, I wrapped up books for my oldest kiddo to open. Then we would sit down and read together as a family. Of course, this only lasted a week or so. He was so anxious, he opened them all when I wasn’t looking. He was three...

Movies and Music

You don’t have to own a record player to listen to all of the holiday hits from Bing Crosby, Frank Sinatra, or Elvis. The best part about Christmas music, is that everyone will know the words so everyone can join in and sing. You can even get a group together and go caroling. Have a movie night on Christmas Eve and catch all of the classics—*It’s a Wonderful Life*, *Miracle on 34th Street* and *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*. Growing up, Christmas music was continuously played from the day my mom put up the Christmas tree until the day she took it down. My dad’s favorite Christmas album was *Pretty Paper* by Willie Nelson. I can still hear it in my sleep! The same went with movies. I don’t know how many times I watched the original *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer* or *Frosty the Snowman*.

Family and Friends

Even in the age of social media and instant updates, real honest-to-goodness cards are a way to reconnect with family and friends far and near. It is the one time a year we send and receive good wishes in the mail. Collect coats for homeless shelters, help an elderly neighbor put up her tree, send care packages to military members who are away from home. Drive around to look at Christmas lights, make ornaments, have a Christmas party. Dress up so that the occasion feels special and different. We host an annual Festivus party (Seinfeld nerds!). On December 23rd, we air our grievances and display our feats of strength.

No matter the traditions that you celebrate this year, I hope that you have a wonderful Holiday Season with all of your loved ones. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

-Lori Vinzant, Village Clerk

WINTER AND SNOW PREPARATION

-*Marcus Schwarz*

Well, summer and fall have come and gone. And now it is time for us to start preparing for the winter ahead. We all know, here in Nebraska, winters can get a little rough and very unpredictable. So we try to be prepared at all times to have the streets cleared and safe for the community to drive on.

In preparing for winter, there are a number of things we try to do to be sure things run smooth and as effective as possible, such as servicing all vehicles that will be used in moving and removing snow, applying snow wax in all dump trucks to allow for snow to slide out, and installing a good set of chains for the road grader to get through heavy covered areas.

For us and the community, it is best to start clearing snow early in the morning to avoid traffic and to allow many of the priority streets, Fire Hall pad, and Nursing Home to be cleared and ready for everyone. We do ask that you remove vehicles from the side of the roads to give us a chance to clear as much snow as possible. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated. Also, we ask that you please remove any low hanging trees that are above sidewalks and hanging over the street. THANK YOU!!

We have a set of Emergency Snow Routes and a few priority streets that we like to clear first. Here is the list of streets and places:

Nursing Home

Fire Department Pad

Minor Avenue—Business District

Kellogg Avenue

Kossuth Street—East Towards Highway 23

Kennett Street

Minor Avenue—South

Medina Avenue—South

School Street

Please know that we try to clear all streets in a timely matter. Thank you for working with us! Everyone have a safe winter.

SIDEWALKS AND PARKED CARS

When cleaning your sidewalks and driveways, please do not put the snow in the street! You need to put it on your yard. When putting it in the street, you are making it harder for the Street Department to get things cleaned up. By piling snow in your curb line, you are creating drainage issues which can lead to icing and street damage.

If you do not want your vehicle buried in the snow by the snow removal crew, please move your vehicle as soon as possible so that the snow can be removed in front of your house without causing stress for anyone.

The Village does not clean sidewalks or driveways.





Important Dates

December 21	First Day of Winter
December 25	Christmas Day
January 1	New Year's Day
January 21	Martin Luther King Jr. Day
February 2	Groundhog Day
February 14	Valentine's Day
February 18	President's Day



Thank You

Community Members,

Your continued support at the 2018 Bertrand Craft Show is greatly appreciated. See you next year on October 19, 2019!

Bertrand Agricultural Society, Inc.

Bertrand Area Community Foundation Fund

What a caring and sharing community we have. Thanksgiving Blessings to ALL!

The foundation is excited to share the preliminary/unaudited report from the 'give2GROWphelps' website. It shows \$11,140 in donations received. BACFF wishes to thank the 21 donors for your support to you local foundation.

During the Thanksgiving season and as we moved on to the Christmas holidays, please remember that you can give gifts to any of the funds listed below. You may also give a gift as a memorial or in honor of someone and designate the fund of your choice.

Current accounts within the BACFF are:

BACFF General Fund

BACFF Unrestricted Endowed Fund

BACFF Community Projects Fund

Bertrand Agricultural Society, Inc. for Bertrand Community Building Projects

Bertrand Fire and Rescue Department

Young at Heart Senior Center

The Bertrand Area Community Foundation Fund is an affiliated fund of the Nebraska Community Foundation (NCF), a 501(c)3 corporation which provides nonprofit status.

