

O'Neill Area Chamber of Commerce
125 South 4th Street
O'Neill, NE 68763
Return Service Requested

US STANDARD
POSTAGE PAID
O'NEILL, NE 68763
PERMIT #4



2024

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE CHAMBER CHATTER

Happy April! Welcome spring! Spring sports are in full swing, the lawns and flowers are starting to grow. Soon the outdoors will be in full bloom, lush and green again. The days are longer and the sun is warmer so we can enjoy our time outdoors. We've already celebrated Easter, but there is much to celebrate this month. There are Confirmations, First Communions and more! Be sure to SHOP LOCAL for all of these events and you could be a winner!

Shop the participating chamber member businesses for your gifts for all these events and sign up. CHA CHING! You could be a winner! The Spring Cha Ching promotion is going on from April 1st through May 12th. You could be the winner of two Summerfest Concert Tickets and \$100 in shamrock bucks. The O'Neill Visionaries will be giving away two of these prize packages to two lucky winners.

Another St. Patrick's Celebration has come and gone. THANK-YOU to everyone that worked on the celebration and made it a success. Mother Nature was good enough to give us sunshine and decent temperatures. The wind was a bit chilly, but I'm thankful it wasn't the following weekend! There were events and activities for all ages to enjoy. A quick note about the parade line up; if you want to be in the front, get your entries in early! You can always send your entry in and send me the description later. The first entry forms went out in the February newsletter and were on the website right after that. For those entries with small children, stage at the corner of 7th and Douglas and let the kids pick up candy before joining their entry! You will be filtered in when it's your turn. Start thinking now about an event your business or organization could put together for next year's celebration to make it even bigger and better! Planning for these celebrations goes on all year long.

You will find a 2024 Chamber of Commerce Scholarship application inside. Be sure to have your senior get it completed and returned to the chamber office by Friday, April 5th. We will be awarding one \$500 scholarship to a graduating senior from O'Neill Public High School and St. Mary's High School. Good luck to all the applicants.

Congratulations to the Chamber Award Winners for 2024! Winning the Customer Service Award was Kim Metschke of O'Neill Family Pharmacy, the Community Service award was won by Amanda Nekoite of Neko's Pub and the Community Ambassador Award winner was the Summerfest Rodeo Committee for their representation of O'Neill in parades all around the area promoting our community and the Summerfest Celebration. Thank you all for your contributions to our community!

Board of Directors

Chairman of the Board, Dr. Trent Shoemaker—Revelation Wellness

Treasurer, Joel Steinhauser—Tri County Bank

DIRECTORS

Holly Cole—AseraCare Hospice

Terry Miles—Holt County Independent

Scott Poesse—KBRX

Jana Sobotka—Avera St. Anthony's Hospital

Megan Heiss—Blush Boutique and Tan Dan Krugman—Biglin's Mortuary

Kyle Sanderson—Pinnacle Bank Bryan Hoefer—Farmers National Company

Michael Hedlund—Thrivent Financial Services

Lauri Havranek—President/CEO - 125 S. 4th Street—O'Neill, NE 68763

Phone: (402)-336-2355 Email: lauri@oneillchamber.com

FACEBOOK: O'Neill, Nebraska Chamber of Commerce - www.oneillchamber.com

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

The Party Trolley **** Irish Walk of Fame
Viaero Wireless **** The Evergreen
CASA of Northcentral Nebraska
Quality Alignment **** Ally Counseling Services
Special T's and More **** The Hair Junction
O'Neill Electric Motor Service
O'Neill Car Wash **** Tri-County Bank
American Legion Baseball **** Arbor Care Center
Bomgaars **** Megan Dempsey
Teals Westside Dining **** JCT Computers
Blush Boutique and Tan **** O'Neill Lumber

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Mlnarik Cattle Co., LLC

Destiny's Dreams





PHOTO BY SHIRLEY COBB

2024 Community Service Award
Amanda Nekolite of
Neko's Pub



PHOTO BY TERRY MILES

2024 Customer Service Award
Kim Metschke of
O'Neill Family Pharmacy



PHOTO BY TERRY MILES

2024 COMMUNITY AMBASSADOR AWARD
O'Neill Summerfest Rodeo Committee



PHOTO BY TERRY MILES

Retired Business Owner, Corrine Winings
Sunrise Flower and Gift



PHOTO BY TERRY MILES

Retired Business Owners, The Virgil Holz
Family of Holz Lumber



PHOTO BY TERRY MILES

Retired Business Owners, Don and Sue Baker
Of Irish Spirits

The O'Neill Chamber of Commerce gave away their annual community awards on Wednesday, March 13th. We congratulate all the award winners! Your customer service, community service and community representation has not gone unnoticed.

