

## ***Introduction***

*Welcome to the 2004 Nebraska Project Networking Guide. This guide is designed as a tool for community leaders to use in transforming their ideas into reality. Community leaders wanting to network with other communities and learn from their successes and challenges also will find it a useful resource.*

*Each year, Nebraska Community Improvement Program (NCIP), participants complete around 400 community improvement projects. The projects are submitted to the Nebraska Department of Economic Development for judging by a team of experts from various communities and professions. Nebraska investor-owned utilities provide cash awards and plaques at the annual NCIP Banquet, which is held in November.*

*The projects are divided into three categories:*

- 1) Volunteer and Leadership Development*
- 2) Community Development*
- 3) Economic Development*

*Within each category, topic areas have been identified by the NCIP Advisory Committee and reflect the NCIP judging categories.*

*Each project features a title, brief description, and contact name and phone number. The contact person is designated by the community as the project director or community contact. Communities that are planning or starting projects can contact other communities that were involved in similar completed projects for information and ideas.*

*New editions of the guide are created annually as new NCIP community projects are completed.*

*NCIP would like to thank: The communities that contributed their projects for this guide; The Sandhills RC&D for printing the guide; and Lindsay Papenhausen, NCIP assistant, who compiled the Project Networking Guide.*

*We think you will find the 2004 Nebraska Project Networking Guide useful.*

# Table of Contents

	<u>Page</u>
<b>Leadership Development</b>	
<b>Volunteer and Leadership Development</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Youth Involvement and Leadership Development</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Community Development</b>	
<b>Public Works, Facilities, Services and Planning</b>	<b>7</b>
Community Centers	7
Community Development	7
Fire and Medical Facilities	7
Planning	8
Street Improvements	8
<b>Environmental Projects</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Community Services</b>	<b>10</b>
Assisted Living and Housing	10
Public Facilities	11
After School Programs and Child Care Centers	11
Safety and Health	12
Miscellaneous	13
<b>Parks, Recreation and Forestry</b>	<b>15</b>
Beautification	15
Miscellaneous	16
Park Improvements	16
Playground Equipment	17
Sports and Recreation	18
Trees and Forestry	19
<b>Arts and Humanities</b>	<b>19</b>
Events and Festivals	19
Miscellaneous	21

## **Economic Development**

<b>Business Assistance and Development</b>	<b>23</b>
Business Retention and Expansion	23
Downtown Revitalization	25
Miscellaneous	25
<b>Tourism Promotion and Development</b>	<b>27</b>
Promotion and Marketing	27
Landmarks, Memorials and Museums	28
Tourism Events	29

## **Community Index**

## **Appendix**

# **Leadership Development**

## **Volunteer and Leadership Development**

2003 Volunteer Fair, Alliance – Alliance leaders created the 2003 Volunteer Fair to provide a forum for local volunteer organizations to interact with potential new members and to train existing volunteers. The fair was set up similar to a home show, with booths throughout the facility. Each booth was decorated by a local organization that handed out printed materials describing its mission, membership requirements and approximately what type of time or financial commitment was required. The event kicked off with a volunteer training luncheon. More than 350 residents attended the event, with one-third of the organizations recruiting at least one new volunteer. Contact Rosa Lee Hoff at (308) 762-1910.

Volunteer Senior Ranger Corps, Beatrice – As a part of Homestead National Monument of America, the city of Beatrice, Beatrice Public Schools, and Southeast Community College worked on projects that included monitoring water quality monthly, monitoring the deer population, researching famous homesteaders, taking oral histories and assisting with special events. This project involves senior citizens who have a vast amount of experience and expertise to share with the youth. Contact Susan Cook at (402) 223-3514.

Juvenile Awareness Group – Cuming County – Following a survey that revealed alarming statistics surrounding alcohol-related activities, it was determined something needed to be done to resolve this problem. Under LB640, Cuming County formed JAG (Juvenile Awareness Group). JAG consists of 23 members, representing areas, such as health and human services, church organizations, and law enforcement. JAG has developed a plan to monitor community service hours, and the JAG coordinator works with organizations that volunteer to supervise the youth completing service hours. The project has resulted in a documented decrease in minor in possession charges. Contact Bonnie Vogltance at (402) 372-6002.

Leaders of Yesterday and Tomorrow, Eustis – The Leaders of Tomorrow 4-H Club implemented a project as part of a new statewide intergenerational project. The project, “Discover Me, Discover You,” called for a 4-H member to interview a member from another generation, gathering and recording history. Also, various activities were held to unite the generations. Many of the youth and senior partners formed strong bonds and remained in contact long after the project. Contact Sharon Hueftle at (308) 486-3661.

ODEGEO Leadership Project – Fillmore County – The nine-month course is designed to identify, educate, and develop leaders within Fillmore County. The class meets once a month and covers topics ranging from quality of life to government and energy to becoming a community leader. ODEGEO is led by the

Fillmore County Development Corporation's Leadership Development Committee that contacts speakers, arranges tours, and evaluates each session. More than 100 people have graduated from the ODEGEO Project and taken on various roles in their communities. Contact Patt Lentfer at (402) 759-4910.

4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration, Hebron – Each year Hebron hosts a 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration enjoyed by visitors throughout Nebraska and northern Kansas. A committee meets during the year to make the preparations needed to produce activities, such as a fun run/walk, car show, water fights, parade, movie, and a huge fireworks display. Volunteers have played an integral part in the success of the event and the past two years the event has been expanded to include a kick-off celebration on July 3<sup>rd</sup>. Contact Rita Luongo at (402) 768-7156.

Loup Basin Ag-Diversity Workshop, Loup Basin Region – The Ag-Diversity workshop was designed to provide an opportunity for individuals currently involved in production agriculture to gain exposure to alternatives that may allow them to diversify their operations. The workshop brought together individuals to share their experiences including pitfalls to avoid. Contact Errol Wells at (308) 968-3387.

TeamMates Mentoring Program, North Platte – Since 1998, TeamMates has paired adult volunteers one-on-one with North Platte Public School middle school students. Adult TeamMates, mentors, serve as positive role models for students needing extra adult attention. TeamMates meet at least one hour per week to share in a variety of activities. TeamMates uses coordinators to pair mentors with individual students using variables, such as hobbies, interests, likes/dislikes, life history, gender and individual needs. Contact Kristen Grimes at (308) 535-7122, ext. 156.

Capacity Building in Southwest Nebraska, Southwest Nebraska RC&D – To gather input from the public, Southwest RC&D partnered with the Nebraska Development Network – Southwest Region to conduct a regional planning survey that helped identify the social, economic, and environmental needs of southwest Nebraska. Following the tabulation of the survey data, several planning workshops were offered to gather additional input from sponsors, partners, and community volunteers. The project has increased dialogue among communities, increased networking opportunities, and created a clearly defined plan for addressing the needs of the area. Contact Lory Cappel at (308) 697-3477.

Empowerment: A Journey in Community and Personal Growth, Springfield – With a population spillover from the Omaha Metro area, Springfield needed a way to connect with new residents, while encouraging individuals to become actively involved in the community. A brainstorming session led to a park project, in which the City Council took a “hands off” approach and empowered residents to put forth their own ideas, goal and funding protocols. Approximately 1,450 individuals have had an opportunity to become directly involved in the development and

implementation of a city project as a result of the park project. Contact Sandra Powell at (402) 253-2204.

Stromsburg Woman's Civic Improvement Club, Stromsburg – Stromsburg Woman's Civic Improvement Club continues to provide women with opportunities for leadership roles in community service and philanthropic donations. Monthly luncheon meetings are held and various projects are voted upon by the general membership. Committees are established for ongoing projects, such as playing BINGO at the nursing home and bloodmobile services. Currently, 60 women belong to the club. Contact Geraldine Rystrom at (402) 764-6791.

## Youth Involvement and Leadership Development

Long Pine Hiking Trail, Ainsworth – Ainsworth Middle School developed the Long Pine Hiking Trail to instill a feeling of accomplishment and sense of pride in the community. The students cleared the area, built signs and bridges, identified plants and animals seen along the trail, and visited businesses for financial support. Many areas of the school's curriculum were used in researching and developing the trail. Contact Dale Mundorf at (402) 387-2082.

Youth Involvement and Leadership Development, Chappell – Chappell implemented several new programs targeted at youth involvement. Projects included TeamMates, where adults mentor youth, a senior citizens prom, trash pickup, red ribbon week, and the project PALS, created by FFA members to mentor elementary students. Youth also attended a Leadership Academy that offered leadership and community improvement cooperation training for Chappell's youth. Contact Mike Davis at (308) 874-3310.

Children's Story Hour, Elgin – An area 4-H group headed the efforts to bring story hour back to the local library. The 4-H members were in charge of choosing an appropriate book to be read and a hands-on activity, such as a craft, walk, or snack. More than \$700 was raised to help purchase new children's books for the library to encourage life-long reading skills. Contact Chris Redding at (402) 843-2342.

Elgin Public School Entrepreneurship Store and Business Fair, Elgin – A semester-long class for 7<sup>th</sup> grade students focused on creating, producing, and ultimately selling products at a business fair. The project, entitled "Mind Your Own Business," gave students a chance to directly experience all aspects of setting up a business. The project also expanded into the high school by implementing a new one-semester course for juniors and seniors called "Entrepreneurship." This class introduces students to the various aspects of establishing their own businesses. Approximately 50 to 75 customers attended the Junior High Business Fair and purchased more than \$250 worth of merchandise. Contact Barb Bode at (402) 843-2455.

Kids Who Care: Developing Volunteers Among Teenagers, Eustis – The youth of Eustis have come together via the community's church youth groups to work as one on service projects. The youth helped move a family whose father was unable to do heavy labor, and painted the home of an elderly resident. In addition, youth volunteered their time to teach Vacation Bible School, host a penny carnival, serve Sunday dinners during winter months when no restaurants in town are open, and participate in Christmas caroling to shut-ins and the elderly. Contact Kaye Banzhaf at (308) 367-4106 or Patty Bean at (308) 486-2071.

Youth Leadership, Farnam – Farnam youth continue to develop their leadership skills by volunteering for a variety of community events. Youth made presentations to NCIP judges, created and distributed placemats to the Senior Center, assisted community members with yard work, and painted a mural on a local building. Contact Teresa Messersmith at (308) 569-2316.

Youth Firemen Cadets, Franklin – Recruiting youth became a major focus for firemen in Franklin as the number of the current force was dwindling. The firemen met with the cadets for two hours each week, discussing topics, such as how fires are started, how to control fires, and how to maintain the equipment needed. They also got to apply their skills in real situations with house burns. Four cadets went on to become full-time members of the fire department, reducing the stress placed on full-time members of the fire department and ensuring a safer community for everyone. Contact Brian Gerdes at (308) 425-6281.

Youth Community Improvement Program (YCIP), Gothenburg – Gothenburg's self-governed and self-supported 14-member YCIP Board and one non-voting adult led more than 200 youth in community service projects last year. The board sends out a yearly survey to help prioritize projects. Volunteer efforts included holding a dog show, hosting a tea tasting, baking cookies, selling poppies, and delivering meals. The group also receives leadership training at its monthly meetings with a variety of guest speakers. Contact Jan Lipska at (308) 537-7817.

Grant County 4-H Speech Contest, Grant County – In an effort to foster leadership development by promoting good public speaking techniques, the Grant County 4-H council held a 4-H speech contest. Youth competed against their peers in presenting on topics related to clothing, family life, safety and first aid, child care, careers, and computers. Suggestions for improvements were shared with the speakers. Contact Kendra Burgess at (308) 577-6318.

Hartington FFA Chapter Excels on Local, State, National and International Achievements, Hartington – Youth from the community's high school combined to create one of the most dynamic FFA (Future Farmers of America) groups in the state. Community organizations contact the FFA office to see if a particular project will fit within the FFA's goals and objectives. If so, the FFA group collaborates on the projects. Committees of four to 10 members are set up within the FFA chapter, with students signing up voluntarily. The accomplishments of Hartington's FFA

Chapter in 2003 were tremendous – the chapter broke a national FFA record for the number of state degree recipients in one year with 29 and also had a National FFA individual winner among various other award winners. Contact Fritz Steinhoff at (402) 254-6644.

Hayes Center Youth Initiative, Hayes County – A community survey showed a concern for youth in the area and indicated programs that could be conducted to include the youth as top priorities. As a result, Hayes Center worked to involve youth in as many projects as possible. The school and local civic groups strive to give everyone in the community as many opportunities to succeed as possible. Youth were able to participate in the Law Cadet Program, Girls and Boys State, Girl Scouts, DARE, a trip to Europe, and a Future Leaders Conference. Contact Pat Hogeland at (308) 286-3211.

Youth's Making Our Community A Better Place, Howells – The Busy Bees 4-H Club did its part to make Howells a safer place for children by updating the community's playground equipment. The club contacted the National Playground Safety Council for guidelines on safe playground equipment, presented their results to the City Council, and finally, assisted in replacing the equipment. Contact Gwen Welch at (402) 986-1517.

Kimball Boy Scout Program, Kimball – Three local scouts aiming to reach Eagle Scout status each led projects to improve the community and to learn leadership skills. The youth built a shelter near the city pool, added comfortable seating at the youth baseball field, and erected a Veterans memorial outside of the County Courthouse. Contact George Barp at (308) 235-2041.

Soaring to New Heights, Maywood – After two teachers were called to active duty, Maywood's youth wanted to recognize the teachers and remind the community of all that the troops do to protect their freedom. Students made and sold yellow bows to local townspeople and also entered a float in the Memorial Day weekend parade. Contact Janice Arent at (308) 362-4223.

TeamMates of Nebraska City Mentoring Program, Nebraska City – TeamMates Mentoring Program is a school-based one-on-one mentoring program that pairs caring adults with 4th-12th grade students. Teachers, guidance counselors, and principals refer students from one of the four participating area schools. Currently there are 37 mentoring matches. The annual softball tournament fundraiser "Teams for TeamMates" draws a large crowd and helps fund the program. Contact Jacki Schmitz at (402) 873-6343.

