

# Our Nevada

Iowa

March  
2022

## Improving Neighborhoods

One property at a time,  
the City tackles  
nuisance abatement.

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**Screening for Cancer**

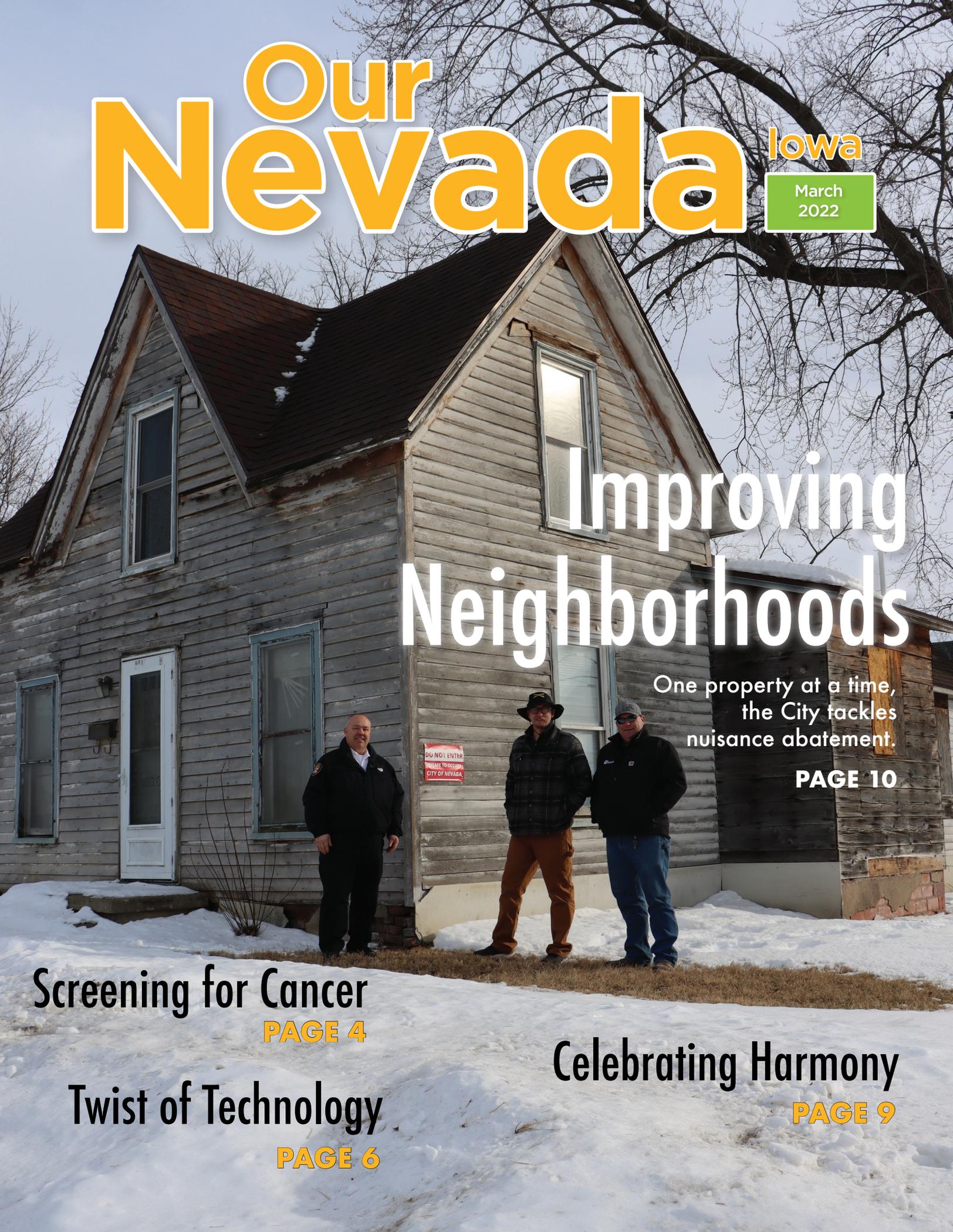
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# Our Nevada Iowa

March 2022

## The Opener

### Jordan Cook City Administrator



In this issue, the City shares about a recent accomplishment when it comes to nuisance abatement. Gaining possession of one abandoned home will help us enhance a neighborhood, increase property values and bring in new tax revenue when the lot is sold and a new home is built.

It's a long and detailed process to obtain possession of abandoned or delapidated property. Why do we care about it? Because each nuisance property can have a negative domino effect.

An unmaintained property is not only unpleasant to live by, it can cause neighbors' properties to go down in value, creating real losses for residents and the City. Ask a Realtor. They will tell you it's harder to sell a property when an eyesore is nearby.

Review Iowa Code section 657A.10A which gives guidance on how local government addresses property abandonment. It's necessary for the City to be in charge of protecting the community's value and every property owner's value.

