

* FOR THE BETTERMENT OF THE COMMUNITY AND A BRIGHT FUTURE FOR THE LIBRARY.

About Woodward

FEBRUARY 2025

SOCIAL CENTER LUNCHEON

When: MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2nd

11:30AM-12:30PM

Where: Woodward Methodist Church

Cheesy Potatoes and Ham, Mixed Vegetables, Roll, Jello Poke Cake

Free Will Offering

Proceeds to the Woodward Social Center.

WOODWARD COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY

The Woodward Community Food Pantry will now be open 4 times a month starting in January 2026 to better support the communities of Woodward, Granger and Bouton. We will be open 2 Saturdays and 2 Wednesdays a month. The Saturday's will remain the second and fourth of the month with the hours of 2pm-4pm. The Wednesday's will be scheduled throughout the month and hours will be 5pm-7pm. Residents may access the full pantry twice a month and may access the pantry for rescue food on all four dates scheduled for the month.

February 4th and 18th 5PM - 7PM

February 14th & 28th 2PM - 4 PM



JOIN PHYLLIS NAEVE'S 90TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

**Sunday, February 8th, 1:00 - 3:00
Perry Lutheran Home
2323 Willis Ave. , Perry , Iowa**

FRIENDS & NEIGHBORS

**Mark your calendars!
June 5th, 6th, & 7th
Friends & Neighbors Days**

BINGO

**Monday, February 23rd 6PM
\$90 Blackout Jackpot**

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WOODWARD PUBLIC LIBRARY

- Check out BOOKS
- Check out MAGAZINES
- Use your LIBRARY CARD NUMBER To check out books, audio books, magazines online (LIBBY)
- Research family history [ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com)
- Food Pantry 1st & 3rd Thurs. PM
- Music CDs
- Movie DVDs
- Makerspace
- Wednesday After School
 - 4th Circuit Cars
 - 11th Ocean In a Jar
 - 18th STEM
 - 25th Slime Making

* Teen Night (12 - 18 years old)

Feb. 6th 6PM - PM

Cupcake Decorating

- Family Nights **Monday, Feb. 9th 6PM - 8PM**
- Making Valentines
- **Monday, Feb. 23rd 6PM - 8PM**
- Book Bingo (win books)
- **Book Club Feb. 19th 5:00**

Wish You Were Here

Pick your book up at the library.

- 4 computers available at the library or bring in your own device to use wi-fi
- **Adult Program Feb. 13th 1:30**
Deb Mortensen shares her story on how she became an author
- **Green Clothes Bin helps to fund library programs.**

- Library will be closed on **February 16th** for President's Day.
- Passes to Blank Zoo, Science Center, etc.

So many things to do with and through your local library. If you have questions, call or stop by the library.

515-438-2636

118 S. Main

woodward.lib.ia.us

wpldirector@minburncomm.net

BIG NEWS Aspire Fam!

Starting 12/3 we will also be serving **HOT DRINKS!** Hot teas - Hot protein shakes- Hot coffees! Warm up, fuel up, and feel your best this winter. See you soon.

**"The Power of Trust and Service:
Building Strong, Cohesive Communities"**

Building a cohesive community through trust and service is not a quick project or a slogan to be adopted; it is an ongoing process that unfolds through everyday interactions, shared responsibilities, and a collective commitment to one another's well-being. At its core, a cohesive community is one in which people feel a sense of belonging and mutual responsibility, and in which

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individuals recognize that their actions have an impact beyond themselves. Trust serves as the foundation for this cohesion, while service acts as the mechanism through which trust is built, reinforced, and sustained. Without trust, communities fragment into isolated individuals or competing groups; without service, trust remains abstract and fragile, never fully tested or proven in real life.

Trust begins with consistency and reliability. In a cohesive community, people learn that others will follow through on commitments, respect boundaries, and act with integrity even when it is inconvenient. This type of trust is not blind optimism; it is earned through repeated experiences of fairness, honesty, and accountability. When leaders, institutions, and community members demonstrate that their words align with their actions, they create psychological safety. People feel more comfortable expressing ideas, admitting mistakes, and asking for help when they trust that they will not be judged or exploited. Over time, this safety encourages open communication and collaboration, which are essential for addressing shared challenges and resolving conflicts constructively.

