

# NEWSLETTER



Village of Bertrand

December 2024

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.

# NOTICES

## Village of Bertrand Board of Trustees

### Upcoming Board Meetings:

*\*second Tuesday of the month*

December 9, 2024 @ 5:30

January 14, 2025

February 11, 2025

6:00 PM at the Village Hall

### Board of Trustees:

TJ Wilcox, Fred Spiegel, Lucas Evans,  
Brian Schroeder, and Jason McNierney



We would like to say **THANK YOU** to all of the individuals that donated to all 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. Please contact the Village Office at 472-3455 with any questions.

Christmas Box Forms through the Phelps Community Pantry are also available at the Village Office.



## 2024-2025 Bertrand Blood Drives

*All Blood Drives located at the  
Bertrand Community Building*

Tuesday, December 10, 2024

Tuesday, February 4, 2025

**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**            **December 24 at noon  
& December 25, 2024**

**New Year's Day**    **January 1, 2025**

**President's Day**    **February 17, 2025**

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!

Kathy Weber	Pam Hansen
Marcus Schwarz	Shelly Nelsen
Beverly Hansen	Mel McNierney
Joey Kugler	Lori Vinzant
Karen Nelson	Matt Gregg



## Bertrand Ag Society

The Bertrand Agricultural Society extends its sincere appreciation to an incredible network of contributors whose collaborative efforts played a pivotal role in ensuring the triumphant outcome of the 2024 Bertrand Craft Show. We extend a heartfelt thank you to the diverse array of vendors whose unique offerings added vibrancy to the event, as well as to the enthusiastic shoppers who joined us in Bertrand. Your presence and contributions truly made the craft show a memorable and successful community endeavor.

Please continue to follow our Facebook page Bertrand Ag Society for updates and activities. We are excited to announce the 2025 date is October 18th, see you then!

~Pamela Hansen and the Bertrand Ag Society



Merry Christmas and  
Happy New Year  
from the  
Bertrand Ag Society

The Village of Bertrand follows the guidelines of the Fair Housing Act. It prohibits discrimination by direct providers of housing whose discriminatory practices make housing unavailable to persons because of race or color, sex, national origin, familial status, or disability.



**BYAC**  
**GIFT**  
wrapping  
*Fundraiser*



Bertrand Youth Advisory Committee  
Dec. 7th 2:00 pm  
Village Town Hall

happy  
**VALENTINE'S**  
DAY



THIS VALENTINE'S DAY GIVE HER

**the flowers  
she deserves**

ORDER HER BOUQUET FROM  
CROSS COUNTRY MARKET

308-474-8018



### Bertrand Volunteer Fire Department

Santa Claus will be visiting the NEW Bertrand Fire Station on December 7th at 2:00 pm.

There will be Fire truck rides, hay rack rides, treats and of course SANTA!

Bring the whole family for a fun-filled afternoon in downtown Bertrand!

516 Minor Ave .





Like us on Facebook  
 @ Village of Bertrand  
 for up-to-date information!

**Building/Fence Permits**

Adding a fence, out building or adding to your existing dwelling?  
 Stop by the Village Office for a Building Permit. All permits are due at the office by the 1st Monday of the month for approval.



**Bertrand Lions Club**

The Bertrand Lions hope you all had a blessed Thanksgiving. We would like to say Thank You to all those who donated to the Lions Foundation during the give2Grow event. We would also like to thank everyone who came and supported the Early Bird Breakfast Burritos.

Thank you for supporting the Bertrand Lions this year. We are always looking to add new members! Have a Merry Christmas and blessed New Year!

- Kathy Weber, Bertrand Lions Club

**dates to Remember**

- December 7      Bertrand VFD Santa Day & BYAC fundraiser
- December 21    First Day of Winter
- December 25    Christmas Day
- January 1        New Year's Day
- January 4        National Spaghetti Day
- January 20      Martin Luther King Day
- February 2      Groundhog Day
- February 8      Hi-Line Golf Fundraiser
- February 14     Valentine's Day
- February 17     President's Day
- February 22     Margarita Day

Bertrand Area Chamber

wishes you



Merry Christmas & Happy New Year.