Going after an abandoned property isn't easy. It takes a lot of time, a lot of research and phone calls, and many City leaders and departments working together toward a common goal. Mailed notices, inspections, reviews, documentation, checklists, understanding all past due accounts and liens on the property, taking on maintenance of the property ... many elements go into every single case of nuisance abatement.

By sharing the success we have had on one property, we hope we have shed some light on how important this work is. One by one, the work toward cleaning up property can have a very positive impact on the look and feel of our community, the safety of those living here, and the value of everyone's property. Taking care of our community is the City's job!

**On The Cover:** The City of Nevada recently took possession of this abandoned house at 102 K Avenue. Pictured are a few of the City employees who've helped with the nuisance abatement procedures (from left) Fire Chief Ray Reynolds, Planning & Zoning Official Ryan Hutton, and Public Works Director Jeremy Rydl. The house will be torn down in the near future and the property prepared for a new home to be built, improving the overall appearance and property values for this neighborhood.

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## CONTACT US

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[communitynewsletter@nevadacubs.org](mailto:communitynewsletter@nevadacubs.org)

## ABOUT OUR NEVADA

Our Nevada is a monthly joint publication between the City of Nevada, Nevada Community School District, Story County Medical Center, Story County, NEDC, and Main Street Nevada.





# Watershed Planning



In 2018, the County hired a consulting firm to conduct a county-wide watershed assessment. One of the goals was to identify priority watersheds and streams so the County could target efforts with implementing best practices to protect our land and waterways. The assessment also identified other ways the County can protect our environment through planning and development, environmental health, drainage districts, and more. The full document can be found on the County's website under Water Quality.

To achieve these goals, and more, the County hired a Watershed Coordinator in July 2021. Sara Carmichael (pictured) has started prioritizing projects and programs the County can take on to achieve the outlined goals. So far, these include installing Edge of Field practices for landowners, attending Watershed Management Authority meetings, leading the volunteer Water Quality Monitoring program, educating the public through speaking engagements and conferences, and strengthening the County's many partnerships with federal, state, city, private, and non-profit entities.

If you would like to learn more or get involved as a volunteer please contact Sara at [scarmichael@storycountyiowa.gov](mailto:scarmichael@storycountyiowa.gov) or 515-598-1652.

## Property Tax Reminder

The Story County Treasurer's Office is reminding property owners that taxes are due March 31. To pay property taxes, you can go online to [IowaTreasurers.org](http://IowaTreasurers.org), mail payments to PO Box 498, Nevada, Iowa 50201, or visit the Treasurer's Office (Story County Administration Building, 900 6th Street, Nevada) Monday through Friday, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. We also have a drop box available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

## Capital Improvements Planning Input Sought

Story County has a Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) as a multi-year guide to the construction and/or improvement of county facilities and the acquisition of equipment. It is a planning tool structured to highlight Story County's long-range capital needs. Reviewed annually as part of the budget process, projects are organized by equipment, including the proposed purchases/lease/rental of equipment, including vehicles, software, hardware, and other applications when the costs exceed \$75,000; and projects such as new building(s), land acquisition, remodels, and related items costing over \$25,000.

Projects in the CIP sometimes include Conservation projects (park improvements, trails, lake restoration), Secondary Roads (paving, bridge replacement, equipment), and Animal Shelter improvements.

Story County is looking for your input on the draft CIP. Proposed projects can be reviewed at <https://www.storycountyiowa.gov/1267/Capital-Improvements-Planning>. There you can submit comments online or send to Story County Board of Supervisors, 900 6th Street, Nevada, Iowa 50201 or email [lharter@storycountyiowa.gov](mailto:lharter@storycountyiowa.gov).

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YouTube channel at Story County, Iowa

Engaging our diverse communities to responsibly provide quality opportunities and services that matter  
Accountability | Collaboration | Environment | Equity | Inclusivity | Innovation | Wise Use of Resources



# Early Detection is the Key

Cancer screening is something you should discuss with your provider

When it comes to several common cancers, maintaining a regular screening schedule can provide significant benefits, as early detection of these cancers can lead to more timely intervention and better outcomes. For the average person, screenings include diagnostic testing for specific cancers for individuals who:

- Do not have current symptoms of cancer,
- Have risk factors that the average person has, and
- Are healthy enough that they are expected to live long enough to benefit from screening for cancer as well as strong enough to tolerate any treatments that come because of finding that cancer.

The first step in putting together your screening routine is to establish a relationship with a primary care provider. According to Art Check, DO, FAAFP, while most patients will adhere to general guidelines, there are instances that may call for screening outside that criteria.

"Recommendations for individuals can vary, so it is important that you are on the same page as your provider," Dr. Check says. "A lot of your screening schedule will depend on your underlying health conditions, personal risk factors and what action you are prepared to take if the screening returns a positive result."

The most common cancer screenings include:

- **Colon cancer screening** for all persons starting at age



45, a very recent change from guidelines that had called for the screening beginning at 50.