Service transforms trust from an internal belief into a visible, shared practice. Acts of service—whether formal volunteering, informal neighborly support, or professional service grounded in ethical responsibility—signal that individuals are willing to invest time and effort for the benefit of others. Service shifts the focus from “What do I get?” to “What do we need?” and, in doing so, strengthens social bonds. When people serve together, they develop empathy and a deeper understanding of one another’s experiences. They see firsthand the struggles, strengths, and contributions of others, which reduces stereotypes and fosters respect. Shared service experiences often become the stories communities tell about themselves, reinforcing a collective identity rooted in care and cooperation.

Importantly, trust and service are reciprocal. Trust makes service more effective because people are more willing to accept help and collaborate when they believe others have good intentions. At the same time, service deepens trust by providing tangible evidence of commitment and goodwill. This reciprocal relationship creates a positive feedback loop: as trust grows, people are more likely to engage in service, and as service increases, trust

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becomes more resilient. Communities that understand this dynamic tend to prioritize inclusive service opportunities, ensuring that everyone has a chance to both give and receive support, rather than relegating service to a small, overburdened group.

Inclusive service is particularly critical for building cohesion across differences such as culture, socioeconomic status, age, or ability. Communities often struggle not because of a lack of resources, but because of divisions rooted in misunderstanding or exclusion. Service projects that intentionally bring together diverse groups can act as bridges, creating shared goals that transcend individual differences. When people work side by side toward a common purpose, they are more likely to see each other as partners rather than outsiders. This shared effort can challenge preconceived notions and replace them with relationships grounded in real interaction and mutual respect.

Leadership plays a central role in cultivating trust and service within a community. Effective leaders model transparency, humility, and a genuine commitment to serving others rather than exerting control. They listen

actively, invite participation, and acknowledge both successes and failures openly. By doing so, leaders signal that trust is not about perfection, but about honesty and growth. Additionally, leaders who prioritize service-oriented decision-making demonstrate that power is a tool for enabling others, not an end in itself. This approach encourages community members to take initiative and responsibility, knowing that their contributions are valued and supported.

Sustaining a cohesive community also requires addressing conflict in a way that preserves trust rather than eroding it. Conflict is inevitable whenever people with diverse perspectives and needs come together. However, communities grounded in trust and service approach conflict as an opportunity for learning and improvement rather than a threat. By engaging in respectful dialogue, seeking to understand underlying concerns, and prioritizing solutions that serve the collective good, communities can emerge stronger from disagreements. This process reinforces trust by showing that differences can be navigated without resorting to blame, avoidance, or division.

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Another essential element of cohesion is recognition and gratitude.

Acknowledging acts of service, both large and small, reinforces the values that hold a community together.

Recognition does not need to be formal or extravagant; often, sincere appreciation expressed consistently is enough to motivate continued engagement. When people feel seen and appreciated, they are more likely to remain invested in the community and to extend trust to others. Gratitude also helps prevent burnout among those who serve, reminding them that their efforts matter and contribute to a larger purpose.

Ultimately, building a cohesive community through trust and service is about creating a culture where people choose connection over isolation and contribution over indifference. It requires patience, intentionality, and a willingness to invest in relationships that may not yield immediate returns. Yet the long-term benefits are profound.

Communities rooted in trust and service are more resilient in the face of adversity, more innovative in solving problems, and more compassionate in responding to individual needs. They become places where people not only live or work, but truly belong. In a world

often marked by division and uncertainty, such communities stand as powerful reminders that collective well-being is both possible and worth striving for.

Victor Kersey, Ph.D., SOTP-II,
MHRT/C
LNCM, U.S Navy Reserve (Retired)

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ACTIVE HEALTH SOLUTIONS Visit activehealthsolutions.org or call 641-757-2292. Dr. Calmer plans to be in Woodward on Tuesdays, 8AM to 6PM.

Wuebker Sun City Solar, LLC
Jeremy Wuebker 515-238-9998
wuebkerscs@hotmail.com

CINDY L. WHITE, ATTORNEY AT LAW
Estate Planning 515-916-4824 207 S. Main.

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Businesses, we would like to put a few lines about all of our local businesses. Contact Kathy Yager. 515-240-7476 or kathyayager48@gmail.com

Together for a Better Tomorrow