

Issue 26
Oct 2018

THE GREAT LIFE NEWS

City of Gretna's
Monthly Newsletter



A letter from Mayor Timmerman

Thank you for allowing me to update you on current City related matters.

The 204th Street paving is off schedule due to weather concerns, however the contractor has given us assurance that we should be able to see at least the main portion of the street completed prior to the end of November (weather permitting). The contractor did an excellent job in getting 204th Street in front of the High School completed prior to the opening of the new school year. Staff will continue to post weekly updates on the City website in order to keep citizens aware of the progress.

The contractor has made considerable progress on the Public Works Facility. The City looks forward to the new building being completed by the spring of 2019 which will be a great opportunity to have all public works operations in one location.

The above are just two examples of the City Council and Staff working to achieve the goals which are established during our annual goal setting meeting. Other goals that have been discussed include establishment of a full-time Police Department and completion of the Fields of Gretna.

A full-time police force for Gretna would be a great addition to the City, however the agreement we have with Sarpy County is the best solution we have for our present needs. The cost to establish a full-time police force would amount to \$1,833,400. These are accurate figures that we have researched from other communities. This cost includes a facility, startup equipment and vehicles. The annual cost to maintain the force would equate to a minimum of \$1,300,000 to maintain. This cost includes wages, benefits, and operational costs for a 24/7 department. At the present time, our annual cost to Sarpy County is \$414,804, which gives us access to several officers to serve the area including School Resource Officers at our schools. Sarpy County has provided excellent service in keeping our community and citizens safe. The Council and staff agree that a full-time police department will be an addition to the community and the financing to allow this will come once the incentives granted to the Nebraska Crossing Mall, approved by a majority of the voters expires. The City will see those tax dollars in five years.

The land for the Fields of Gretna was purchased in 2010 with the intentions to make this a viable part of the community for future recreational activities. The City in 2014 put together funds in order to add four full size soccer fields. In addition, we were able to have the owners of Nebraska Crossing Mall donate the building from Tiny Town in order to provide storage, shelter, and concession for the fields, activity fields, amphitheater and other amenities for this area. *Continued on next page*

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You will receive notices on job openings, the City Calendar, and recent notices that we also post on our website.



Continued from 1st page

The key to the park improvements would be a half-cent increase to sales tax (which other communities have approved in Sarpy County) to provide Community betterment for all citizens. We understand that none of us want to pay increased taxes, however the half-cent is all that the City is allowed under current state law to access. We all feel that with this increase, the City will provide an excellent quality of life for the Community.

City Council, Staff, and I continue to work for the best interest of all citizens for the City of Gretna. This Community is a great place to live and we continue to do what is best for all Citizens. I ask that if you have suggestions or concerns in regards to community efforts, that you please contact your Council Representative, City Staff or myself.

Thank you and please remember to vote on November 6th.



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Sheriff's Dept.

Non-Emergency: 402-593-4111
Emergencies: 911



Happy Halloween!



Below Are Some Safety Tips

From The Nebraska Safety Council

Trick-or-Treaters

- A responsible adult should accompany young children on the neighborhood rounds
- If your older children are going alone, plan and review a route acceptable to you
- Agree on a specific time children should return home
- Teach your children never to enter a stranger's home or car
- Instruct children to travel only in familiar, well-lit areas and stick with their friends
- Tell your children not to eat any treats until they return home
- All costumes, wigs and accessories should be fire-resistant
- Avoid masks, which can obstruct vision
- If children are allowed out after dark, fasten reflective tape to their costumes and bags, or give them glow sticks
- When buying Halloween makeup, make sure it is nontoxic and always test it in a small area first
- Remove all makeup before children go to bed to prevent skin and eye irritation

Safety Tips for Motorists

- Watch for children walking on roadways, medians and curbs
- Enter and exit driveways and alleys carefully
- At twilight and later in the evening, watch for children in dark clothing
- Discourage new, inexperienced drivers from driving on Halloween
- Children and adults are reminded to put electronic devices down, keep heads up and walk, don't run, across the street

Have Fun and Be Safe!