- **Breast cancer screening** with a mammogram. The recommended age to begin can vary widely based on your personal risk factors.
- **Cervical cancer screening** with a Pap smear for all women who still have a uterus or cervix beginning at age 21 and ending at age 65. This screening criteria can also vary significantly based on your risk factors.
- **Lung cancer screening** with a low dose chest CT once a year is effective for people aged 50-80 who have smoked an average of a pack per day for 20 years and are still smoking or quit in the last 15 years.

"It is said often, but it is absolutely the truth that early detection is the key when it comes to cancer," Dr. Check says. "It is never too soon to begin discussing screening with your provider. By working together you can greatly improve your odds if a test does return a positive."

If you are in need of establishing care with a primary care provider, Story Medical Clinic is accepting new patients. Call 515-382-5413 to schedule an appointment.

# News & Notes

## PROTECT YOURSELF DURING THE PANDEMIC

Story Medical Occupational Health recently produced a series of videos addressing frequently asked questions about the COVID-19 pandemic.

The videos feature answers from a variety of Story Medical providers to questions ranging from "Isn't the pandemic essentially over?" to "Is the vaccine safe for pregnant women?" and are available on the medical center's LinkedIn page.

As a reminder, there are a number of simple steps we can all take to prevent the spread of COVID-19. The CDC recommends you wear your mask when in crowded indoor situations or when you are unable to socially distance, practice good hand hygiene, stay home if you are sick, and get vaccinated (it's not too late!). The vaccine has been shown to prevent serious illness and hospitalization. The vaccine and booster are readily available at Story Medical Clinics in Nevada and Maxwell.

In addition, we remind you to NOT visit the Emergency Department for a COVID test. If you are not feeling well and/or experiencing respiratory symptoms, please reach out to your primary care provider to schedule an appointment or for more information on testing.

## WORK AT STORY MEDICAL

We are always recruiting at Story Medical. We currently have a number of clinical and non-clinical positions open. Learn more and apply online at [storymedical.org/careers](http://storymedical.org/careers).

## FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL!

You can keep up with all that is happening at Story Medical by following us @StoryMedical on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram!

# Ortho Care, Close to Home

Gautam Kakade, MD, a fellowship-trained orthopedic surgeon provides an array of orthopedic services at Story Medical. Among the procedures provided by Dr. Kakade at Story Medical are joint replacement surgery of the hip, knee, and shoulder; trauma and fracture surgery of the hip, wrist, shoulder, and extremities; care for sports medicine injuries in the shoulders, knees, ankles, and ligaments; carpal tunnel surgery; and more.

A fellow of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow in Scotland, Dr. Kakade is also a member of the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons (AAOS), Iowa Orthopaedic Society, American Medical Association, and Indian Orthopaedic Association. Dr. Kakade completed a fellowship focused on joint replacement and arthroplasty at the Center for



Hip & Knee Surgery, St. Francis Hospital in Mooresville, Ind.

Dr. Kakade sees patients on a referral basis at Story Medical. Those with conditions they believe can benefit from Dr. Kakade's expertise should visit with their primary care provider or call the Story Medical Outpatient Clinic & Surgical Services Department at 515-382-7738 to learn more.

# Physicals for Private Pilots

If you are a private pilot, you must have an FAA certified medical exam before you can take flight.

Story Medical Clinic provider Dr. Audra Poterucha is designated as an FAA Aviation Medical Examiner. The daughter of a commercial and military pilot, she has a special interest in serving the aviation community. Dr. Poterucha provides Class II and III Flight Physicals at competitive prices and is currently scheduling pilots for exams.

Pilots, please bring the following to your exam:

- MedXPress confirmation number
- Government Issued ID
- Current medication list
- Supporting documents related to chronic medical conditions
- Documentation from FAA regarding any special issuances or clearance

To schedule your physical, call Story Medical Clinic - Nevada at 515-382-5413.



## A Twist of Technology Allows Students to Create Video Games

Sixth graders at Nevada Middle School had the opportunity to create their own video games during their Social Studies class recently. The students have been studying the geography and culture of Africa so to demonstrate their understanding of the content, students built their own platformer video game with the app Bloxels with the restrictions of all elements pertaining to Africa. Students started off the process brainstorming different ways to build their games, as every video game has story elements built into it.

After their brainstorming discussions, students worked individually or in small groups to create components of the video game. In addition to creating the game layout, students also had required elements that needed to be integrated into the video game: the hero who plays the game, enemies or obstacles that would prevent the hero from succeeding, backgrounds, characters that can help the hero in succeeding, story blocks, power-ups, and an end to the game. Once students created their element, they could share these with their peers so they could add them to their own video games.

Games highlighted different time periods and regions of

Africa. A few examples of student games were relating to tomb-raiders in the Egyptian pyramids, animals trying to find water in the savannas, and humans and animals surviving traveling down the Nile River. When students were done creating their game, they had other students play the game and give them feedback for improvements. From there, students had the opportunity to publish their game to the Bloxels arcade, which anyone with the app can then play. Not only did students demonstrate their understanding of African culture, geography, and history, they learned the foundations of creating their own video games, collaborated with peers, and thought critically.

