

NEWSLETTER



Village of Bertrand

December 2020

Christmas is right around the corner... finally! I have needed 2020 to speed up since like March! So I am going against tradition here, and instead of a Christmas themed article, I wanted to share some fun facts about speeding.

Not always being able to keep one's speed in check has been a challenge for drivers since 1652 when the first speed limit (for non-motorized vehicles) was implemented. The colony of New Amsterdam (now New York) issued the proclamation: No wagons, carts, or sleighs shall be run, rode, or driven at a gallop at the risk of incurring a fine starting at two pounds Flemish.

The first known arrest for speeding in a motorized vehicle occurred in New York City on May 20, 1899. It seems as though a cabbie, Jacob German, was arrested and jailed for driving an electric taxi at what the New York Times called "so reckless a rate" at 12 mph. *Gasp!* He was exceeding the speed limit of 8 mph between streets and 4 mph around corners. But wait! Mr. German was chased down, pulled over, and arrested by a patrol officer *who was on a bicycle!*

Each day in America, police officers hand out 34 million speeding tickets. That's 93,000 a day; 3,875 per hour; 65 per minute!

In 2003, a man in Texas broke the record for the fastest speeding ticket ever issued. The speed registered at 242 mph in a 75 mph zone. The most expensive speeding ticket was issued in Switzerland for a whopping price of 299,000 Swiss Francs (or just under \$290,000). The gentleman was traveling through a small village at 85 mph in a 50 mph zone. Now, why such a hefty price? In Switzerland, as in most European countries, higher speeding penalties are fined according to your income.

Random speed facts: your tongue is the fastest healing part of your body; bulls can run faster uphill than downhill; a hippopotamus can run faster than a man; flies can react to an object it sees and change direction in less than 30 milliseconds; if you could drive to the sun at a speed of 55 mph, it would take around 193 years.

In the Village of Bertrand, the maximum speed limit for any residential area (including alleys) is 25 mph and 20 mph in business districts.

With all of the craziness in the world right now, and even though we might want to speed through the rest of this year, please take the time to slow down a bit. Enjoy this holiday season and take it for what it is worth. Please protect those you love and those around you by following the speed limits.

Wishing everyone a wonderful and safe Holiday Season!

-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.



Bertrand Ag Society

Greetings from the Bertrand Ag Society. With the onset of COVID-19, it has taken a toll on our finances, with not being able to have many gatherings. So in October, we held a freezer meal fundraiser with 10 ladies and had a blast! We are thinking of doing another one in the near future, so watch our Facebook page for any announcements. We have some fun fundraisers planned for December. On December 5th, we are going to have a craft day at the Community Building for 30 people. Cost is \$35 which needs to be paid to Jennifer Weber by December 2nd. We are going to make a gnome ornament and a snowman table center piece. If you have any questions, please call Jennifer at 308-991-4699. On December 9th through the 12th we are going to have a virtual auction on Facebook with lots of goodies from individuals and businesses from the area. More information to follow, but if you would like to donate an item or basket, please call Sara Stehl at 308-991-2604. To end the year, we are going to have our annual Christmas Tree Walk on December 13th. Our theme this year is "These Are A Few Of My Favorite Things". If you are interested in decorating a tree, please contact one of the Ag Society members! This year we will offer a meal to go as well as in person. If you want a meal to go, please call Kamie Akerman at 308-991-2447 or Julie Nelson at 308-991-5136 on December 13th to place your order. If you are on Facebook, please follow and like our page, Bertrand Ag Society, for event details and updates.



