

Date	Event
1846	Brigham Young Mormon wagon train passed through what is now Buffalo County
1848	Fort Kearney was established to protect traveler along the Oregon Trail, and named after Colonel Stephen
1860	First newspaper published in Buffalo County was the Huntsman's Echo
1860	First post office established in Buffalo County at the Wood River Center
1866	Union Pacific Railroad built through Buffalo County
1869	Completion of the Union Pacific Railroad
1870	Sergeant Michael Coady elected and served as county clerk
1870	First Regular Election in the County was held
1871	Gibbon Homestead Colony arrived
1871	(April) Blizzard
1871	Site of Kearney located
1871	(May) Asbury & Louisa Collins & family arrived and settled in Kearney
1871	Fort Kearny Closed
1871	Sergeant Coady organized the first I.O.O.F. lodge instituted in the county
1871	Sergeant Coady organized the first masonic lodge in the county
1872	(Sept) B & MR RR was completed to Kearney
1872	Village of Kearney Junction incorporated
1872	First store built in Kearney
1872	First issue of Kearney Junction Times by editor L.B. Cunningham, later became Buffalo County Journal and Printed Kearney Morning Journal; currently the location of Cunninham's Journal
1873	First bridge built over the Platte River south of Gibbon
1873	City of Kearney Incorporated
1873	Blizzard
1874	Grasshoppers
1874	(Sept) Bridge completed across Platte River south of Kearney
1874	Kearney became the new seat for Buffalo County
1875	Kearney Canal idea proposed
1876	Grasshoppers
1876	First jail constructed; made of Kansas Limestone
1879	Whittier School completed (1st brick school)
1879	State Reform School attracted to Kearney now know as YRTC
1880	Boy's Industrial School Opened
1882	Kearney Canal construction began
1883	Kearney's first Volunteer Fire Department, known as Kearney's Hook and Ladder Company
1882/1884	Citizens approve bond issues to finance the Kearney Canal
1882	Kearney Canal construction began
1885	Frank purchased controlling interest in Kearney Canal
1885	Original Bryant School built
1885	Original Emerson School built
1886	Kearney Canal construction finished
1886	Original Midway Hotel built on the NW Corner of Central Ave & Hwy 30 owned by Mr. and Mrs. Josiah Keck costing them \$200,000
1888	Original Kenwood School built
1888	Kearney Hub was founded
1888	Electric plant completed
1889	Kearney & Black Hills Railroad
1889	Sewer construction began
1889	New City Hall built
1890	Kearney Public Library was established, located on the second floor of the city hall
1890	Buffalo County Courthouse was built

1890 Kearney Opera House built
1890 Electric trolley cars began
1890 Midway Hotel burned March 24
1890 Longfellow High School built
1890 Whittier School's name was changed to Third Ward School
1891 Opera House Opened
1891 Second Midway Hotel Built
1891 Platte Collegiate Instititue School of Hire Education, Eastlawn was founded

