

The Wallace Teen Center, The Cats' Den, recently hit the milestone of making the final building loan payment.

In 2006, the teen center organized to purchase the building, a main street fixture since the 1930s.

The board of directors will be hosting a celebration of free malts and cake to thank the community for their help and support for the center after the Feb. 5 home games with Hayes Center. Everyone is welcome to attend.

The building also houses a beauty shop, insurance office, and a massage therapy room.

In 2007 with a grant from the Mid-Nebraska Community Foundation, volunteers converted the unused back portion of the building into a thrift store, run by volunteers, to help support the teen center.

Recently, the senior citizens started to utilize the center for cards and Wii gaming. The greatest boost to purchasing the building has been the partnership with the Wallace Foundation to host the annual foundation dinner and auction. Generosity from the public has also been felt along the way with a quilt raffle, hamburger feeds and a run/walk from Grant to Wallace in 2006.

The board is continuing to look for input on how to make the center more successful in providing a fun and safe place for the community's teens.