### 2022/23 School Calendar

The 2022-2023 School Calendar has been approved by the School Board.

To view/print, go to  
<http://bit.ly/NCSD2223Calendar>



## MIDDLE SCHOOL ENERGY EFFICIENCY

As part of the Middle School Renovation project, several intentional decisions were made in regardw to energy efficiency. Some of those include:

- Geothermal system
- New Roof
- New Windows
- Lighting

Those expenses were calculated by Alliant Energy to have cost the district \$820,839. Because the building is now significantly more energy efficient than previously (saving the district nearly \$101,000 per year in energy costs along with rebates from Alliant), that additonal cost will have been paid back in 7 years.

## PRESCHOOL AND KINDERGARTEN SIGNUP

Central Elementary is still taking signups for preschool and kindergarten for the 2022-2023 school year.

If you have a child who will be **four (preschool)** or **five (kindergarten)** by September 15, 2022 -- please call Central Elementary to get your child signed up, 515-382-2383.

## SPRING EVENTS

Spring brings the excitement of changing seasons and warmer weather ahead. With Spring activities, that changing weather also brings changing schedules! Be sure to keep an eye on our Activities Calendar for any post-ponements and cancellations.

<http://bit.ly/NCSDActivitiesCalendar>



## Parent Learning Series

Save the date for our next parenting series sessions. As always, a free meal and free childcare will be provided. Below are the dates, topics, and speakers coming in. Watch social media for the RSVP to sign up!

### HELPING CHILDREN DEVELOP STRONG MENTAL HEALTH

Wednesday, March 30th, 2022; 5:30-7:15pm; Central Elem. Commons  
Speakers: Marcy Perlowski, LMSW; Sarah Crouse, T-LMHC

### HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS AND POSITIVE DISCIPLINE

Wednesday, April 13th, 2022; 5:30-7:15pm; Central Elem. Commons  
Speaker: Jessica Miller, PsyD



## Disney's Beauty and the Beast Comes To Nevada

Be Our Guest at the Josephine Tope Community Auditorium as Nevada High School Vocal and Drama take the stage March 4th and 5th at 7PM and March 6th at 1:30PM. This classic musical is fun for all ages and you will enjoy this Tale as Old as Time.

Tickets are \$10 for Reserved Admission and \$7 for General Admission. Tickets are on sale at <https://nevadahighdrama.seatyourself.biz>



# Downtown Building Projects

During the last two years over \$1.4 million has been committed to building projects in downtown Nevada. Which buildings are they?

## Union Block (Gatherings) - 1024 6th Street

The first grant-assisted project in the Main Street District was the second-floor of the Union Block Building. This project's focus was to take a long abandoned second floor, once used for residential, and convert it into a co-working, conference, and office space. What's co-working? Co-working is an arrangement in which workers of different companies share an office space, allowing cost savings and convenience through the use of common infrastructures, such as equipment, utilities, and receptionist and custodial services, and in some cases, parcel acceptance services.

## S.E. Briggs Block (Tipton's) - 1104 6th Street

The Briggs Block project was a recipient of a 2021 Community Catalyst Grant. This grant is designed to create a community with catalytic effect and help create future growth in the community. The Briggs block project will be the first attempt to rehabilitate four long vacant upstairs apart-

ments into three two-bedroom and one single-bedroom apartments. The exterior of the building will have tuck-pointing work and new second-floor windows installed.

## Journal Building - 1133 6th Street

The Journal building project is an undertaking to create a restaurant/pub space for a future restaurant to call home. The project will also include basement renovation to create new desirable office space. The building will be the first project to use historic tax credits. These tax credits are an incentive often used to help make historic building rehabilitation more cost-effective. The project also features another first for the community, in the form of an outdoor courtyard and seating area. This area will be built in the rear courtyard of the building.

## What's next and how can you learn more?

To learn more about Main Street Nevada's efforts to assist in building rehabilitation, email us at [director@mainstreetnevada.org](mailto:director@mainstreetnevada.org), or call us at 515-382-6538. You can also follow us at Main Street Nevada on Facebook for more images of these and future projects.

Storefronts in the Nevada Main Street commercial area are eligible for **\$500 Mini Grants** to help pay for selected façade improvements. More details can be found on the Main Street Nevada Facebook page, or by talking directly to Main Street Nevada Director, Henry Corbin, at [director@mainstreetnevada.org](mailto:director@mainstreetnevada.org).

Apply by April 1, 2022. Selected projects will be announced April 15, 2022, for work to be done this summer & fall, by September 1, 2022.

**Who:** Downtown Nevada business/property owners

**What:** Mini-grants. They provide \$1 for \$1 matching funds up to \$500. Projects evaluated for visual impact and creativity. Let your business/building façade reflect the new spirit in our downtown business district!

**How:** Funds are made available through the Nevada Main Street Design Committee. The purpose is to improve the overall vitality of down-

town Nevada.