Fantastic Youth Involvement in Petersburg, Petersburg – Petersburg youth play a huge role in their community by planning and implementing various activities of Petersburg Carnival Days, participating on the Petersburg Clean Team, and doing various Boys and Girls State projects, among other volunteer efforts. Nearly half of the volunteers from each community project consist of youth, helping to keep

the rich tradition of volunteerism alive in Petersburg. Contact Allen Thorberg at (402) 386-5571.

2002-2003 PDCI Class Beautification: Mural and Trees, Potter – The Potter Dix Community Improvement Class is designed to make students more aware of community needs and the large number of volunteers needed to maintain and create projects that make the community a better place to live. The students receive class credit and are graded on their level of participation and number of volunteer hours performed outside of class time. Two main projects completed in 2002 included the painting of a mural on a local building, and assisting the adult community group with spring tree planting. Contact Jennifer Thomas at (308) 879-4396.

SWAT Team, Ravenna – The SWAT (Students Warning Adolescents about Tobacco) Team was established in 2000 to write grants to fund a new youth center and to educate students about tobacco prevention. The five team members conducted research on the youth in their community and grant writing, as a result, the students won a \$100,000 grant from Nebraska Health & Human Services from tobacco settlement money to help fund the youth center. SWAT also sponsors various events to heighten awareness of the harmful effects of tobacco use. Contact Vicki Schmidt at (308) 452-3959.

Youth Involvement, Seward – It takes a lot of hard work for Seward to keep its title as Nebraska's Official Fourth of July City and the youth of Seward are willing to step up and take the challenge. The youth meet every month during the school day to help plan the community's trademark. The committee is required to name a Seward High School student as coordinator and junior and senior youth as co-chairs. The teamwork of youth and adults provides a wonderful learning opportunity for everyone involved. Contact Clark Kolterman at (402) 643-6138.

Teen Court in Dakota County, South Sioux City – Teen Court is a voluntary alternative for first time juvenile law violators who have committed a crime or offense in the area. Teen Court has trained 85 volunteers to participate in court hearings, mentor and train new volunteers, and assist with public awareness through mock trial presentations. The youth participants come from six of the tri-state area high schools to jointly provide a youth offender an appropriate disposition. These youth volunteers serve as attorneys, jurors, translators or bailiffs. In addition, several adult volunteers assist in various capacities of the project. Teen Court strives to promote a desire for self-improvement and to foster a healthy attitude toward rules and authority. Contact Missy O'Connell-Ackerman at (712) 255-3188.

Youth Art Mural at Post Office, Stromsburg – After attending NCIP Community Quest in 2002, Stromsburg youth were inspired to start a new community improvement project. With financial backing from the Stromsburg Woman's Club, which strives to promote the arts in the community, youth art classes painted a patriotic mural on the side of the Stromsburg Post Office building. The thought

provoking mural depicts various events in American history, leaving a memorable impression on all who drive through Stromsburg. Contact Tim Alvis at (402) 764-4482.

Landscaping the White Horse Museum Grounds, Stuart – The Girl Scouts looked through nursery catalogs and consulted a greenhouse owner to decide what plants should be placed on the White Horse Museum grounds. A plan was drawn out as to where the new planting beds would go and the recommended size of the beds. The plan was then submitted to the museum board for approval. As part of the project, signs leading to the connecting Cowboy Trail were added, the White Horse statue was repaired and painted, and benches were added to the grounds. Contact Justine Olberding at (402)-924-3132.

Superior FFA Chapter – Area Servicemen Recognition Project, Superior – In 2003, the 68 members of the Superior FFA Chapter organized an event to recognize area men and women serving in the armed forces. The group purchased 1,000 floatable plastic miniature ducks and sold them to the community as part of the “Buck-A-Duck” campaign. The ducks were raced during the Victorian Days Celebration on Memorial Weekend. Owners of the top three ducks received a cut of the sales, while the remaining proceeds were donated to 20 families to send care packages to their loved ones or purchase a memorial brick in the new Superior City Park Veterans Memorial. Contact Dave Barnard at (402) 879-3257.

Trinity Lutheran Grade School Landscaping, Waco – After the completion of a new school building, a landscaping project consisting of pouring sidewalks, installing rock, planting trees and creating a parking lot was undertaken. Letters were sent home with students to recruit volunteers for the project. Children, along with their parents, grandparents, and other interested people, pulled together to work on completing the projects. Contact Philip Stern at (402) 728-5364.

## **Community Development**

### **Public Works, Facilities, Services and Planning**

#### ***Community Centers***

Putting the Pieces of the Puzzle Together for a New Community Center, Edgar – A 15-year goal of providing Edgar with a community center is closer to reality following recent steps taken by residents. The city's Information Technology Planning Task Force received a \$2,500 planning grant to develop an Information Technology Plan for the community. Using the results of the needs survey, paid for by the Information Technology grant, Edgar received a CDBG grant to help fund a new community center. Contact Pam Maynard at (402) 225-2351.

Auditorium Improvement, Ravenna – After undergoing numerous updates, the Ravenna Auditorium plays an even bigger role in community activities. Air conditioning was installed, allowing events to be held in the summer, and community organizations helped refinish the floor, remove carpeting, put up new sheetrock, and fund a new sound system for the auditorium. Contact Terry Hervert at (308) 452-3202.

#### ***Community Development***

I-80 Corridor Development, Aurora – If Aurora was to continue attracting high quality businesses, community officials needed to get water and sewer services to the I-80 corridor. The project involved annexing land from the south edge of Aurora to I-80 to install water and sewer lines to support the development of the interchange, as well as the corridor from Aurora to the interstate. As a result of the development, Aurora was able to attract a major anchor business (Love's Travel Stop) at the interchange, and help a downtown business needing more space relocate along the corridor. Contact Mike Bair at (402) 694-6992.

Public Works, Seward – Improving public works has been a priority in Seward recently. The Seward County Housing Corporation received a grant to build eight duplexes or 16 units for senior citizens who are below median income. Also, improvements to the streets, sidewalks, curbs, gutters, and lighting were a few of the projects that helped revitalize Seward's downtown. Seward's Memorial Library has gone from dream to reality and the Seward Police Department has relocated to a new facility complete with training, evidence, and interview rooms, and offices to further aid the development of Seward. Contact Betty Jean Kolterman at (402) 643-3803.

#### ***Fire and Medical Facilities***

Alliance Volunteer Fire Department Thermal Imaging Camera, Alliance – The thermal imaging camera is designed to detect heat sources in areas where firefighters could not normally see. The Alliance Volunteer Fire Department planned fundraisers, and community organizations planned events to help fund the camera. Contact Gary Bauer at (308) 762-2151.

Fire Department Improvements, Farnam – A CDBG grant helped to fund much needed improvements to the Farnam Volunteer Fire Department. The department was able to replace its 40-year-old pump truck, purchase new communications equipment, and repair other equipment. Following the improvements, the number of volunteer firefighters has risen to an all time high of 21. Contact Rod Klein at (308) 569-2355.

Franklin's New Ambulance, Franklin – With a need to update its equipment and provide the best possible care for the community, the Franklin EMTs purchased a new ambulance. A loaner ambulance was provided until the new vehicle actually arrived. To raise funds for the new model, the city and various clubs donated money, and the old ambulance was sold to a neighboring community. Students also helped in raising \$365 by collecting \$1 from every student that wished to wear a hat in school on Fridays. Contact Ronnie Herrick at (308) 425-3155.

Pawnee County Clinic Addition/Hospital Remodeled, Pawnee County – The two-stage project began with the erection of a building attached to the hospital, with office and exam rooms, handicapped accessible bathrooms, and a remodeled laboratory area. Stage two enlarged bathroom doors, and added new lights, ceilings, walls, and floors in the patient rooms. The Pawnee County Medical Foundation, USDA Rural Development, and donations from the community provided funding for the project. The clinic has seen about a five percent increase in patient visits each year since the completion. Contact Jim Kubic at (402) 853-2231.

Pawnee County Fire Department's Equipment and Hall, Pawnee County – Firefighters from each of the county's five towns met to determine what supplies were needed and what grants and funding sources were available. Three communities received grants and each of the departments held fundraisers. The project has generated more interest in joining the volunteer departments, improved water flow, and purchased more equipment. Contact John Vetrousky at (402) 852-2018.

### ***Planning***

City of North Platte's Planning Programs, North Platte – North Platte created a new development department under the direction of its newly named director as part of their planning program. Also, a revolving loan program was created, surveys were conducted, the comprehensive plan was updated, and a number of notable business

located in North Platte, including Wal-Mart, Menards, Holiday Inn Express, and Cabela's Customer Call Center. Contact Fred Alley at (308) 535-6724, ext. 225.

### ***Street Improvements***

Sidewalks, Curbs and Gutters, Bassett – Bassett officials received a real eye-opener when community members were given cameras to photograph areas of town they thought needed improvement. The photos resulted in a downtown revitalization project that replaced curbs, gutters, sidewalks, and lighting. All corners are now handicap accessible, the pavement is even and uniform, and drainage from downtown gutters has been tremendously improved. Funding for the project was provided by a CDBG grant, as well as the enactment of a city sales tax. Contact Korla Keller at (402) 684-2356.

Street Widening/Curb and Gutter Installation of Spur Cutting Through Waco, Waco – Waco now boasts smooth traffic patterns, a wide main street, and a clean, well-groomed appearance for everyone to enjoy. Also as part of the project, sidewalks were created and the water drainage system was updated. Contact Janelle Schachenmeyer at (402) 728-5537.

## **Environmental Projects and Awareness**

Tire Amnesty, Beatrice – More than 358 tons of tires were discarded in Gage County to help decrease breeding locations for mosquitoes (due to stagnant water), educate the community on West Nile Virus, and to provide a cleaner, safer, and more beautiful community. More than 80% of the tires will be recycled and reused in the production of asphalt roads, park benches, and picnic tables. Proclamations were given by the chairman of the county board and mayors in the surrounding area proclaiming July 28-August 2 as Tire Amnesty Days in Gage County. Contact Linda Grell at (402) 228-4576.

Environmental Projects and Awareness, Chappell – Chappell has taken on a multitude of activities to help protect and improve the environment. More than 89 tons of glass, newspaper, cardboard, aluminum, and plastics are recycled each year at the Recycling Center a curbside recycling pick-up service that was started by the FFA; annual community spring and fall clean up weeks are held; and abandoned buildings are torn down and disposed of properly. Contact LaDene Rutt at (308) 874-2982.

The Community Cleanup, Franklin – The three-phase program involved a collection of hazardous waste, a student community cleanup, and a tire collection. The Hazardous Waste Collection headed by the Trailblazer RC&D, placed various collection sites around the community for residents to dispose of hazardous waste. Middle and high school students held a community cleanup to thank the community for its continued support. A grant from the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality allowed the Franklin Recycling Center to recycle old tires

and inner tubes. More than 80 gallons of oil, 2,300 pounds of paint, 2,080 pounds of chemicals, and 1,200 pounds of cardboard have been collected, 107,007 pounds of tires have been recycled, and buildings and picnic tables have been painted. Contact Dave Rocker at (308) 425-6546.

Loup Basin RC&D Education Efforts, Loup Basin Region – Educating area residents about recycling, conserving natural resources, and protecting the environment have always been a priority of the Loup Basin RC&D. To continue meeting this goal, council employees and volunteers participated in environmental festivals and kids' fairs throughout the year. The Environment Festival featured seven sessions focused on the world of birds and bees. The group also hosted a booth at the Nebraska Children's Groundwater Festival showing what the earth would look like from outer space if we trashed it. During these and other festivals more than 1,400 children and adults visited the displays to learn more about preserving the environment. Contact Karen Wilson at (308) 728-3393.

Loup Basin RC&D Waste Collections, Loup Basin Region – The nine-county Loup Basin Region continued its quest for a safer and cleaner area. Grant funding helped make the collection of used tires possible; a household hazardous waste collection was held to safely dispose of chemicals, paint, oil, and acids; and the Ord FFA class partnered with the Loup Basin RC&D in two farmstead cleanups. Several communities held community-wide cleanups in conjunction with the events. Contact Karen Wilson at (308) 728-3393.

Keep Sidney Beautiful, Sidney – Keep Sidney Beautiful promotes citizen awareness about litter prevention, beautification, waste reduction, and environmental responsibility. The group is promoted through public service announcements, press releases, and at various events in the area. Contact Rick Spearow at (308) 254-6183.

Western Recycling Program, Western – More than 15 tons of cardboard and newspaper materials were kept out of the area landfill thanks to the time and research invested by dedicated volunteers in Western. Community members were notified of the recycling project through flyers, newspaper ads, and a mass mailing to all Western residents. Forty-four individuals worked two-hour shifts on the first and third Saturday mornings of the month to supervise the collection site. The \$310 received was distributed to seven organizations the volunteers were connected with. Contact Mary Henke at (402) 433-2151.

## Community Services

### *Assisted Living and Housing*

Housing Development, Aurora – With Aurora's continued population growth, additional housing was imperative. Property owners with larger tracts of land were encouraged to develop lots, and the Aurora Development Corporation (ADC)

housing committee set about developing an 18-acre tract adjacent to the city. As a result, ADC developed Lincoln Creek Subdivision (43 lots) and two private owners formed North Acres (20 1-acre lots) and Prairie Fire Estates (5 4-acre lots) were developed. Contact Robert Eddy at (402) 694-6404.

The Newman House Assisted Living Facility, Newman Grove – After the Mid-Nebraska Lutheran Home was granted nearly \$1 million through a nursing home conversion program, steps needed to construct an assisted living facility were completed. The Newman House is an 18-bed facility consisting of 10 one-bedroom units, eight studio units, a dining room/activity room, laundry room, offices, and a conference room. Volunteers worked overtime to find architects and contractors, visit other assisted living facilities, plan and conduct public meetings, select furniture, and landscape the surrounding area. Contact Rose Wissenburg at (402) 447-6323.

Oak Ridge Apartments, Ogallala – The Keith County Housing Development Corporation, and the Excel Development Group formed the Oak Ridge Apartments, Limited Partnership to address the housing concerns in Ogallala. The more than \$1 million development consists of eight two-bedroom, one-bath duplexes. Individual units include a range, refrigerator, microwave, garbage disposal, dishwasher, washer/dryer, central air conditioning, and attached single car garage. The \$375 per month rent includes water, lawn care, and snow removal. Contact Lynn Kratky at (308) 284-6077.

