



Diller

FOUNDED
OCTOBER 13, 1880

Hometown Connections

DILLER COMMUNITY FOUNDATION FUND NEWSLETTER 2013 AN AFFILIATE OF THE NEBRASKA COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Happy Harbiners 4-H Club promotes community involvement



chants to water the plants as needed.

The club has also done many other community service projects such as Adopt-A-Highway where they clean up the highway for two miles around Harbine. The group also spreads wood chips around the playground in the village park and elementary school. They have painted trash cans for the ball field, planted plants around the front of the community building and helped wait

The Happy Harbiners 4-H Club has taken on the duties of planting the mainstreet flower pots in Diller for the past 15 years. Club members pick out special flowering plants to be planted in the pots to beautify the main street of Diller. The members take great care in cleaning the pots and mixing in the organic home fertilizer along with new potting soil each year. They take care of the planting and ask local mer-

and serve tables at the annual Diller alumni banquet. Some of their other activities are - Christmas Caroling to local patrons, serving and cleaning tables at the pancake feed and decorating for the seniors with autumn decorations. They have also have labeled and identified 75 trees with posts in the Fairbury City Park.

The club is led by Eric and Kathy Engelman and has 17 members.

How does your garden grow?



Larry Germer.

Mr. Germer, as he is known to many of his former students, became active with the project in 2005 when he helped write the grant to start the project.

The project was funded by the Diller Community Foundation Fund and a Community Enhancement

Diller's Memorial Park (garden) grows with long term dedication, many volunteer hours and a lot hard work on the part of Lar-

Program grant through the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum. The CEP Grant covered 80% of the \$18,400 cost.

Larry assisted Jim Kluck of Dublin Nursery and Landscaping to complete the planting in the fall of 2005.

Since the project's completion, Larry has been caring for the park. Annually he dedicates approximately 74 hours to mowing, cleaning, weeding, and fall clean up. This does not include the time spent watering during dry spells.

On behalf of ALL who enjoy the tranquil beauty of the park we say "THANK YOU" to Larry for his gifts of time and talent.

The Fund Advisory Committee plans to write an Endowment Grant in 2014 to install an underground sprinkler system in the Memorial Park.

Local veterans lead the way in showing patriotism

The Red, White and Blue regularly waves on Diller's Main Street, thanks to the dedication of veterans Norris Gold, Howard Perkins, Robert Weers and Franklin Damrow. They work to ensure that 'Old Glory' is flying for all appropriate holidays.

The patriotic display stretches for three blocks, with 29 flags and greets residents and guests alike with its inspiring beauty. They have been displaying the flags in Diller for four years.

According to Mr. Gold the flags are displayed on 24 different days throughout the year. They are put up for all the well-known holidays and some holidays that aren't as well know such as - Korean War Veterans Day (July 27), Patriot Day (Sept. 11), National POW/MIA Recognition Day (third Friday in Sept.), and Citizenship Day (Sept. 17).

The flags are also flow on the three

days of the recently held Diller picnic.

Mr. Gold said that these days not only show their patriotism but also provide an education for the public. "A lot of people ask us what the flags are flying for and ask us what the holiday is."

For the veterans given the responsibility to display the flags it's an important task. "It's important that we show our patriotism and love for our country," added Mr. Gold. "We have the community behind us. We've got local funding from the VFW, the community and Community Fund. The VFW sets the dates we should fly the flags and the other organizations help with new flag poles, brackets and flags."

The Diller Community Foundation Fund is proud to support their efforts by providing new flags as they are needed.



Norris Gold and Franklin Damrow are pictured putting up one of the 29 American Flags that are displayed in Diller during various holidays.



Samantha Hajek (left) and Andrea Zarybnicky of the Diller-Odell Students Against Drugs and Alcohol group present lessons to Diller-Odell elementary students in October.

DOSADA provides a positive approach to youth activities

The Diller-Odell Students Against Drugs and Alcohol (DOSADA) sponsor a variety of activities during the year including a Valentine's Day Dance. The dance received the support of an Endowment Grant of \$750 which helped junior and senior high students celebrate the holiday in a fun and safe way.