# Bertrand Nursing Home and Assisted Living

## COME VISIT

You say that you can't do anything? Can you read? Good. Read to me. My eyes aren't what they use to be. Can you write? Good. Write a letter or a card for me. My hands are shaky. Can you sing? Good. Help me with the words and I'll sing along. Can you tell me about your job? I was a school teacher once myself. Can you listen? Wonderful, I'm starved for conversation. Do you play checkers or dominoes or rummy? Fine, so do I. Do you play the violin or the flute or the piano? My hearing is poor but I can hear any kind of music. Even if I fall asleep you'll know I enjoyed it. Once we were some bodies just like you. We were farmers, farmer wives, teachers, nurses, electricians, sheriffs, and maybe a few outlaws, too! This home, whatever its name, is "home" to us, and you're always an invited guest.

We would also like to say **Thank You** to everyone that donated for Give2Grow 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 the Cross Country Market.** Stop by and pick an ornament off the tree. Gifts need returned to the Bertrand Nursing Home by **December 19<sup>th</sup>, with the ornament attached.**



**THANK YOU** for your thoughtfulness during this season of giving.

**Resident's and Staff would like to wish everyone a happy and safe Holiday Season!**

*-Joey Kugler, Office Manager*





# Bertrand Area Christmas Gift Project



Thank you, community members, for your support of the 11th Annual Bertrand Area Community Gift Project to help Bertrand students and their families who are in need. Participating Bertrand area churches and community groups, we so appreciate your partnership. The project is basic winter clothing (coat, hat, and gloves/mittens) per child(ren) in the family, plus a food pantry box for each family. The gifts will be given a couple of days before Christmas.

Thank you for your support.

**Committee members:** Kim (Johnson) Grams, Janice Gengenbach, Liz Ford, Beverly Hansen, DeDe Peterson, Trista Newcomb, & Koky Juarez

**For additional information contact:** If a donation is of interest to any reader, they may contact Janice Gengenbach @ 308.325.1268 or Kim Grams @ 308.991.2372.

## Community Coffee

At the  
**Bertrand Nursing Home**  
100 Minor Ave  
Friday, December 13<sup>th</sup>  
Time: 9:30 A.M.



Please join us for coffee and treats ☺

-Jenna Wheat, Activity Director

Call Jenna at 308-472-3341 with any questions or concerns. Thank You!

## SAVE THE DATE



**Bertrand Garage Sale**  
July 26, 2025

Join Us At the  
**Bertrand Nursing Home**  
**Christmas Carols,**  
**Cookies and Hot**  
**Chocolate**

December 18<sup>th</sup>

At 10:30 a.m.

Marilyn Scharff will be playing the piano.



## BERTRAND AREA CHAMBER NEWS

**BERTRAND DAYS 2025 are June 28 – July 1.**

**This is the 75th Anniversary of Bertrand Days – Fair and Rodeo. Watch the ‘Bertrand Fair and Rodeo’ Facebook page and other social media for exciting updates for this BIG celebration!**

The Chamber, Bertrand Community School, and Village of Bertrand are collaborating on a ‘BLEACHER PROJECT’. Fund raising has begun. If you are interested in a 2024 tax deductible donation, please make your check payable to: Village of Bertrand Community Bleacher Account. Renderings of the project will be forthcoming in the next two weeks. The bleachers will be ADA approved and constructed as permanent structures at BCS Football/Track facility and Bertrand Arena. Representatives of the school, chamber and village are also reviewing and seeking grant opportunities.

