

By Jan Schultz

The Imperial Republican

Imperial will be in the spotlight Tuesday morning, as judges with the Nebraska Community Improvement Program (NCIP) visit the city for the judging process.

Imperial is again entered in the statewide Governor's Community Spirit Award competition which evaluates communities on their community development process, volunteer and leadership development and community and economic development.

The city is competing in Class III, which is for communities with populations between 1,701 and 5,000.

Others in Imperial's class include Wahoo, Gothenburg and Ainsworth. Imperial is the third largest in the group behind Wahoo and Gothenburg.

Judges will be in Imperial Tuesday from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. when the local NCIP committee will present community improvement efforts through a tour of town, a power point and comments from city officials and volunteers.

Winners will be announced at the annual NCIP Recognition Day Banquet Nov. 6 in Kearney.

Last year, Imperial took first place in its population class, winning \$1,000. Those funds were added to the other funds raised to purchase the new playground equipment in Campbell Park.

Imperial has also entered individual projects in two other award categories in this year's NCIP competition.

One includes the playground development at Campbell Park, removal of the old pool structure and grand opening of the new pool.

The second project entered for a special award was the cooperative efforts between the school, city and Mid-Plains Community College in establishing the Career Academy Program.

Members of Imperial's NCIP committee include Leslie Carlholm, Jo Leyland, Merrilyn Leibbrandt, Brenda Ledall, Dianne Way, Mary Deyle and Jan Schultz.