### ***Public Facilities***

Public Access Multi-Media Computer Lab, Bassett – The lab consists of seven public-access workstations, a scanner, digital camera, and an audio-visual television. As part of the project high-speed Internet for Bassett residents also was acquired. To achieve the project, students were surveyed and gave input on the equipment that was needed while the library director wrote grants to help fund the lab. Nine classes were offered throughout the year, providing training for 112 students on the use of the new software and equipment. Contact Evelyn M. Ost at (402) 684-3800.

New Library Building Project, Blue Hill – The Blue Hill Library Friends Foundation, a 501(C) (3) organization, was founded to solicit and accept donations for the update of the Blue Hill Public Library. The project would not have been possible without the large number of volunteers who helped in survey local residents concerning the library, move the library materials from site to site, and raise funds for the project. Contact Judy Grandstaff at (402) 756-2701.

Commemorating 20 Years at the Senior Center, Gothenburg – The Senior Citizen's Center finally celebrated completion of the newly-paved parking lot after putting the goal aside several times to aid in various other projects geared towards senior citizens. With community support, money was raised to pave the lot, purchase a

handi-bus, and fund the center's daily operations. Fundraisers held by the seniors, tax credits, donations, and a number of grants helped to make this dream come true. Contact Lisa Geiken or Jennifer Wolf at (308) 537-2591.

St. Mary's Hospital Emergency Room Renovation Room, Nebraska City – St. Mary's Hospital set out to provide an emergency room with first-class facilities - creating a more spacious, private environment for patient care. However, the end result included much more: two trauma rooms, two exam rooms, and spacious waiting areas. Donations and pledges from local businesses and donors for this project covered more than 75% of the cost of expansion. Contact Tammi Thompson at (402) 873-8920.

### ***After School Programs and Child Care Centers***

Thayer Central After School Program, Hebron – The Thayer Central After School Program is a state licensed, nonprofit corporation, designed to provide supervision for children in kindergarten through fifth grade. A combination of interested citizens and paid staff provide quality childcare that parents can rely on throughout the school calendar year. The program provides affordable, accessible childcare services that enhance the physical, social, emotional, and education development of children, with an emphasis on homework help, nutrition, manners, and fun in a safe and friendly environment. Contact Kurk Wiedel at (402) 768-7287.

Kimball Health Services Child Development Center, Kimball – A staff of 31 full-time employees oversee 80 children who are enrolled at the new child care center. The center offers extended hours, allowing more people to join the labor pool. The children have a structured educational experience, learning interpersonal skills, sign language, motor skills, and Spanish. The child care center is attached to the hospital and currently 100% of all the hospital's physicians' small children are enrolled. Contact Kim Woods at (308) 235-1952.

Dawson County Family United Network After School Project, Lexington – The Dawson County Child Advocacy Team was formed in 1996 to address the needs of children and families in Dawson County. The consensus of more than 250 community members was to develop an after school program that would provide an interactive, healthy, and safe enrichment alternative for youth, catering to individual and personal values, beliefs, and cultures within the community. The team moved forward and became part of a community-based agency to create the Dawson County Family United Network. Free enrollment was available during the first five years due to the project receiving numerous grants. After outgrowing space in a local church, the group purchased and renovated the Family Resource Center to provide the best care possible. Contact Vicki Gilpin at (308) 324-5504.

Here Wee Grow Daycare, Sidney – A collaboration of community members, area businesses, and parents helped to ensure a viable option for child care in Sidney. The project's goal was to help eliminate a deficit in quality child care and to help

businesses recruit and retain a strong workforce. The center features age-appropriate playground equipment, heated floors in the “crawler” rooms, a children’s library, and a vegetable garden cared for by the children. Contact Carter Kokjer at (308) 254-5505.

### ***Safety and Health***

Cedar County Fair Farm Safety Day, Cedar County – Cedar County’s three FFA Chapters hosted a farm safety exhibit at the Cedar County Fair to heighten people’s awareness of farm safety issues. Each chapter hosted different safety stations dealing with animal, grain, chemical, and ATV safety topics. A total of 119 participants ranging in age from six to 73 years attended the event. Contact Fritz Steinhoff at (402) 254-3507.

Neighborhood Watch Program, Dannebrog – Dannebrog’s Neighborhood Watch Program, which is supported by local law enforcement agencies, is designed to reduce the rising crime problem in the area. Volunteers entertained with Rock ‘n Roll Jam Sessions and ice cream socials to raise funds for the program. Captains within eight individual districts informed neighbors of meetings, special concerns, and identified problems. As a result of the program, crime areas were identified, a meth lab was uncovered, a kidnapper was convicted, and a neighboring community started a watch program of its own. Contact Shirley Johnson at (308) 226-2237.

The Meth Man Cometh, Franklin - The high school principal, TeamMates and Good Beginnings in Franklin County decided that there was a definite need for a drug awareness program for the entire community. Parents, mentors, community members, teachers, and area school students were contact by newsletter, newspaper, fliers, and radio broadcasts, and encouraged to attend one of several sessions designed to bring drug awareness and education to the area. More than 35 individuals attended each of several two-hour evening sessions held. Contact Bev McNiff at (308) 425-3726.

Bicycle Safety Rodeo, Hartington - The event included activity stations where youth learned a variety of bicycle skills and safety information. The youth also had their bicycles inspected, repaired and licensed, plus information was forwarded to the City of Hartington for registration purposes. After successfully completing all skill stations, each child received a certificate that included his or her photo. Contact Bill Yates at (402) 254-3507.

Women’s Health Conference, Sidney – Eight individuals formed a committee to plan and implement the Women’s Health Conference. The conference featured speakers presenting on topics, such as adolescent depression, survival skills for moms, color profiles, yoga, diabetes, contraception, and care giving. Contact Lynn Vosler at (308) 254-7448.

National Night Out, South Sioux City – National Night Out was held to promote police-community partnerships; crime, drug, and violence prevention; safety; and neighborhood unity. The event was a combined effort of the City of South Sioux City, civic groups and local companies to sponsor family activities that promoted community awareness and involvement. Activities included a patrol car display, bike decorating contest, bike safety check, and a hamburger and hot dog cookout. Contact Jeanette McFee at (402) 494-7555.

Docu-Drama for Youth Safety Education, Stromsburg – The Docu-Drama was an enactment of a drunk-driving accident near the school, performed for grades 9-12. The accident involved two cars containing six teenagers. Three teens were “dead” at the scene and three were “injured” in various ways. The driver, not seriously injured, was given a sobriety test and arrested. An ambulance and a local mortician removed the dead and injured. Following the “accident and rescue operations” a follow-up program was given in the school gym. The enactment was kept secret in order to leave a greater impact on the students. Contact Jodie Alvis at (402) 764-4482.

### *Miscellaneous*

Alliance Migrant Services, Alliance - Panhandle Community Services, a multi-community nonprofit community action agency serving the Western Nebraska area, concentrates on providing a Migrant and Seasonal Head Start Program (MSHS), housing services, and a health clinic. The Head Start program has 39 MSHS children and eight children that qualify for the Migrant Education program. Housing consists of three- and four-bedroom duplexes, complete with washer/dryer, window blinds, covered porches, and insulation. The Migrant Health Clinic is open Mondays and an outreach worker is available at the clinic Tuesdays through Fridays. Contact Jan Fitts at (308) 635-3089.

Improving Our Living Environment, Chappell – A variety of activities help create a safe, friendly community environment for Chappell residents. The community sponsors an Adopt a Dog program and Spay Day USA to help control the pet population. To make newcomers feel more at home in the community, welcome baskets are given, a newcomer banquet is held, and a newspaper article features the new residents. Contact Linda Walmsley at (308) 874-3260.

Comfort for the Needy, Eustis – Approximately 130 quilts are made and donated yearly to families in need on the local level, as well as around the world. Baby quilts are given to local hospitals and crocheted baby caps also are made for newborn babies. Several volunteers from the community’s churches head the quilting project. The quilting project is just one of many ways that the community helps people around the world. Contact Evelyn Bartruff at (308) 486-4181.

Community Beautification, Gothenburg – What started as a project for second and third graders turned into a communitywide beautification effort. Students were

divided into groups that worked on various clean-up activities, along with adult volunteers. Volunteers ranged from six to 70 years of age. Contact Judy Haver at (308) 537-2202.

Holy Trinity Fly-In Breakfast, Hartington – The Holy Trinity Fly-In Breakfast is a unique, collaborative effort between the local parochial elementary school and local airport authority to raise funds for the school, bring the community together, and showcase a great local airport. The event features breakfast, airplane and hot air balloon rides, and miniature airplane demonstrations. The number of people served breakfast has nearly doubled from 450 to 800. Contact Joan Broderson (402) 254-2444.

Andy Shaw Cancer Benefit, Kimball – After a young Kimball resident was diagnosed with Hodgkin's Disease, a variety of fundraisers were hosted by community members to benefit the family. The fire department held a potato bake, the FFA club hosted a car wash, various youth groups joined to put on a spaghetti feed, a former teacher donated a laptop so the family could stay in contact with the community through e-mail, Longhorn school pins were sold, and a "goat in the yard" campaign was held in which a goat was placed in a yard and the owner had to make a donation to have it moved to someone else's yard. Contact Jodie Williams at (308) 235-4660.

Borrow A Bike, North Platte – North Platte residents have created a way to conserve gas, save money, spend time with friends, and get more exercise. Residents borrow a bike from any one of the numerous bike racks located throughout the community and, when finished, return the bike to any bike rack. To prevent the bikes from being stolen, the city's police department donated a license for each bike, and a local auto body repair shop painted the bikes in an array of colors to make each bike unique. Bike donations were cut off after more than 100 bikes were donated during the first year of the program. Contact Marilee Hyde at (308) 535-6772.

Bloodmobiles for Service, Petersburg – Two local volunteers spearheaded several successful bloodmobiles in Petersburg. A list of volunteers and a list of donors are kept each year, with those on the lists being contacted to assist with an upcoming blood drive. Community members were called and re-called to remind them of the bloodmobile, while students meeting the minimum age requirement were excused from school and given class credit for participating in the drive. The goal of 76 donors was met and exceeded when 79 citizens came forward to help save lives. Contact Joyce Bottorf at (402) 386-5440.

Street Signs, Ravenna – The Ravenna Community Improvement Advisory Board headed the project of replacing the streets signs, directional signs, and posts with new reflective and readable signs. After contacting the Nebraska State Department of Roads to determine the proper guidelines regarding signage, bids were submitted and presented to the city council, with the local True Value Hardware Store being

chosen to provide the signs. The local Lions Club helped remove the old signs and put up the new signs. The new brightly-colored signs are very noticeable, especially at night. Contact Vicki Schmidt at (308) 452-3959.

Community Services, Seward – A number of community services help make Seward a great place to call home. The Memorial Health Care System employs 380 staff members, 10 of which are physicians who specialize in the area of family practice. Memorial Hospital is in the early stages of a \$6.5 million construction project to enhance patient confidentiality, emergency care, and outpatient services. Anna Sundermann Homes is a 115-bed nursing home providing long-term care, adult day services, and respite care. The Senior Citizens' Center hosts quilting events, a potato bake, and a senior shuttle. The Youth Center is open from 3:30-7 p.m., and features games, food, computers, and tutors from Concordia University. Call (402) 643-3602.

Welcome Wagon, Stuart – The Welcome Wagon strives to meet and greet the new members of the community. The Stuart FCCLA chapter is in charge of the planning, implementation, and evaluation of this project. Each month the FCCLA contacts the city manager to identify the community's newest residents, then asks local businesses for donations of gift certificates, pens, notepads, or other items to be compiled in a bag with a phone book, community calendar, and various other promotional materials. The packages are then delivered to the new residents. Contact Katie Madsen at (402) 924-3421.

## Parks, Recreation, and Forestry

### *Beautification*

Oakland Veterans Park, Oakland – With the donation of land near the Veterans Building the local VFW decided to create a Veterans Park. The first step of the project involved moving the Rooth Veterans Memorial to the new location. To fund the move, engraved bricks were sold. The goal of selling 100 bricks was far surpassed when more than 380 bricks were sold by the cut-off date. Senator Chuck Hagel aided in the process of obtaining a Medium Howitzer 155 MM to display in the park. Trees, benches, and a large concrete American eagle have been donated to the park to pay tribute to all who have fought to defend freedom. Contact Bernice Persson at (402) 685-6102.

Reading Garden – Gazebo, Benches and Lighting, Potter – As a result of a Town Hall meeting in August 1990, a Beautification Committee was formed to beautify Potter. Its focus was soon directed to the vacant lots located in the heart of downtown Potter. The Lions Club, owner of one such lot, donated its property for a park. With the input of downtown businesses an idea blossomed to use these lots to connect the Senior Citizens Center, library, and post office with the development of a Reading Garden, complete with a gazebo, lighting, and benches. Fundraisers consisted of a buy-a-brick campaign, a Cheyenne County Chamber of Commerce

Dress Down Day, and the sales of a throw especially designed for Potter. Contact Hal Enevoldsen at (308) 879-4467.

Liberty Garden, Scottsbluff – Liberty Garden was created as a special place of beauty within Scottsbluff, where people can honor the memory of those Americans who have perished in acts of terrorism and reaffirm the principles of freedom and liberty on which the U.S. was built. The Riverside Zoo and Park donated the land, water, and mulch for the project; the P.E.O. Chapter provided the plants; and the Keep Scottsbluff-Gering Beautiful team helped with planting, weeding, and various other aspects of the project. Contact Kathy Kropuenske at (308) 632-4649.

Main Street Beautification, Stuart – As part of its Main Street Beautification project the Stuart Community Club planted eight clusters of flowers, plants and trees to create an impressive Main Street business area and provide shade for several Main Street activities held each year. The Nebraska Community Enhancement Program awarded Stuart with a grant to design the project, purchase plants, and maintain the project. Volunteers met and removed cement and old dirt from the 6 ft x 15 ft. areas along Main Street in order to add more plants. Contact Sandra Kramer at (402) 924-3324.