All gifts to the BACFF are tax deductible. No gift is too small and every dollar helps!

Donations can be mailed to BACFF, PO Box 153, Bertrand, NE 68927.

Advisory members are:

Christopher Davison

Beverly Hansen

Derek Hock

Trista Newcomb

Melissa Vinzant

Patrick Ebmeier

Joel High

Alysia Lundy Kuck

Dennis Sand

Bertrand Area Community Foundation Fund

An affiliated fund of Nebraska Community Foundation

Bertrand Nursing Home and Assisted Living

To ensure that our Residents have a wonderful Christmas, we are asking that our community please help by donating a gift. Giving Trees will be located at the Countryside Market and the Bertrand Nursing Home. Stop by and pick up an ornament off the tree. Gifts need to be returned to the Bertrand Nursing Home by December 19th, with the ornament attached. **THANK YOU** for your thoughtfulness during this season of giving.

Up Coming Events This Winter:

December:

- 7th Community Coffee, 10:00 AM
- 14th Holiday Remembrance Service (details in Bertrand Herald), 10:00 AM
- 17th Birthday Bingo **with churches participating*

January:

- 11th Community Coffee, 10:00 AM
- 21st Birthday Bingo **with churches participating*

February:

- 8th Community Coffee, 10:00 AM
- 18th Birthday Bingo **with churches participating*

The Residents and Staff would like to wish everyone a happy and safe Holiday Season!

-Joey Kugler, Office Manager



Bertrand Fire Department

Members of the Bertrand Fire Department are looking to replace an ambulance. A committee has been formed to gather information and receive quotes. The estimated cost of a new unit is \$210,000 and an additional \$30,000 for equipment. It is planned to keep the 2012 Ford Ambulance as a backup unit and trade in the 1992 Ford Ambulance. Community support for this project is much appreciated. Donations towards the new unit can be sent to Rodney Renken or Jessica Evans.



We completed the Thermal Imaging Camera (TIC) project in October. This is a very valuable tool for finding victims in smoke-filled structures, hot spots in a fire, and to aid with search and rescue missions. The total cost for this project was \$5,200. Funds raised were derived from private donations, memorial money, and grants. We would like to extend a big thank you to the people of our community who supported this project. A FLIR K55 was purchased from Fyr-Tek Sales and Service in Gothenburg.

Fire prevention week was observed in mid October. Shad Vosler was assisted by Heather Warnken, Jessica Evans, and Devin Benson in giving programs for preschool and elementary students. The Bertrand Fire Department has been actively engaged in promoting fire prevention programs like this since 1927.

The Nebraska State Firefighters Association held its state convention in Kearney this year October 18-21. Department member Allen Wissmann attended some of the events and was honored to be the auctioneer for the fundraiser auction. Thank you Allen for representing our department.

A live fire training was sponsored by the Bertrand department on October 28th. A farmhouse north of Bertrand was donated by the Goldfish family and was utilized for both interior and exterior attacks. The burn was well attended with a total of 31 firefighters from Bertrand, Holdrege, Funk, Elwood, and Oxford. Fire Chief Dan Wagner of Holdrege led instruction on the interior attacks.

As of November 1st, the department has responded to 13 fire calls and 52 EMS calls. In addition to time spent on calls, over 764 personnel hours of training have been logged to date. Areas of training include live fire training, SCBA, driving evolutions, pump operations, multi company drills, single company drills, EMS, hazmat, firefighter safety and survival, officer training, pre fire planning, storm spotter, and firefighter level 2. Currently, there are 26 members on the department with 6 of those members being EMT's. If you would like to invest in your community, consider becoming a volunteer. We have room for four members at this time.



-Kevin Stehl, Fire Chief

“Putting the Wet Stuff on the Red Stuff Since 1888”

Swimming Pool

We would like to say thank you to everyone that filled out the survey regarding a new swimming pool for Bertrand. All of your input has been extremely beneficial as we start this project! As of now, we are just in the planning stages and the more information that is available to us, the easier it is for us to meet the community's needs.

Throughout the planning stage, we will be meeting with possible engineers to help coordinate specific needs for the pool, such as location and features. The Village will be applying for a grant to help with the costs of this stage. We will also be applying for grants to help with the actual construction of the pool itself. However, every little bit helps! We would like to thank all of those individuals who donated during give2GROW that was sponsored by the Phelps County Community Foundation. It is truly awe-inspiring to see communities come together like that!

