

The Intentional Tourist
by Jarrod McCartney
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I want to take a moment and recognize how incredible and exciting it is that the 3rd floor of the Potter Block is being put back up at the future site of the Hotel Garber. I don't think many could have foreseen this happening after it initially burned down in 1961 or even 8 years ago. Seeing what has happened in our downtown and seeing new building and restoration work going on in the neighboring community of Lebanon, KS (my dad's hometown) is truly inspiring.

Right now, we are in the middle of the Red Cloud Community Fund's (RCCF) September Month of Giving. RCCF has been at the forefront of a lot of positive change that has occurred in the community and the September fundraising will help ensure that continues. As the Chair of RCCF, it gives me immense pride to know that we can give back to the community both in the short and long term. The September campaign gives us the flexibility to immediately grant what we raise to worthwhile local causes. As of this writing (Sept. 6th) we have raised \$29,300, putting us at 98% of our \$30,000 goal. We've now raised nearly \$95,000 for community projects over the last 4 years. With your help, we'll reach our 2023 goal--we could potentially even top the \$100,000 mark over four years. If you'd like to help please send a check to: RCCF, PO Box 263, Red Cloud, NE 68970 or donate online at <https://www.nebcommfound.org/give/red-cloud-community-fund/>.

Another reason to get excited is the potential arrival of a Central Community College Learning Center in Red Cloud. This is by no means a done deal, but the community and the college are both interested. The Center would provide a space for a variety of educational opportunities, including workforce and personal development classes along with access to early college classes and more. CCC will likely distribute a survey to the broader community to gauge interest. When this survey becomes available, I strongly encourage you to fill it out and think about what a college presence could do to help Red Cloud fill a variety of needs from skilled trades to hospitality services to early childhood development, entrepreneurial training, and more.

Recently, I attended the Governor's Ag & Economic Development Summit. What I learned there, at conferences throughout the state, and from CCC leaders, is that Red Cloud is being noticed. It's a place we all should be proud to call home. We are being recognized for our hard work and accomplishments and that in turn is spurring further interest in community development. On Saturday, November 18th RCCF will recognize those accomplishments and more at its Annual Celebration. This year's event is at the Red Cloud Opera House and will feature a variety of awards. We hope it will be an evening that you all find fun and inspiring. Everyone is invited and we hope to see you there (just maybe let us know you're coming so we bring enough food!).