### ***Miscellaneous***

Expanding Parks and Recreation, Chappell – Fun, safe activities are plentiful in Chappell thanks to a variety of recreational projects that have taken place during the recent years. New playground equipment was purchased for the elementary school, new restrooms and a gazebo were built at the city park, a new American Legion baseball team was formed, junior golfing sessions were held, a trapshooting range was built at the fairgrounds, a wrestling club was organized, and a kid's fishing derby was sponsored in an effort to keep kids active in the community. Contact Ron Jacobs at (308) 874-2584.

Parks, Recreation, and Forestry, Seward – The Parks and Recreation Department offers a variety of youth and adult activities to keep community residents active. The city operates a swimming pool, holds concerts, renovated the softball, baseball and soccer fields, hosts an Adopt-A-Park program, and hosts a number of sporting events. The newest project, Plus Creek Hiking Trail, will be a 2.4 mile concrete trail. As in years past, the Seward Parks and Recreation Board was invited to Seward, Alaska, to play baseball and basketball, renew friendships, and exchange ideas with its sister city. Contact Betty Jean Kolterman at (402) 643-3803.

### ***Park Improvements***

Rescuing and Restoring, Atkinson – When the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission announced they would no longer maintain Atkinson State Park, residents in Atkinson decided they would take on the daunting task of renovating and running the park. Volunteers ensure the park is mowed, the playground and

camping equipment is in good condition, the restrooms are cleaned, and garbage is picked up. To show off the terrific looking park and encourage the community to enjoy the results, a two-day “Celebrate the Park” event was planned. Some activities included a movie under the stars, fishing tournament, horseshoes, Frisbee golf, and stargazing. The amazing Atkinson volunteers are able to keep the park running with full maintenance while working on less than 25% of its former budget. Contact Joyce Hillman at (402) 925-5313.

Park Improvement Project, Elgin – The Young and Lively Extension Club addressed the city council with concerns about the decay of the local park. The city responded by purchasing new playground equipment, replacing the volleyball and basketball nets, adding sand to the playground area, landscaping and performing many other projects to help turn the park into a great place for everyone. One unique fundraiser to benefit the park improvement project was a Kids for Kids Salad Supper and Variety Show. More than 20 Elgin youth provided more than an hour’s worth of musical entertainment including; vocal soloists, violinists, rap performers and jitterbug dancers. Contact Deb Warren at (402) 843-2287.

Friends of Nuckolls Square Project, Nebraska City – The Friends of Nuckolls Square discussed the opportunity and needs involved in park improvements. Phase I was to build a 26-foot gazebo in the center of the park. Phase II replaced the deteriorated bandstand with a 28-foot gazebo. Phase III involved the installation of underground electric service for 16 Victorian lampposts and globes to light the park. Contact Bill Moore at (402) 873-3464.

Programs and Improvements at Petersburg Community Park, Petersburg – The addition of a 4-hole golf course to the community park provided Petersburg residents with an economic boost and another recreational activity in which to participate. Golf tournaments brought local businesses a huge economic boost and a 16-team golf league was formed. The course was financed by \$7,000 in fundraising proceeds and several hundred more dollars provided by in-kind efforts. Contact Don Friese at (402) 386-5380.

Neligh Park Renovation, West Point – When the park board made improvements to the park and the Cuming County Fair Foundation improved the fairgrounds, everyone benefited. The area now boasts handicap accessible fairgrounds, a pond stocked with fish, a user-friendly concession stand, and an upgraded baseball field. The community contacted various agencies, including the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, University of Nebraska–Lincoln and the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality to gain insight on creating a wonderful park. Contact Don Roeber at (402) 380-8914.

### ***Playground Equipment***

Lions Club Playground Equipment Project, Ainsworth – The completion of phase one at East City Park included the removal of outdated and noncompliant structures

by the Ainsworth City Parks Department and the installation of a new code compliant climbing and slide system for toddlers, a large slide, and separate toddler swings. Phase two will include the erection of bars, rings, and other agility developing equipment for older children. A committee from the Ainsworth Lions Club and a representative from a recreational design company selected and designed the equipment. Financial support was provided by grants from the Peter Kiewit Foundation, the Ronald McDonald House Charities, the Ainsworth Betterment Committee, the Lions Club, and the Ainsworth Women's Club. Contact James F. Arens at (402) 387-2381.

Kinder Park, Eustis – Kinder Park was designed and created to provide a safe, friendly, and colorful environment that would encourage people to play and picnic, while maintaining the beauty of downtown Eustis. The five park committee members visited various playgrounds throughout Nebraska and brainstormed on how to improve the present park. A balance of business and private donations helped fund the project as it is privately owned and grant funds were not available. In keeping with the community's German heritage, the colors of the German flag – red, yellow, and black – were used for the equipment. Contact Judith K. Brockmeier at (308) 486-5600.

Kids Kingdom Playground, Grand Island – Nine months of planning and fundraising culminated in six days of construction of a “kid-designed, community built” playground, Kids Kingdom. Plans for the playground began when a New York City architect visited Grand Island and gathered ideas from approximately 3,000 elementary students to help design the playground. Everything was designed, measured, cut and nailed right in Grand Island. More than 2,400 volunteers helped make the playground a reality. The 28,000-square-foot playground boasts a pirate ship, castle, tree house, lighthouse, Viking ship, swings, slides, walking path, sandbox, and more. Contact Joni Kuzma at (308) 385-5444, ext. 248.

Hayes Center Public School Playground, Hayes County – P.E.C.K. (Playground Equipment for Cardinal Kids) was created to oversee the planning and implementation of new playground equipment at Hayes Center Elementary. To raise money for P.E.C.K., food was served at sporting events, a kiss the pig contest was held, t-shirts were sold, memorials were given, and grants from Peter Kiewit and Great Plains Communications were received. Many community members took part in assembling the playground equipment. Contact Pat Hogeland at (308) 286-3211.

Railroad Park Playground, Potter – The Potter Community Improvement group took action to bring playground equipment to the downtown park to provide children with something to do in the downtown area. Donations, a penny drive, KENO funds, a Peter Kiewit grant, a Chamber of Commerce Dress Down Day, and a duck race all provided funding for the new equipment. Six local children

provided input in selecting the equipment. Contact Hal Enevoldsen at (308) 879-4467.

Playground Improvement Project, Sidney – After realizing much of the playground equipment was old, unsafe, and not age appropriate, a committee was formed to make improvements. Local service organizations were approached with the plan and asked to donate to the cause. Fundraising activities included face painting, hot-dog stands, yard sales, and cookie sales. Contact Kimberly Lowry at (308) 254-9282.

### ***Sports and Recreation***

YMCA Expansion, Alliance – The YMCA Expansion project more than doubled the size of the Alliance YMCA with the addition of a 160x72 feet building that connects to the original structure. Local businesses, individuals and organizations funded the \$380,000 project. The expansion added a family game room, a yoga and meditation room, a martial arts fitness room, an indoor cycle room, restrooms, an expanded weight room, new offices, a new lobby area and a gymnasium complete with a two-lane indoor walking track. Contact Ken Girodo at (308) 762-2200.

Boelus Ball Park Improvement, Boelus – Boelus residents decided it was time to make some necessary changes to keep their ballpark in excellent condition. A grant from the Nebraska Arboretum Foundation was a major factor in helping to fund the project. As part of the cleanup, dead trees and excess vegetation were removed, mulch was laid, existing trees were moved, new trees were added, the batting cage was relocated, an underground sprinkler system was installed, a gravel circle drive was created, cement pads were laid for four camper units, and electrical service was installed for the camping units. Contact Russell K. Jensen at (308) 996-4283.

Pelican Beach Golf Club, Grant County – Donations of time, money, and supplies from several members of the Pelican Beach Golf Club assisted in beautifying the golf course after a summer hailstorm. Sod was put down at various places on the course, a cinder cart path was created, and a women's tee box was added to one of the holes in an effort to provide affordable entertainment in an extraordinary environment for the local residents. ContactCarolynn Henderson at (308) 458-2764.

McCool School and Community Track and Fitness Project, McCool Junction – McCool Junction High School hoped the addition of a new track would help increase enrollment. However, as the project progressed, plans changed to benefit the entire community and not just the school. Three grants were received, while community patrons and school alumni donated the remaining funds needed to complete the project. Enrollment at the school and the number of patrons participating in physical fitness programs increased as a result of the increased community pride generated by the project. Contact Jim Green at (402) 724-2525.

## ***Trees and Forestry***

Operation Tree Screening and Wind Break, Pilger – Operation Tree Screening and Wind Break involved planting three rows of trees to the east and west of Pilger’s Transfer Station and Recycling Facility. The rows were developed with the intention of creating a screen between the facility and residential areas, to provide a wind and sound buffer and to aid in the village’s tree planting goals. Existing trees were moved to the area, and supplemented by seedlings purchased from the Lower Elkhorn Natural Resource District. Contact Kimberly Ramsay at (402) 396-3563.

Community Forestry, Potter – Every year, Potter Community Improvement, the village board, and tree board designate areas of the community where dead trees need to be replaced or new trees need to be added. In 2003, windbreaks were planted and the cemetery and high school grounds were enhanced with trees. The South Platte Natural Resources District and the village KENO funds provide cost sharing funds of up to 75%. Contact Hal Enevoldsen at (308) 879-4467.

## **Arts and Humanities**

### ***Events and Festivals***

Yesterday’s Tomorrows, Bassett – Yesterday’s Tomorrows is a traveling exhibit developed by the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibit Service with the National Museum of American History. The Bassett Education Experience Program, a summer enrichment program for all youth in the county, supported the exhibit as the kids made replicas of appliances and conveniences of yesterday, today, and robots of tomorrow. Contact Linda May at (402) 684-3515.

4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration, Blue Hill – The 4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration was organized to celebrate Blue Hill’s 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary and its wonderful community pride. Activities held included bingo, an antique car show, kid’s games, a golf tournament, a parade, and a fireworks display. The event brought together more than 100 volunteers from seven different organizations. Contact Troy Stickels at (402) 756-3131.

Sod House Day, Eustis/Farnam – Sod House Day was expanded this year to include not only the Eustis/Farnam Public School’s kindergarten through twelfth grade students, but fourth grade students from Elwood Public and Medicine Valley. The day was designed to teach students about the history and lifestyle of early pioneers. Not only do participants become a part of history by visiting a sod house in Eustis, but they watched a documentary film about Lewis and Clark, and listened to presentations of a member of the Lakota Tribe and a Nebraska Game and Parks Warden. Funding came from KN for Kids, Gosper County Keno, the Wilson Foundation, Nebraska Humanities, and money raised from refreshments sold during the day. Contact Judith K. Brockmeier at (308) 486-5600

Nelson Community Club Variety Show, Nelson – The 2003 Nelson Community Club Variety Show, “From Flappers to Rappers and All That Jazz,” featured talent from the community and surrounding area. The audience was treated to a variety of acts, including a one-act play, a locally written comedic olio, music ranging from the local high school jazz band to country singers, a keyboard virtuoso and even a country rap. More than 1,000 people attended the three performances and the nearly \$4,000 raised aided several programs in the community. Contact DeAnna Tuttle at (402) 463-4565.

NEBRASKAland Days Golden Games, North Platte – Every June, North Platte explodes with a flurry of activity in celebration of its Western heritage. NEBRASKAland Days offers a special blend of family fun and frontier history for all ages. The Golden Games provide a full day of activities, games, and entertainment for people age 55 and older. A local senior is presented with the Golden Senior Award for outstanding contributions to the community, prizes are awarded, local performers provide entertainment, and a lunch is provided. Thanks to the tremendous community support, the event welcomed 357 people in 2003. Contact Heather Weigel at (308) 535-6777.

Capitol Christmas Tree Events, Scottsbluff/Gering – After Scottsbluff received a letter from the Capitol Holiday Tree Co-Chairs asking if they would like to host a stopover for the caravan carrying the nation’s Christmas tree, a true, warm Nebraska welcome was planned for the event. Scottsbluff and Gering joined together to create a magnificent event that included a toy and food drive, a soup supper, a living history play, a parade, old-fashioned carolers, Santa’s workshop art center, various plays, and numerous other activities. An estimated crowd of more than 5,000 people attended the events, creating an amazing sense of pride and Christmas spirit in the united communities. Contact Cindy Dickinson at (308) 630-6249.

“Gloria” – West Nebraska Masterworks Chorale, Sidney – The Chorale, formed for the purpose of undertaking the yearly presentation of masterpiece chorale/orchestral works in conjunction with professional orchestra players and vocal soloists in the Nebraska Panhandle is comprised of approximately 50 singers from the surrounding area. Grants from the Nebraska Arts Council and organizations help keep ticket costs at a minimum. More than 800 people attended the performance, many who had never experienced this kind of performance before. Contact Jordan Ball at (308) 254-5356.

Patriot Day – September 11<sup>th</sup> Memorial, Sidney – Patriot Day was designed as a day to bring the community together to honor those who lost their lives in the September 11, 2001 attacks and to show support for the local heroes. The memorial program featured sounding of the sirens by local emergency vehicles, an invocation, posting of the colors, a gun salute, and performances by the Sidney High School Band and Sidney Singers. More than 1,500 people attended the

program to show their support for the victims and troops. Contact Ramona Joyce at (308) 254-3453.

Jammin' for the Troops, Wymore – More than 100 people attended Jammin' for the Troops, an event designed to honor the troops. Musicians provided entertainment, refreshments were donated, the National Guard provided vehicles for participants to ride in, youth made ribbons to wear, Girl Scouts collected retired flags for a retirement ceremony, and the community donated a variety of items to send to the soldiers. Contact Vonda Roberts at (402) 645-3986.

### *Miscellaneous*

Sand Hills Discovery and Visitors Center, Ainsworth – The Sand Hills Discovery and Visitors Center Foundation was chartered in 2001 for the purpose of providing comprehensive information about the Sand Hills area. A one-day event was created to help increase awareness about the center and meet the foundation's goals. After the event outgrew its home, it was moved to the Ainsworth High School. Speakers were recruited from areas of interest that dealt with paleontology, ecology, geology, horticulture, forestry, and agriculture in the Sand Hills area. A college course through Wayne State College was built around the event. Adding to the experience, area vendors and exhibitors brought together a unique assortment of products and displays specific to the geographic area. Contact Richard Albrect at (402) 387-2740.

