

A Grand History

GRAND ISLAND - An Island in Nebraska?

“La Grande Ile” meaning the large or great island in the Platte River was discovered by French fur traders in the late 1700’s. A **well-known landmark** by 1820 with size estimates ranging from 40-70 miles long and up to 3 miles wide. **The Grand Island was noted as the most conspicuous feature** of the Central Platte Valley in early pioneer journals of the Oregon, Mormon and California Trails.

In 1857 three Iowa-based businessmen saw economic potential for a town near the Platte’s “Grand “Island” and speculated the railroad would soon follow. The venture went bankrupt but the **37 German settlers hired to start “Grand Island City”** stayed. The first schools, churches and newspapers were in German with German spoken in many homes until WWI. **The would-be city** began to prosper in 1858 as word of gold in the mountains of Colorado spread.

As ‘Grand Island Station’ in 1866, the Union Pacific railroad drove the town’s early growth. The city **boomed in the 1880’s** and survived the devastating 1890’s recession to carve out its place in Nebraska and the nation. The advent of the **Lincoln Highway** through Grand Island in 1916 furthered commerce and development. Growth came again during **World War II** with the Grand Island Army Air Base, P.O.W. camps and the Cornhusker Army Ammunition Plant (reactivated for the Korean and Vietnam conflicts). **June 3, 1980 seven tornadoes** hit devastating over 25% of the community and causing \$137 million in damages. This was followed by the 1980’s agricultural recession but **Grand Island maintained its status** as a major manufacturing, agricultural, tourism, business and retail center.

Grand Island is **Nebraska’s fourth largest city**, birthplace of actor Henry Fonda and Miss America (1956) Sharon K. Richie, three time **All-American City** (1955, 1967 and 1981), *World Trade Magazine* ranked Grand Island 9th in the Top 10 List of Smaller Communities with an excellent quality of life, *Forbes FYI Magazine* declared “Grand Island the #1 place in the world for bird-watchers” referring to the Spring Migration of the Sandhill Cranes and most recently **designated the City of Kindness**.

Courtesy of Grand Island Convention & Visitors Bureau

Historic Points of Interest

- Federal Building (1910)**, 203 West 2nd Street
- The Yancey (1917)**, 123 N. Locust
- Hall County Courthouse (1904)**, 111 West 1st Street
- G.A.R. Bldg (Grand Army of the Republic, 1886)**, 213 E. 3rd St.
- Coney Island (1885)**, 104 East 3rd Street
- Masonic Temple (1925)**, 217 N. Locust
- Bartenbach Opera House Block (1883)**, 201-209 N. Locust
- Grand Theatre (1937)**, 318 West 3rd Street
- St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church (1889)**, 422 West 2nd Street
- St. Mary’s Cathedral (1926)**, 204 S. Cedar
- The Liederkrantz (1912)**, 401 West 1st Street
- Carnegie Public Library (1906)**, 321 West 2nd Street
- Pioneer Park**, 615 West 2nd Street
- Historic Lincoln Highway (original route 1916)**

For more historic information please contact the CVB at 308-382-4400 or www.visitgrandisland.com.

Annual Downtown Events

- Ethnic Festival (June)
- Car Show (August)
- Upstairs Downtown Tour (September)
- Harvest of Harmony Parade (October)
- Trick-or-Treating (October)
- Old Fashioned Downtown Christmas (November)

Advertising/Media

- 18 Buenos Dias Nebraska
- 138 Grand Island Independent
- 128 KOLN/KGIN TV
- 80 NTV Network
- 83 Rasmussen & Assoc. Advertising
- 117 Trade West

Alterations

- 32 The Alteration Place

Antiques

- 25 Alley Cat Antique Mall
- 71 Clutter Bug Antiques
- 64 Dollar Mart Plus
- 24 Heartland Antique Mall
- 44 Nanny Goat Antiques
- 63 Railroad Town Antique Mall

Appraiser

- 22 Mid State Appraisal

Architecture

- 77 Aufdemberge Architecture
- 27 JEO Consulting

Art

- 88 Bartenbach Galleries
- 16 Prairie Winds Art Center

Automotive

- 112 MSAS
- 48 Ron’s Transmission

Banks

- 151 Equitable Bank
- 163 Home Federal Bank
- 168 Home Federal Drive-Thru
- 42 US Bank
- 26 Wells Fargo Bank