Of course, not all of the needs will be met with grants alone. The Village is looking to form a Pool Committee of Bertrand residents to help with fundraising events. If you are interested in serving the community throughout this project, please contact the Village Office at 472-3455.

Here are the results of the survey:



Young at Heart Senior Center

December is a crazy busy month for almost everyone it seems. Thanksgiving is over, and we are headed into Christmas. The weather keeps us guessing from day to day as to whether or not we will be able to get out and about... gotta love Nebraska!! The hustle and bustle of decorating, shopping for gifts, and attending all of the Christmas parties or concerts gives us all more to do than we could ever really want.

In addition to the normal holiday celebrations, Young at Heart Senior Center is celebrating the end of our first full year of operating independently. Since beginning to operate independently in January, we have had some amazing experiences. We got to move into our new building. We got to host a huge celebration to christen our new building. We hosted a luncheon for the Bertrand Area Community Fund Foundation that served over 60 people in the area ages 60 and over. We served almost 70 people for Thanksgiving lunch on Friday, November 16th. All in all, it has been a great year!! I, personally, am looking forward to what 2019 has in store.

-Coni Parks, Manager



*Wishing you
a season of gladness,
a season of cheer,
and to top it all off -
a wonderful year.*

From the Village of Bertrand

Board of Trustees and Staff

"And now we welcome the new year. Full of things that have never been." - Rainer Maria Rike

With the New Year upon us, the Board will welcome back a Board Member and say goodbye to a current one...

Fred Spiegel was re-elected to the Board and he will be sworn in at the December Board Meeting.

Jerold Weber will be leaving the Board after serving for four years. Here are some of the things that were accomplished during his tenure on the Board:

- ◆ After a community needs assessment survey was conducted, the South Central Economic Development District was appointed as the Village Nuisance Officer. Several improvements have been made to properties throughout the community.
- ◆ A Truck Parking Lot was created at 801 Minor. This allows drivers to park trucks, free of charge, so as not to damage the streets of the Village
- ◆ The property located at 523 Minor was named as the Veteran's Memorial park. Jerold was instrumental in the benches that are now displayed there.

Thank you Jerold for your commitment to the Village over the years.

And so the new adventure begins...

Annual Treasurer's Report

Village of Bertrand			Bertrand Nursing Home/Assisted Living		
Cash Balance on Hand	10-1-2017	\$879,963	Cash Balance on Hand	7-1-2017	\$138,677
RECEIPTS:			RECEIPTS:		
Property Tax/Motor Vehicle/Equalization, Etc.		\$218,967	Nursing Home Income		\$1,314,965
Hiway Allocation		99,275	Assisted Living Income		395,613
Fees/Permits/Lic/Other Tax		16,142	Interest Income		443
Water/Sewer/Garbage		358,807	Loan Proceeds		5,000
Lease Pymt (Cellular One/Southern Power)		103,479	Other Income		<u>7,882</u>
Franchise Tax (Black Hills Energy/Charter)		9,881	TOTAL RECEIPTS		\$1,723,903
Local Sales Tax Receipts		70,158			
Grants		21,285			
Other Income		<u>65,111</u>			
TOTAL RECEIPTS		\$963,105			
DISBURSEMENTS:			DISBURSEMENTS:		
Salaries/Benefits		\$267,116	Salaries/Benefits		\$1,090,912
Operating Expense		375,026	Operating Expense		566,496
Supplies		35,385	Supplies		121,968
Capital Outlay		182,953	Note Payment & Interest Expense		28,625
Debt Service		<u>131,481</u>	Purchase of Equipment		<u>7,722</u>
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS		\$991,961	TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS		\$1,815,723
Cash Balance on Hand	9-30-2018	\$851,107	Cash Balance on Hand	6-30-2018	\$46,857

Roxanne Winheim
Village Treasurer

Bertrand Lions Club

If you can't fly,
then run,
If you can't run,
then walk,
If you can't walk,
then crawl,
But by all means,
keep moving.

-Martin Luther King, Jr.