Franklin County Veterans Memorial Wall Project, Franklin – The Veterans Memorial Wall project was started in August 2001 with the intent of recognizing veterans who served the United States in all phases of the military from World War I to the present. The memorial contains granite tablets bearing the names of veterans. More than 438 names have been engraved, with additional space for 320 names. The entire project was completed through donations. The memorial also is home to a retired army tank and T-33 aircraft. Contact Jerrell Gerdes at (308) 425-6221.

Hartington Public Library Expands its Services to Technology and the Arts, Hartington – The library received grants to update technology to allow patrons to access the library's card catalog via the Internet and to add new features to the Web site. Also, the library now participates in a quarterly newsletter with the Chamber of Commerce to increase public awareness of the library, added "Discovery Backpacks" to the children's area, renovated and opened an art gallery in the upper level to display the artwork of local and regional artists, and improved its summer reading program by incorporating technology that allowed kids to take quizzes on books. Results have been astounding, shown by the increase of 55 participants in the summer reading program and the number of local artists being featured in national magazines. Contact Tami Anderson at (402) 254-6245.

Wildwood Period Home Barn Restoration and Classroom Renovation, Nebraska City – The Wildwood Period Home has been restored and furnished in the Victorian period. Located on the property are two additional buildings that also have been restored – an Arts and Crafts barn and a classroom. Artists are invited from April through October to show their work in the barn, and items are sold year round. The classroom is available for public meetings and classes, such as woodcarving and painting for adults and children. Contact Jessica Jones at (402) 873-6654.

Active American Legion and Auxiliary Activities, Petersburg – The Legion and Auxiliary sponsor many fundraisers and community betterment projects in Petersburg. Projects include: Lenten fish fries, Boys and Girls State, summer recreation programs, County Government Day, color guard at funerals and a Veterans Day program. Around \$6,000 is generated through fundraisers and donations each year for the projects. Contact Hank Thieman at (402) 386-5584.

Plainview Arts Council, Plainview – To encourage and promote cultural education in the community, the Plainview Arts Council has brought in a number of artists to entertain community residents. The 12 board members were instrumental in bringing dancers from Africa in various authentic costumes to demonstrate native dances, the Wissmann Family musical act, and a performance by the Nebraska Theatre Caravan. Contact Carol Betterman at (402) 582-4433.

Community Patriotism, Stromsburg – With the leadership of organizations, such as the Stromsburg Woman's Civic Improvement Club, the American Legion and Legion Auxiliary, patriotism has always been a strong goal of Stromsburg. Annual projects include Memorial Day flags and ceremonies, Veterans Day flags and programs, National Day of Prayer, and Americanism essays. However, new projects added were; the addition of the Veterans Avenue of Flags, the displaying of yellow ribbons in the city park, painting a mural on the post office, and sending a weekly reminder of service personnel and their addresses. Contact Sandra Lyons at (402) 764-4921.

## **Economic Development**

### Business Assistance and Development

#### *Business Retention and Expansion*

The Leadership Center Expansion, Aurora – Several areas of The Leadership Center were expanded to accommodate more groups and larger meetings, as well as to improve some existing areas of the building. The 6,400-square-foot addition increased the seating accommodations of the dining room from 230 to 400, and increased the size of the entrance area, lobby, and offices. Community support was evident in the number of donations made to the project and the increased use of the facilities. Contact Cliff Jensen at (402) 694-3934.

Revolving Loan Fund, Bassett – The Bassett Chamber of Commerce was awarded a \$164,000 Rural Business Enterprise Grant to establish a revolving loan fund for business start-up, expansion, and retention in the county. A committee of several community members with different areas of expertise review applications from business start-ups and ensures that criteria has been met to satisfy the applicant's needs and compliances. (I would think that this needs to be the other way around- the applicant needs to meet compliance needs expectations??) As a result of the revolving loan fund, an existing business expanded and began selling apparel, a local mechanic opened a new business, a new beautician salon opened and a local restaurant reopened. The diversity of Bassett's economic base has increased dramatically thanks to this fund. Contact Patricia Thompson (402) 684-3950.

New Business Development, Farnam – A number of activities focusing on the development of new businesses in Farnam have helped spur the community's economic development. A new vineyard, technology company, beauty salon, and taxidermy shop have all revitalized Farnam. An empty business incubator building and several run-down buildings have now been transformed into a source of jobs and action in the community. Contact Dan Widick at (308) 569-2333.

Let's Keep the Sun Shining, Gothenburg – Volunteers play an integral role in keeping the theater running in Gothenburg. The Gothenburg Community Playhouse has replaced the roof, furnace, canopy, projection system, curtain, and other aspects of the historic Sun Theatre. Community members also volunteer their time to run the theater for each movie. In addition to yearly fundraising efforts, there was a concert, melodrama, major musical, and a children's theater production. In addition, a theater camp was held to help fund the children's theater productions. As a result of the project, 118 youth appeared onstage in quality productions and learned the value of community volunteerism and the arts. Contact Bev Titkemeier at (308) 537-2306.

Keeping Our Town Alive, Howells – Howells Industrial Development Inc., was formed to help finance new businesses coming to Howells. Six people served on

the board, using their own money and finding other local investors to help finance new businesses. Money was then loaned to the new owners at a low interest rate. The Howells Revolving Loan Fund also was formed to help finance new businesses. Several new businesses have opened, a number of new jobs were created, and community pride has increased in this forward-thinking community. Contact Carol Elbracht at (402) 986-1765.

Plains Business Center and BizInk/Business Incubator, Kimball – An abandoned school building is now home to renovated office space, conference rooms, and a business service center as a result of many volunteers in Kimball. The Plains Historical Society purchased the building for a future museum and it was decided that a newer wing would be a prime location for the development of office space. Donations and grants helped the development process. The uniqueness of the project is evident in the mix of public and private entities located in the building, creating a reduced need for traveling out of town for essential business services. Contact Deb Crago at (308) 235-3639.

Soybean Processing Plant, Newman Grove – New jobs have been created, the price for soybeans in Newman Grove is rising, and more tax revenue is being generated as a result of the local Farmers Co-op Oil Company's addition of a soybean processing plant. The value of the beans has increased by 16-18% through the processing of the beans into soybean meal and soybean oil. A USDA planning grant was a key resource in funding the project. Contact Randy Benson at (402) 447-6292.

Best Inn Burchard, Pawnee County – Volunteers helped complete a variety of projects at the Best Inn in Burchard. An alumni publication was revived, providing news articles, recipes, and other articles. The School House Café was opened to provide a place for Sunday morning buffet in the community. An average of 20 people are served each Sunday. The Roaring 20's Bed and Breakfast now provides area hunters a place to eat and sleep. The bed and breakfast also added signs and landscaping, new doors installed, and air conditioners were added to every room. Contact Greg Leger at (402) 865-4020.

Husker Ag LLC: Location of the Ethanol Plant, Plainview – After reaching the goal of \$14 million, the Plainview ethanol plant began construction. The plant produces ethanol and modified distilled grain from corn purchased in the area. It currently produces about 60,000 gallons of ethanol each day, utilizing trucks and railcars to haul away the finished products. Contact Allen Sievertsen at (402) 582-4446.

Annexation, Ravenna – The Ravenna Economic Development Corporation was contacted about the possibility of an ethanol plant being built in the area. To offer as many incentives as possible, the Ravenna City Council looked into annexing the 190 acres being considered for the new plant. By annexing the land, Ravenna would be able to offer Tax Increment Financing. Town hall meetings and public hearings were held to get information out to the public. As a result of Ravenna's

vision to develop and grow, the new plant decided to locate in Ravenna, bringing with it 55 new jobs and a \$2.5 million payroll. Contact Joan Moore at (308) 452-4106.

Retention of a Locally-Established Agricultural Business, Stromsburg – Members of the Stromsburg Development Corporation were determined to retain a local business specializing in plant genetics in the community. The corporation, in an effort to provide statistics that showed the town’s support for the business, extensively researched its community and residents. As a result of the retention, Stromsburg ensured a bright economic development future. Contact Elaine Westring at (402) 764-8144.

### ***Downtown Revitalization***

Main Street Improvement Program, Elgin – Three main projects have taken place to make Elgin’s downtown area more inviting to prospective businesses. Welcome banners were purchased and hung on light poles lining Main Street and a grant was awarded to help fund a new welcome sign and landscaping. The community also adopted a new slogan and design for the banners by sponsoring a contest. The winning slogan featured on the signs was “Some Bigger, Some Smaller – None Better.” The majority of the project was funded and performed by community volunteers. Contact Deb Warren at (402) 843-2287.

Main Street: Preserving the Past, Building for the Future, Gothenburg – As a Nebraska Lied Main Street Community, Gothenburg has helped attract new businesses to the downtown area, beautify the downtown, and preserve the historic buildings found downtown. To attract more people to the downtown and increase local shopping, a promotion committee was created and, markets the downtown through activities, such as a senior discount day, holiday tea tasting, and a dog show. Each year the board of directors develop work plans and goals and submit them to Nebraska Lied Main Street, as the two entities join forces to reconstruct the downtown area. During the past seven years, more than \$3.4 million has been invested in the Main Street District, bringing in 26 new businesses and 45 jobs. Contact Anne Anderson at (308) 537-3505.

“Sign-Up” for Nebraska City, Nebraska City – The goal of “Sign-Up” for Nebraska City was to create a signage system that helps visitors locate prominent Nebraska City attractions and informs them of additional attractions and local shopping. After researching various other signage systems implemented around the U.S., the committee assessed the needs of the community and developed an auto trail system for signage that effectively guides visitors throughout the city. There are four “trail heads” guiding visitors – the Downtown Shopping Trail, the Museum Trail, the Orchards Trail, and the Golf Trail. To date, 23 signs and four kiosks have been strategically placed through the community. Contact Brian Volkmer at (402) 873-4262.

Economic Development and Downtown Improvement, Petersburg – This project involved the remodeling and purchasing of equipment at the Petersburg Locker, the re-opening of the Main Street Café, attracting four new businesses in Petersburg, painting the town hall, placing the community's awards in a public area, removing of unsightly downtown buildings, and various other activities aimed at increasing the economy of Petersburg. The Boone County Development Corporation was also involved in hosting sessions on e-commerce and home Internet business assistance. Contact Ross Knott at (402) 386-5297.

### *Miscellaneous*

STJERNEN Newsletter, Dannebrog – This manually produced newsletter, STJERNEN, became a communication tool to allow Dannebrog a means of publicizing individual interests and activities for support and promotion. Businesses advertise to help pay for the expenses involved in printing and mailing the newsletter. Additional funds are raised through the 25-cent donation expected from local citizens who take a copy of the newsletter and subscribers who pay a yearly \$25 subscription fee. STJERNEN has advertised the town, increased tourism, encouraged donations and memorial gifts, honored achievements, united families, and most importantly, united the community. Contact Shirley Johnson at (308) 226-2237.

Labor Study, Fullerton – The Fullerton Local Labor Study was a telephone survey of 11 communities in Boone, Merrick, and Nance counties. The purpose of the survey was to estimate the size and existing job skills of the Fullerton area labor force who would consider applying for job openings announced by a new or expanding employer. The Nebraska Department of Economic Development (DED) developed a custom-built questionnaire for Fullerton. DED personnel trained the volunteers, mostly high school students, to call and survey the residents. Contact Scott Voichoskie at (308) 536-2428.

Hartington City, Chamber of Commerce, and Economic Development Join Forces, Hartington – These groups joined to create a vision that the community believes in – working together for the best of the community. While each entity has its own goals, the purpose of collaborating with each other is to be constantly aware of what projects each entity is working on and to assist each other to enjoy an even greater level of success. As a result of the collaboration, offices of each entity relocated to share space in a larger building, a countywide survey was completed, a leadership retreat was held, and plans for a recreational complex are underway. Contact Carla Becker at (402) 254-6357.

Financing Our Future, Hebron – The city of Hebron, in conjunction with the Hebron Chamber of Commerce, conducted a survey of Hebron residents to determine the level of support for a 1% city sales tax initiative. Based on survey results, the city council approved a referendum to place the issue on the ballot. A campaign was organized to educate the public on the advantages of a city sales tax.

As a result of the campaign the city sales tax initiative was passed, generating an average \$11,000 in monthly revenue to fund additional community development projects. Contact Rita Luongo at (402) 768-7156.

Loup Basin Economic Development Video Project, Loup Basin Region – More than 50 people attended an areawide meeting to discuss economic development issues in the region. A mission statement was developed and the idea of a video presentation for conveying the statement's message was formed. Volunteers conducted research, designed the video, and visited local organizations, communities, and counties presenting the idea. Staff from the University of Nebraska, Nebraska Public Power District, and Loup Basin RC&D assisted with contact information and design. Contact Bob Esch at (308)-497-2246.

Trails of Treasures 46-Mile Garage Sale, Maywood – Maywood, Curtis, Eustis, Farnam, Moorefield, and Wellfleet brainstormed and devised a plan to bring people and increased revenue into the area. The idea of a regional garage sale eventually became a reality, adding dollars to the area's economy. More than 70 garage sales were held, vehicles from 17 different counties were sited in the area attending the sales, and at least six out-of-state residents attended. Contact Lynne Wilson at (308) 367-8801.

Potter Historical Foundation, Potter – The Potter Historical Foundation was formed with the following goals: preserving history in Potter, educating the general public regarding Potter's history, and combating deterioration of the town's central historical and business district. The foundation has completed a variety of projects, ranging from "Saving the Sundry" (the old-fashioned ice cream shop), to a digital reproduction of the *Potter Reviews* (Potter's old weekly newspaper). Projects currently in the final stages of completion include restoration of the hardware building and the Duckpin Bowling Alley on the second floor, and assisting with lighting and new benches in the reading garden. Contact Kirk Enevoldsen at (308) 879-4451.

All America City Award Program, Ravenna – Ravenna was chosen as one of the top 30 cities in the United States whose actions have succeeded in making the community a better place to live. Each of 90 entries competed on an equal basis. The application process was comprised of a breakdown of the community demographics, 24 essays concerning community problems and solutions, and three main projects were discussed in depth. Upon being chosen as a finalist, 18 Ravenna citizens, ages 12 to 77, traveled to Washington, D.C., to be part of the presentation before the judges. Contact Louis Johnsten at (308) 452-3710.