To those that retired, we wish you the best in your retirement. Thank you for all of your years of doing business in our community. May you now have time to enjoy doing the things you have been putting off doing!

WILL YOU HELP OUT THE HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL?

It's that time of year when our HS Musical is gearing up to show off the students. The musical this year is "Popstars: A 90's Musical". This year they are again going to offer a raffle; however, they are going to do it a little differently. They would like to have a cake raffle this go round. They will need 6 cakes total...three for each of the Sunday performances. This year we are asking the chamber members to make or provide cakes for the raffle. The cakes can be super crazy themed, fun colors, or shapes or they can be simple, tried and true. Any type of cake anyone is willing to make or donate will be great!

The performance dates are Sunday, April 28th at 2:00pm and 7pm.

Also, anyone or group providing a cake will have free entry into a performance of their choice as well as being listed in the program as a supporter and donor to the OHS fine arts program. Contact Monica Huber at 719-404-6813 or monicahuber@oneillschools.org

Little Disciples Christian Childcare Development Center

O'Neill, NE

JOB OPENINGS FOR AN

Assistant Teacher
Part Time Cook

We are looking for outgoing individuals to join our team!

Benefits include:

- ~no weekends
- ~holiday pay
- ~no nights
- ~on the job training
- ~competitive

Call Director Amber Parks at
402-340-1444



CREATIVE ADVANTAGES

MAXIMIZE YOUR BUSINESS POTENTIAL

- Business & Marketing Consulting
- Web Designs
- Brand Kits
- Graphic Design
- Social Media Management
- Social Media Consulting
- And much more!



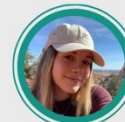
ABBY BIRKEL

Founder
Business & Marketing
Consultant Specialist



ALEX FENSKE

Web & Graphic
Designer



HANNAH GREENE-GRETZINGER

Video & Social
Media Specialist

402.340.9661

creativeadvantages.org



The OHS softball program will be fielding a spring/summer team again this year. We play as an independent travel team as the NCN Lightning. All of our players come from OHS and O'Neill St. Mary's.

To help offset the cost of tournaments, registration fees and equipment, we are actively seeking donations from families, individuals and businesses.

Any Chamber business who would be interested in donating will be recognized on our team banner and social media sources.

Our team will be traveling all around Nebraska representing O'Neill softball. We look forward to an exciting season, and would greatly appreciate any help the Chamber businesses could provide.

Questions can be directed to: Chuck Price,
402.340.0494. chuckprice@oneillschools.org.

Partner your business up with the DREAM Business & Marketing Team! Creative Advantages hosts a colorful palette of business and marketing services that will only heighten your business potential in a seamless, professional manner. Give them a call at 402-340-9661 to set up an appointment to find out how you can maximize your business potential!

The Best of the Backroad Tour of
Northeast Nebraska
20h

GET READY the Backroad Tour 2024 is coming your way!! The tour will run June 1st-August 31st. If own a business in Antelope, Cedar, Cuming, Dixon, Holt, Knox, Pierce, or Wayne Counties fill out the application form if you are interested in participating in the Backroad Tour this year.

<https://forms.gle/8H28LXWamdARAI94A>



2024 CSA Registration now open!



Wildflower GROCER
112 S 4th St. ~ O'Neill, NE 68763

Interested in fresh, local produce?

- Our CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) offers weekly shares of organically-grown produce from our awesome local growers.
 - Receive \$12 worth of the best fresh & seasonal produce every week for 22 weeks, from May 20 - October 17.
 - One- or two-payment options available.
- www.wildflowergrocer.com ~ 402-336-8988

DONATION DRIVE

Goodwill

Industries of Greater Nebraska, Inc. goodwill



WHAT ITEMS CAN I DONATE?

O'NEILL

FAITH COMMUNITY CHURCH YOUTH CENTER

(8TH AND JOHN)
APRIL 9TH - APRIL 12, 2024

Trailer will be on site after 12:00 PM on the first day of the drive and will be picked up by 12:00 PM on the last day of the drive.