The Bertrand Lions Club hopes that this winter finds you all warm and in good health! The Bertrand Lions Club chartered in 2010 and since that time, we have accomplished many things. The club has sponsored vision and hearing screenings annually for our school and community. We have maintained the post office garden and participated in litter control along the highway. The club took on a large project 2 years ago and erected a new handicap-accessible playground in the park (watch for more to "sprout" there this Spring!). We have also assisted several local families with the paying of medical bills or providing gas cards to get to appointments. These are just a few things that we as a club have been able to do in a relatively short time. The Lions Club is always accepting donations to put towards medical funds, which includes vision care. If you are aware of someone that is in need of assistance, please let a Lion's member know. The moto of the Lions Club nationwide is, "We Serve". Bertrand, NE, your Lions Club is here to serve you! Donations can be made tax deductible through our Bertrand Lions Club Foundation.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

-Bertrand Lions Club



**12th ANNUAL
CHRISTMAS TREES DISPLAY**

“A Salute to Our Military—Past and Present”

AND

SOUP DINNER

Sunday, December 2, 2018

Red, White and Blue—Show the Colors as we pay tribute to our veterans that sacrificed their time and lives to give us—citizens of the United States of America—freedom to continue to celebrate Christmas. Please consider sharing a decorated tree of any size, shape or color to add to the festive display of trees. Trees can be setup between 8 AM and 5 PM on Saturday, December 1st. The trees will be on public display on Sunday (2nd) from 11 AM to 3 PM. You may take your tree home following the event or on Monday. Admission to this is ‘FREE’.

Soup Dinner—Community members and guests, please join your friends, neighbors and family members for soup, a dessert and beverage from 11 AM to 1 PM at the Bertrand Community Building, 405 Nelson Street. All donations for the meal will be used to help with the winter utilities and maintenance expenses for the building.

The Bertrand Agricultural Society, Inc. [a non-profit entity that governs the Bertrand Community Building] is hosting/sponsoring this event. Board members are: Kami Ackerman, Janis Spiegel, Jennifer Weber, Janice Gengenbach, Christina Davison, Tammie Richards, Samantha Lavene, Emma Jean Gennrich, Tiffany Langford, Roberta Ogg and Beverly Hansen.



**Resolution No. 385
Dogs Running At Large Fees**

At the November 13th Board Meeting, Resolution No. 385 regarding fines for dogs running at large was passed. “Dogs running at large” shall mean any dog found off the premise of the owner, and not under control of the owner or a responsible person, either by leash, cord, chain, wire, rope, cage or other suitable means of physical restraint (§6-108, Bertrand Municipal Code). Any violations of this Code will now result in the following:

First Offense	Warning
Second Offense	Impoundment of dog and \$25.00 fine
Third Offense	Impoundment of dog and \$50.00 fine
All Subsequent Offenses	Impoundment of dog and \$10.00 fine

All fines, boarding costs, and license fees must be paid at the Village Office before the dog will be released to the registered owner. Please contact the Village Office at 472-3455 with any questions.



NOTICES

Village of Bertrand Board of Trustees

Upcoming Board Meetings:

**second Tuesday of the month*

Monday, December 17, 2018

January 8, 2019

February 12, 2019

7:30 PM at the Village Hall

Board of Trustees:

TJ Wilcox, Bob Dahlgren, Lucas Evans,
Brian Schroeder, Jerold Weber, Fred Spiegel



We would like to say Thank You to all of the individuals that donated to the Village of Bertrand during give2GROW.

Food Pantry

The Village of Bertrand's Food Pantry is located at 507 Minor Avenue. This is available for anyone with a need. Individuals may use this service up to 3 times per year. Monetary and food donations are always welcome! Please contact the Village Office at 472-3455 with any questions.

Forms for Thanksgiving or Christmas Boxes through the Phelps Community Pantry are also available at the Village Hall.

2018-2019 Bertrand Blood Drives

All Blood Drives located at the Bertrand Community Building

Tuesday, December 11, 2018

Tuesday, February 12, 2019

Tuesday, April 9, 2019*

Tuesday, June 11, 2019

Tuesday, August 13, 2019

Tuesday, October 8, 2019

Tuesday, December 10, 2019

**School in Charge*

Walk Ins Welcome!

**Give the gift of life
Donate blood**



Village Office Closing

The Village Office will be closed in observance of the following holidays:

Christmas Day Tuesday, December 25

New Year's Day Tuesday, January 1

President's Day Monday, February 18

We will resume normal business hours on the following day.

A Special Thank You

I just wanted to say Thank You to everyone that contributed to this newsletter!

Matt Gregg

Marcus Schwarz

Beverly Hansen

Kevin Stehl

Joey Kugler

Coni Park

Vanji Vosler

Hey kids! Mark your calendars!

Santa Claus will be visiting the Bertrand Fire Hall on December 8th from 2-4 PM. There will be fire truck rides and goodies available for everyone! Bring your parents along and have a fun-filled afternoon with Santa and members of the Bertrand Fire Department.