**Who can apply:** Interested business or property owners are encouraged to apply online or in person during regular business hours at the Main Street Nevada office, 1015 6th Street. Any business or property owner in the Main Street Nevada District can apply.

**When:** Apply before April 1, 2022. Awards announced April 15, 2022.



Pictured are some of the great volunteers who help keep Harmony running smoothly: (from left) Ben Fry, Elizabeth Gindt, Ray Murray, Wrigley Islab, Ann Malven, Janet Lundgren, Jeanie Gibson, Rachele Smith, Ann Green, Linda Zalatel and Nancy Rasmusson.

## Harmony Clothing Closet shows how 'giving back' can last

Harmony Clothing Closet is celebrating its 15th anniversary this year.

It was May of 2007 when the initiative started as a classroom project for students who wanted to do a clothing drive to help their community.

That clothing drive revealed a need for many area families to be able to access clothes at no charge.

Operating out of several temporary locations, including a red house (no longer standing) that the school owned along Lincoln Highway, in 2010 Harmony received one of its greatest gifts -- a permanent home. And this permanent home, the building at 1122 6th Street was recently given to Harmony by the Allen Kockler family.

At this time, "we have taken over all

financial responsibilities of the building," said Elizabeth Gindt, the Nevada educator who has been a coordinator for Harmony since its inception.

A look at how Harmony is doing today reveals the organization is continuing its strong presence in the community. Despite having to halt most operations during the pandemic, Harmony is now open regularly every Monday from 4-7 p.m. Gindt and Jalene Hornbuckle, also a Harmony coordinator, say they hope the organization can add to its "open" hours in the near future.

"There are currently no restrictions on the number of bags people may donate to our store," Hornbuckle said. The restrictions that were in place during the worst part of the pandemic have been lifted, and volunteers for the group are back at

work in full force.

"We have around 20 regular volunteers and handfuls of groups and individuals who donate their time and energy," Gindt said.

In recent months, Harmony has also been able to create a more orderly work flow in the building by opening up a back room that sits behind the garage. This huge room has become the heart of the "donation center," and is the space where all items are now sorted before they are placed inside the shopping areas of the store.

Gindt said the cleaning out and opening up of that room, which used to have storage items from its previous owner, has made it possible for all donations to now come in through

### HARMONY

PLEASE SEE PAGE 10

# HARMONY

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the alley at the garage. Donated items are brought from the garage into that room to be sorted.

Sorting used to happen at the back of the store, and now that space is utilized for displaying coats and shoes that were once all available only in the basement shopping area, which was becoming tight. Spreading things out and increasing the “shopping” space has made it easier for “shoppers.”

Another improvement to Harmony is the prom dress exchange area in the upstairs of the building. Once packed with all sorts of dresses from a variety of time periods, volunteers sorted their stock and got rid of everything except the most up-to-date prom and dance styles of dresses. This has made it easier for those looking to find a dress they love.

“Our hope is to have a few ‘fun fashion nights’ when students may come to our store during nonbusiness hours to try on dresses for their upcoming proms,” said Hornbuckle. They also make appointments for people who want to spend some time, other than regular Monday hours, to go through the inventory (which includes sandals and formal footwear) and try on their favorites. They are always hopeful that residents who have dresses hanging in their closets from recent proms and other dances will consider



This space behind the building's garage was cleaned out and turned into the main part of the organization's "donation center," where items received are sorted before they are placed in the store.

donating them.

Dresses and all other clothing items, along with small household items, are available at Harmony and are free to those who “shop” at the store.

Since opening back up for regular hours, Gindt said the statistics of Harmony shoppers are on the rise again.

In its nearly 15 total years of operation, Harmony has served shoppers from 136 unique locations, including

44 Iowa counties and 19 states. As expected, most shoppers – 80 percent – are from Story County.

Despite the pandemic, Harmony served 8,812 people and distributed 79,630 items in 2021. In January of 2022, it saw 843 shoppers and distributed 9,532 items.

Why has this initiative been so successful through the years?

For Gindt, it’s about people helping people. “People love to help others, they love to recycle, and they like the fact that their donations stay local. Harmony does not turn anyone away; in fact, we say the more the merrier!”

Hornbuckle loves the volunteer spirit. “We have good people doing good things to help people.”

At left, the main floor of Harmony Clothing Closet is just one area where items can be viewed by shoppers. There is also a basement with items and a Prom Dress Exchange room in the upper level of the building.





# News & Notes

## Highlighting Recent Success

### Business Achievements

#### ALMACO

ALMACO has earned the 2022 Best Place for Working Parents Business Designation through the Iowa Economic Development Authority. This achievement is in recognition of ALMACO's commitment to supporting working parents through their family-friendly policies and practices.



#### Story County Medical Center

Story County Medical Center recently received affirmation that it is providing exceptional care by earning full certification to the ISO 9001 Quality Management System.