DOSADA is a student-led and directed organization with the focus on making healthy choices for a healthy life. Participating students sign a pledge and promise to be drug and alcohol free. The group has approximately 70 members and those members are led by a core group of 12 to 14 members.

The mission statement for the group is that they will lead a life that is drug and alcohol free with an emphasis on healthy choices, good nutrition and safe activities.

The core group members provide activities that promote, educate and demonstrate healthy choices with an emphasis on the dangers of substance abuse.

The student response to DOSADA has been excellent and provides a positive experience in youth leadership.

Village receives Endowment Gifts

The Village of Diller was awarded two grants this year. The first was for \$500 to purchase a new computer for the Water Department, and the second Grant was for \$2,200 for Village Park Improvements. Plans will soon begin on putting down new wood chips for the playground area and installing cement approaches to the playground.

Fund donations received as of March 31

Listed are donations received to the endowment fund, the general account and two of the special accounts. Donations to the Endowment Fund are invested and only the earnings from the investment are spent. Grants are awarded each year from the account based on requests submitted and are announced at our "Annual Granting Celebration" in January. As of March 31, 2013, the Endowment Fund had a balance of \$263,757. Earnings from the Endowment Fund provided over \$9,000 that was awarded for projects and activities in 2013.

Endowment Fund

Gayla Koehn and Thomson Reuter, On Behalf of Gayla Koehn; Douglas and Kathryn Schnuelle; Dean and Elizabeth Roelfs; Dennis Schmidt; Harlequin More Than Words, On Behalf of Elizabeth Roelfs.

General Fund

Michael Pralle; Cynthia and Robert Milligan; Sandman Family Foundation; Richard and Jean Schnuelle; B&W Electric, Inc.; Troy and Micki Krieger; State Bank of Odell; Gladys Rahe Rice; W.K. Kellogg Foundation; Darrel and Marjorie Freitag In Memory of George, Edith and Dwaine Freitag; Marilyn Wrigley In Memory of Loren and Blanche Stephens; Robert Diller In Memory of Roger Diller USMC (1944 Guam); Verlyn and Linda Wehling In Memory of Alfred Wehling; Michael Hofacre In Memory of Shirley Wathor Hofacre, Several Anonymous Donations.

Opera House

Sara Thimm; Connie Trawny; Karen Scheele In Memory of Floyd Scheele; Loren and Barbara Ebke; Dennis Schmidt.

Main Street

Anonymous Donation

Wealth Transfer

A report from the Nebraska Community Foundation regarding the Transfer of Wealth which was completed in 2011 has been completed. As of March 31, 2013, a total of \$383,750 has been given or designated to the Diller Endowment Fund.

The percent of five percent wealth transfer achieved is at 90.19 percent of the estimated 10-year Community Wealth Transfer. A donation to the Endowment Fund is a legacy to the community that will last forever.

Projects and activities support June 1, 2012 through May 31, 2013

2012 Summer Reading Program	\$300
2012 Graduate Recognition	\$ 65
2012 Flowers for Main Street Planters	\$276
Transfer Diller Picnic Parade videos to DVD	\$220
Sponsor 2012 DOSADA Sweetheart Dance	\$345
Computer & Scanner for Bank Museum	\$1,100
Fireworks for Diller Picnic	\$500
Girl Scout Junior/Cadette Troop #20483	\$250
Girl Scout Brownie Troop #20110	\$250
Girl Scout Daisy Troop #20167	\$250
Village of Diller for Water Department Computer	\$500
Diller Opera house for new furnace and air conditioner	\$2,300
Scholarship to Sarah Schmidt for NPower Leadership Conference	\$150
Village of Diller to purchase 24 flags and poles for Main Street	\$890
Sponsor 2013 DOSADA Sweetheart Dance	\$700
Diller-Odell Post Prom Donation	\$100

The Diller Community Foundation has 31 members in 2013. Annual dues to be a member of the foundation are \$20 per year and go to the General Fund to be used for projects and activities that are presented to the board throughout the year. The funds are also used to support some of the grant requests awarded annually. The annual membership dues are just one way to support the Diller Community Foundation. Members of the Diller Community Foundation for 2013 are:

Alan & JoAnn Svajr, Jona Ideus Simonson, William & Gladys Sandman, Verneal Dodge, Steven & Julie Sandman, David Scheele, David & Victoria Barnard, Marla Weichel, Richard & Elizabeth Timmerman, Sy E Fasnacht, Randy Sandman, Greg & Tamara Weers, Diller Telephone Company, Chad/Courtney Lottman, Robert Diller, Connie Trawny, Judy Weers, Larry & Ruth Horsky, Carole Geer Beran, Dr. Sharon Ocker, Doug & Kate Schnuelle, Diller Opera House, Robert & Angie Weers, Dean & Elizabeth Roelfs, Steve & Peggy Hemphill, Robert & Diane Wellsandt, Robert & Cynthia Milligan, Sandra Sagehorn, Elaine Baumfalk Erdmann, Larry & Sondra Germer.

Diller Community Fund Advisory Committee

Beth Roelfs, Chairman; Marla Weichel, Vice-Chairman;

Dave Barnard, Secretary; Peggy Hemphill, Secretary;

Tamara Weers, Treasurer; Diane Wellsandt, Member; Larry Germer, Member

Irene Pretzer Scholarship available at SCC Beatrice

The Irene Pretzer Scholarship is available to local non-traditional students or to students from the Diller-Odell school area that are looking to attend Southeast Community College in a health care field. The scholarship is for \$500 per year and is renewable at the discretion of SCC.

The scholarship came about because Mrs. Pretzer saw the struggles of CNA's and other health professionals that were trying to go to school while working full-time.

Mrs. Pretzer contacted Larry Germer, a member of the Diller Community Foundation Fund, to inquire about establishing a scholarship fund to help adult students working toward health care degrees. Larry connected Mrs. Pretzer with staff members at Nebraska Community Foundation who helped the family create the Irene and Verne Pretzer Scholarship Fund, in memory of Mrs. Pretzer's late husband, Verne. The Pretzer family hopes their gift will inspire other families to make gifts to benefit the community in memory and honor of loved ones.

The scholarship will be distributed annually beginning in 2014, to a Southeast Community College student at any campus who meets the following criteria:

- Recipients shall be from Jefferson or Gage county in Nebraska, and have an intent to remain in or return to Jefferson or Gage county
- Recipients must be enrolled in a healthcare field of study that requires a minimum of 12 months of education
- Recipients shall demonstrate financial need
- Preference shall be given to students from Diller or Odell, Nebraska
- Preference shall be given to nursing students
- Preference shall be given to nontraditional students rather than students going directly from secondary to post-secondary education

Students may apply for the scholarship through SCC and the recipient is selected by the College Scholarship Committee.

Daisy Scout Troop 20167

Troop 20167 was made up of 12 Daisy Girl Scouts, in kindergarten and first grades and was led by Helen Swanson, their leader since 2007.

Throughout the year the Daisies work on earning their "petals". The "center" of the daisy is received when the Scout is able to recite the Girl Scout Promise and to live by the Girl Scout Law.

Each girl receives a Daisy Girl Guide Book. The guides help both the girls and the leaders throughout the year. This book walks the girls through the components of earning the petal and has activities to complete.

The Daisies also complete a "Journey." The Daisies completed "Three Cheers for Animals" during this school year. They earn a main badge and then are able to add three little animal patches to the badge throughout their "Journey."

The Daisies also take part in other activities throughout the year and get outdoors for many activities, experiments and art projects.

This upcoming school year the Daisy Troop 20167 will have a new leader, Barb (Vitosh) Beekman.



The Diller Old Bank Museum is the proud owner of a computer and copier/printer thanks to the Diller Community Foundation Funding. The use of this technology will enable the museum to store information and pictures that can be filed and saved for convenient access. The computer will also make it possible to present power-point programs of historic interest regarding the information present in the museum.

