

NEWSLETTER



Village of Bertrand

September 2021

Have you ever thought of the meaning behind some well-used phrases? Of course, you have your obvious phrases like 'happy as a pig in mud' or 'not made of money'. And then there are some more complex phrases such as 'cut the mustard', which means a person has met the required standards or fulfilled requirements. Or 'eat my hat'. Ok, so this one might not be so common (I had to look up the meaning). But have you ever heard anyone say, "I'll eat my hat if the Huskers don't win on Saturday."? The speaker of this phrase has confidence in a certain outcome of a situation; however, hat sales might go up this year.

There has been one phrase that has been a reoccurring thought for me lately...'It takes a village'. The original proverb was 'it takes a village to raise a child', but with my kiddos those phrases that I think of would be more along the lines of 'like herding cats' or drive me nuts'. But I digress...The meaning behind this phrase is that many peoples' involvement is needed to achieve a goal.

With the commencement of the construction of the swimming pool, this phrase couldn't be more correct. The amount of amazing people that are involved in this project is astounding! From the residents that supported the project from the beginning to the local business owners that have volunteered their services to the engineers and general contractors that are creating the pool. I could go on, but the people that I really want to point out are the Pool Committee members. These people have taken time out of their day-to-day lives to create the best possible swimming pool for Bertrand! From choosing the paint colors of the walls to the entire construction of every single play feature, they have put the resident's comfort and safety first. And, in my biased opinion, have created a pool that Bertrand will be extremely proud of!

The Pool Committee has planned a New Year's Eve gala at the Bertrand Community building on Friday December 31, 2021. Social hour to start at 5:30 PM with a dinner to be served at 6:30 PM. Following up with a silent/live auction. And yes, DANCING! Contact any Pool Committee member to reserve limited VIP or regular tables or purchase individual tickets. If you are interested in donating an auction item, please contact a committee member as well! The proceeds from this event will go directly to the Pool Project (and yes, in turn, lower property taxes!).

The Pool Committee members are Shawn Dodson, Kristy Hock, Shelly Nelsen, Julie Nelson, Tyler Rabe, Scott Schwarz, Maggie Winheim, and Ross Winheim. You may also purchase tables or tickets at the Village Office. Stay tuned to our Facebook page and website for more information.

—Lori Vinzant, Village Clerk/Treasurer



It takes a
Village

Young at Heart Senior Center

Why should you care about the continued success of the Young at Heart Senior Center? (Especially if you are not 60 years old yet or you are still working, or you have not ever come in to have lunch at the center.)

Bertrand is very fortunate to still have a fabulous Senior Center that provides lots of support to the community. Many smaller communities do not have a place for their senior citizens to go for a nutritious meal and social activities. And sadly, if the community does not continue to support us now, we may not be here in the future. Support can take many forms, such as having lunch with us or picking up a take-out lunch (ANYONE AT ANY AGE CAN GET A LUNCH FROM US), supporting our fundraisers, or donating needed items like toilet paper, paper towels, canned fruits or vegetables, cleaning supplies and any number of other things.

Helping us now means that we will still be here to provide meals and social activities for future generations of senior citizens in Bertrand and surrounding towns. Sometimes it's easy to overlook the things your community has to offer if you are not currently utilizing that particular service or business. However, there will come a day that we are all "older adults" (God willing) and it would be great to be able to gather with friends for lunch, to have coffee, to play cards, or to do many other activities that most do not realize are part of what a Senior Center offers.

- Coni Parks, Manager

Bertrand Lions Club

The Bertrand Lions Club hopes that fall is finding you all well. Our club has kept busy with several activities, some that you may have noticed and some not.

The motto of the Lions Club is "WE SERVE," and that Bertrand, is exactly what we have been doing. We have provided scholarships for graduating seniors, delivered Easter Baskets to local residents, cleaned the ditches of litter on Highway 23 and helped individuals in need with bills. Your local club has also helped place and pickup flags on Memorial Day at the cemetery, taken care of the flowers at the post office, served a Thank You supper to our Fire Department, picked up trash at the Fair BBQ and sold peaches. The biggest task that the Lions has undertaken this year was providing school supplies to all kids from Pre-K to seniors at the Bertrand School. We love that we are able to do all these things for our amazing community, and hope to be able to continue. The Bertrand Lions Club function solely on donations, so please look for us on the upcoming Give2Grow day.

We are always looking for more members please consider joining this club! Reach out to any member for more information or check out our Facebook page. Our next upcoming function will be the Hunter's Breakfast in November, but keep your eyes open, we are always out there doing something.