Visit www.goodwillne.org to learn more

NEWS FROM THE IRISH CAPITAL FELINE FOUNDATION



Happy Spring!
We want to thank O'Neill DQ along with all of our supporters who went to get EATS & TREATS on March 2nd for International cat rescue day!
With your support \$327.34 was raised to help with our TNR program.
Our 1st TNR of 2024 will tentatively be April 3rd, weather permitting. Please listen to KBRX and watch our Facebook page for updates.
National Pet ID week is April 17-23rd. This gives pet owners an excellent opportunity to review steps they can take to ensure their pet has the best chance of being returned to their owner should the pet become missing. Examples are updated pet tag with your phone number, and microchip information updated through your email and with the police department.

SAVE THE DATE

The Irish Capital Feline Foundation will be holding a "Nano microchip" clinic Friday, April 19th from 1pm-3pm at Shamrock Vet Clinic with Dr Kelly and Stephanie helping. The clinic is open to cats, dogs, rabbits, and other small animals.
We have 40 slots available. To register early and get a \$5 DISCOUNT text Kendra at 402-370-0432. Please text your Name, Email address, pets name, male/female, color and their name.
Walk-ins are also welcome and will be charged \$20.
All veterinarians and animal shelters have microchip scanners to scan for microchips should your pet become lost. So give your pet the gift of love with a microchip.

DID YOU KNOW?

Dogs that are microchipped are more than **TWICE** as likely to be returned to their owners.

Cats that are microchipped are more than **TWENTY** times as likely to be returned to their owners.

CLASSIC COUNTRY MUSIC FESTIVAL AND DANCE

SATURDAY APRIL 6TH, 2024
AMERICAN LEGION, NELIGH NE 3PM - 10 PM

TRIBUTE TO MERLE HAGGARD



April 6, 1937 - April 6, 2016

92.9 ROCK n-1

DRESS UP AS YOUR FAVORITE COUNTRY ARTIST. BEST LOOK-ALIKE WINS A PRIZE!

\$15 DOLLARS IN ADVANCE. CALL 402-649-1005 TO RESERVE YOUR TICKETS OR PURCHASE TICKETS AT UPCOMING OUTBACK VARIETY BAND DANCES. \$20 AT THE DOOR.

Outback Variety Band



OUTBACK VARIETY BAND - AREA FAVORITE WITH SEVERAL MUSIC AWARD WINNERS.

The Kennaston Family Band



THE KENNASTON FAMILY BAND - SOUTHERN TEXAS VALLEY STAR AWARD NOMINEE AND RFD TV FAVORITE.

Howard Grimm, Jan Grimm, Tim White, Barb Legate, Jazzy Rob



HOWARD GRIMM, A FAVORITE WITH HIS WITTY HUMOR AND GREAT CLASSIC SONGS.
JAN GRIMM, LOVED BY ALL. GREAT BASS PLAYER AND FUN SONGS!
TIM WHITE, ACCOMPLISHED GUITARIST, PIANIST, AND SINGER FROM BERESFORD SD.
JAY ROBB, GREAT DRUMMER AND SINGER FROM BEEMER, NEBRASKA AREA.
BARB LEGATE, AREA FAVORITE AND RECORDING STAR!

A PORTION OF THE PROCEEDS WILL BENEFIT THE AMERICAN LEGION IN NELIGH.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT LAURIE LARSEN AT (402) 640-2147 OR EMAIL LLARSEN_72@GPPCOM.NET

SUMMER THEATER AUDITIONS

MAY 7, 8, & 10

6-8PM

O'Neill High School BAND ROOM

Enter through East Doors (by the band room/new gym)

PREPARE A MONOLOGUE AND SONG

Read lines from provided script



SPRING CHA CHING!

SHOP LOCAL FOR YOUR CHANCE TO WIN!

Shop in participating Chamber Member Businesses and sign up to win two tickets to the Summerfest Concert and \$100 in Shamrock Bucks, between April 1st and May 15th. You can go to the concert and have some spending money while you are celebrating Summerfest in O'Neill. There will be two of these prizes given away. You can enter each time you shop in the participating businesses. Watch for the complete business list on the Chamber Facebook Page, KBRX Radio and the Holt County Independent.