After Prom Activity/Event

Bertrand Area Chamber proudly supports these community projects:

Summer Softball and Baseball Programs

Dan McCracken Memorial Chamber Fishing Tournament

Family Fishing Tournament

Bertrand Days 2025 – Saturday, June 28 – Tuesday, July 1

Bertrand Brews and BBQ

Annual chamber Golf Tournament

Bertrand Area Christmas Project (Food & Pantry Boxes)

Family and Friends of the Bertrand Area. May you be blessed as 2024 comes to an end and filled with HOPE, JOY AND PEACE IN 2025.

~ Beverly Hansen

## Young at Heart Senior Center

It's been a really busy month here at Young At Heart Senior Center. We had a great response to give2Grow this year and also for our Thanksgiving Fundraiser with Auction. Our Thanksgiving fund raiser served around 80 people, Patsy Cline sang for us and Allen Wissmann was an amazing auctioneer. We appreciate all who responded and participated in both events. We very much appreciate your support and hope everyone had a wonderful time.

We will be starting out December with guests on **December 3rd** at noon Lunch provided by Phelps Memorial, they will be presenting "Importance of Protein in our diet". Please make reservations by November 27th if you plan to attend. Then on **December 5th** at 12:30 Rob Horst from the Agency on Aging will be here to present "Wills and personal representative information" which is very important, bring your questions! **December 11th** at 12:30 Sam will be here from Phelps Memorial doing assessments for balance and presentation. **December 18th** Roger Wells will be here at noon with more great health information. Then a week of just back to normal .... almost forgot nothing normal anymore. We'll be having our **Annual Bake Sale on December 19th and 20** stop by and see what goodies we have this year. Also, if you would like to bake items for this event please let us know. **The Center will be closed from December 23 to 27 for the week of Christmas.**

January 1st we will be closed Happy New Year 2025. Watch for upcoming events and speakers

*Well for now, have a Wonderful Holiday and enjoy your friends and relatives you never know what tomorrow brings.*

~Shelly Nelsen



## Christmas Eve SERVICES

*Please join the area churches for Christmas services:*

*Adullam Church ~ Christmas Eve Service at 11:00 am*

*Immanuel Church ~ Christmas Eve Service at 4:30 pm*

*Westmark Church ~ Christmas Eve Service at 7:00 pm*

*Hope Lutheran Church ~ Children's Program at 5:00 pm*

*and Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 11:00 pm*

*St. John Catholic Church ~ Christmas Morning Mass at 8:30 am*



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, 2025



- DEC 15 | Prayer & Gratitude Meditation 6 pm
- JAN 10 | Paint Paradise
- JAN 25 | Vintage Embers Candles
- JAN 31 | Sound Bowls 6 pm
- FEB 2 | B/B Hat Co
- FEB 15 | Sound Bowls 6 pm

## STUDIO 607 UPCOMING EVENTS

[607studio.com](http://607studio.com)

### Nebraska Mosquito & Vector Association Statistics

This past fall the Village Superintendent, Matt Gregg attended the 2024 NMVCA Conference in Columbus, NE. This training is for applicants retaining a license for NE Pesticide Applicators General Standards. Here are some educational statistics.

- Nebraska's first case of West Nile Virus was reported in 2002.
- In 2024, there were a cumulative of 108 clinical cases of West Nile Virus reported in Nebraska. 48 cases were neuroinvasive and 41 were non-neuroinvasive. This was a decrease from the 150 total cases reported in 2023 (91 neuroinvasive, 56 non-neuroinvasive). It is important to note that for every neuroinvasive case of West Nile Virus, there is an estimated 30-70 non-neuroinvasive cases so the number of total cases in the state is likely much higher.