—Vanji Vosler

Bertrand Nursing Home and Assisted Living

It has been a very eventful few months here at the Bertrand Nursing Home & Assisted Living. As things start to loosen up it makes us get excited again about activities and the ability to get together with our families and friends. We have been able to restart some of our favorite activities!

We would like to wish a Happy Grandparent's Day on Sunday **September 12th** to all the wonderful **Grandpas and Grandmas!**

- Joey Kugler, Office Manager

GRANDPARENTS
=fill the=
WORLD
WITH Love



On Veterans Day we honor all,
Who answered to a service call,
Soldiers young and soldiers old,
Fought for freedom, brave and bold.
Some have lived, while others have died.
All of them deserve our pride.
We're proud of all the soldiers who
Kept thinking of red, white, and blue.
They fought for us and all our rights.
They fought through many days and nights.
And though we may not know each by name,
We thank ALL Veterans just the same.
Happy Veterans Day

Important Dates

September 6	Labor Day
September 11	Patriot Day
September 12	Grandparents Day
September 16	Guacamole Day
September 22	First Day of Fall
October 4	National Taco Day
October 11	Columbus Day
October 31	Halloween
November 2	Election Day
November 7	Daylight Savings End
November 11	Veterans Day
November 13	World Kindness Day
November 18	give2GROW
November 25	Thanksgiving



S A V E T H E D A T E

give2GROW

www.give2growphelps.org

11.18.21

On November 18, 2021 the Village of Bertrand will participate in **give2GROW** hosted by Phelps County Community Foundation. **give2GROW** is a countrywide giving challenge designed to raise dollars for local nonprofit organizations like the Village of Bertrand. During this one-day event,

donations can be made to the Village of Bertrand and a share of every contribution will be matched through an incentive pool of funds provided by generous donors and the Phelps County Community Foundation.

give2GROW will be held from 12:00 AM until 11:59 PM on Thursday, November 18. Credit/Debit card and e-check donations made at www.give2growphelps.org during this time will be counted as **give2GROW** donations. Offline contributions will also be accepted at Phelps County Community Foundation office at 424 Garfield in Holdrege from 8:00 AM to 7:00 PM or at the Village Office at 507 Minor Avenue in Bertrand from 7:30 AM to 4:30 PM.

Pre-giving for **give2GROW** will begin October 18 and can be done through the **give2GROW** website or by dropping off donations at the Phelps County Community Foundation office.

Bertrand participating organizations: Village of Bertrand, Bertrand Community Schools, Bertrand Ag Society, Bertrand Area Community Fund, Bertrand Fire Department, Bertrand Lions Foundation, Young at Heart Senior Center, Bertrand Nursing Home and Assisted Living, and the Hi-Line Golf Course.



The Bertrand Ag Society

The Bertrand Ag Society would like to thank all the businesses and individuals who sponsored our Back to School Bingo Night. Without you, we would not have had the prizes to offer the bingo winners. We thank the community members for coming out and playing bingo. Hope you had a blast! Thank you for helping us raise money to make building repairs that are needed.

The October 16th Bertrand Craft Show is fast approaching and we still have a couple booths left, if you are interested, call Pamela Hansen for more information, 308.991.3318. With the craft show brings the Café that serves food to not only the vendors, but to the public. We are looking for a few people who would like to bake an item or two and any volunteers that would want to help with the café. For more information, please contact Kamie Ackerman 308.991.2447.

Mark your calendars to attend this years craft show on October 16th. We have a lot of amazing vendors and unique items coming!

Please keep an eye out for the Bertrand Christmas Tree Walk as plans are being made and we hope to have those out soon! To stay up-to-date on activities and different things that involve the community building please like and follow our Facebook page, Bertrand Ag Society.

give2GROW is coming up on November 18th and we love all the support you have given us in the past years. Right now we have some top priorities that need repaired are the roof, sidewalk and possibly handicap parking are just to name a few. Look for more information to be posted on our Facebook page on how to donate. Again, we thank you for all the help and support you give to the community building.

—Thanks Pamela Hansen and the Bertrand Ag Society



Bertrand Area Communities for Kids is Underway!

Bertrand is a town that cares about its kids. The school receives a lot of community support, sporting events are well attended, and children's church activities are jam-packed on Wednesday nights. Kids have lots of opportunities to have fun and be a part of the community. There is, however, one area of need that exist — childcare. With only a few in-home daycares operating in the town (those being at capacity most of the time) and no center-based daycare facilities around, parents have had to get creative in how they provide care for their kids.

