

# NEWSLETTER



Village of Bertrand

December 2019

Christmas is right around the corner!! Oh Boy!! My kiddos are finally old enough to write letters to Santa. As a parent, this is exciting because they list things out for me, so I can't forget. However, they are quite extensive lists this year... And my oldest kiddo is upset with me because he thinks I turned it into a homework assignment (yes, a correct letter format is expected!). So I did a little research to see how other parents handle this event and wanted to share with you some letters that made me laugh.

Dear Santa,

This year, please give me a big fat bank account and a slim body. And please don't mix those two up like you did last year.

Thanks,

Lucy

Dear Santa,

When you arrive on Christmas Eve, could you please throw a quick load in the washer, vacuum a couple of carpets, and wash your cookie dishes? Thanks!

Dear Santa,

My dad says I am too old for Christmas. Please come to our house this Christmas Eve and put the fear of God into him.

Tommy

Dear Santa,

I've been good all year... Okay, most of the time... Once in a while... I've been very goodish in the last week or so... I'll just check in next year.

Dear Santa,

I would like a new birthday suit this year. My current one is old, wrinkled and saggy.

Dear Santa,

I am so sorry for what I did in the past and thank you for the Christmas letter. I love it. But what I want for Christmas this year is 53 billion dollars. Please write another letter this year. I love you.

Your Friend, Chris

Dear Santa,

This year I would like a wineglass holder for my treadmill. Thank You!

No matter what you ask for this year, I hope that all of your Christmas wishes come true. Enjoy this special time with friends and family.

***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.

Happy Valentine's  
Day!



**Bertrand Lions Club Invites You To**



**Bertrand** ❄️  
**Hallmark Christmas**

**Saturday, December 7, 2019**

❄️ **Downtown Bertrand 4pm-8pm** ❄️

**Christmas Tree Lighting** ❄️ **Ornament Decorating**  
Santa will light the tree  
in Veterans Park at dusk!

**Family Pictures** **Roasted Almonds/Hot Chocolate**  
@ Bertrand City Hall

**Area Business Drawings** **Christmas Cookie Decorating**  
@ Bertrand Senior Center

**Special Appearances**  **Christmas Stories**  
@ Bertrand Preschool

**Snowman**  
**Reindeer**  
**Elf**

❄️ **For More Details** ❄️  
**Check the Bertrand Lions**  
**Facebook Page**

**Shopping**  
@ Local Businesses  
Extended Hours - Specials - Drawings

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.

Martin Luther King Jr.

Day, January 20, 2020

### Young at Heart Senior Center

Young at Heart Senior center lost a valuable member of its community this last month. Leland Anderson participated in a lot of community activities in his 103 years of life. To us, one of the most important things he accomplished was his dream to build a new building to house the Senior Center in Bertrand. Along with many, many other community members, Leland saw a need years ago and put a plan into action. It takes men and women like him to keep little towns like Bertrand alive and thriving.

So many people turned out to honor Leland on the day of his funeral service. Young at Heart Senior Center hosted the luncheon following his service. I enjoyed listening to so many stories about Leland from his friends and family members. Everything from stories of his generosity to stories of the things he taught others. We should all be remembered with such joy. It made me want to ensure that my family and friends remember me with even half as much love.

All of us can take a lesson from this man's life by looking at ways to continue to be involved in our community and do so with a heart of true intention to help, making a better community for future generations.

-Coni Parks, Manager

Annual Treasurer's Report					
Village of Bertrand			Bertrand Nursing Home/Assisted Living		
Cash Balance on Hand	10-1-2018	\$851,107.00	Cash Balance on Hand	7-1-2018	\$46,857
<b>RECEIPTS:</b>		<b>RECEIPTS:</b>			
Property Tax/Motor Vehicle/Equalization, Etc.		\$205,307.42	Nursing Home Income		\$1,651,220
Hiway Allocation		107,280.86	Assisted Living Income		339,170
Fees/Permits/Lic/Other Tax		15,592.44	Interest Income		396
Water/Sewer/Garbage		365,332.52	Loan Proceeds		0
Lease Pymt (Cellular One/Southern Power)		103,081.45	Other Income		<u>8,727</u>
Franchise Tax (Black Hills Energy/Charter)		10,264.42	<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>		<b>\$1,999,513</b>
Local Sales Tax Receipts		65,055.30			
Grants		51,873.67			
Other Income		<u>136,932.40</u>			
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>		<b>\$1,060,720.48</b>			
<b>DISBURSEMENTS:</b>			<b>DISBURSEMENTS:</b>		
Salaries/Benefits		\$302,479.69	Salaries/Benefits		\$1,156,100
Operating Expense		950,980.60	Operating Expense		502,587
Supplies		42,797.61	Supplies		167,236
Capital Outlay		54,900.09	Note Payment & Interest Expense		33,820
Debt Service		<u>130,792.49</u>	Purchase of Equipment		<u>19,598</u>
<b>TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS</b>		<b>\$1,481,950.48</b>	<b>TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS</b>		<b>\$1,879,341</b>
Cash Balance on Hand	9-30-2019	\$429,877.00	Cash Balance on Hand	6-30-2019	\$46,287
Roxanne Winheim Village Treasurer					