"Story Medical has worked hard to achieve this certification, and they have done so with unwavering commitment from their top leadership to make their hospital the best it can be," said Patrick Horine, President of DNV Healthcare USA Inc. ISO 9001 is the most widely accepted quality management system in use around the world and is quickly gaining acceptance among US healthcare providers as a foundation for their quality and patient safety programs.

#### Burke

Burke Corporation received the Hormel Safety Excellence Award for 2021. This award is a reflection of the hard work and dedication to safety shown by each of Burke's team members.



"We want Burke to be known in our community for many things: Great pizza toppings, competitive wages and personal investment in its team members, and for providing a safe and productive work environment for every person on the Burke Team. This award is the result of each Burke employee prioritizing safety not just in everything we do, but in all that we believe is possible at Burke!" said Chad Randick.

### COVID-19 Retraining Program equips Story County residents with new skills

The COVID-19 Retraining Program is in full swing in Story County. Designed to provide accelerated training in high-demand, high-growth career fields like manufacturing, healthcare, welding, construction, the Retraining Program will assist over 400 Story County residents to earn certifications and take on higher paying career opportunities.

To remove barriers that might prevent people from taking the classes, participants will have the option to take advantage of wraparound services such as transportation and childcare assistance.

Program applications are accepted on a rolling basis. Depending on the certification, classes may span several weeks or be consolidated into one 40-hour week. Those interested in learning more or enrolling should contact Nikki Fischer, Director of Workforce Development & Diversity at the Ames Chamber of Commerce, at [nikki@ameschamber.com](mailto:nikki@ameschamber.com) or by calling 515-232-2310.

### March Meals at the Nevada Legion Post

**March 4** — Fish Fry, baked potatoes, cole slaw, dessert

**March 11** — Fish Fry or Meatloaf, mashed potatoes, gravy, green beans, dessert

**March 18** — Fish Fry, mashed potatoes, gravy, cole slaw, dessert

**March 25** — Fish Fry or Beef & Noodles, mashed potatoes & gravy, vegetables, roll, dessert

Everyone is always welcome to attend. Serving from 5-7 p.m. Suggested price per meal is usually \$10 per person. The Legion Post is located at 1331 6th St. Proceeds benefit veterans.



# Nuisance Abatement



## Process improves neighborhoods & community

People applauded during the Jan. 24 Nevada City Council meeting when it was announced the City now had the title to the property at 102 K Avenue.

According to City Administrator Jordan Cook, gaining ownership of the abandoned property was an intense 9-month process that followed several years of working through nuisance abatement procedures.

Five years ago, the City began to look more intensely at abandoned and run-down properties but noted that dealing with nuisance abatement is anything but easy.

In the case of 102 K Avenue, where a dilapidated home and garage still sit, the homeowners had left Nevada some years ago.

"It's hard to care about Nevada when you don't live in Nevada," said Fire Chief Ray Reynolds, who, as fire chief and a member of the Public Safety Department, became involved in efforts to improve the Nevada neighborhood.

Reynolds' most significant reason for wanting the property addressed is the

**"...the message is about health and safety, and improving our community. If you don't take an active role in eliminating hazards, then you're condoning them."**

**—Fire Chief Ray Reynolds**

threat it presents for firefighters. Vacant properties are much more likely to end up on fire and are much more dangerous to those who must fight that fire.

It's also a public safety issue when a property has been abandoned. Kids could get hurt playing around the structure, rodents and small animals can take over the space, vagrants can move in. All kinds of things can and do happen in such situations.

The next steps at 102 K Avenue include an asbestos inspection and a careful tearing down of the house and garage, which will be hauled away to be burned in compliance with DNR requirements.

Ryan Hutton, building & zoning official,

said the tearing down will not happen until spring. Once the house comes down, the hole must be filled in. This will be easier to do in warmer weather. The City will utilize members of the Streets Department to help a contractor with this work.

City staff provided notices and talked with people in this neighborhood during the abatement process.

"For me," Reynolds said, "the message is about health and safety, and improving our community. If you don't take an active role in eliminating hazards, then you're condoning them."

When the property is ready, the City plans to sell the lot for construction of a new home, which brings the goal of nuisance abatement full circle.

"Nuisance abatement is all about making our neighborhoods attractive and protecting property values in our neighborhoods," Hutton said. "And with the sale and the eventual taxes that will be paid on this property, the City, over time, will recoup what it spent for this improvement."

# Need help with property improvements?

## Check out the City's Neighborhood Improvement Incentive Program (NIIP)

In November, the City of Nevada through our Community News blog on our website, shared the story of how Jason Holland was working to clean up the Oak Park Estates property, formerly home to the Oak Park Academy.

Holland, owner of the Oak Park Estates property, applied for Neighborhood Improvement Incentive Program funds to help him demolish abandoned buildings (as shown in photo) on the property.

While NIIP didn't cover the entire cost — \$150,000 to demolish the old church, gymnasium, broom fac-



tory building, laundry building and three Quonsets — Holland received \$40,000 of NIIP funding, which is available to projects that "improve neighborhoods, promote the area, and improve the quality of life" in Nevada.