Nebraskans want to work. In fact, the state of Nebraska has the lowest unemployment rate in the country at the moment. Much of the time, both parents in the home desire to go to work. Children who are not yet of school-age must have care arranged, and school-age children need a place to go before and after the school day. Summertime presents a special challenge with childcare, since school is out of session. In order to maintain an adequate workforce, a town needs to ensure there is adequate child care available.

Since May, community members have been gathering together to discuss the child care needs of the Bertrand area. In collaboration with Nebraska Children's initiative 'Communities for Kids', the small Core team in Bertrand has begun a guided process to gather information and determine the child care needs that parents are facing. Currently there is a survey for community members and those who work in and around the Bertrand area to fill out. The survey only takes a few minutes to fill out and all community members are encouraged to take it, regardless of their age, employment status, or whether or not they need childcare. The survey can be found at www.bit.ly/BertrandArea if you would like to participate. The team will soon use the data collected from this survey to put forth a plan to address the needs.

Communities for Kids (C4K) is a state-wide initiative helping to guide this 2+ year process, aiding teams each step of the way and providing a grant to help with planning and organization costs. C4K also assists teams in determining their vision and mission, creating goals and a work plan, and receiving training and workshops to better understand the early childhood education field. The goal is for communities to work together to find solutions that work for them. There is not a one-size-fits-all-towns answer, rather C4K encourages its teams to work with current childcare providers to see how they may be better supported and then go from there to expand as needed.

At this time, Bertrand Area Communities for Kids Core Team consists of Alysia Kuck, Jason Brown, Kelsey Evans, Beverly Hansen, Heidi High, Aryn Schwarz, Tyler Rabe, Tammy Bojorquez, Tasha Wulf, and Stephanie Landin who is serving as the Core team coordinator. This team is excited to see where the survey results will lead and they hope that Bertrand finds this to be a passionate whole-town project. It may take hard work, patience, and determination to find resolutions to Bertrand's child care needs. One thing is certain: if any town is capable of completing hard tasks, **ours is!**

If you're interested in following and supporting this process as it unfolds, please like the Bertrand Area Communities for Kids Facebook page or contact Stephanie Landin (stephanielandin@gmail.com) for more information.



Save the Date

New Year's Eve Gala

Friday December 31st

5:30 PM social hour / 6:30 PM dinner

Bertrand Community Building



HOLIDAZZLE
2021

Ladies Night Out

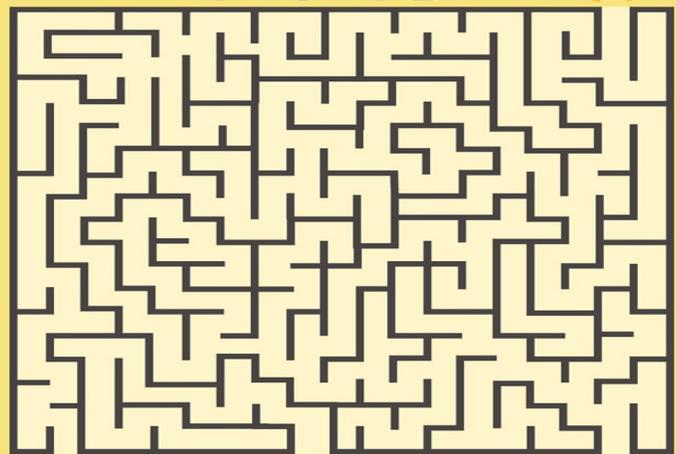
Downtown Bertrand

November 19th 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM



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FALL MAZES



← DOWNTOWN NEWS →

607 Minor Avenue in downtown Bertrand has a new owner and she is excited to join the other great shopping and studio owners in Phelps County.

Michelle McNierney is one of Bertrand's newest residents, but she and her husband Jason (along with their 3 kids) are settling nicely thanks to all the hospitality they have received from the community. Michelle is a certified Yoga instructor, Nutritionist and has years of experience in the healing arts. In her career she has specialized a chair style exercise for the seniors and mobility impaired, but still enjoys teaching all ages the more traditional style practices. You can join her class now at the YMCA in Holdrege if you just can't wait for the studio to open. *(through the next 4 months Michelle is offering a yoga class at the Village Hall on the 2nd Friday each month from 7pm to 8pm, please see the announcement in the Notices section)*

She writes the following to the community:

My husband and I are excited to be integrating into the community. We have been very inspired by the welcoming nature of the community and can't wait to serve alongside so many other great people. We will begin fixing up the building immediately as it needs many repairs. My husband runs construction companies and crews all over the mid-west and knows a lot about fixing up old buildings...and cars, and tractors, and whatever else he can get his hands on. If you need managing an insurance claim or with your residential, commercial, or agricultural roofing, he is the guy to call. He loves to serve and can fix nearly anything. Including our new building on main street.