O'NEILL SUMMERFEST PRESENTS

PARMALEE



WITH B.J. JAMISON TO OPEN

JULY 20

O'NEILL COMMUNITY CENTER
B.J. JAMISON 8:30 PM
PARMALEE 10:00 PM



O'NEILL CELEBRATED 150 YEARS OF GREEN



2024 PARADE WINNERS

COMMERCIAL

- 1st Place - Tri-County Bank
- 2nd Place - Northstar
- 3rd Place - Pollock Redi Mix

NON-COMMERCIAL

- 1st Place - St. Mary's/St. Patrick's
- 2nd Place - Holt County Animal Shelter
- 3rd Place - Beginnings Pregnancy Center

YOUTH

- 1st Place - O'Neill Public Schools Robotics Team
- 2nd Place - O'Neill Public Schools Pre-school
- 3rd Place - C.L.A.S.S. Homeschool Group

BANDS

- 1st Place - O'Neill High School Band
- 2nd Place - O'Neill Junior High Band

HORSEMANSHIP

- 1st Place - Rockin C Ranch
- 2nd Place - Kloppenborgs

Thank you to everyone that had an entry in the parade! We greatly appreciate your participation.



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- April 4—7pm to 9pm—Bingo at the Handlebend Building sponsored by Tri-County Bank
- April 4—6pm to 7pm—Booze + Bend at Handlebend, \$25 includes your yoga class with one drink
- April 5—Noon—Holt County Visitors Committee Meeting in Stuart
- April 6— 3pm to 10pm— Classic Country Music Festival and Dance at the Neligh American Legion
Sponsored by chamber members US92, 94 Rock and News Channel Nebraska
- April 8—6:30pm—City Council Meeting at 401 E. Fremont Street
- April 9—8am—Visionaries Meeting at the Handlebend Building
- April 9th through 12th—Goodwill Trailer at the corner of 8th and John Streets
- April 10—Noon—Chamber of Commerce Board Meeting at the Chamber Office
- April 10—5pm to 7pm—Kim’s Food Night at the Evergreen Independent Living Commons Area
Serving Hot Beef or Hot Turkey with mashed potatoes & gravy and corn for \$10. There will also be cherry, apple, peach, blueberry, pecan and strawberry/rhubarb pie and macaroni Salad.
- April 12—5:30pm—O’Neill FFA Pie and Labor Auction at the O’Neill High School Gym. Silent Auction will start at 5:30 and live auction at 6. Meal provided. Join them to purchase a Member for 8 hours of labor!
- April 18—7pm to 9pm—Trivia Night at Handlebend—Sign up at Handlebend.com/trivia
- April 21—4pm to 6pm—Bingo at the Handlebend Building, sponsored by Stracke Realty
- April 24—Noon—Summerfest Rodeo Committee meeting at the chamber office
- April 24 8pm—Open Mic Night at Handlebend
- April 26—Chamber Coffee sponsored by Holt/Boyd Community Connections Collaborative—
Watch for location to be announced
- April—28—2pm AND 7pm—High School Musical at the O’Neill Public School ‘Old’ Gym

JOIN OUR TEAM

We're Hiring!

Open Position:
Receptionist

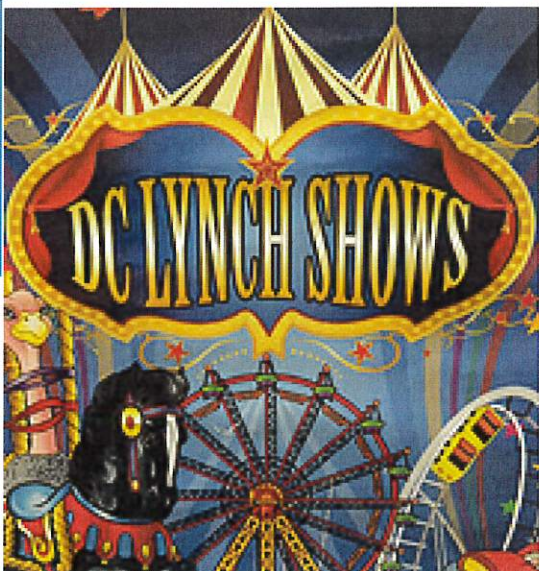
- Part-Time
- Wage based on experience

Apply Now!

Send your resume to:
lisa@theoneillshopper.net

COMING TO
O'NEILL
JUNE 4TH, 5TH
AND 6TH

Looking for a
part time
job?



O'NEILL AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

2024 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

Instruction Page

For 2024, the O'Neill Area Chamber of Commerce will be awarding two \$500.00 scholarships. One will be awarded to a graduating senior from St. Mary's High School and one to a graduating senior from O'Neill Public High School. The recipients are selected by a committee from the O'Neill Area Chamber of Commerce. Checks are made payable to the college and will be mailed to the college financial aid office when the college of choice has been determined.