Bookstore

- 94 Libreria Bethania
- 86 Libreria Christiana
- 15 The Tattered Book

Building Supplies

- 50 Mead Building Centers

Churches

- 119 Hispanic Church
- 73 Iglesia Evangelica Pentecostes
- 38 Iglesia Prof Misionera
- 122 New Life Community Church
- 154 St. Mary’s Cathedral
- 105 St. Stephens Episcopal Church
- 84 United Methodist District Office

Clock Repair

- 31 Time After Time

Clothing

- 36 Bazar Vanessa
- 101 Donna’s Fashions
- 148 Exclusively Yours
- 30 Mom’s Closet
- 90 Silo Store
- 156 St. Stephen’s Thrift Store
- 72 Sweet Dreams Lingerie

Clubs

- 142 Grand Island Liederkrantz
- 146 Eagles Club

Convenience Store

- 109 Pump & Pantry

Costume Shop

- 87 The Costume Gallery

Dance Instruction

- 14 Dance Company
- 133 Heartland School of Dance

Dining/Food

- 65 Blue Moon Cafe
- 136 Bonzai Beach Club
- 8 Chicken Coop
- 5 Coney Island Cafe
- 95 Delicious Cakes
- 150 El Salvadoria
- 137 Farmer’s Daughter Cafe
- 115 KFC
- 9 Nathan Detroit
- 144 Sanchez Plaza Restaurant & Grocery

Dry Cleaners

- 153 Ideal Professional Cleaners

Electronics

- 41 Computer Hardware
- 74 Crabtree Magnavox
- 49 Edward’s Audio & Visual
- 139 Intellicom Computer Consulting
- 46 Larry’s Appliance

Employment

- 107 Hansen Employment

Entertainment

- 28 The Grand Theater

Financial Services

- 140 Adv Livestock Tracker
- 84 Alvin Alms CPA
- 22 AXIS Capital
- 113 Clinch Financial
- 141 Contryman & Associates
- 131 Credit Management
- 59 Dana F. Cole & Co.
- 54 Douglas Bookkeeping Services
- 20 Edward D. Jones - Matthew Armstrong
- 22 Edward D. Jones - Ed Armstrong
- 128 Equitable Investment & Retirement
- 13 Fast Cash Back
- 35 General Collection
- 22 Kruse & Happold
- 143 Martin Chapman, CPA
- 132 Michael Gorka, CPA
- 75 New West Mortgage Co.
- 91 Pat Tindall, CPA
- 75 Phillips Tax & Business Service
- 120 Ron Trampe, CPA
- 118 U S Central Corp.

Gifts

- 66 Heart of the Country
- 70 Maudies Stained Glass
- 77 Milestone Gallery

Government

- 129 City of Grand Island
- 127 Federal Building
- 167 Hall County Annex Building
- 166 Hall County Courthouse
- 165 Hall County Services Building
- 164 United States Post Office

Home Furnishings

- 23 Abbey Carpets ‘N More
- 106 Diamond Vogel Paints
- 64 Dollar Mart Plus
- 61 Hoeft Discount Center
- 4 Island Pool & Spa
- 40 M Square Designs
- 43 Sherwin Williams
- 7 Williamson’s Furniture
- 2 Williamsons Thomasville Gallery

Hotel

- 116 RelaxInn

Insurance

- 103 American Family Insurance
- 143 Hoos Shelter Insurance
- 108 Jones Insurance
- 57 State Farm Insurance

Jewelry

- 69 Howard’s Jewelry
- 37 Oro-Mex Jewelers
- 78 Royal Gold Works

Legal Services

- 82 Anderson Law Firm
- 22 Bradley,Emerton,Ellsbern,Anderson
- 169 Hall Co. Attorney Office Building
- 152 Huston & Higgins Attorneys
- 77 Legal Aid of Nebraska
- 134 Leininger, Smith Law Firm
- 22 Mayer,Burns,Ahlschwede & Koenig
- 22 Shamberg-Wolf