## THANK YOU!

**Community Members,**  
**The support you gave the**  
**2019 Bertrand Craft Show**  
**is amazing. 45 years of**  
**support.**

**See you for the 46<sup>th</sup> show**  
**on October 17, 2020.**

***Bertrand Agricultural***  
***Society Inc.***



*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*

## Bertrand Nursing Home and Assisted Living

When my children were young, each year we would try to find ways to remind them that Christmas is about giving, not receiving. That was or is a hard task. It's a hard lesson for adults to remember too. We get so focused on giving gifts, we sometime forget it's the small acts of kindness that matter most. At Christmas time and throughout the year. There are many opportunities to help those who are close to us and those we come in contact with.

There's an old story along those lines that I'd like to share with you...

*Our childhood home was heated by several wood stoves. A winter supply of logs would be dumped in our driveway and our father would spend every spare hour cutting them to length and splitting them by hand. Our job was to stack the wood close to the house, in even cords. It was hard work but gratifying. You felt like a squirrel putting away acorns for the winter. If you heat with wood, then you know that sometimes, when the weather is cold and still, the chimney doesn't draw, and you can't get a fire started. The story goes that this happened to an elderly couple back in the late 1800's. It was mid January and they hadn't had a fire in days. Their neighbors a few miles away heard the news. Taking some hot coals from their own stove, they put them in a coffee can, wrapped it in a towel, and the whole family walked through the snow to the couple's house to restart the fire. They were repaid with hot cocoa and may hugs of appreciation.*

I hope your goal this Christmas is to spend more time helping our neighbors, now and throughout the new year. Happiness comes from remembering that the spirit of Christmas can live on throughout the year with our help.

### Up Coming Events This Winter:

#### December:

- 11th Holiday Remembrance Service, 2:00 PM
- 13th Community Coffee, 10:00 AM
- 16th Birthday Bingo, 2:00 PM *\*with churches participating*
- 27th Men's Coffee, 10:00 AM

#### January:

- 10th Community Coffee, 10:00 AM
- 20th Birthday Bingo, 2:00 PM *\*with churches participating*
- 24th Men's Coffee, 10:00 AM

#### February:

- 14th Community Coffee, 10:00 AM
- 17th Birthday Bingo *\*with churches participating*
- 28th Men's Coffee, 2:00 PM

To ensure that our Residents have a wonderful Christmas, we are asking that our community please help by donating a gift. The giving tree will be located at the Countryside Market and the Bertrand Nursing Home. Stop by and pick 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

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

-Joey Kugler, Office Manager



## Bertrand Fire & Rescue Department



The Bertrand Volunteer Fire Department & Rescue Unit received their new ambulance on October 12th. The unit was built by Fire Fox in York, Nebraska and is mounted on a 2019 Ford chassis.

On October 15th, the Phelps County Mutual Aid Association met at the Loomis Fire Station for their quarterly meeting. Naloxone protocol and EMS updates were the topics covered during the training

portion of the meeting. Those in attendance from Bertrand were Brian Schroeder, Katie Benson, and Kevin Stehl.

It is our goal to supply each of our responders with reliable personal protective equipment. Our full face respirator project goal was met in October and 30 air purifying masks have been delivered to the department. P-100 cartridges will protect against organic vapors, chloride, hydrogen chloride, sulfur dioxide, hydrogen sulfide, hydrogen fluoride, chlorine dioxide, ammonia, methyl amine, and formaldehyde. The P-100 pre-filter adds protection against all particulates with 99.97 minimum efficiency and are oil proof. The masks will also offer eye protection. We received funds from the Nebraska Forest Service (VFA grant), several private donations, the Bertrand Area Community Fund, and the Bertrand Serving Committee. Thank you to those who have helped support this need.

The 2019 give2GROW campaign was held November 14th. Funds raised during this event will help fund a new stair chair and a pediatric restraint for the ambulance. We received an abundance of support and can't thank the community and surrounding area enough for their generous contributions.