1892 Cotton Mill Plant was constructed costing \$400,000 and was the largest manufacturing plant in Nebraska
1892 Boom ended
1893 2nd Midway Hotel completed
1898 Kearney Military Academy
1901 Cotton Mill Plant closed to economic pressures
1902 President Teddy Roosevelt visited September 27th.
1903 State Board of Education decides to locate State Normal School in Kearney
1908 Japanese and Korean migrant workers were used to cultivate the beets.
1905 First Library Built
1906 William Jennings Bryan gave oration when cornerstone of Kearney Military Academy for Boys was laid, December 18th.
1906 First Class attended Teachers College
1911 Kearney post office opens, now home of Museum of Nebraska Art
1912 Kearney attract the State Hospital for Tubercular
1913 Kearney Military Academy wins all-class state track championship
1915 Kearney Avenue was bricked
1915 Seedling Mile constructed on Lincoln Highway (from Kearney spillway at UNK to 30th Ave.)
1917 Construction began on Ft. Kearney Hotel
1919 Chamber of Commerce established
1920 late summer - Kearney Amusement Park opened
1921 Normal School name change-NE State Normal School and State Teachers College
1921 First airport in Keaney, Auxilary Field east of Military Academy
1922 March 23 - Kearney Amusement Park burned
1922 Kaufmann-Wernert building built
1923 Kearney Military Academy closes due to insufficient enrollement and fire
1923 1733 Amusement park opened
1924 Lincoln Highway renamed Highway 30
1924 Good Samaritan Hospital was built and opened
1926 Junior High (Central Elementary) built
1927 Completion of Fort Kearney Hotel
1929 Mt. Carmel Nursing Home started
1930 Kearney Military Academy reopens as NYA youth worker center
1933 An-ne-var started
1937 REA board organized in Buffalo Co.
1938 December - First electric line energized - John Hammans farm, Gibbon
1939 A wing was added to the west end of the original pulic library
1939 First Electric pump & irrigation district, first electric irrigation pump
1939 New City Hall built - WPA project
1942 Sept - construction began on Kearney Air Base, first contingent arrived in Dec
1947 Herbert L. Cushing, President of State Teacher's College
1948 President Harry Truman attended Sunday worship services at First Baptist Church, June 6th
1948 Kearney Military Acadmay was renovated and used as St. Lukes Hospital

- 1950 Kearney's population increased 27%
- 1951 Air base given to Kearney used as air port
J.A. Baldwin Manufacturing Co. announced it would move its operations from Wisconsin to Kearney. The
- 1952 company said it would establish its plant in the former Kearney Air Base engineering building. The company began production Feb. 10, 1953.
- 1952 Vice-presidential candidate Richard M. Nixon spoke at Harmon Park.
- 1953 St. Lukes Hospital converted into St. Lukes Home and Center
- 1954 Opera House torn down
Rockwell Manufacturing of Pittsburgh announced it would establish a valve plant in Kearney. The lubricated plug valves were used for oil pipelines. The building would be constructed by the Kearney Civic
- 1956 Development Corp. through the sale of bonds totaling \$720,000. Dedication was Oct. 19, 1957. Today, the building houses Cabela's.
- 1956 Fire at Airbase Hanger
The parish purchased 60 acres of land at 35th Street and Avenue A for the city's first Catholic High
- 1957 School.
- 1958 Remodeled the public library
- 1958 Kearney High School was built in North Kearney on 39th St
- 1959 Massachusetts Sen. John F. Kennedy, who was seeking the Democratic presidential nomination in 1960, visited, October 14th
- 1959 Vice President Richard M. Nixon visited.
- 1959 New jail constructed
- 1960 Construction of DeKalb seed corn plant begins on East Highway 30.
- 1960 Construction on the new Catholic High School began
- 1961 Kearney Catholic High School was "officially established"
Bids opened on the Grand Island to Kearney segment of Interstate 80. The low bid of \$7.4 million came from Roberts Construction Co. of Lincoln.
- 1961
- 1962 2nd Avenue overpass was completed
- 1962 West Co. of Phoenixville, Pa., announced it would establish a rubber closures plant in the former Bear Hosiery plant. Operations were scheduled to begin Sept. 1.
- 1963 The 40-mile segment of Interstate 80 between Grand Island and Kearney opened.
- 1964 Kearney Catholic Alumni Association was formed
- 1964 GOP presidential candidate Barry Goldwater visited.
The Hub recounted the opening of many tourist-related businesses that had started or were under
- 1964 construction as a result of the coming of I-80. Among the new business were three motels, seven gas stations and numerous restaurants.
- 1965 Holiday Inn opens, now Ramada Inn
The Midway Hotel was sold as a "going business (with all equipment and supplies), or as real estate,
- 1966 whichever brings the best price." Demolition of the hotel, which was located at 25th Street and Central Avenue where Grand Central IGA sits today, began Sept. 13, 1967.
- 1967 Midway Hotel demolished
Sen. Robert Kennedy made a campaign stop. Kennedy was assassinated a few weeks after his Kearney
- 1968 visit, April 27th.
- 1968 GOP presidential nominee Richard M. Nixon made a campaign stop at the airport and the college, May 7th.
- 1968 Razing of auditorium at Kearney State College
- 1968 Horizon Middle School was built
Following a fire that destroyed its former plant, Baldwin Manufacturing opened its new plant on East
- 1968 Highway 30.
- 1969 Eaton Yale and Towne Corp. of Cleveland built a \$5 million, 140,000-square-foot automotive valve plant on 52 acres between the Rockwell and Baldwin plants. The plant was dedicated in September.