My goal is to clean, restore and open the space up for all types of studio services. We will use the space for Yoga, senior exercise classes, kids dance classes and openly invite any ideas from the community. My husband has hosted "Paint & Sip" parties in the past that are a blast, and we will find ways to use the space to help our local entities fundraise whenever possible. We have school aged kids so we will have safe space for local students to congregate as well.

Our first task is to make the necessary repairs to the roof, foundation leaks and the plumbing, so sprucing up the place can really begin. The current tenants are transitioning out and we will be working alongside them to help accommodate their move. The building needs a lot of work, but it is so full of history, we are excited to carry the weight of getting in back in shape. We have worked for many years to be able to have my own studio, and I am very excited to bring this dream into a reality. My husband will ensure that this building lasts another 100 years. Our plans to update the building face are loosely scheduled for November or December of this year. Please stop in anytime to get some good before-and after visuals.

Youngs Thrift Store will be holding major sales and liquidation offerings while they work on moving out of the building.



2021

BERTRAND CRAFT SHOW

OCTOBER 16TH

9:00 AM - 3:00 PM



**Bertrand Community Building
Bertrand Community School
Bertrand, Nebraska**

Craft Show Café

Homemade Pastries & Beverages: 9 ~ 3

Lunch: 11 ~ 1:30

Contact: 308.991.2447 or 308.991.3318

Email: bertrandcraftshow@gmail.com

Facebook: Bertrand Craft Show



IMPORTANT UTILITY NOTICE

Effective October 1, 2021

LB26, a sales tax exemption for residential water service will be in effect. The village will notify residents of new rates mid October.



Bertrand Fire & Rescue News

Members of the Bertrand Fire Department have had a busy summer. On May 20th, EMS week was observed and celebrated with area first responders at JB's Sports Bar & Grill in Holdrege. The class topic was entitled EMS Soul Injury, the after effects of trauma for first responders. Guest speaker Lisa Follmer, PLCSW, PLMPH. There were many departments from south central Nebraska represented at the event which was sponsored by Phelps Memorial Center.

The 84th annual Nebraska State Fire School was held in Grand Island May 21-23. Four members from our department attended classes and earned 12 hours of continuing education. Firefighter Cord Kipp took the Introduction to Firefighting segment. His class covered fire theory, SCBA, fire streams, live fire training, ladders, hoses and loads. This class taught by the Nebraska State Fire Marshal Training Division. Captain Jessica Evans attended Staying Safe as a Fire Responder class with the emphasis on safety and how important it is that "Everyone Goes Home" after a call. Topics covered were comprehensive review of the incident command system, a six-step incident response process, 16 Firefighter Life Safety Initiatives, safety on a crash scene with the FHWA, National Traffic Incident Management (TIM) training, Standard Response Protocol, and what to expect when dispatched to your school when it is in a "Lock Out", "Lock Down", "Evacuating" or "Sheltering" situation. The class was instructed by Mark Meints. Assistant Fire Chief Brian Schroeder attended CSI-Nebraska class in which human trafficking recognition was covered as well as bombs and explosives, crime scenes, and death investigations. His class was taught by the NSVFA, FBI, and Assistant Attorney General's Office. Fire Chief Kevin Stehl attended the Structure Protection During Wildland Fire Incidents class. Students studied the rural and urban wildland fire interface. Covered in the class were suppression tactics, incident command, firefighter safety, pre incident planning, scene size up, initial strategy, structure triage, structure protection and tactical operations in the interface. The class was taught by the Nebraska Forest Service.

The Phelps County Mutual Aid Association held its quarterly meeting in Funk on July 13. A walk through and pre-plan of the Nutrien Ag fertilizer plant was conducted before the business meeting. Members from the Bertrand, Loomis, Holdrege and Funk departments were in attendance.

The fire department sponsored an In-Service for the employees of the Bertrand Nursing Home on July 15th. The proper use of dry chemical fire extinguishers was demonstrated.

On July 22nd, a helicopter landing zone class was held in Oxford. 49 local EMTs and firefighters from eight communities were in attendance.

