



# **City of Grand Island**

**Tuesday, March 25, 2008**

**Council Session**

## **Item C3**

**Proclamation "Community Development Week" March 24-30, 2008**

**Staff Contact: Joni Kuzma**

# **Council Agenda Memo**

**From:** Joni Kuzma, Development Specialist

**Council Meeting:** March 25, 2008

**Subject:** Proclamation “Community Development Week”  
March 24 - 30, 2008

**Item #'s:** C-3

**Presenter(s):** Joni Kuzma, Development Specialist

## **Background**

Since 1969, Community Development in Grand Island has worked to provide Nebraskans with safe, affordable and accessible housing and infrastructure, quality jobs and investment through financing of new and expanding business, and community programs that impact social, economic, and cultural norms.

In 1981, the Nebraska Department of Economic Development (DED) instituted a CDBG program and in 1986, the National Community Development Association initiated National Community Development Week to remind Congress of the importance of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. This reminder is more important today than at any other time in history. CDBG funding has experienced federal budget cuts every year for the past six years, but has survived proposed restructuring that was not designed to benefit rural communities.

As the CDBG program manager for the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Nebraska Department of Economic Development encourages Nebraska communities to celebrate Community Development Week through a variety of activities to increase public awareness and educate residents about services and facilities provided in each community. In conjunction with other activities throughout the state, the City is proclaiming March 24 - 30, 2008 as Community Development Week in Grand Island.

Community Development has applied for and received funds from many grant sources including the Department of Economic Development, Nebraska Department of Roads, the Nebraska Investment Finance Authority, the U.S. Department of Justice, Region 3 Behavioral Health, state and local foundations, and many other federal and state agencies.

## **Discussion**

This proclamation acknowledges the value of the Community Development Block Grant program to Grand Island. The following are 2007 highlights of Community Development Division activity, grant work, program management, and partnerships.

The Community Development Division provides grant writing, grant administration, reporting, program administration, research, and fiscal management services (grants) for the City. In 2007, a record 23 grant applications were prepared for \$3,128,863.55, with \$1,890,796.21 awarded. The Division manages funding for economic development, collaboration building, housing, drug abuse prevention, programs for children and families, transportation, and other community development activities.

Other 2007 highlights:

- Completed a Homelessness and Homeless Housing Study in partnership with Hope Harbor.
- Successfully nominated “Family Day in the Park” for a Nebraska Community Improvement Program recognition award.
- Collaborated with the Nebraska Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Housing Development Corporation, and the Nebraska Investment Finance Authority on a “Celebrate National Homeownership Month” Open House.
- Participated as a member of the Nebraska Children and Families Foundation “Nebraska Community Learning Collaborative” to build community collaboration and design a peer review process for Foundation grantees.
- Chaired the North Central Regional Continuum of Care (homeless housing continuum for 22-county region) and the Hall County Community Team. This Team monitors the County Juvenile Justice Three-year Plan.
- Worked with Carol Bryant, Grand Island Public Schools, and Bill Brennan, Saint Francis Medical Center, to nominate Grand Island as one of the “100 Best Communities for Young People.” The City received the award in Jan. 2008
- Wrote and was awarded a “Safe Routes to Schools” grant to improve pedestrian safety near Walnut Middle School. This is the first year that this grant was available to Nebraska communities.
- Coordinated a \$296,000 grant to assist 9 homeowners for owner-occupied rehabilitation (\$25,000 - \$30,000 per home) and 4 first-time home buyers for down payment assistance.
- Maintained between 85 and 100 active client files from past and present housing programs.

The Division is building a stronger community by securing funding, managing programs, serving on community boards and coalitions, and functioning as a community resource to enhance “quality of life” opportunities for residents.

Down payment assistance, owner-occupied rehab programs, and economic development grants result in economically proven benefits to the community. CDBG programs increase the property tax base, improve property values, and create jobs for low-income residents. The CDBG program reports that for every \$1.00 of CDBG money invested in a community, \$6.85 is spent privately. Grand Island is fortunate to receive continued Community Development Block Grant funding.

THE OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
City of Grand Island  
State of Nebraska

PROCLAMATION

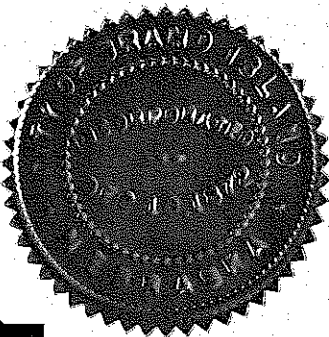
- WHEREAS, Nebraska's communities are the foundation for providing a high quality of life for its residents; and
- WHEREAS, the City of Grand Island has demonstrated dedication to the economic, social and cultural growth in this community; and
- WHEREAS, the City of Grand Island has actively supported community development activities including a first-time homebuyer down payment assistance program; owner-occupied rehabilitation program; public works and economic development projects, and development of quality programs that serve children and families; and
- WHEREAS, the City of Grand Island partners with many community organizations to expand and improve housing, infrastructure, and services.

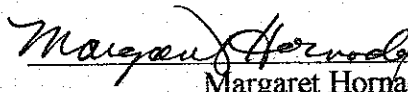
NOW, THEREFORE, I, Margaret Hornady, Mayor of the City of Grand Island, Nebraska, do hereby proclaim the week of March 24-30, 2008 as

***"COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT WEEK"***

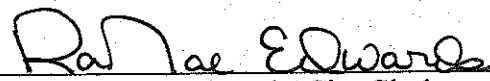
in the City of Grand Island, and encourage all citizens to support community development activities this week and throughout the year.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the City of Grand Island to be affixed this twenty-fifth day of March in the year of our Lord Two Thousand and Eight.



  
Margaret Hornady, Mayor

Attest:

  
RaNae Edwards, City Clerk