- Discussion began on the possibility of a regional airport that would serve Kearney, Hastings and Grand Island. On Aug. 15, Frontier Airlines again reported a planned reduction in the number of flights serving the state.
- 1969 Kearney Chamber's Agriculture Committee established the Gateway Farm Expo.
- 1969 The Kearney Planning Commission approved plans for a 160- acre subdivision, including a shopping center, in north Kearney near 48th Street.
- 1969 First United Methodist Church burnt, now home of City Volunteer Fire Department
- Chimera Corp. was sold to Ag-Tronic of Hastings. The new owner said the plant would remain in Kearney. In 1986, Ag-Tronic became part of Coleman, a manufacturer of outdoor recreation equipment headquartered in Wichita, Kan., and operated as Coleman Powermate.
- 1970 The Fort Kearney Hotel was ordered sold by Judge S.S. Sidner because of \$65,000 in liens against the property. First National Bank of Kearney purchased the building on March 13, 1972, as part of its plan to build a new bank.
- 1971 Good Samaritan Hospital announced it would add 50 beds and a shelled-in space for another 50 beds at a cost of \$5.5 million.
- 1971 Ramada Inn construction begins northwest of I-80 interchange (operates today as Holiday Inn/Captain's Table)
- The Tri-Cities Regional Airport study entered its final phase to determine the practicality of an airport to serve Kearney, Hastings and Grand Island. At a Dec. 17 meeting, Kearney and Hastings favored a new regional airport, but Grand Island favored expanding its existing airport.
- 1971 Kearney High wins Class A girls state track championship
- 1972 Site preparation begins for construction of the Fort Kearney Inn Hotel SW of I-80 interchange (later named First Inn Gold and then Best Western Inn & Suites)
- 1972 Democratic presidential candidate and South Dakota Sen. George McGovern visited in May.
- 1972 TB hospital closes
- 1972 Fort Kearney Hotel torn down, now the location of Wells Fargo
- 1973 Kearney Orthopedic & Fracture Clinic was formed by Dr. David Wiebe and Dr. Kenneth Ellis.
- 1975 1975 New Kearney Public Library opens and replaces Carnegie Library
- 1975 The original St. Luke's Home was to be closed by Oct. 7. The building was about 90 years old. In 1912, it had been site of the Kearney Public Hospital.
- 1975 New Courthouse opened
- 1976 Former California Gov. Ronald Reagan spoke at the college.
- 1976 Original Buffalo Co. Courthouse razed to make way for present courthouse
- 1976 Kearney High wins Class B boys state tennis championship
- 1977 Kearney High wins Class A boys state cross country championship
- 1978 Justus Dobesh became Kearney Mayor. Term ended in 1989.
- 1978 Kearney High wins Class A state volleyball championship over Grand Island NW, 15-4, 15-12
- 1979 Kearney Catholic wins Class B girls state tennis championship
- 1980 GSH dedicated its 50,000-square-foot addition. About 1,000 people toured the new facility.
- 1980 President Jimmy Carter stopped on his 1980 campaign for re-election. He was in Grand Island to survey tornado damage, in June.
- 1980 A \$500,000 CAT scanner arrived at GSH. Purchased by Kearney radiologists, it was the first full-body scanner between Scottsbluff and Lincoln.
- 1981 Baldwin Manufacturing Co. was sold to J.L. Clark Manufacturing Co. of Rockford, Ill., for \$46 million.
- 1982 Kearney High girls win Class A state basketball championship, 43-42 over Lincoln, NE
- 1982 Rockwell International laid off 65 employees. During the recession of 1982, Rockwell, Baldwin, Eaton and West Co. would announce layoffs affecting more than 260 employees.
- 1983 Plans to build Hilltop Mall shopping center in north Kearney were announced.
- 1984 Kearney Catholic girls win Class C2 state basketball championship, over Scribner, 59-55
- 1984 The downtown renovation project got under way. The project was to cost \$1.4 million, with part of the money coming from two grants totaling \$360,000. Kearney Centre was dedicated Oct. 19.