Opera House meets goal

The remodeling of the entire main floor social hall of the Diller Opera House was completed in 2012 for a cost of approximately \$50,000. Through generous donations from alumni, community members, area businesses and grants from the Diller Community Foundation Fund, the total cost of the project has been funded. The members of the Diller Opera House group are extremely thankful for the donations received and greatly appreciate the continued support of the community with the use of the building and donations received to sustain this important landmark. The Diller Community Foundation Fund granted a total of \$3,800.00 toward the project and an additional \$6,000.00 was given through the special Opera House Fund.

Girl Scout Troop 20483

Troop 20483 was made up of nine girls from fifth and sixth grades with Kendra J. Weers as their leader since 2010.

At this level, the girls, as a troop, are responsible for selecting the badges they want to earn, activities they want to do, camp details, fundraisers, and community service they will do throughout the year.

The Juniors in Troop 20483 were able to earn the following badges throughout this year: Simple Meals, Social Butterfly, First Aid, Girl Scout Way, Cookie CEO, and Customer Insights. The Cadettes earned: Babysitting & Journey awards.

Troop 20483 took a trip to LaVista where they were able to stay at the Embassy Suites, and planned their activities for the upcoming year. They selected Camp Maha for their camping journey this year and stayed two nights.

One of the important activities the Juniors participated in was to work on their Bronze Award. This award is the highest honor a Junior Scout can achieve. The girls have to select a service project, plan it and make their project happen. They each need to put in 20 hours to get the award.

Community Endowment Receives Harlequin Funds



During the fall of 2012 many citizens from the Diller-Odell area and surrounding communities participated in the Harlequin More Than Words voting challenge.

The announcement of the winners was made in mid-February and Beth Roelfs of Diller represented one of the top three causes and received a \$15,000 prize. The prize money has been given to the Diller Community Endowment Fund.

"I always felt that folks were actually voting to support the volunteerism that is such a mainstay of rural life. I was nominated for doing the same things many of us do and that is VOLUNTEERING TO SUPPORT A WAY OF LIFE THAT WE FIND TO BE PRICELESS", Roelfs said.

Beth shared that this has been a very humbling experience and she would like to thank everyone who voted.

Thanks to our volunteers

There are many who play a part in helping Diller 'put on a good face'.

Along with Larry Germer and the Happy Harbiners, the Diller Community Foundation Fund wants to say a big 'Thank You' to Kate Schnuelle for caring for the Welcome sign near Highway 136, as well as Sandy Kotas, and Tracy and Samantha Novotny for their care of the Welcome signs at the entry way to town.

Jean Novotny and Leatha Christ have assisted in the landscaping at the Community Building with the support of Ashley (Novotny) Ulmer, co-owner of All Around Lawn Care of Geneva.

Entry way ditches to Diller are groomed by BJ and Shannon Stein, Matt Nippert and Chad Lottman.

We also want to thank Dennis Ivy for the awesome job he does in caring for the community's appearance.

There are others who make a difference and go unrecognized. THANKS!

Please express your appreciation to these wonderful volunteers the next time you see them.

Foundation helps with picnic fireworks display

Fireworks have become a tradition at the Diller Picnic. Thursday night of the picnic is capped off with fireworks. The Diller Community Foundation Fund has been providing the picnic committee with funding to help with the expenses of the display. A grant of \$500.00 was given to the Diller Picnic Committee in 2012 and a grant of \$1500.00 was given towards the 2013 Diller Picnic. What a great way to celebrate both occasions.



A beautiful new fence has been constructed around the Prairie Home Cemetery. Additional funds are needed to complete the project.

Help Us Finish the Prairie Home Cemetery Fence!

Over the past two years, the Prairie Home Cemetery Fence Committee has raised the funds and constructed a beautiful new fence around our cemetery north of Diller. We are very proud of this great addition to the final resting place of our family and friends.

We are now in the process of raising the funds necessary to complete the final phase of this fence project. If you drive by the cemetery, you will notice that we have added the matching brick pillars to continue the fence east to our property line. We now need to raise around \$6,000 to complete the project with matching black steel fencing.

If you would like to contribute to the final phase of this lasting upgrade

to our cemetery; either personally, as a family or from a memorial, please contact Larry or Janet Chambers, Gary Behrends, or Dave or Sherry Henrichs. All contributions, no matter how large or small, are appreciated.