14th Annual Christmas Tree Walk
Christmas Tree Display
and Soup Dinner
December 13, 2020
Bertrand Community Building

Young at Heart Senior Center

As the holiday season approaches, we find ourselves in yet another conundrum in trying to decide which traditional event to participate in and which ones to forego for the sake of protecting ourselves from further spread of this pandemic. So in an attempt to maintain some semblance of normal in this time of uncertainty, Young at Heart Senior Center will be doing all that it can do to allow our participants to be involved in as many of our normal holiday celebrations as possible without putting anyone at unnecessary risk. It is the opinion of the Board of Directors of Young at Heart Senior Center, as well as the employees, that mental health is just as important as physical health. In that light, we are also aware that, for some, the holidays are a tough time of year as it is. Then if you take away the opportunity for social activities, the stress of the holidays becomes even more difficult. That is part of the reason that we choose to do all that we can to allow some activities to continue, even if they look a tad different than they have in the past. Keep an eye on our Facebook page or call in to the Senior Center to find out what holiday activities we will continue to do this year as well as information about how things may need to be adapted. At this point, we still plan to participate in our annual December Bake Sale. The way in which we participate may change a bit from previous years, but we will do our best to keep you updated.

-Coni Park, Manager

Annual Treasurer's Report

Village of Bertrand			Bertrand Nursing Home/Assisted Living		
Cash Balance on Hand	10-1-2019	\$429,877	Cash Balance on Hand	7-1-2019	\$46,287
RECEIPTS:			RECEIPTS:		
Property Tax/Motor Vehicle/Equalization, Etc.		\$204,508.46	Nursing Home Income		\$1,690,782
Hiway Allocation		106,561.00	Assisted Living Income		341,261
Fees/Permits/Lic/Other Tax		17,050.06	Interest Income		391
Water/Sewer/Garbage		367,717.83	Donations		16,370
Lease Pymt (Cellular One/Southern Power)		101,909.47	Support from Village		43,354
Franchise Tax (Black Hills Energy/Charter)		10,143.01	CARES Act Grant Receipts		155,568
Local Sales Tax Receipts		83,390.83	PPP Loan Proceeds		193,500
Grants		8,830.09	Proceeds from Bank Credit Line		<u>10,000</u>
Other Income		<u>3,021,586.23</u>	TOTAL RECEIPTS		\$2,451,266
TOTAL RECEIPTS		\$3,921,586.23			
DISBURSEMENTS:			DISBURSEMENTS:		
Salaries/Benefits		\$317,677.27	Salaries/Benefits		\$1,134,324
Operating Expense		429,661.65	Operating Expense		800,124
Supplies		13,834.37	Supplies		147,434
Capital Outlay		106,621.23	Note Payment & Interest Expense		28,843
Debt Service		<u>592,642.46</u>	Purchase of Equipment		<u>46,689</u>
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS		\$1,460,436.98	TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS		\$2,157,414
Cash Balance on Hand	9-30-2020	\$2,891,137.00	Cash Balance on Hand	6-30-2020	\$340,099

Roxanne Winheim
Village Treasurer

Important Dates

December 21	First Day of Winter
December 25	Christmas Day
January 1	New Year's Day
January 4	National Spaghetti Day
January 18	Martin Luther King Day
February 2	Groundhog Day
February 14	Valentine's Day
February 15	President's Day
February 16	Mardis Gras
February 17	Ash Wednesday



Bertrand Nursing Home and Assisted Living



The Residents and Staff have been navigating COVID-19. The changes in regulations hasn't been easy. But, what I can tell you, I am very proud of how everyone at the Home has handled it. We want to **THANK** everyone for their support and understanding during these times. We are praying 2021 brings better days!

We would also like to say **THANK YOU** to everyone that donated for give2 Grow in November!

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 Cross Country Market. Stop by and pick an ornament off the tree. Gifts need to be returned to the Bertrand Nursing Home by December 18th, with the ornament attached. **THANK YOU** for your thoughtfulness during this season of giving!

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

-Joey Kugler, Office Manager

Bertrand Area Community Fund

give2Grow 2020: Thank you donors for your support and gifts to the Bertrand Area Community Fund.