CRITERIA:

- The applicant must be a 2024 graduating senior of St. Mary's High School or O'Neill Public High School
- The applications must be filled out and submitted to the O'Neill Area Chamber of Commerce, 125 S. 4th Street, by 4:00 P.M. on Friday, April 5, 2024.
- A parent must have an individual or business membership in the O'Neill Area Chamber of Commerce, **or** be an employee of a business having a membership in the O'Neill Area Chamber of Commerce

OR:

- The applicant must be an employee of a business having a membership in the O'Neill Area Chamber of Commerce

**O'NEILL AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
2024 COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION PAGE**

PERSONAL INFORMATION:

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE NUMBER _____

PARENT'S NAME _____

MEMBERSHIP BUSINESS _____

HIGH SCHOOL _____ GRADUATION DATE _____

GPA _____ CLASS RANK _____ ACT/SAT SCORE _____

COLLEGE OF CHOICE OR APPLICATIONS MADE:

1. NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

2. NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

3. NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PLEASE PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

Section I: Extracurricular Activities

Section II: Community Activities

Section III: Honors received

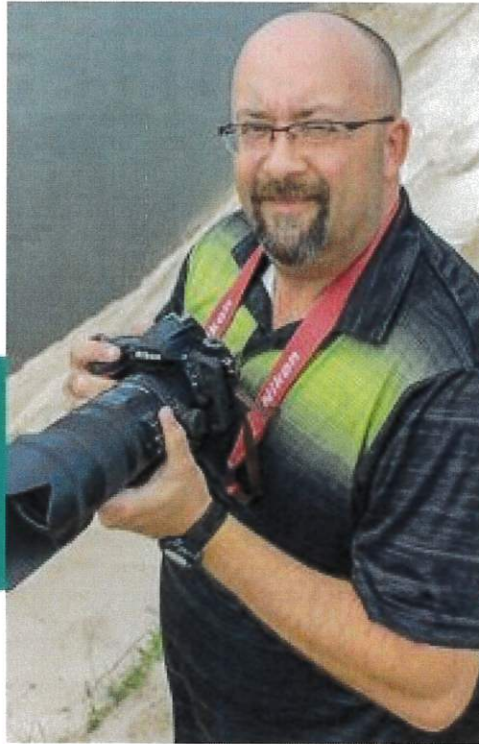
Section IV: Educational Goals and Financial Need

Section V: Scholarships you are receiving

Section VI: As a business community, what can we do to attract youth back to the area?

SUBMIT BY APRIL 5, 2024

O'Neill Area Chamber of Commerce
125 S. 4TH Street
O'Neill, NE 68763
lauri@oneillchamber.com



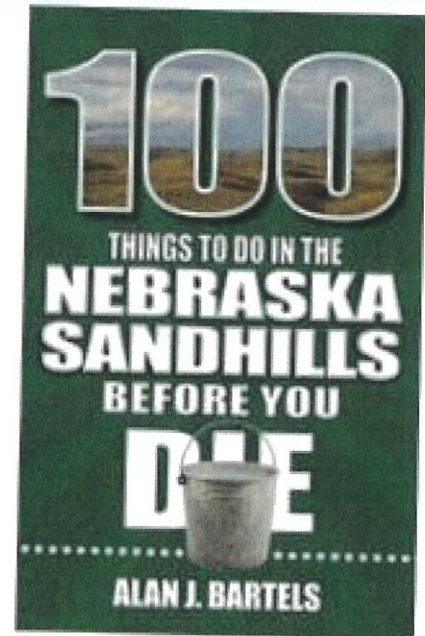
Author Talk

- and -
BOOK
SIGNING

Alan Bartels

Author of {100 Things to Do in the Nebraska Sandhills
Before You Die}

Thursday April 4, 2024
6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.