"We'd like other property owners to be aware of how valuable assistance from the Neighborhood Improvement Incentive Program can be to them, if they are taking on a project that meets the goals of the program," said Ryan Hutton, City Building and Zoning Official.

More information about the NIIP can be found on the City Website: [cityofnevadaiaowa.org](http://cityofnevadaiaowa.org), by clicking on "Forms" and the Neighborhood Improvement Incentive Program link. Residents may also call City Hall, 515-382-5466, and speak to Hutton about the program.

# Take your pet out responsibly

With spring and nice weather fast approaching, the Nevada Parks and Recreation Department reminds residents of a few simple courtesies when visiting City parks and the cemetery.

Everyone likes to have a positive experience and enjoy a clean environment. Please be sure to pick up after your pet when pets are out with you. There are pet waste stations placed at most entrances to the City's trail system. If you do not bring a bag with you, please pick one up before entering our parks and trail areas.

Pets must be on a leash at all times. This is a safety issue for all park users, as well as for your pet. Failure to keep your pet on a leash may result in a citation as outlined in the City of Nevada Municipal Code of Ordinances.

Pets are not allowed on any athletic field at any time. The Parks staff works very hard to provide quality athletic fields for our community sporting events. The kids, coaches, and spectators involved in these activities deserve a clean and sanitary venue for their activity.

Finally, dogs are allowed in the cemetery if they remain on a leash and stay on the roadways. At no time shall



anyone allow their dog to run at-large in the cemetery. We now have pet waste stations at the cemetery, so if you forget a waste bag, you may use a city-provided bag to pick up after your pet.

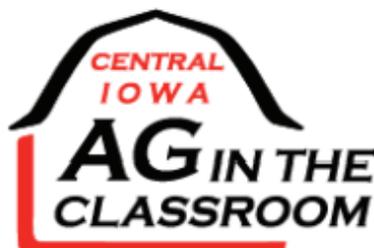
Please be a responsible pet owner so everyone can enjoy Nevada's outdoor public spaces. If you have questions or concerns regarding pets in the parks or the cemetery, please call the Parks and Recreation Department at 515-382-4352. Your cooperation is much appreciated.

# Nevada Public Library announces Read Across Iowa StoryWalk®

March is Read Across Iowa month! To help the Nevada Community celebrate this event, the Nevada Public Library is partnering with the Iowa Agriculture Literacy Foundation, and the Story County Farm Bureau's Agriculture in the Classroom, to host a StoryWalk® March 14 through April 1.

A StoryWalk® takes the fun of reading and puts it into motion as participants travel around reading the pages of a story. During Nevada's StoryWalk® participants will have the chance to read *The Girl Who Thought in Pictures: The Story of Dr. Temple Grandin* by Julia Finley Mosca and illustrated by Daniel Rieley.

All families are invited to participate in this event. To get started, stop in the library to pick up your very own StoryWalk® passport and map of participants. Then travel around downtown Nevada to the different storefronts to read the story. Stop in at eight participating businesses to fill your passport. Then come back to



Iowa Agriculture Literacy Foundation

the library to redeem it for a completion prize.

Along with the StoryWalk® the library will also have special activities during story time on March 17. These activities will be geared toward Pre K-5th grade students and focus on agriculture. March is also agriculture month, and agriculture is essential to Iowa's economy. Agriculture is a great way to contextualize learning

because everyone eats and learning about our food system can be fun too!

Read Across Iowa is a special event held on March 1 and celebrated throughout the month to motivate kids to read. The month-long celebration brings the joys of reading to students of all ages and makes all children feel welcomed and valued. The event is organized as a collaborative effort between the Iowa Agriculture Literacy Foundation, Iowa State University Extension, Iowa 4-H, and the Iowa State Education Association.

You can learn more about this event by visiting: <https://www.iowaagliteracy.org/Tools-Resources/Other/Read-Across-Iowa>.

The StoryWalk® Project was created by Anne Ferguson of Mountpelier, VT, and developed in collaboration with the Kellogg-Hubbard Library. StoryWalk® is a registered service mark owned by Ms. Ferguson.

## Cemetery Clean-up time

Spring cemetery clean-up will run during the third full week of April (18-22). During this time, we will dispose of all decorations, including those placed in vases, saddles, or on shepherd hooks if they are damaged or unsightly. Any decorations you wish to keep must be removed by April 17, before our spring clean-up. You may put out new decorations after the clean-up period, starting April 23.

If you have questions, please call the cemetery at 515-382-6240 and talk with Sexton Gene Fritz.

## KICK-START SPRING

Kate Solko, from Root to Rise Farm, and Nevada Public Library staff invite you to learn how to best start seeds for your outdoor vegetable and flower garden.

This event will take place Wednesday, March 30, from 6-8 p.m. in the library meeting room.

Get a heads up on which seeds to start indoors and when to start them. Learn about planting soil and pots to use. You will have the opportunity to choose from a variety of seeds and start some to take home. Talk to members of the Nevada Community Garden and learn how you can have your own plot.





