

## Wauneta wins trimmer for “overall community efforts” in Great American Cleanup

Written by Wauneta Breeze

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**Lorenzo Cavanaugh with the Village of Wauneta trims weeds around the George Rowley memorial at the park using Wauneta’s newest trimmer. The new Troy-Bilt gas-powered trimmer was awarded to the Village of Wauneta by Keep Nebraska Beautiful for overall efforts in the Great American Cleanup.**

**By Sheri Hink**

### **The Wauneta Breeze**

The Village of Wauneta is the proud owner of a new gas-powered string trimmer, thanks to Troy-Bilt and Keep Nebraska Beautiful.

Keep Nebraska Beautiful is an affiliate of Keep America Beautiful, an educational and community-improvement program intended to address local needs including litter awareness and cleanups, beautification, reuse and recycling programs and neighborhood revitalization.

“Troy-Bilt is a Keep America Beautiful national sponsor of the Great American Cleanup. Keep Nebraska Beautiful was fortunate to be the recipient of a gas-powered string trimmer and a gas-powered backpack leaf blower—each with a value of \$250,” said Jane Polson who serves as president of Keep Nebraska Beautiful.

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According to the Keep Nebraska Beautiful website the Great American Cleanup is the nation’s largest annual cleanup and community improvement event. Event activities are generally accomplished in March, April and May.

The goal of the Great American Cleanup is to stimulate “community pride by involving residents, businesses, and politicians at the state and local level in an effort to improve and beautify their local environment,” as reported on the Keep Nebraska Beautiful website.

Typical Great American Cleanup activities include litter cleanup, recycling events, planting flowers and trees and clothes collections.

“We challenged all communities throughout the state with these two prizes to be given to the top two communities for their overall GAC efforts,” said Polson.

The Village of Wauneta won the gas-powered string trimmer and the Village of Petersburg won the gas-powered backpack leaf blower. Polson commended Wauneta’s accomplishments saying, “Wauneta’s efforts were just outstanding.”

The Wauneta Chamber accepted the award of the trimmer on behalf of the Village Beautification committee chairperson Sharon Walgren said, “We were honored to be chosen as the recipient of this trimmer, especially since there were only two prizes awarded in the state!”

Village of Wauneta representatives were unable to attend the Keep Nebraska Beautiful awards luncheon in Kearney on June 28 when the awards were announced. But, that didn’t stop Polson from telling the crowd of Wauneta’s accomplishments.

When she announced Wauneta’s award Polson listed the accomplishments achieved.

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“This community of 650 people had 80 people who worked 260 hours picking up 9,150 pounds of litter and debris, recycled nearly three tons of aluminum, steel, and newspaper. They planted six trees and 20 flowers and painted a community building. What a great overall community effort they accomplished!”