

BRIDGE Organiza

Continued from Page A1

Erin Ludwig said, "We sold the trailer factory property, creating a larger pool of funds from which to operate. BRIDGE funds are now used to be seed money for community betterment projects. BRIDGE partners with the City of Elma and area non-profit groups assisting them with grant-writing and offering matching funds for community projects."

The goal of BRIDGE and its members is to be catalysts for positive change in the Elma Community.

The BRIDGE Organization Inc. currently has three officers, Dale Roethler-President, Roger Meirick-Vice President and Bruce Weigel-Secretary/Treasurer. Along with the officers, there are four active committees in the corporation with a chairperson in each and an overall membership of around 30 businesses/individuals. The four committees include:

1. Executive Committee is comprised of the three corporate officers and leads the organization by conducting monthly meetings, recording minutes, sending our meeting notices, and overseeing/reporting the finances of the corporation.

2. Marketing & Promotions Committee is comprised of Chairperson Callie Weigel along with co-chair Shannon Gebel and help from other BRIDGE members. This committee seeks to positively promote the Elma area in marketing Elma events, businesses and services. The committee oversees the Elmaia.com community website, the "Elma, Iowa" Facebook page, responds to inquiry e-mail messages at elmaia@mchsi.com and elmaiowa@gmail.com, manages the Elma community digital message board, and

3. Serving Our Community Committee (SOCC) is comprised of Erin Ludwig Chairperson and Laura Zenner Vice-Chair. This committee's purpose is to develop and coordinate community programs for Elma residents of all ages, as well as promotion of and finding staff for these programs.

This committee liaisons with the City of Elma, Elma Park Board, and BRIDGE

marketing committee.

4. Community Development Committee currently has no Chairperson but BRIDGE members Bruce Weigel, Erin Ludwig, Callie Weigel and Shannon Gebel have all helped with this committee's duties. This committee's purpose is to assist in seeking outside funding opportunities for Elma area businesses, non-profit organizations and City programs, as well as to seek community development programs to improve Elma. This committee liaisons with the City of Elma and Howard County Business & Tourism.

Other committees include Entertainment Committee, Christmas Lights and SOCC - Serving Our Community Committee. "These committees are always brewing up new ideas on how to improve Elma and doing a lot of the "groundwork. Without their vision, dedication, and hard work we would not have as many good things happening," said Dale Roethler, President of BRIDGE.

Projects

BRIDGE has assisted the Elma community in several community projects or programs through many ways such as financial aid, finding funding resources, grant writing, program development to name a few. The BRIDGE Organization is/was a large financial sponsor (\$10,000 or more per project) in these Elma area projects:

2003-present: Old Roundhouse Trail Days festival annually each July.

2005: the Elma Area Community Foundation fund.

2007-2009: Elma Park Playground Equipment, Shelter & Restroom project.

2008: Elma Early