Locksmith

- 10 Johnny’s Lock & Key Shop

Lounge

- 11 Brunswick Station
- 8 Chicken Coop
- 6 Club 69
- 34 Ed & Net’s
- 39 Hawg Wild
- 12 J. Alfred Prufrock
- 1 The Tank

Medical

- 114 Bartu Chiropractic
- 114 Colon Care
- 81 Holistic Acupunture
- 126 Keck Counseling
- 81 John C. Meidlinger
- 79 Bens LTC
- 55 Lincare

Medical Supply

- 87 Masonic Temple
- 155 St. Mary’s Cathedral Square

Music Supply

- 85 Grand Island Music Co.

Non-Profit

- 33 Alcoholics Anonymous
- 124 Birthright
- 125 Central NE Council on Alcohol
- 22 Economic Development Corp.
- 102 G I Federation of Labor
- 147 Heartland Family Visitation
- 162 Red Cross
- 160 YMCA
- 53 Salvation Army
- 104 ST Stephens Comm Ctr
- 104 United Way

Office Supplies

- 56 Eakes Office Plus
- 21 Office Net

Parks

- 159 Gazebo Park
- 157 Pioneer Park

Pawn Shop

- 78 Wayne’s Pawn Shop

Photography

- 76 Connie Swanson Photography

Printing Services

- 67 Budget Printing Center
- 62 Rinder Printing

Realtor

- 110 Huston & Co.

Salons

- 145 Belmont Family Hair Care
- 68 Joseph’s College of Beauty
- 17 Master Stylists
- 133 Midtown Barber Shop
- 99 Mystique Salon
- 45 Nail School
- 57 Premiere Barber Studio