# Story County Emergency Management wants you to be 'weather aware'

It's time to prepare for severe weather.

Our vulnerability to severe weather is growing as demonstrated by Iowa experiencing a derecho in December that brought winds of 70+ mph and 43 tornadoes, 17 of which were classified as EF2 or greater. Winds aren't the only threat we face; even though we may be in a drought, a big rain event can create flash flooding, with such flooding resulting in the death of 145 people across the nation in 2021.

March 21-25 is severe weather awareness week. During this week, communities, businesses, and individuals are encouraged to educate themselves on severe weather risk and how to be better prepared to deal with severe weather. Story County Emergency Management, in partnership with the National Weather Service, will put out severe weather preparedness information on our website, [www.storycountyia.gov/ema](http://www.storycountyia.gov/ema), and the Story County Emergency Management Facebook page during this week. We hope you'll use this information to ensure that you, your family, and your business have good severe

weather plans. We'll walk you through issues like how to know when severe weather will impact our area, what you should do for each type of severe weather, and how you can get back to 'normal' activities as quickly as possible after a disaster.

Everyone, including families, businesses, schools, churches, and other organizations are encouraged to conduct a test of their severe storm plans during the statewide tornado drill at 10 a.m. on March 23. The National Weather Service in Johnston will initiate the drill with a statement on weather radios at 10 a.m. which you can use to start a tornado drill for you or your organization. This message can be used to test your ability to receive these warnings and your ability to take actions to protect yourself.

Join us as we prepare for severe weather by liking the Story County Emergency Management Facebook page and visiting our website to get more preparedness information. If you have questions about preparedness you can call Story County Emergency Management at 515-382-7315.

## Medicare Made Clear

On Tuesday, March 22, from 3-4 p.m., Tucker Mitchell and the Nevada Public Library will host a Medicare Basics program for those interested in learning more about Medicare plans and options, and understanding the costs associated with the programs. Join us in-person in the library meeting room, or sign up on the library website to receive a Zoom link.

## SAVE THE DATE

The Nevada Foundation has announced a new event coming to Nevada this spring. Pizza•Pie•Looza will be held Saturday, May 14, in the Main Street Nevada District. The event will feature a 5K run, afternoon and evening entertainment, food, activities and a headliner concert with country singing artist, Jo Dee Messina, to conclude the evening! Watch for more information on the Pizza•Pie•Looza Facebook page.



MAY 14, 2022 • NEVADA, IOWA

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# Calendar of Events

## BLOOD DRIVE

**March 2, 1-6 p.m.**

Gates Hall  
*Appointments necessary, call 1-800-287-4903 or text LIFESERVE to 999-777. Sponsored by Nevada Legion Auxiliary.*

## STORY COUNTY P&Z

**March 2, 4 p.m.**

Story Co Admin Bldg.,  
Nevada

## STORY MEDICAL BD OF TRUSTEES

**March 3, 11:30 a.m.**

Story Medical Center

## AMERICAN LEGION FISH FRIES

**March 4, 11, 18  
5-7 p.m.**

American Legion Post

## BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

**Every Tuesday, 10 a.m.**

Story Co Admin Bldg,  
Nevada

## HIGH SCHOOL SPRING MUSICAL

**March 4, 5, 6**

Josephine Tope  
Community Auditorium

## NCS D SCHOOL BOARD

**March 7**

Gates Memorial Hall  
Auditorium  
*Watch for agenda on the School Website, nevada-cubs.org, under District/School Board/Agenda.*

## STORY COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD

**March 7, 5:30 p.m.**

Conservation Center,  
56461 180th St., Ames

## COMMUNITY COFFEE

**March 12, 9-10 A.M.**

FarmGrounds  
*Visit informally with City leaders over coffee.*

## NCS D SPRING BREAK

**March 14-18**

## SENIOR CENTER POTLUCK

**March 14, 11:30 a.m.**

Senior Center (by City Hall)  
*Bring a dish to share. Serving starts at 11:30 a.m. A program starts around 12:15 or shortly thereafter. All are invited.*

## CITY COUNCIL

**March 14 and 28, 6 p.m.**

City Hall  
*Watch for agenda on the City Website, cityofnevada-iowa.org, under Agendas/Minutes.*

## NEVADA PARKS & REC BOARD

**March 16, 5:15 p.m.**

City Hall  
*Watch for agenda on the City Website, cityofnevada-iowa.org, under Agendas/Minutes.*

## AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY FISH FRY

**March 25, 5-7 p.m.**

American Legion Post

## MASONIC LODGE BOWLING TOURNEY

**March 26, 2 p.m.**

Sports Bowl  
*Singles Tournament. \$25 entry fee. Walk-ins allowed if there's space.*

## NEVADA LIBRARY BOARD

**March 21, 5 p.m.**

Library Meeting Room  
*Watch for agenda on the City Website, cityofnevada-iowa.org, under Agendas/Minutes.*