Holthus Challenge: As 2020 draws to a close, Bertrand Area Community Fund is within \$65,000 of meeting a \$300,000 challenge that will ultimately add \$450,000 to our endowment. A robust endowment means that not only can we keep the fabric of Bertrand strong, we can dream big—and achieve those dreams.

Once the challenge is complete and combined with the generous matching gift of \$150,000 from Kelly and Virginia Holthus, the interest proceeds of the unrestricted endowment would fund more than \$20,000 in annual grants. The principal will remain untouched, supporting dreams long into the future.

Bertrand is a community that plays to its strengths. Commit your gift to the unrestricted endowment, and help Bertrand Area Community Fund rise to the Holthus Challenge. Every gift, big or small, puts us closer to the goal. All gifts are handled with the highest confidentiality.

Fund Advisory Members: Joel High, Chair; Christopher Davison, Vice Chair; Liz Ford, Secretary; Beverly Hansen, Treasurer; Melissa Vinzant; Alysia Kuck; Aryn Schwarz; Karen Nelson; Scott Schwarz.

Bertrand Area Community Fund is an affiliated fund of Nebraska Community Foundation, a registered 501(c)3 non-profit. Please consult your tax advisor or financial planner to determine tax implications and advantages.

P.O. Box. 153, Bertrand, NE 68927

bertrandfoundation@gmail.com

Bertrand Fire & Rescue Department

The Bertrand Fire Department wishes to remind residents who believe they may have the novel Coronavirus and/or are experiencing symptoms to stay home and call their primary care physician before traveling to their office, an emergency room or an acute care clinic. Reported symptoms of COVID-19 include fever, cough, shortness of breath, and respiratory illness, including pneumonia in severe cases. If you call 911, please let the dispatcher know if you have or possible have COVID-19. This will help us better prepare for the call.

At the end of August, we said goodbye to two members of our department, Devin and Katie Benson. Devin had been a member for 6 years and was serving as Assistant Fire Chief. Katie had been a member for one and a half years and was an EMT. We wish to thank them both for their service and wish them well.

A few officer changes were made in August. Brian Schroeder is the Assistant Fire Chief, Jessica Evans is the Captain, Allen Wissmann is the Assistant Captain, and Cord Kipp is the Vice Chairman. The other officers remained the same.

The department has a new member. Derek Galusha joined the department on November 2. He comes to us with 3 years experience on the Cambridge fire department, is CPR certified, and has his National Incident Management System endorsements. Thank you Derek for supporting our community.

The handheld radio project was completed recently. Through donations and grants, the department was able to purchase 6 Motorola radios with a charging station and remote microphones. We wish to thank all who supported this project. Another equipment project completed in November was for a new stair chair. The chair was purchased from Stryker and will help us move patients up or down stairways and from areas where a cot won't fit. This project was funded by our give2Grow campaign. Thank you Bertrand community for supporting us!

The department has responded to 13 fire/rescue calls and 54 ambulance calls so far this year.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the Bertrand Fire Department and Rescue Unit, please contact any member of the department. We currently have 4 openings.

Have a safe holiday season and stay healthy.

-Kevin Stehl, Fire Chief

"We Still Make House Calls"

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 18, 2021

NOTICES

Village of Bertrand Board of Trustees

Upcoming Board Meetings:

**second Tuesday of the month*

December 8, 2020

January 12, 2020

February 9, 2020

7:30 PM at the Village Hall

Board of Trustees:

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



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.

2020-2021 Bertrand Blood Drives

*All Blood Drives located at the
Bertrand Community Building*

Tuesday, December 8, 2020

Tuesday, February 9, 2021

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, 2020

New Year's Day January 1, 2021

President's Day February 15, 2021

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

Pam Hansen

Kevin Stehl

Joey Kugler

Coni Park

Thank You

The Village of Bertrand would like to express our appreciation for every donation that was raised during give2Grow on November 19, 2020. These donations will go a long way to support the new swimming pool project.

The generosity of our community members continues to amaze us! We are truly blessed to live in a caring community such as this!

Thanks again!



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