Screen Printing

- 53 Graphic Screenprinting

Senior Citizen Center

- 161 Grand Generation Senior Center

Smoke Shop

- 111 Smoker Friendly

Sporting Goods

- 3 Wayne Cyclery
- 90 Silo Store

Tattoo Shops

- 135 Bitchin’ Bob’s Body Piercing
- 87 In the Flesh Tattoos

Taekwondo Instruction

- 97 South Central Taekwondo
- 92 Third City Taekwondo

Title Companies

- 51 GI Abstract, Escrow, & Title Co.
- 128 RELS Title

Utility Company

- 58 Northwestern Public Service
- 129 Grand Island City Utilities

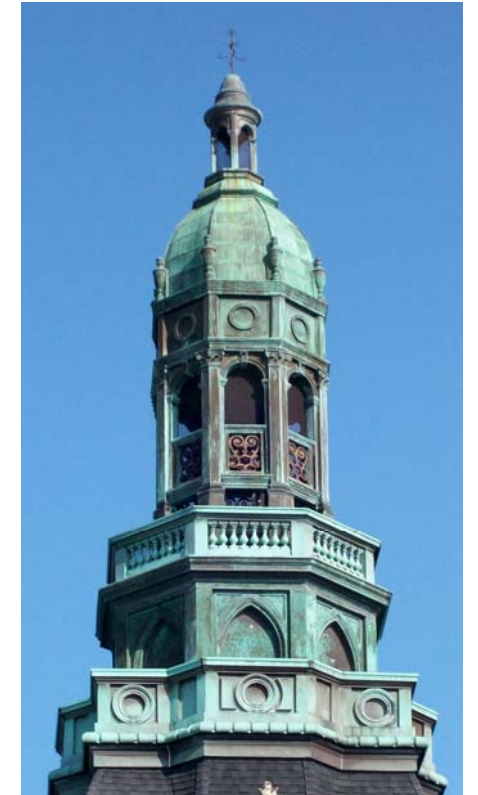
Video Production

- 98 TNT Video Production

YMCA

- 160 YMCA

Welcome to
Downtown
Grand Island
A Main Street Community



Hall County Courthouse Tower

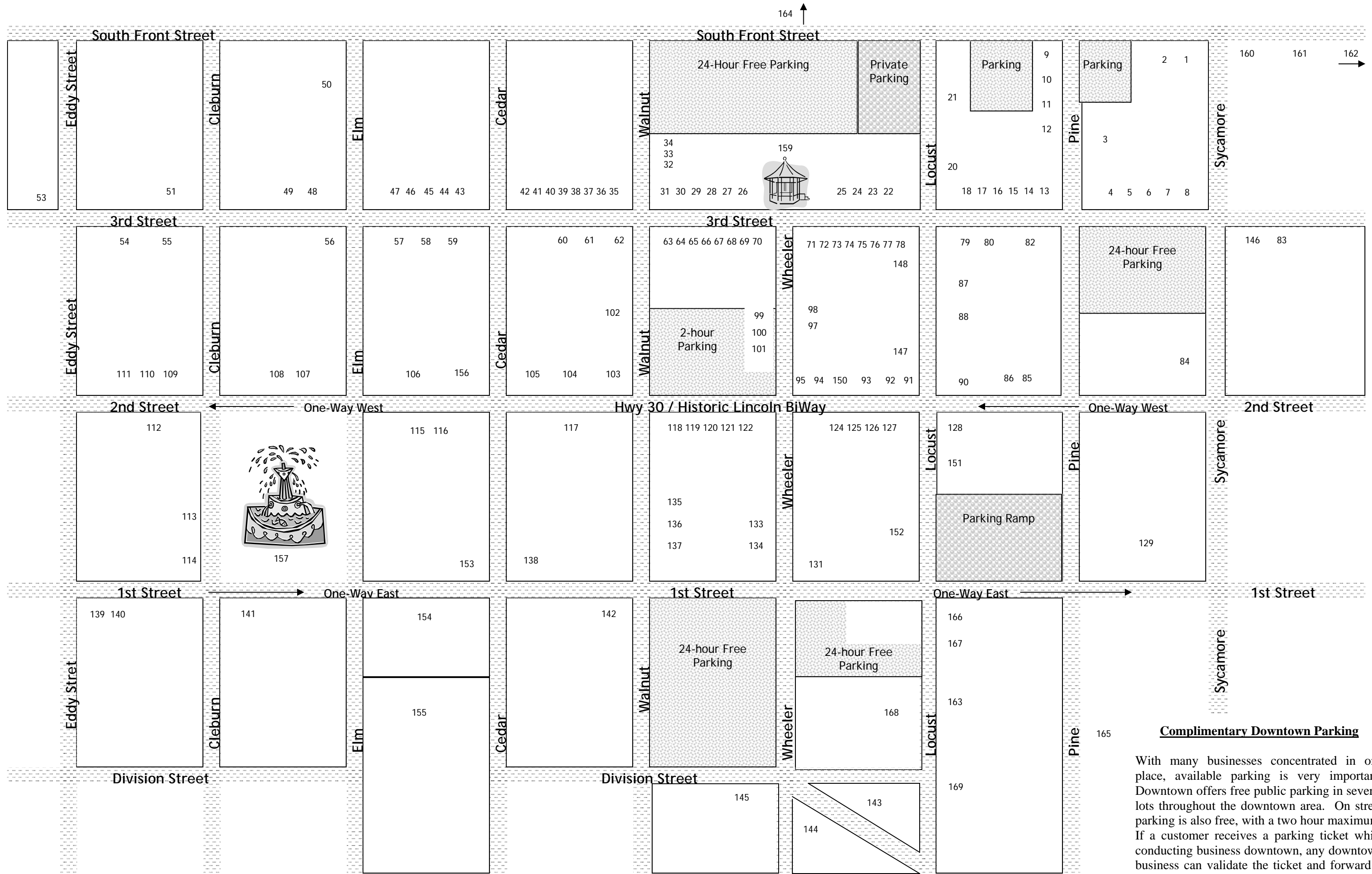


Business Improvement District #5
P. O. Box 1486
Grand Island, NE 68802
www.downtowngi.com
308-382-9210



A NEBRASKA
MAIN STREET COMMUNITY





Complimentary Downtown Parking

With many businesses concentrated in one place, available parking is very important. Downtown offers free public parking in several lots throughout the downtown area. On street parking is also free, with a two hour maximum. If a customer receives a parking ticket while conducting business downtown, any downtown business can validate the ticket and forward it to the Police Department for waiver of the fine.