Ground was broken for the \$5.1 million Richard Young Hospital, a psychiatric facility. A clinic opened
1984 Feb. 7, 1985, and the main hospital was scheduled to open in June 1986. The facility merged with Good Samaritan Hospital July 1987.

1984 Hilltop Mall opened with Wal-Mart and Herberger's as anchor stores.

1984 The Fort Theater closed after almost 50 years on Central Avenue.

1985 Kearney High wins Class B boys state tennis championship

1985 Kearney Catholic girls win Class C2 state basketball championship, over Grant, 47-43

1985 Rockwell announced it would cease production Sept. 1 and close its plant by Oct. 1.

1986 Kearney Catholic wins Class C boys state track championship

1986 Kearney High wins Class B boys state tennis championship

1986 Cabela's of Sidney, one of the nation's largest mail order outdoor recreation and sporting goods companies, purchased the vacant Rockwell building.

1986 Established Buffalo County Economic Development Corporation

The Kearney Post Office building was purchased and opened as the Museum of Nebraska Art in
1986 October, 1986.

1987 Chamber of Commerce Envoy's Established the Friend of Kearney Award

1988 Democratic presidential candidate Jesse Jackson visited.

An era ended when GSH took over emergency medical services from the Kearney Volunteer Fire
1988 Department. The department had provided emergency assistance for more than 50 years.

1989 Ron Larsen became Kearney Mayor. Term ended in 1994.

1990 Kearney voters approved a 1-percent city sales tax. It was estimated the tax would raise \$1.2 million a year.

1991 Kearney State College became the University of Nebraska at Kearney. Chancellor William Nester said, "We look back ... to recognize those who brought this institution to this day."

1991 The Kearney Hub completes construction of its new building and production facility at 13 E. 22nd St.

1991 First class of Leadership Kearney established

1992 Kearney High wins Class A state girls golf team championship

1992 Chamber of Commerce ag committee established Nebraska Cattlemen's Classic

1992 NPPD, formerly known as Consumers Public Power relocated to 4th & 4th Ave.

1992 Fire destroyed L&W Service Center at 25th Street and Central Avenue. Black smoke billowed for hours as firefighters struggled to extinguish one of the most spectacular downtown fires in Kearney's history.

1992 GOP vice presidential candidate Dan Quayle visited.

1993 Current GOP vice-presidential candidate Dick Cheney was a guest speaker at the Nebraska Republican Party Founders' Day luncheon. He had lived with his grandparents in Sumner from 1944-1946.

1993 \$18 Million school bond issues passes creating Meadowlark Elementary and Sunrise Middle School

1993 Sears closes its downtown store

1993 The Museum of Nebraska Art building addition and renovation was dedicated in October, 1993.

1993 Meadowlark Hills Golf Course opens, the City of Kearney's first municipal golf course

1994 Pete Kotsiopulos became Kearney Mayor. Term ended in 2002.

1994 Good Samaritan Hospital completes a \$20 million expansion

1994 Kearney High wins Class A state girls golf team championship

1994 Kearney High wins Class A boys state track championship

The Kearney Area YMCA hosted a grand opening at its new facility at 4500 Sixth Ave. The building,
1994 which featured a swimming pool and gym, was built following a fund drive that raised more than \$2.5 million. Construction culminated a planning process that began in the late 1980s.