"The DHHS West Nile Virus Surveillance Program works to identify and prevent West Nile virus in Nebraska by:

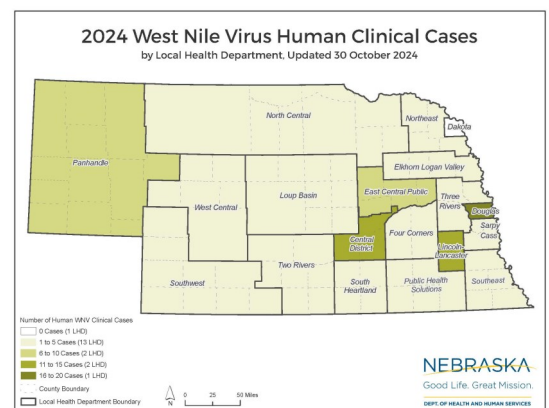
- Trapping and testing mosquitoes
- Collect reports of dead birds
- Investigating suspected human WNV cases

The Nebraska Department of Agriculture investigates possible cases involving horses. For all suspected human cases, the DHHS and the local public health departments conduct investigations."

The map shown displays the NE Local Health Dept. Clinical Cases in 2024.

Data sources credited to:

[www.nemosquito.org/](http://www.nemosquito.org/) and [dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/West-Nile-Virus-Data.aspx](http://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/West-Nile-Virus-Data.aspx)



~Matt Gregg

Empowering people of all ages to build the good life now and for generations to come.



## A Community Inspired

### Nebraska Community Foundation Training

Every year, all the community funds who are part of Nebraska Community Foundation are invited to participate in a gathering and training event. This year's was in Lincoln and included excellent information and networking in a daylong convention format.

Among the cool things there: At the summer Hometown Intern mosaic art party at the Bertrand pool, many people created small artworks. At the gathering, they were assembled with other pieces from all the other funds in Nebraska and displayed as a mural.

Eight members of Bertrand Area Community Fund's advisory committee attended part of all of the day. Here's some reasons we enjoy it so much:

*After attending the NCF annual training for my third year, I left with the same inspiration as if it were my first. The personal impact attending this yearly event shows how communities can come together and achieve their dreams. – Pam Long*

*I really enjoy learning the creative ways people are keeping small communities thriving across Nebraska. – Colby Gardine*

*I enjoyed learning about how communities pulled together to do great things in their hometowns. From working with a youth organization to raise money for a drive-in movie theater, to creating welcome baskets for new community members, to hosting community Thanksgiving Day meals, all projects discussed focused on bringing the*

*town together. That is what Bertrand is all about, and that is what the fund is all about as well. This training rejuvenated us as a group, and I'm excited to see what we do with that momentum in Bertrand! – Meredith Cable*

*I appreciate gaining more information about the grant-making process. I specifically was interested in ways Pender/Thurston County and Laurel are keeping their small towns alive. – Liz Ford*

### Two More New Members

The Fund Advisory Committee has added two new people – **Jake Gregg** and **Nye Pelton** – to its membership.

The FAC is always open to potential new members. Our number fluctuates but is always nine or more people. If you or someone you know might want to join, send email to [bertrandfoundation@gmail.com](mailto:bertrandfoundation@gmail.com).

### Three Grants Awarded

BACF recently awarded three grants under the new continuous grant cycle.

**Young at Heart Senior Center** requested \$1,230.50 for an upright freezer for foods such as frozen homegrown sweet corn and larger quantities of meat purchased on sale.

**Bertrand Fire Department** applied for \$3,000 for handheld radios. The mutual aid group's switch to digital radios meant the old handhelds couldn't talk to the vehicle radios, and this will help fix that.

Under a continuing resolution, BACF also provides \$1,000 per year to the **Bertrand Area Christmas Project** which provides

food and pantry items to families.

A continuous grant cycle allows the fund to be more responsive to community needs in a timely manner. We currently have about \$40,000 for grants from July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025.

**Request a grant application by emailing [bertrandfoundation@gmail.com](mailto:bertrandfoundation@gmail.com).**

BACF operates in an area roughly the same as the Bertrand school district. Government entities, 501(c)(3) organizations, and other groups intending to use grant funding for charitable purposes are invited to apply.