Come and join us at the O'Neill Public Library as we welcome author Alan Bartels. Alan will be highlighting some of the awesome places that he's included in his book like exploring the ranching culture of this vast region where cowboys still ride horses, cattle outnumber people, and rodeo is a lifestyle



O'Neill Public Library

601 E DOUGLAS
ONEILL, Nebraska 68763 | (402) 336-3110
<https://libraries.ne.gov/oneill/>

April UPCOMING EVENTS

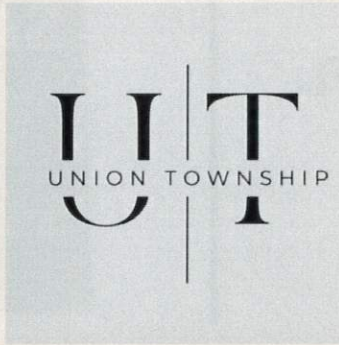


**Saturday,
April 6th, 2024**

**Saturday,
April 13th, 2024**



**TIM
ZACH**



**Saturday,
April 20th, 2024**

**Saturday,
April 27th, 2024**



Kitchen Opens at 6pm

**SPRINGLAKE ANGUS
EVENT CENTER**

50475 887 Road • Lynch, NE 68746

From O'Neill, 16 miles north on HWY 281 and 14 miles east on 887 Rd.
From Lynch, 11 miles south on 503 Rd and 2 miles east on 887 Rd.
For Questions or concerns please call (402) 336-7951 or text (402) 394-1880
find us on Facebook! @SpringLake Angus Center





April 20th 3pm to 5pm

Douglas Street Coffee 229 W. Douglas St. Oneill NE

Call or text Melinda 402-760-0323

\$40 registration includes drink, catalog, snack, and party bag!

Door prizes and lots of giveaways

Register by April 15th to reserve a seat, Registration at door is not guaranteed a seat.

Venmo: @Melinda-Cole-77

Cashapp: \$msc77

Paypal: melhays77@hotmail.com

Who would be up for adopt a cop?



A donation of \$12 would get a car freshener and a spray for one patrol car.

I would love to be able to provide a set for each car/officer.

Let's show our officers some appreciation!

Goal is to get enough sponsors by the end of April

For all local, sheriff, and state patrol!



SCENTSY
★
INDEPENDENT CONSULTANT

More information or to donate contact

Melinda Cole

Text 402-460-0323

Cash App: \$msc77

Venmo: @Melinda-Cole-77

SCENTSY
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INDEPENDENT CONSULTANT



PHOTO COURTESY OF KBRX RADIO

O'NEILL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION BREAKS GROUND ON THREE NEW HOMES

Homes are more than just structures; they are the beating heart of our community, where families create memories, dreams take root, and aspirations are nurtured. They serve as the foundation upon which our community flourishes and grows. And as someone once said, "Homes are where the jobs sleep at night." Indeed, housing is intricately linked to economic development, providing the essential framework for attracting and retaining a skilled workforce.

This milestone would not have been possible without the generous support and partnership of various entities. We want to extend our heartfelt gratitude to the Nebraska Department of Economic Development for their Rural Workforce Housing Grant dollars, which have been instrumental in making this project a reality. Morgan Pearson from NE DED on behalf of Director Belitz and Governor Pillen.

The grant was in the amount of \$1,000,000. That is significant dollar amount that the State is investing in us, in our community, to go and build housing units. In addition to all of the details that went into our grant application and let me tell you – we were working furiously up until the last hour to submit last spring, it also required us to have local match. With a local match of \$500,000, the state matched our dollars two to one! That local match would not have been possible without the support of the City of O'Neill.

Additionally, we owe a debt of gratitude to Mayor Menish, Council Members Paul Asche, Kayla Burdick, Tim Gleason, Quana Wheeler, Suzie Kramer, Michelle Liewer, Tim Schneider and Beth Walsh for your commitment to economic development. Clerk Sarah Sidak – thank you for all of your assistance and support in making this a reality. To the voters of O'Neill – you approved O'Neill's funding of an economic development program with a sales tax, nearly 12 years ago, which was the basis of that local support.

With this \$1.5 million project – you're seeing the basements for three homes to be built today. But we'll also be building two more in the community with these grant dollars and local match. We're excited to partner with local contractors, Master Visions & CS Construction - Jon Loutzenhiser and Chris Sobotka. These homes will be sold with the proceeds from these funds staying locally for the O'Neill Development Corporation to continue building more housing units. As part of the grant program, we have an investment program that allows us to continue building more units with these dollars.

In closing, on behalf of the O'Neill Development Corporation, we want to express our sincere appreciation to everyone who has played a part in bringing this project to fruition. The Nebraska State Department of Economic Development Rural Workforce Housing Fund, City of O'Neill, and O'Neill Area Chamber of Commerce. By all of us collaborating together and working on common goals, we can continue to build and grow O'Neill.