

## Bennet Celebrates Successful Visioning Process

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Saturday, April 29 was supposed to be a rainy day; fortunately, the forecast was wrong. We were blessed with good weather, some sunshine and enjoyed spending the late afternoon in the Bennet Park celebrating the success of Bennet Visioning Process.

Members of the Bennet Advisory Committee organized a Community Visioning Celebration to recognize their achievements and honor the volunteers who committed a lot of time and energy to the visioning process.

### Successful Visioning Process

The Bennet Community Visioning Process took about six months to complete and Bennet residents have a lot to be proud of:

- The Citizens' Advisory Committee has been formed and become active in the community; the advisory committee will work in partner-



Attendees at the Community Visioning Celebration pose by a banner with the community slogan.

ship with the Village Board and Planning and Zoning Committee on the projects which will improve the quality of life in Bennet. These local leaders will be the liaison between local officials and the whole community and make sure communication goes both ways.

- The Vision Statement was created and will be incorporated into the comprehensive plan; it will guide the community in shaping Bennet's future. The Vision Statement was created from information gathered at the listening sessions and from the themes which were pri-

oritized by Bennet residents during the second Town Hall meeting. The Vision Statement reflects community residents' goals, objectives and desires.

- The Citizens' Advisory Committee decided to promote Bennet and distinguish their community among others in Lancaster County by creating a community slogan. Four different slogans were proposed and the advisory committee distributed voting cards asking Bennet residents to choose their favorite. Based on the results, the new Bennet Community Slogan is, "Remember yes-

terday's values; live today's dreams; invest in tomorrow's families."

- The Citizens' Advisory Committee raised the money (\$200) to present Community Visioning Celebration. They also contracted local business owner, Todd Calfee, to create a banner with the Bennet Community Slogan.

### Visioning Celebration

Lee Anderbery, Cathy Jones, Doug Janak, Guenter Schwerdtle and Tyler Godrich took leadership roles in organizing the Community Visioning Celebration. Flyers

announcing the event were distributed around town and announcements were published in The Voice and Lincoln Journal Star newspapers. Heartland Community Bank, Bennet Builders and Bennet Youth Group donated money for the event.

About 25 people attended the celebration, enjoying ice cream from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Dairy Store and live music. There was a volunteer recognition, and the new vision statement and community slogan were promoted.

The majority of attendees were aware of the visioning process and had participated in Listening Sessions and Town Hall meetings. Some attendees had not known about the visioning process, but enjoyed the opportunity to learn what was going on in the community.

For more information about the Bennet visioning process, visit the Web site at [http://lanaster.unl.edu/community/community\\_Bennet.shtml](http://lanaster.unl.edu/community/community_Bennet.shtml).

## Community Garden Open House, June 24

Community CROPS, Lincoln's community garden and farm project, will be having a garden open house on Saturday, June 24, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Select gardens will be open for visiting with gardeners on-site to showcase their plots. We will have various garden and food related demonstrations and refreshments at each garden. Tickets will be available to purchase at all open garden locations, including the 46th and Pioneers Community Garden and the 23rd and P Community Garden.

Community CROPS: Combining Resources, Opportunities and People for Sustainability is a community-supported project that provides garden space to people in the Lincoln area, as well as helping refugee and immigrants to start farming for market. For more information about the open house, go to [www.communitycrops.org](http://www.communitycrops.org) or call 730-2532.

## When Property with Private Water, Wastewater is Sold, Systems Must be Inspected

By John Chess  
Lincoln-Lancaster County  
Health Department

Effective May 29, 2006, Lancaster County Resolution R-06-0005 and Lincoln Municipal Code 24.42 requires prior to the sale, transfer or conveyance of property upon which an on-site wastewater treatment system and/or on-site water supply system is located, it shall be the duty of the owner to have each system inspected by a Property Transfer Inspector (PTI) and secure a determination letter from the Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department (LLCHD).

PTIs must hold a valid permit from LLCHD to conduct inspections on the on-site wastewater system and/or the on-site water system. A current list of PTIs is available by contacting the LLCHD.

The PTI will conduct inspections of the on-site wastewater and/or the onsite water system based on the criteria set by the LLCHD. The inspection results will be submitted to the LLCHD, along with a \$75.00 fee for review and issuance of a determination letter. After reviewing the inspection report, LLCHD will issue one of three letters of determination. They are:

**Approval:** This means at the time of inspection the on-site wastewater system and/or the on-site water system found the structure and operational status were in substantial compliance with applicable local and state codes.

**Denial:** This means either one or both of the on-site systems may adversely affect public health. The denial status does not preclude the sale, transfer or conveyance of property. However, if a serious

public health violation does exist, LLCHD may take legal steps to make sure the violation is corrected.

**Undetermined:** This means the system could not be inspected due to weather conditions. The inspection must be completed when the weather conditions are acceptable.

The property code does provide exceptions to the inspection requirement and issuance of the determination letter. Examples of the most common exceptions: 1) when a determination letter was issued within the past 36 months; 2) a new system installed in the previous 36 months; 3) transfers from spouse to spouse; and 4) transfers between immediate family members.

If you have questions about the property transfer code, contact John Chess at 441-8027 or Doug Smith at 441-8031.

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## The Nebraska LEAD Program (LEADERSHIP EDUCATION/ACTION DEVELOPMENT)

Applications are now being accepted for Nebraska LEAD Group XXVI, which begins in the fall of 2006. Thirty highly motivated individuals with demonstrated leadership potential will be selected. **Application deadline is June 15.**

The Nebraska LEAD Program is specifically designed for both males and females involved in production agriculture or agribusiness, in the general range of 25-50, who are intent on making a difference by providing quality leadership for the future of the industry of agriculture and the state of Nebraska.

For application or re-application materials and/or further information, call the Nebraska LEAD Program at 472-6810 or e-mail [ablezek1@unl.edu](mailto:ablezek1@unl.edu).

**LEAD**

Nebraska LEAD Program  
Nebraska Agricultural Leadership Council, Inc.

See our Web site at  
[www.ianr.unl.edu/lead](http://www.ianr.unl.edu/lead)