### give2GROW a Success

While as of the time of this writing, the results of Phelps County Community Foundation's give2GROW event were still being audited and finalized, **BACF was the designated recipient of just under \$22,000 from 18 donors.**

Thank you to these donors, and to all participants in the give2GROW event! This is a major fundraiser for 81 organizations throughout the county.

### Committee Members

Scott Schwarz, 308-991-8209

Colby Gardine, 308-991-7836

Liz Ford, 308-991-6853

Beverly Hansen, 308-991-7777

*Beverly Hansen is also a member of the Nebraska Community Foundation Board.*

Karen Nelson, 308-325-0448

Pam Long, 308-627-7288

Rosanna Meyer, 308-999-3457

Meredith Cable, 402-741-0833

Brandon Moon, 402-961-0244

Jake Gregg, 308-991-9752

Nye Pelton, 308-962-6317

# Holiday Tunes

- Away in a Manger
- Choir of the Bells
- Dominick the Donkey
- Frosty the Snowman
- Holly Jolly Christmas
- Jingle Bell Rock
- Jingle Bells
- Let it Snow
- Little Drummer Boy
- Little St Nick
- O Holy Night
- Rudolph
- Santa Baby
- Silent Nigh
- Silver Bells
- The Christmas Song
- The First Noel
- Winter Wonderland



S G R D A M A F C I F Z Z X F K U H J X  
W A W A Y O B R E M M U R D E L T T I L  
C K M B H P L O D U R J T G J I H Z N O  
Z D W T Z E D S Y E L C B Y R T G C G K  
G N O S S A M T S I R H C E H T I J L L  
Q A N K O I D Y A L F D G I R L N B E D  
X L S O X Q R T B T I N W X N E T O B J  
D R T J T I R H V A A H X I P S N A E W  
F E I F W V T E C M B E U U B T E S L S  
N D T U C C H S A Y A A I N S N L C L Q  
B N E V X E G N X I L M T R I I I Y R W  
F O L N I A I O Z T K L I N X C S J O U  
B W V E S Y N W K M G F O O A K T E C N  
G R O K A C Y M V Z E U A J Y S L D K U  
M E Q W Q O L A O H K P I T Y K B N M Q  
G T A P U I O N T S L L E B E L G N I J  
L N F G C Z H N S L L E B R E V L I S E  
I I Y E K N O D E H T K C I N I M O D S  
L W B T K S L L E B E H T F O R I O H C  
U I M U Y F C J H B X B V R U M Q C Y B

Chicken Scratch NY

Southern Public Power District is urging people to be wary of callers who attempt to collect on electric bills after recent reports of calls to customers requesting account information or payment through various methods, including gift cards.

If you get a call from a person claiming to be an SPD representative, hang up and call SPD directly at 800-579-3019 to verify your information. Do not call any numbers provided by a suspicious caller.



**SCAM  
ALERT!**

**ANNUAL FUNDRAISER BANQUET**  
**HI-LINE**  
**GOLF COURSE**

SAVE THE DATE

LIVE & SILENT AUCTION

**SATURDAY**  
**FEBRUARY 8TH**  
**2025**

**BERTRAND**  
**COMMUNITY BUILDING**  
**405 NELSON**

SOCIAL HOUR 6:00-7:00 PM  
DINNER 7:00-8:30 PM  
LIVE BAND 9:00-12:00

The Village Food Pantry would like to thank all the organizations and patrons of Bertrand for your continuous support for all food pantry donations and monetary donations to provide fresh grocery items to anyone in need.



*Thank you!*

Join us for Bertrand Days yearly tradition

**2025**

**Save The Date**  
**June 28 -**  
**July 1st**

**BERTRAND DAYS**

Follow Bertrand Fair & Radeo on

# Thank You

The Village of Bertrand would like to express our appreciation for every donation that was raised during give2Grow on November 14, 2024. These donations will go a long way to support the community building with installing new LED lighting & other needed improvements.

The generosity of our community members continues to amaze us!

We are truly blessed to live in a caring community such as this! Thank you 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