Department members sponsored a community BBQ in the city park on July 31st which was very well attended. Proceeds from the event will help support the SCBA air compressor project.

A Disaster Training was held in Holdrege on August 21st for area responders. The scenario was a bleacher collapse at the football field with approximately 40 injured victims ranging from 7 months to 70 years. Casualties were sorted according to severity of injuries, treated and transported (simulated) by ground ambulance or helicopter. Attending from the Bertrand department were Colby Gardine, Derek Galusha, Brian Schroeder, Allen Wissmann, and Kevin Stehl.

- Kevin Stehl, Fire Chief

Bertrand Area Community Fund (BACF)

Fall 2021 Grant News

The Bertrand Area Community Fund reviews Grant Applications twice a year. Applications are continually available and must be received no later than 5 p.m. on the closing date for this cycle, October 31, 2021. Grants are awarded in November. BACF grants to 501(c)(3) organizations, government entities or other types of organizations using the funds for a charitable purpose. Please contact us before you prepare your application so we can verify that the purpose for which you wish to use the funds is charitable according to IRS guidelines.

Contact us at:

bertrandfoundation@gmail.com or call 308.991.7777.



give2GROW

BACF is a participating agency in the 2021 **give2GROW**. Funds received in previous years have benefited these entities:

Bertrand Community School; Bertrand Lions Club; Bertrand Fire and Rescue Department; Bertrand Nursing Home and Assisted Living; Bertrand Swimming Pool; Bertrand Holiday Project; Young at Heart Senior Center; and Village of Bertrand special projects.

FUND ADVISORY MEMBERS:

Christopher Davison, Chair; Scott Schwarz, Vice Chair; Beverly Hansen, Treasurer; Liz Ford, Secretary; Melissa Vinzant; Alysia Kuck; Karen Nelson; Aryn Schwarz; Colby Gardine; Jessie Olesen.

HOLTHUS HOMETOWN CHALLENGE

Check out the 'Challenge Sign' located just north of the Village of Bertrand office, 507 Minor Ave. Help us reach the \$300,000 Kelly and Virginia Holthus challenged us to raise. If we raise \$300,000 before **December 31, 2021**, the Holthuses will match the funds 2:1 resulting in as much as a \$450,000 increase to Bertrand's community unrestricted endowment. A \$450,000 increase to our unrestricted endowment will result in over \$20,000 of additional annual endowment payout in 2022 alone. Within 20 years, that's over \$544,000 in cumulative grantmaking potential! **We cannot pass up this opportunity to create a legacy!**

Your donation is tax deductible. Please consider making a donation.

No contribution is too small - every penny puts us closer to the \$300,000.

To make a gift or pledge contact any advisory member for assistance; send an email to:

bertrandfoundation@gmail.com; or mail a check to: BACF, PO Box 153, Bertrand, NE, 68927.



NOTICES

Village of Bertrand

Upcoming Board Meetings:

**second Tuesday of the month*

September 14

**Budget Hearing*

October 12

November 9

7:30 PM at the Village Hall

Board of Trustees:

TJ Wilcox, Chairman; Bob Dahlgren,
Lucas Evans, Brian Schroeder, Fred Spiegel



Calendar of Events



October 1 Fall Festival (downtown businesses)

October 16 Bertrand Craft Show

November 18 Give to Grow

November 19 Hollidazzle - *Ladies Night Out*
5:00 pm - 8:00 pm (if you would like to be a vendor
please contact Jennifer Weber 308-991-4699)



*December watch for info on the Bertrand
Hallmark Christmas!*

Yoga Class

Bertrand Town Hall

**2nd Friday of the month*

7:00 PM - 8:00 PM

September 10 October 8

November 12 December 10

Healthy Mind ~ Healthy Body

Join Michelle McNierney for an evening of relaxation,
stretching and breathing. \$10.00 each class.

2021 Bertrand Blood Drives

All Blood Drives located at the
Bertrand Community Building

Tuesday October 12, 2021

Tuesday December 14, 2021

12:00 PM—6:00 PM (both dates)

**Give the gift of life
Donate blood**



Village Office Closings

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

Labor Day Monday, September 6

Columbus Day Monday, October 11

Veterans Day Thursday, November 11

Thanksgiving Thursday, November 25

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!

Vanji Vosler

Jennifer Weber

Coni Parks

Michelle McNierney

Joey Kugler

Stephanie Landin

Kevin Stehl

Beverly Hansen

Pamela Hansen

Stephanie Landin



Gratitude
TURNS WHAT
WE HAVE INTO
enough.

-Melody Beattie

