

Ord Selected as 2005 Governor's Showcase Community

The community of Ord was awarded the 2005 Showcase Community by Nebraska Governor Dave Heineman on March 29, 2005. In honor of Community Development Week, Gov. Heineman presented several awards to communities and development projects that represented outstanding efforts in community revitalization in Nebraska.

Representatives from the City of Ord and Valley County Economic Development were present to receive this prestigious award.

A few of Ord's accomplishments over the past five years include:

- Ethanol Preparedness – completion of 48 questions and inclusion on www.ethanolsites.com
- Trail Development – Completion of trail project in 2004 as a result of grant funds of \$231,649 from NE Dept. of Roads Transportation and Enhancement Program for trail from Aule's Pond to the Lower Loup NRD Arboretum
- In 2004, \$183,000 was awarded to the City of Ord for paving of additional streets, bringing the total paving grants since 2001 to \$627,300!
- Youth Entrepreneurship Program at St. Mary's Catholic School – business fair on April 15, 2005
- \$50,000 USDA Rural Business Enterprise Grant Award to Valley County for a business development coordinator position to assist businesses and start-ups in our county.
- Rural Initiative Technology Intern – This intern assisted local government and private businesses with their technology needs during the summer of 2004.
- Community Marketing CD's and Website www.ComeHomeToOrd.com
- Amendment of LB 840 (Ord City Sales Tax) for Economic Development in Valley County
- Valley County Owner-Occupied Housing Grants - more than 34 homes have been rehabbed in Valley County since 2000 through two grants from the Department of Economic Development. Total project costs of more than \$650,000!
- Aule's Pond Renovation – awarded funds of \$270,170 from CLEAR Program to restore Aule's Pond.
- Formation of Interlocal Agreement between City of Ord and Valley County to combine dispatch services.
- Adoption of additional 2% lodging tax in Valley County to assist with bricks and mortar projects on existing tourism attractions in the county.
- Hometown Competitiveness –Pilot community for developing a strategy for youth, charitable assets, leadership and entrepreneurship in Valley County. WE have received MUCH national publicity regarding our efforts on this program.
- Downtown Master Plan – Initial engineering plan completed and downtown renovation project included in City of Ord's 6-year plan.
- Valley County EDGE – 2nd offering of this 12-week course in 2005. Fourteen businesses in the area are participating. North Loup Alum, Terry Keown, instructs the course.
- Flag Pole Project – Several donations of funds have been made toward this volunteer project.

Ord also received the Governor's Honorary Showcase Community Award in 2003.