All America City Award Project, South Sioux City – The City, Chamber of Commerce, School, Dakota County Interagency Team, and private businesses and citizens collaborated on the All America City application and subsequent successful award-winning presentation in Washington, D.C. The award required

two projects, plus a youth project documenting tangible improvements in the lives of children and youth. Contact Gaila Gilliland at (402) 494-9407.

Establishment of Economic Development Director and Office, St. Paul – The St. Paul Development Corporation worked to get an economic development director hired for Howard County and the city of St. Paul. This required developing a job description and tentative budget, identifying funding sources, and persuading the various funding sources that this was a vital need in the area. Contact Val Killinger at (308) 754-5221.

Building an E-Business Ready Workforce, West Point – West Point was chosen to participate in a project funded by the U.S. Department of Labor entitled Building an eBusiness Ready Workforce in the Northern Great Plains. The primary focus of the training was planning, designing, and maintaining business and organizational Web sites, using the tools of the Internet for increased effectiveness in communication, data collection and organizational efficiency. Contact Patty Schinstock at (402) 372-2466.

## Tourism Promotion and Development

### *Promotion and Marketing*

NE Ranch Expo, Bassett – This farm show for ranchers features booths and exhibits on every aspect of ranching, from haying, to cattle, to all terrain vehicles, to pickups. Exhibitors come from as far away as Texas and Canada for this two-day event and increases Bassett's population of 740 to 10,000. Big name country entertainment is provided, demonstrations are given, food is sold and a craft show is held. Contact Gene Debolt at (402) 244-5434.

Gering Convention and Visitors Bureau – New Name and Marketing Logo, Gering – An 18-month process to explore and evaluate Gering's current tourism marketing efforts culminated with the announcement of a new name and logo for the Gering Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB). "Gering...Western Nebraska's Great Escape" was chosen as the new tag line and the new logo features Scotts Bluff National Monument, the city's best-known attraction, and is complimented by visual images of outdoor recreational opportunities. A 15-member branding committee was formed with CVB board members, city staff, civic center management, city council representatives, the mayor, students, and countywide tourism officials to help develop the marketing tools. The new tag line and logo will be used to promote Gering in a variety of major publications. Contact Karla R. Niedan at (308) 436-6886.

Loup Basin Birding Promotional Brochure, Loup Basin RC&D – The Loup Basin RC&D Tourism Committee collaboratively developed the idea of using the numerous public and private wildlife areas to increase tourism in the area. A brochure was chosen as the best mechanism to get this message out. They then

researched area birds, seasons the birds are in the area, and what locations are available for viewing. Committee members then designed the brochure. More than 30,000 brochures have since been distributed. Contact Lareda Hoback at (308) 346-4366.

Stuart's Web Page (stuartne.com), Stuart – A local resident created the Stuart Web site as part of a college project. However, the project evolved into a full-out community effort. Historical pictures were gathered, data was compiled, and a Web master was hired to oversee the site. The Web site keeps everyone up-to-date, lists contacts for local businesses, hosts an online version of the local paper, and promotes special activities. The site currently receives about 53 hits and five to seven e-mails each week. Contact Loretta M. Gill at (402) 924-2525.

### ***Landmarks and Memorials and Museums***

Back in Time, Atkinson – The creation of a proper Victorian garden, including a Victorian lamppost, was the highlight of the landscaping project at Studevant-McKee Historic House Museum. A landscaping grant from the Nebraska Green Space Stewardship Initiative allowed for the project to take place. A landscape architect from the University of Nebraska–Lincoln helped develop the landscape plans, while a number of volunteers assisted in implementing the project. Contact Joyce Hillman at (402) 925-5313.

American Legion Post #9 Life Time Tour of Duty, Hemingford – A total of 194 flags fly proudly along 10 city blocks, paying tribute to area men and women who served their country proudly. The American Legion #9 solicited American flags given to families of deceased veterans in the Hemingford area. Each flag is tagged as to whom the flag is in memory of, and each flagpole has plaques mounted to identify the veteran. Each year flags are hung on Memorial Day, July 4<sup>th</sup>, and Veterans Day. Contact Jim Olson at (308) 487-5210.

20<sup>th</sup> Century Veterans Memorial, North Platte – The mission of building a permanent monument dedicated to and honoring the military men and women of the United States who served their country during the 20<sup>th</sup> century was accomplished by a group of hardworking volunteers. The monument is located in Iron Horse Park and memorializes the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard with life-sized bronze statues. The five major conflicts of the 20<sup>th</sup> century will be depicted in a brick mural and 8,000 commemorative bricks engraved with veterans' names will line the Walk of Honor. Contact Don Craig at (308) 532-6579.

Harold Lloyd Birthplace Restoration, Pawnee County – The birthplace of silent film actor star and Burchard native Harold Lloyd was restored to its original three-bedroom core after a tourism grant and numerous donations were received. Completion of the project has led to increased community pride, elimination of a community eyesore, positive publicity, and a new tourism attraction added to the

list of Pawnee County “must see” attractions. Contact L. Joe Stehlik at (402) 852-2973.

The Pedal Clinic, Pawnee County – A collection of more than 450 pedal tractors, pedal cars, pedal airplanes, wagons, bikes, and other toys collected during the past several decades is now on display for the public. The collection is housed in a restored church that has been re-plastered, re-landscaped, and cleaned. Contact Bill Sunneberg at (402) 852-2655.

### ***Tourism Events***

33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Country Music Festival, Ainsworth – The Country Music Festival is an annual four-day event, featuring competition in categories for fiddlers, pickers, female singers, male singers, 55 and older, pre-teens, vocal groups, juniors, songwriters, country bands, and more. In addition to the competition, there is local entertainment, jam sessions, a square dance, the Nebraska Auctioneers Bid Calling Competition, a church service, garage sales, and pancake feeds. More than 2,000 spectators and participants traveled from as many as 15 states to be a part of this festival. Contact Kathy Worrell at (402) 387-2844.

Dobby’s Fall Festival, Alliance – Dobby’s Fall Festival was a two-day event conducted at Dobby’s Frontier Town, an attraction that includes 18 original or replica buildings of a turn-of-the-century pioneer village. The festival honors those pioneers who worked hard to make the community survive. Throughout the weekend, the public was invited to attend various stage shows, demonstrations, and reenactments. Volunteers were dressed in period costumes and used actual tools and items that were from the early settlement years. Contact Liz Lee at (308) 762-4321.

Alma’s 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Country Music Festival, Alma – A pancake feed, cowboy poets, music competitions, and musical entertainment were held as part of Alma’s 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Country Music Festival. A core group of organizers meet after each festival to analyze the project, brainstorm new ideas, and begin working on the next festival. Subcommittees, as well as many volunteers, divide the workload. Contact Bill Hogeland at (308) 928-2242.

Cedar County Fair, Cedar County – A hometown theme was incorporated into the Cedar County Fair to let the entire county know that the fair is for everyone. Several organizations operated games and food booths, keeping all the proceeds in the county instead of paying a carnival to come in and take the money somewhere else. With the addition of the Hometown Midway there was an increase in attendance, and various schools and churches were able to make money. Also, a local band supplied the music for the teen dance, area businesses sponsored the rodeo, a local community theatre performed, and a free barbecue and ice cream social were held to increase county pride and involvement. Contact Wanda Kruse at (402) 254-3896.

Economic Development Practices, Chappell – A variety of activities are held to help promote Chappell and provide an economic boost to the community. The Annual Wheat King Festival held each June, includes citywide garage sales, a craft fair, golf tournament, and dances. The Chamber of Commerce also plans and implements the Annual Christmas Open House, with businesses open with food, decorations, and special deals to kick off the holiday shopping season. Other marketing efforts in Chappell include a variety of sporting events, the largest flag in the state of Nebraska painted on the community's elevator, the production of white wheat, and the implementation of a monthly spotlight on local businesses. Contact LaDene Rutt at 308-874-2982.

Wurst Tag, Eustis - The German heritage celebration has evolved into an event attended by nearly 3,000 people. The event brings tourists from all over the state to learn about German culture, food, and heritage. More than 350 volunteers from all walks of life and ages participate, plan, and implement the celebration. Contact Mari Banzhaf at (308) 486-5611.

Celebrate 100 Years of Aviation at the Historic Fairmont Airfield, Fillmore Co. – More than 8,200 people were treated to a terrific air show, an impressive display of vintage military aircraft, and a flyover by a stealth bomber as part of the celebration of the 100<sup>th</sup> year of aviation at Fairmont Airfield. Radio-controlled airplane demonstrations, free plane rides for kids, a NASA display, book signings, hands-on activities for kids, food, and music also were part of the event. As a result of the event, people are more aware of the airfield, making it an active airfield, not just a forgotten piece of history. Contact Patt Lentfer at (402) 759-4910.

Windmill Country Celebration, Grant County – Windmill Country Celebration is a month-long event held in Grant County during June. Events are planned throughout the month, with the last weekend finale taking place in conjunction with Hyannis High School alumni activities. As part of the celebration, a trail ride, fishing tournament, chuck wagon feed, talent show, and photo contest were held. A local high school student designed a marketing logo to be used on all promotional marketing efforts. The event was promoted through the use of promotional fliers and posters, a listing in the Nebraska Tourism Division *Traveler Magazine* and *Event Catalog*, news releases in area newspapers, and a bulk mailing to all box holders and route subscribers. Contact Jeanne Davis at (308) 458-2579.

Grand Duke Alexis Rendezvous, Hayes County – The dream of several community members became a reality when a historic buffalo hunt was held to honor the Grand Duke Alexis of Russia. Several living historians were brought in to portray characters, such as Buffalo Bill Cody, Gen. George Custer, and Sioux Chief Spotted Tail. The local school lent a bus and driver to transport spectators and several groups prepared food. Raffles, donations and several grants were awarded to help offset costs. Contact Doris Vlasin at (308) 286-3463.

Antique, Craft, and Flea Market Extravaganza, Lexington – The Extravaganza brings approximately 150 vendors from 10 states, each setting up booths that sell and display antiques, homemade crafts, and flea market items. After a decline in attendance, a marketing plan was developed to increase participation by vendors and visitors from outside the community. The plan involved distributing surveys to each vendor and then reviewing the survey results. Next, a marketing committee, which included participants from various media, was formed and a marketing budget was established. As a result of the marketing efforts, 20 new vendors signed contracts and attendance increased by 2,500. Contact Vicki Gilpin at (308) 324-5504.

1<sup>st</sup> Annual Sweet Corn and Hamburger Feed, Pilger – Pilger's 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Sweet Corn and Hamburger Feed was a citizen organized freewill donation event with all money raised going into the fund for the construction of a new Pilger Pool. The feed consisted of all you can eat sweet corn, hamburgers, coleslaw, bars, and drinks. Additional fresh picked ears of corn, hamburger patties, and Pilger T-shirts also were available for purchase. A local seed company donated the sweet corn seed, while a local farmer planted the seed plus grew and harvested the corn. More than 300 people attended the event, and more than \$1,500 was raised for the pool fund. Contact Kimberly Ramsay at (402) 396-3563.

Tourism, Seward – Tourism helps establish a sense of pride for residents as they invite friends and family to Seward for the annual Fourth of July celebration, or to view the Bartels Rock and Gem Museum at Concordia University. Volunteers promote and build on what Seward has to offer, now boasting a long list of events and attractions. Signs were placed along the interstate to promote Seward, brochures were printed, and the community was featured in *Nebraska Traveler*. Contact Betty Jean Kolterman at (402) 643-6138.

Wind Turbine Day – 2003, Springview – The 6<sup>th</sup> annual celebration underwent dramatic changes in 2003 to provide an exceptional community event for everyone. A professional bull-riding event was added and all big events were moved to the airport and admission was charged. Events included calf roping, barrel racing, a pickup pull, a beef barbecue, a prize raffle, and a dance. Other free events held outside the airport included a bike rodeo, youth tractor pull, art show, car show, basketball tournament, and coin scramble. Approximately 500 people attended the event, providing a huge economic boost for the community. Contact Karen Hallock at (402) 497-3791.

Waco's Q125 + 1 Celebration, Waco – Due to the fact that the main highway running through Waco was under construction during the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the community, the decision was made to wait one year to celebrate the event. A clean-up project was completed in an effort to showcase the community for the special day. Volunteers assisted in planning and implementing the day's activities, including a quilt show, parade, barbecue, old-time movie screenings, pancake feed, coin hunt, dance, and picture display. Contact Deb Bredenkamp at (402) 728-5515.



## Community Index

<u>Community</u>	<u>Page</u>	<u>Community</u>	<u>Page</u>
Ainsworth	3,17,21,29	Loup Basin Region	2,9,10,26,28
Alliance	1,7,13,18,29	Maywood	5,26
Alma	29	McCool Junction	19
Atkinson	16,28	Nebraska City	5,11,17,22,25
Aurora	7,10,23	Nelson	20
Bassett	8,11,19,23,27	Newman Grove	10,24
Beatrice	1,9	North Platte	2,8,14,20,28
Blue Hill	11,20	Oakland	15
Boelus	18	Ogallala	10
Cedar County	12,29	Pawnee County	8,8,24,29,29
Chappell	3,9,13,16,30	Petersburg	5,14,17,22,25
Cuming County	1	Pilger	19,31
Dannebrog	12,25	Plainview	22,24
Edgar	7	Potter	5,15,18,19,27
Elgin	3,3,16,25	Ravenna	5,7,14,24,27
Eustis	1,3,13,17,30	Scottsbluff	15
Eustis/Farnam	20	Scottsbluff/Gering	20
Farnam	3,8,23	Seward	5,7,15,16,31
Fillmore County	1,30	Sidney	10,12,13,18,21,21
Franklin	3,8,9,12,21	South Sioux City	6,13,27
Fullerton	26	Southwest NE RC&D	2
Gering	28	Springfield	2
Gothenburg	4,11,14,23,25	Springview	31
Grand Island	18	St. Paul	27
Grant County	4,19,30	Stromsburg	2,6,13,22,24
Hartington	4,13,14,21,26	Stuart	6,15,16,28
Hayes County	4,18,30	Superior	6
Hebron	2,11,26	Waco	6,9,31
Hemingford	28	West Point	17,27
Howells	4,23	Western	10
Kimball	4,11,14,24	Wymore	21
Lexington	12,30		



## **APPENDIX**

The following is a compilation of 2001-2003 Project Networking Guides.