1995 Sears opens a new store in north Kearney

1995 Kearney High wins Class A girls state track championship

1995 Kearney High wins Class A boys state track championship

- 1995 Kearney High wins Class A boys state cross country championship
- 1995 Kearney High wins Class A state girls golf team championship
- An 180,000- square-foot Wal-Mart Supercenter opened at 5411 Second Ave. Wal-Mart's move from Hilltop Mall to its stand alone structure set off a number of changes at the shopping center, eventually
- 1995 resulting in major expansions over the next several years for Herberger's and J.C. Penney. The new Wal-Mart epitomized an aggressive retail expansion in north Kearney, growth that brought Target, Kmart, Office Max, Ace Hardware and others to North Second Ave.
- 1996 2nd Fire Station was build at the corner of 30th Avenue and 39th Street
- 1996 Kearney High wins Class A boys state track championship
- 1996 Kearney High wins Class A girls state track championship
- Plans were announced to build an arch across Interstate 80 near Kearney. The project, the dream of former Gov. Frank Morrison, was to be called The Great Platte River Road Archway Monument.
- 1996
- 1997 Kearney High wins Class A state girls golf team championship
- 1997 Kearney High wins Class A boys state track championship
- 1998 Kearney High wins Class A boys state track championship
- 1998-1999 DeKalb seed corn plant undergoes \$25 million expansion
- 1999 Kearney High wins Class A boys state track championship
- 1999 Kearney Catholic wins Class C girls state track championship
- The Hub reported on plans for a \$7.7 million hockey arena to be built as the home for a United States Hockey League franchise called the Tri- City Storm. The 5,000-seat facility was later built at a cost of \$10.5 million south of Kearney I-80 interchange.
- 1999
- Traffic on Interstate 80 was stopped for several hours as workers began rolling The Great Platte River Road Archway Monument across the highway at 10 p.m. At eight stories high, the length of a football field and 1,500 tons, it was believed to be the largest structure ever moved in the state.
- 1999
- 2000 Kearney High wins Class A boys state cross country championship
- 2000 Kearney High wins Class A boys state track championship
- 2000.00 (May Archway Monument completed and Open to the Public
- 2000 Local investors build Tri-City Event Center; the 4,500-seat and \$10.5 million hockey facility
- 2000 Kearney welcomed the USHL Hockey League and is the Home of the Tri-City Storm
- President Bill Clinton visited Kearney and spoke at the University of Nebraska at Kearney. He also toured the Great Platte River Road Archway and made stops near Emerson Elementary, Horizon Middle School and at 39th Street and Avenue N near Sunrise Middle School on December 8th.
- 2000
- 2000 Kearney hosts President Bill Clinton at UNK and the Archway Monument
- Kearney Municipal Airport reaches 10,000 enplanements, earns \$1M grant from FAA, later extended for an additional two years
- 2000
- 2001 Kearney High wins Class A boys state track championship
- 2002 Kearney High wins Class A boys state track championship
- 2002 Bruce Blankenship became Kearney Mayor. Term ended in 2004.
- 2003 Kearney High wins Class A boys state cross country championship
- 2003 Kearney High wins Class A boys state track championship
- 2004 Kearney Catholic wins Class C1 boys state basketball championship over Lincoln Christian, 63-48
- 2004 Kearney High wins Class A boys state track championship
- 2004 Galen Hadley became Kearney Mayor. Term ended in 2006.
- 2004 Tri-City Arena's named is changed to Kearney Event Center by new owner Joel Wiens.
- 2006 Robert M Merryman Performing Arts Center Opens in Central Elementary