Our department hosted a hazardous materials class on November 25 & 26th. The class was taught by Brian Busse of the Nebraska Fire Marshal Training Divisions. Attendees received 6 hours of continuing education credit.

Santa will be visiting the Bertrand Fire Station on December 7th from 2-4 PM. We will be providing fire truck rides and there will be treats. The Bertrand Lions Club will be sponsoring a Hallmark Christmas with events starting at 4 PM.

The officers and members of the department wish you a safe and joyous holiday season.

*-Kevin Stehl, Fire Chief*

"Putting the Wet Stuff on the Red Stuff Since 1888"

**13th ANNUAL  
CHRISTMAS TREES DISPLAY**

**“Be Creative—Share a Decorated Tree of Your Vision”**

**AND**

**SOUP DINNER**

**Sunday, December 15, 2019**

Please consider sharing a decorated tree of any size, shape or color to add to the festive display of trees. Trees can be set up between 8 AM and 5 PM on Saturday, December 14th. Contact Julie Nelson at 308-991-5136 or 431bertrand@gmail.com if you would like to share a tree. The trees will be on public display on Sunday (15th) from 11 AM to 3 PM. You may take your tree home following the event or on Monday. Admission to this event is FREE.

Soup Dinner—Community members and guests, please join your friends, neighbors, and family members for soup, a dessert and beverage from 11 to 2 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 Beverly Hansen, Kamie Akerman, Jennifer Weber, Christina Davison, Samantha Lavene, Emma Jean Gennrich, Tiffany Langford, Julie Nelson, Heather Warnken, and Pam Hansen.

The January board meeting will be second Monday (13th) at 7 PM. The annual meeting will be held



**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



## BERTRAND AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

### *Bertrand Area Community Foundation Fund*

Christmas is a time of giving. The Bertrand Area Community Fund announced the Holthus Challenge earlier in 2019. Pledges and gifts received to date have reached the two thirds (2/3) mark of \$200,000. Kelly and Virginia Holthus's love of Bertrand has inspired them to issue this incredible challenge to our community to build a fund for now and the future. A \$450,000 increase to Bertrand's unrestricted endowment will result in over \$20,000 of additional annual endowment payout in the first year alone. Within 20 years, that's over \$544,000 in cumulative grantmaking potential! Contact any advisory member to make a give or for more information. All gifts will remain anonymous.

On November 14th, the Nebraska Community Foundation hosted its 25th annual celebration in York at the Holthus Convention Center. Part volunteer training, part hometown expo, part celebratory banquet was attended by Joel High, Chris Davison, Liz Ford, Bev Hansen, Karen Nelson, and Melissa Vinzant. Divide and conquer was how they tackled the day to attend the 15 training sessions. They were just a small part of the 360 community volunteers representing more than 100 Nebraska communities, and 640 guests for the evening meal.

Stephanie Dannehl, Librarian Tech Integration Specialist and Bill Ford, Industrial Technology, staff members of Bertrand Community School, along with Addison Hansen were presenters at the NCF Annual Celebration. They shared how Bertrand students use emerging technologies. The creation of 3D designs and interacting with them are encouraging the students to be better problem solvers and are preparing them for the future. Impactful grants from BACF and NCF helped with the purchase of new technology and software programs for the school. These three individuals were busy from 7:30 AM to 6:30 PM demonstrating and answering questions from other affiliated fund volunteers. Thank You—Bill, Stephanie, and Addison.

Advisory members are: Joel High, Chair; Chris Davison, Vice Chair; Alysia Kuck, Secretary; Beverly Hansen, Treasurer;



# NOTICES

## Village of Bertrand Board of Trustees

### Upcoming Board Meetings:

*\*second Tuesday of the month*

December 10, 2019

January 7, 2020

February 11, 2020

7:30 PM at the Village Hall

### Board of Trustees:

TJ Wilcox, Bob Dahlgren, Lucas Evans,  
Brian Schroeder, and Fred Spiegel



## THANK YOU

We would like to say THANK YOU to  
all of the individuals that  
donated to the Bertrand  
organizations 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.

## 2019-2020 Bertrand Blood Drives

All Blood Drives located at the Bertrand Community Building

Tuesday, December 10, 2019

Tuesday, February 11, 2020

Tuesday, April 7, 2020

Tuesday, June 9, 2020

Tuesday, August 11, 2020

Tuesday, October 13, 2020

Tuesday, December 8, 2020

**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    December 25, 2019**

**New Year's Day    January 1, 2020**

**President's Day    February 17, 2020**

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

## **Hey kids! Mark your calendars!**

Santa Claus will be visiting the Bertrand Fire Hall on December 7th 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.