In addition, we are also in the early stages of another upgrade. We will be adding trees to all areas of the cemetery. We have some funds that have been donated, specifically for our Tree Project. These dollars will be used in the next few months to begin the plantings. More trees will be added in phases as the funds become available.

Please consider donating to these worthy projects to make our Cemetery a more beautiful and peaceful place of rest.

Schmidt to attend leadership camp



at Diller-Odell High School in the fall.

Sarah stated in her application that, "All organizations and committees require strong leaders to uphold the well being of our small town."

She is already serving as a community volunteer by helping with Sunday School, writing the school news for the St. Paul Church News-

As part of the Diller Fund's commitment to youth, a scholarship to the NPower Leadership Camp was presented to Sarah Schmidt. Sarah will be a senior

letter, and working in the Diller Picnic food stand. Sarah also serves as president of several organizations at Diller-Odell.

The NPower partnership provides leadership development opportunities for all Nebraska youth leaders in grades 6 through 12. NPower is:

Nebraska's youth leaders
Networking to
Influence community change and
Initiate positive action for the
Next generation.

The three day camp trains Nebraska's youth on how to lead, resolve conflicts, develop vision plans and handle change.

The Diller Community Foundation is proud to foster the growth of quality, young leaders.

Area youth invited to join in community planning

The youth currently in our communities represent one of our greatest resources for economic growth and community sustainability. With this in mind, the Diller-Odell Youth Engagement Group brought leaders of all ages together for an evening of collaboration. Young members represented club or class offices. Senior members represented town and school board members, business owners, and community organizations from Diller and Odell.

The 'GOAL' was to establish connections that will weave young and mature ideas and energy together for community betterment.

Through the 2011/12 school year the junior and senior high students at Diller-Odell completed a survey and participated in focus groups that were facilitated by Craig Schroeder from the center for Rural Entrepreneurship.

When given a voice, the students shared their perceptions of their community, future education and career plans, and desire to live in the local area in the future. When comparing our student responses to 25,002 national responses, we noted the positive attitude amongst our youth concerning their home communities with over half interested in living in the local area in the future.

As a result of the evening's dialog,

the Diller Community Club and Odell Area Community Enrichment have invited young community members to one of their monthly meetings. The town boards have been encouraged to set aside one meeting a year to invite younger residents to participate or observe their proceedings. Mr. Prosski, K-12 principal for Diller-Odell has established a successful Principal's Advisory Council comprised of young people from 5th - 12th grades. The Diller-Odell School's web page features several articles about recent graduates who have found success with in their home community. And, the Diller Community Foundation Fund and OACE continued their collaboration by sending a card of congratulations to the 30 graduating seniors of Diller-Odell Schools this spring and, along with a cash gift, included a letter noting the pride the communities had in their accomplishments along with an invitation to consider Diller and Odell as wonderful places to work, live and raise their families.

The Diller Community Foundation Fund started this effort when they received a Small Business Grant with assistance from the Nebraska Community Foundation. The Diller Fund helped to sponsor the collaborative meeting by sharing the cost of the meal.



To complete our Girl Scout School Year the four local troops hosted a Bridging Ceremony at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Diller. As a Girl Scout leaves a level, she "bridges up" to the next level. There were three, first grade Daisies bridge up to Brownies; three, third grade Brownies bridge up to Juniors; and six fifth grade Juniors will move up to Cadettes. All 33 of the girls in all troops were able to plan this event ahead of time, make decorations, food and cake.

Girl Scouts Benefit for Camping Experience

The Diller-Odell Junior Girl Scout Troop #20430 received funds that provided for more than half of the money needed for camp registration for each girl. There was even some funds left for badges.

The camp teaches leadership, cooperative learning, appreciation for nature and for each other. The girls learn about working toward a common goal, problem-solving and having fun together which are fundamental skills that will serve them all through life.

Troop Leader Kendra Weers shares, "Thanks to the foundation, you have made the learning and experiencing of these skills possible for these future leaders. Again, THANK YOU for your gift to these fantastic young ladies."