For more information on a project, contact Kathy McKillip at:

Nebraska Department of Economic Development  
Community and Rural Development Division  
301 Centennial Mall South  
P.O. Box 94666  
Lincoln, NE 68509-4666  
(402) 471-6587 or (800) 426-6505  
Fax: (402) 471-8405  
kmckillip@neded.org

## Leadership Development

### Volunteer and Leadership Development

Family Stars on Christmas Tree.....	Allen (2001)
Career Empowerment .....	Alliance (2001)
Beautification of Cowboy Trail .....	Atkinson (2001)
Operation of Theater/Youth Center .....	Aurora (2001)
Math Olympics.....	Bassett (2002)
Woman's Club .....	Belvidere (2002)
Senior Citizen Recycled Cards .....	Blue Hill (2002)
Teen's Night Out .....	Blue Hill (2002)
Guiding Future Stars .....	Box Butte (2002)
Volunteer and Leadership Development .....	Chappell (2001)
Jimmy Collins Memorial Tournament.....	Coleridge (2003)
Recognition and Appreciation .....	Dundy County (2001)
Christian Unity in the Community.....	Eustis (2002)
Goals Setting.....	Farnam (2001)
Franklin County Veterans' Memorial.....	Franklin (2003)
Mentoring/Tutoring Project .....	Franklin County (2002)
Melodrama/Scholarship Program .....	Goehner (2001)
Remembering the Past .....	Gothenburg (2001)
Laying the Foundation for Education .....	Gothenburg (2003)
Cedar County Relay for Life.....	Hartington (2003)
Hemingford Community Diorama .....	Hemingford (2003)
Tracking Volunteer Hours .....	Kimball (2003)
Hillcrest Care Center and Assisted Living Gazebo .....	Laurel (2003)
Volunteers, Volunteers, Volunteers.....	Mason City (2001)
Nebraska City Relay for Life.....	Nebraska City (2001)
Community Foundation .....	Nebraska City (2002)
Nebraska City Community Foundation .....	Nebraska City (2003)
Community Connections .....	North Platte (2003)
Otoe County Relay for Life .....	Otoe County (2003)
Island Project .....	Ravenna (2002)
Sidney Area Leadership Tomorrow.....	Sidney (2001)
WNCC Endowment Association .....	Sidney (2002)
Volunteer Capitol of Nebraska .....	Stromsburg (2001)
EMT Volunteer and Equipment Expansion.....	Stromsburg (2002)
Stuart Development Corp. Community Development.....	Stuart (2003)
Wallace Community Lions Club .....	Wallace (2001)
Community Foundation .....	Wallace (2002)
Downtown Banner Project.....	Wisner (2003)
Volunteers Have That Magic Touch.....	Wymore (2001)

### Youth Involvement and Leadership Development

Long Pine Hiking Trail .....	Ainsworth (2001,2003)
Entrepreneurship Class Re-opens Gateway Theater.....	Albion/Petersburg (2003)
Batting .400 With the Junior Bank Board.....	Alliance (2003)
Young Leaders .....	Atkinson (2002)
Teen Clean Gang.....	Auburn (2001)
First Grade Long-Term Care Project .....	Bassett (2001)

\*For project contacts and phone numbers, see a specific year's Project Networking Guide, indicated in parentheses. Project Networking Guides can be found on the NCIP website at: <http://crd.neded.org/ncip/index.htm>

Explorers & Alliance For Teens: Reflecting Self-Respect	Box Butte (2002)
Youth Involvement and Leadership Development .....	Chappell (2001,2002,2003)
Youth As Resources Program (YAR).....	Cheyenne County (2003)
Involvement of Youth in Our Community.....	Coleridge (2001,2003)
Family Resource Center.....	Dundy County (2001)
Youth in Action .....	Eustis (2001)
Take a “Close Up” Look.....	Eustis (2003)
Eustis/Farnam Outstanding Youth.....	Eustis/Farnam (2002)
Leaders of Tomorrow 4-H Club’s Senior Partners .....	Eustis/Farnam(2003)
Youth Involvement .....	Farnam (2001)
Farnam Youth Community Improvement Program .....	Farnam (2002, 2003)
Benjamin’s Story .....	Franklin (2001)
Developing Leadership Skills .....	Goehner (2002)
Youth Involvement and Leadership Development .....	Gothenburg (2001)
Youth Community Improvement Program (YCIP) .....	Gothenburg (2003)
Hyannis High School Rodeo Club Alcohol Awareness ...	Grant County (2003)
Youth Leadership Activities .....	Hubbell (2001)
Community Quiz Bowl.....	Kimball (2001)
Prairie Rhythms Youth Focus.....	Kimball (2001)
Kindness and Justice Challenge.....	Kimball (2002)
Loup Basin Farmstead Cleanup .....	Loup Basin Region (2003)
Youth Activities That Promote Leadership Development.	Mason City (2001)
Youth Mural Project .....	Maywood (2001)
Red Cross Bloodmobile .....	Maywood (2003)
Youth Community Service Scholarships .....	Mead (2001)
Camp Catron Fundraising and Facilities Expansion.....	Nebraska City (2001)
Pompon Dance Team.....	Neligh (2001)
Mayor’s Youth Council .....	North Platte (2003)
Pawnee City Penguins .....	Pawnee City (2003)
Youth Involvement .....	Pawnee County (2001)
Explosive Youth Group .....	Petersburg (2001)
Potter-Dix High School Community Involvement Class...	Potter (2002)
Good Samaritan Center – Alzheimer’s Unit.....	Ravenna (2003)
Pleasanton Branch/Union Pacific Railroad.....	Ravenna (2003)
Seward Fourth of July Celebration .....	Seward (2001)
Youth Involvement .....	Seward (2003)
Science Fair.....	Sidney (2001)
The Sophomore Career Expo.....	Sidney (2001)
Volunteens .....	Sidney (2001)
Skateboard Park Project.....	Sidney (2003)
2002 Youth Involvement .....	Stromsburg (2002)
Superior FFA Chapter – “Making a Difference” .....	Superior (2001)
Superior FFA Chapter – Leadership.....	Superior (2003)
Boy Scout Outdoor Classrooms Project .....	Syracuse (2001)
FFA Community Development Activities .....	Syracuse (2001)
Concession Stand and Baseball Complex Mural.....	Wallace (2002)

\*For project contacts and phone numbers, see a specific year’s Project Networking Guide, indicated in parentheses. Project Networking Guides can be found on the NCIP website at: <http://crd.neded.org/ncip/index.htm>

# Community Development

## Public Works, Facilities and Services

### **Cemeteries**

Cemetery Directory.....	Culbertson (2003)
Cemetery Directory.....	Ravenna (2003)

### **Community Centers**

Community Building .....	Belvidere (2002)
Community Technology Center.....	Brainard (2003)
Renovation of the Recreation Center.....	Burchard (2001)
New Lighting in Community Hall .....	Maywood (2003)

### **Educational Facilities and Services**

Citizens for a Better Community .....	Ainsworth (2001)
Ainsworth City/Public School Building Project .....	Ainsworth (2003)
Energizing Elementary Youth .....	Alliance (2001)
Improving Our Public Facilities .....	Chappell (2001)
School Addition/Distance Learning.....	Coleridge (2001)
Planning for the Future .....	Gothenburg (2001)
School Renovation/Rebuilding Bond Issue .....	Gothenburg (2002)
Nebraska Center for the Blind or Visually Impaired.....	Nebraska City (2001)
Southern Public Interactive Network.....	Wymore (2001)

### **Emergency Rescue and Fire**

Hitting a Home Run With the BBGH Expansion .....	Alliance (2003)
County Rescue Truck.....	Aurora (2002)
Continuing Service and Safety Education .....	Coleridge (2001)
Construction of Fire Hall .....	Dannebrog (2001)
Fire and Rescue Expansion.....	Eustis (2001)
Fire Truck Replacement.....	Louisville (2003)
Health and Safety .....	Mason City (2001)
Nebraska City Volunteer Fire Department .....	Nebraska City (2003)
Regional Meeting/Training/Disaster Relief Headquarters	North Central RC&D (2001)
New Emergency Unit.....	Ravenna (2002)
Fire Hall Addition/New Rural Fire Truck .....	Ravenna (2003)
Emergency Medical Technicians.....	Superior (2001)

### **Government Facilities**

New City Hall .....	Aurora (2003)
Sewer and Street Improvement.....	Cedar Rapids (2002)
New Water Tower Painting and Dismantling of Old.....	Coleridge (2003)
West Broadway Street Project .....	Coleridge (2003)
Water Improvements.....	Davenport (2003)
Electrical Department Shop .....	Kimball (2003)
City Hall Millennial Move.....	Mitchell (2001)
Paving Fulton Street.....	Oakland (2003)

## **Libraries**

Public Library Building Project.....	Blue Hill (2002)
Emergency Library Support.....	Clarks (2002)
Library Expansion.....	Farnam (2003)
Morton James Public Library Expansion.....	Nebraska City (2003)
Renovated Library .....	Springfield (2003)
Library Expansion.....	Stromsburg (2001, 2002)
Library Cultural Events .....	Stromsburg (2003)
Expansion to Meet Need.....	Wymore (2002)

## **Planning**

Adoption of a Comprehensive Plan .....	Aurora (2001)
Economic Development Practices .....	Chappell (2003)
Design COOP.....	Curtis (2003)
Focus on Franklin .....	Franklin (2001)
Community Attitude Survey .....	Shelby (2002)
City Improvements.....	Stromsburg (2001)
Comprehensive Community Survey .....	Stromsburg (2003)

## **Miscellaneous**

Citywide Ongoing Projects.....	Dannebrog (2001)
Cemetery Directory and Improvements.....	Mason City (2001)
Honoring Veterans.....	North Platte (2001)
Relocation of Organic Landfill.....	Potter (2001)
Public Works.....	Seward (2001)
Y2K and LEOP .....	Stromsburg (2001)

## **Environmental Projects**

Rounding the Bases with the School Recycling Project....	Alliance (2003)
Environmental Projects and Awareness .....	Chappell (2001,2002,2003)
Patrons Make Recycling Program a Success .....	Howells (2001)
Household Hazardous Waste and Tire Pickup .....	Loup Basin Region (2001)
Cedar River Stabilization Project Committee.....	Loup Basin Region (2002)
Heartland Water Quality Project.....	Loup Basin Region (2002)
Loup Basin Water Association .....	Loup Basin Region (2002)
Environmental Festival .....	Loup Basin Region (2002)
Stream Workshop.....	Loup Basin Region (2003)
Beautification of Maywood .....	Maywood (2003)
Keep North Platte and Lincoln Co. Beautiful.....	North Platte (2003)
Pilger Recycling and Aluminum Can Purchasing Center..	Pilger (2003)
Seward Spring Cleanup Day.....	Seward (2003)
The Western Nebraska Children's Groundwater Festival .	Sidney (2001)
Citywide Clean Up.....	Stuart (2003)

## **Community Services**

### **Assisted Living and Senior Centers**

Cottonwood Villa.....	Ainsworth (2001)
East Park Villa .....	Aurora (2001,2002)
Assisted Living Facility .....	Coleridge (2001)
Oodles of German Noodles.....	Eustis (2001)

\*For project contacts and phone numbers, see a specific year's Project Networking Guide, indicated in parentheses. Project Networking Guides can be found on the NCIP website at: <http://crd.neded.org/ncip/index.htm>

Seniors on the Go.....	Gothenburg (2003)
Kimball County Manor Assisted Living.....	Kimball (2001)
Oakland Heights Assisted Living.....	Oakland (2001)
Western Sky Villa.....	Potter (2002)
Midwest Covenant Home Eden Alternative.....	Stromsburg (2003)

### **Events**

Senior Citizen's Prom.....	Blue Hill (2003)
4-H Spring Carnival.....	Cheyenne County (2003)
Fire and Ice New Year's Eve Celebration.....	Clay Center (2001)
American Beauty.....	Eustis (2003)
Central Nebraska Ethnic Festival.....	Grand Island (2003)
Kick Off to the Holidays – Parade of Lights Festival.....	Hartington (2003)
Holiday and Special Activities.....	Hubbell (2001)
Newcomers Welcome Supper.....	Humboldt (2002)
Kellie Mullen Medical Expense Fundraiser.....	Maywood (2003)
Pawnee County Avenue of Flags Veterans' Memorial.....	Pawnee County (2003)
Plum Creek Children's Literacy Festival.....	Seward (2003)
Haunted House/A Kid's Holiday.....	Sidney (2003)

### **Family Services**

The Mission Store.....	Alliance (2001)
Family Connections.....	Aurora (2002)
PUFF After School Program.....	Nebraska City (2001)
Community Services.....	Seward (2001)
Res-Q-Shoppe.....	Stromsburg (2002)
ASK – After School Korner for All Southern Kids.....	Wymore (2001)

### **Fundraising**

Developing Fundraising Leadership Skills.....	Cedar Rapids (2001)
Community Foundation.....	Hubbell (2001)
Fundraisers.....	Hubbell (2001)

### **Health, Medical, and Safety**

Regional Dialysis Center.....	Ainsworth (2003)
Box Butte Hospital Expansion.....	Alliance (2001)
The Power of Healing.....	Alliance (2001)
Kidney Dialysis Unit.....	Alliance (2002)
Two Rivers Wellness Center Kincaid Body Shop.....	Dunning (2003)
Community H.O.P.E.....	Franklin (2001)
Warning Siren/Warning System.....	Potter (2002)

### **Housing**

Sunset CROWN Affordable Housing.....	Beatrice (2003)
Hosing Rehabilitation and Surveys.....	Davenport (2001)
Improving the Housing Supply.....	Farnam (2003)
Housing Development.....	Seward (2001)
New Century Villa.....	Shelby (2002)

\*For project contacts and phone numbers, see a specific year's Project Networking Guide, indicated in parentheses. Project Networking Guides can be found on the NCIP website at: <http://crd.neded.org/ncip/index.htm>

## **Miscellaneous**

HALO (Husker Angels Loving Others).....	Ainsworth (2003)
Community Beautification.....	Belvidere (2002)
Construction of Cemetery Fence .....	Belvidere (2002)
Books and Buddies Summer Reading Program.....	Blue Hill (2002,2003)
Improving Our Living Environments .....	Chappell (2003)
In Our Own Backyard.....	Clarks (2002)
Camp Read-A-Lot.....	Diller (2002)
NTEC .....	Dundy County (2001)
Eustis Community Development .....	Eustis (2003)
Alumni and Community Newsletter .....	Farnam (2001)
Welcome Wagon/Community Calendar .....	Farnam (2001)
Reading Road Trip USA.....	Franklin (2002)
Community Services.....	Goehner (2001)
Great Plains Highlanders .....	Kimball (2003)
Youth Center Flag Program.....	Kimball (2003)
Taylor Area Builders .....	Loup Basin Region (2003)
Friends of Arbor Lodge Foundation .....	Nebraska City (2003)
Operation Ground Zero for Children .....	Pawnee County (2003)
Cool Kids Club .....	Sidney (2003)
Volunteers With an Appetite for Reading .....	South Sioux City (2001)
Multicultural Action Committee.....	West Point (2003)

## **Parks and Recreation**

### **Park Improvements**

Planting, Playing and Picnicking.....	Atkinson (2002)
Park and Recreation Improvements .....	Aurora (2001)
Ward Bond Park and Mini Park Improvement .....	Benkelman (2001)
Expanding Parks and Forestry .....	Chappell (2001)
Sod House Site Landscaping Project.....	Eustis/Farnam (2002)
Improvement and Renovation of Community Park .....	Howells (2003)
Minatare Chamber Park .....	Minatare (2003)
Island Oasis Landscaping Improvement.....	Minden (2001)
Kearney County Horticulture Society Garden Walk .....	Minden (2001)
Park Promotion .....	Pilger (2002)
Recreational Opportunities for All .....	Plattsmouth (2003)
Centennial Park.....	Scottsbluff (2001)
Parks, Recreation and Forestry .....	Seward (2001)
Living Memorial Gardens.....	Sidney (2001)
2000 Tulips .....	Stromsburg (2001)
Park Improvements .....	Stromsburg (2001)
Dobs Goedert Park Improvement .....	Wallace (2001)

### **Playground Equipment**

Parks Committee.....	Blue Hill (2002)
New Playground Equipment for the School .....	Coleridge (2003)
Kids Dream of a New Playground.....	Cedar Creek (2001)
Providing Fun for the Future .....	Gothenburg (2001)
Playground Project 2003.....	Hartington (2003)
Playground Improvements for the Next Generation.....	Humboldt (2002)

\*For project contacts and phone numbers, see a specific year's Project Networking Guide, indicated in parentheses. Project Networking Guides can be found on the NCIP website at: <http://crd.neded.org/ncip/index.htm>

Playground Improvements .....	Farnam (2001)
County Playground Project .....	Pawnee County (2002)
North Elementary School Playground Equipment Project .....	Sidney (2002)
Mothers' Club Park Equipment Fun and Project .....	Superior (2001,2002)
Playground Project .....	Wakefield (2002)

### **Sports and Recreation**

Auburn Recreational Complex .....	Auburn (2003)
Skate Park .....	Aurora (2003)
Improvements to Baseball Fields .....	Bassett (2001)
Skateboard Park and Hiking/Biking Trail .....	Beatrice (2003)
Expanding Recreation .....	Chappell (2001)
Crofton Baseball Park Improvement .....	Crofton (2003)
Dancing Waters at the Ballpark – Sprinklers .....	Eustis (2002)
Aiming for a Green Future .....	Gothenburg (2001)
Pelican Beach Golf Club .....	Grant County (2003)
Skateboard Park .....	Kimball (2001)
Junior Golf Program .....	Kimball (2002)
Football Field/Track Sports Complex .....	Laurel (2003)
Optimist Recreation Complex .....	Lexington (2002)
Maywood Youth Basketball Project .....	Maywood (2003)
Skate Park .....	Minden (2001)
Red Fox Run .....	Nebraska City (2001)
Track Complex .....	Pawnee City (2002)
Ball Field Improvements .....	Pilger (2001)
Stuart Athletic Club (S.A.C.) Basketball Tournaments .....	Stuart (2003)
Lost Creek Disc Golf Course .....	Superior (2003)
Youth Ball Club .....	Wallace (2001)

### **Trees and Forestry**

Tree City USA .....	Bassett (2001)
Tree Recovery Program .....	Bassett (2001)
Blue Hill School Landscaping Project .....	Blue Hill (2003)
Expanding Parks, Recreation, and Forestry .....	Chappell (2003)
Planting for the Future .....	Gothenburg (2001)
Hemingford Community Park and Tree Farm .....	Hemingford (2003)
High School Arboretum .....	Nebraska City (2002)
Lincoln Highway Tree Linc .....	Potter (2002)
Beautification Plan .....	Wallace (2002)

### **Arts and Humanities**

#### **Art**

Arts and Humanities .....	Mason City (2001)
Otoe County Art Council .....	Syracuse (2001)
“Honoring the Past” – A Memorial to a Fallen Officer .....	Wymore (2001)

#### **Events and Festivals**

Home on the Range .....	Allen (2001)
Cheering on the Community With Yellow Ribbons .....	Alliance (2003)
A'ror'n Days .....	Aurora (2002)

\*For project contacts and phone numbers, see a specific year's Project Networking Guide, indicated in parentheses. Project Networking Guides can be found on the NCIP website at: <http://crd.neded.org/ncip/index.htm>

Arts Council 25 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration .....	Bassett (2002)
Assumption Orthodox Greek Festival .....	Bridgeport-Bayard (2002)
Founders Day/Alumni Banquet .....	Farnam (2002)
Harvesting Past Memories .....	Gothenburg (2001)
Heartland Music and Arts Festival .....	Hartington (2003)
Sounds of Christmas .....	Maywood (2003)
Hispanic Festival.....	Nebraska City (2002)
Potter Mellerdrama .....	Potter (2003)
50 <sup>th</sup> Annual Swedish Festival Celebration.....	Stromsburg (2003)
Main Event.....	Wallace (2002)

### **Museum and Historic Activities**

Knight Museum: Illuminating Our Past.....	Alliance (2002)
St. Anthony's Church and School Historical Renovation .	Cedar Rapids (2001)
Bridging the Past to the Present.....	Eustis/Farnam (2002)
Harvesting Past Memories .....	Gothenburg (2001)
Let's Keep the Sun Shining .....	Gothenburg (2003)
Grant County Historical Museum Clean-up Project.....	Grant County (2003)
Honoring Our Flags .....	Howells (2002)
Opera House Renovation .....	Minden (2001)
Pioneer Church .....	Neligh (2001)
Plans of the Pierson Wildlife Learning Center .....	Neligh (2001)
The Pierson Wildlife Museum Learning Center.....	Neligh (2003)
Exhibit Building at Pawnee City Museum .....	Pawnee City (2002)
Living History Day .....	Pawnee County (2001)
Pawnee County Historical Society Projects.....	Pawnee County (2001)
ZCBJ Hall 101 .....	Pawnee County (2001)
Renovation of Pawnee City Museum .....	Pawnee County (2003)
Saving a Historical Barn .....	Petersburg (2001)
Museum Makeover .....	Pilger (2002)
White Horse Museum Improvement Projects.....	Stuart (2002)
Log Cabin Post Office Restoration.....	Superior (2001)
Wymore Welsh Heritage Project (WWHP).....	Wymore (2003)

### **Performing Arts**

Cultural Renaissance.....	Alliance (2001)
Summer Melodramas and Other Thespian Performances .	Minden (2001)
The Fort Sidney Colonels .....	Sidney (2001)

# Economic Development

## Business Assistance and Development

### **Business Promotion**

Stepping Up to BAT (Building Alliance's Tomorrow) .....	Alliance (2003)
Aurora Technology Business Incubator .....	Aurora (2002)
Memory Lane Park .....	Bassett (2001)
Economic Development Practices .....	Chappell (2001)
Friendly Frontier Feud .....	Frontier County (2003)
Plattsmouth Open for Business .....	Plattsmouth (2003)
Chamber of Commerce .....	Seward (2001)
E-Commerce .....	South Sioux City (2001)
Area Chamber of Commerce .....	Wymore (2001)

### **Business Retention and Expansion**

Economic Development .....	Ainsworth (2001)
Retention of Grocery Store .....	Allen (2001)
Industry Spec Building .....	Aurora (2001)
Airport Expansion .....	Aurora (2003)
Business and Economic Development Success Story .....	Beatrice (2003)
Blue Hill Grocery Store .....	Blue Hill (2003)
REAP Program in Cedar County .....	Cedar County (2003)
Business Development .....	Chappell (2001)
Coleridge Gift Shoppe .....	Coleridge (2003)
My Antonia's Antiques, Etc. ....	Dunning (2003)
Elgin Area Economic Development Corporation .....	Elgin (2003)
Business Incubator .....	Farnam (2001)
Speculative Building .....	Hartington (2003)
Loup Basin RC&D E-Commerce Workshop .....	Loup Basin Region (2003)
Excel Specialty Meat Products and Building Expansion .....	Nebraska City (2001)
Wal-Mart Distribution Center .....	North Platte (2003)
Historical Foundation .....	Potter (2002)
Annexation .....	Ravenna (2003)
Longview Fibre Company .....	Seward (2001)
Retention and Expansion Call Program .....	South Sioux City (2002)
Business Development and Technology Center .....	Superior (2001)
Economic Development .....	Syracuse (2001)
One Stop Northeast .....	West Point (2003)

### **Downtown Revitalization**

The Main Street Project .....	Beatrice (2003)
Main Street Beautification .....	Blue Hill (2002)
Main Street Beautification .....	Diller (2001)
Community Improvement .....	Farnam (2003)
Building History – Main Street Improvement Program ....	Gothenburg (2001,2002)
Old-Fashioned Street Lights .....	Mead (2001)
Downtown Revitalization Committee .....	Seward (2001)
Downtown Community Revitalization .....	Seward (2003)
Downtown Beautification Project .....	Sidney (2001)

## **Workforce Development**

Building Muscles for Economic Development.....	Alliance (2001)
Telework .....	Dundy County (2001)
Business Growth in Franklin .....	Franklin (2001)
Changing Focus to Strengthen Economic Development ...	Petersburg (2001)
Business Assistance Development.....	Seward (2001)

## **Tourism Promotion and Development**

### **Promotion and Marketing**

Trek Into Our Backyard .....	Alliance (2002)
Community Information .....	Blue Hill (2002)
Brady Web Page .....	Brady (2003)
Discover Cambridge – Prepare to Stay! .....	Cambridge (2002)
Travel and Tourism.....	Dundy County (2001)
Frontier Adventure Brochure.....	Dawson/Frontier/Gosper/Lincoln Co. (2002)
Willkommen to Eustis.....	Eustis (2003)
Tourism Committee .....	Loup Basin Region (2001,2002)
Pawnee City Web Site .....	Pawnee City (2003)
Promotional Network Building.....	Pawnee County (2001)
Banners and Highway Signs .....	Ravenna (2002)
Innovative Economic Development Practices .....	Seward (2001)
Welcome Signs .....	Springview (2003)
Welcome to Stamford .....	Stamford (2003)
Swedish Heritage .....	Stromsburg (2001)
Audiotapes of Walking/Driving Tours .....	Syracuse (2001)
Heritage Notecards .....	Wallace (2001)

### **Tourism Events**

Annual National Country Music Festival .....	Ainsworth (2001)
Sand Hills Discovery Center.....	Ainsworth (2003)
Cedar Creek Days .....	Cedar Creek (2001)
Fourth of July Celebration .....	Chambers (2001)
Grundlovsfest (Danish Days).....	Dannebrog (2001)
Old-Fashioned Danish Christmas .....	Dannebrog (2001)
Wagon Train Days .....	Dundy County (2001)
Demo Derby .....	Eustis (2001)
Tour of Homes .....	Eustis (2001)
Wurst Tag – German Heritage Celebration .....	Eustis (2001,2002,2003)
Founders Day and Community Carnival .....	Farnam (2001)
June Jamboree.....	Franklin (2001)
Shining Light Celebration.....	Gothenburg (2003)
Community Carnival and Fair Activities.....	Harlan County (2003)
Grand Duke Alexis Rendezvous.....	Hayes County (2003)
Hooter Rock .....	Howells (2001)
Blast From the Past – Antique Tractors.....	Howells (2002)
Hay Day Celebration .....	Hubbell (2001)
Brown County Fair and Rodeo .....	Johnstown (2001,2002)
“Great Race” Big Top Stop .....	Kimball (2001)
Parade of Lights .....	Kimball (2001)
Class C-4 District Wrestling Competition .....	Kimball (2002)

\*For project contacts and phone numbers, see a specific year’s Project Networking Guide, indicated in parentheses. Project Networking Guides can be found on the NCIP website at: <http://crd.neded.org/ncip/index.htm>

Farmers Day 2001.....	Kimball (2003 )
Happy Holiday Trail.....	Maywood (2001)
Old Glory Days – “Let Freedom Ring” .....	Maywood (2003)
Four Seasons of Tourism .....	Nebraska City (2001,2003)
Winterfest.....	Pawnee City (2001)
Roaring ‘20s Dinner Theatre .....	Pawnee County (2002)
Annual Trail Ride .....	Petersburg (2001)
Carnival Days .....	Petersburg (2001)
Pilger Days and Ways.....	Pilger (2001)
Centennial Summer.....	Scottsbluff (2001)
Sugar Valley Rally – Antique Car Rally .....	Scottsbluff (2003)
Economic Development.....	Seward (2003)
Smorgasbord .....	Stromsburg (2001)
Stuart’s 4 <sup>th</sup> of July Celebration .....	Stuart (2003)
Germanfest Celebration .....	Syracuse (2001)
Christmas Festival of Trees .....	Wallace (2001)
St. Patrick’s Day Celebration.....	Wisner (2002)