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The Great Life News

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



LETTER FROM THE MAYOR

Due to some recent posts on social media, I would like to clarify the information posted.

We have discussed the possibility of a paid Fire department with Rural Fire Board (whom we share responsibility with) along with Chief Buethe and his officers. The Chief has assured us that services provided by the department and response time remains excellent. We will continue to monitor in order to plan what the paid department will look like that when the time comes.

The plan for the Library is from patrons, library staff, foundation and citizens. At the present time the Library Foundation will be seeking donations, grants and other sources of funding for their proposed building. The City will provide land, parking lot (which will be a shared use for the ballfields in the park along with other park functions) and we are also seeking grants to provide funding for the meeting rooms. The Foundation is presently working on their funding sources. Ashland and Blair NE communities have built new Libraries based on this type of funding. The center in Papillion is being built with a voter approval 1/2 cent increase in city sales tax. Per May 11, 2016 Omaha World Herald article the tax increase won by 90 votes. Some components of the center will be free, however the article goes on to state most will be fee based so as not to put private gyms and the non-profit YMCA out of business. A similar approach in Gretna for new ballfields along with improvements to The Field At Gretna were rejected by voters. The opening line of the Omaha World Herald stated to the effect that City Leaders wanted voters to foot the bill. No mention that 75% of the sales tax would come from shoppers at the Nebraska Crossing Mall. A point which was made by the baseball association when presenting the plan to citizens. I understand that no one likes higher taxes as evidence by those two elections. We will continue to look for funding sources to not only provide facilities for our youth but to provide amenities for all citizens.



In reference to growth, we are actively working on this aspect. The Gretna area for the last decade has seen expansion in residential areas with Aspen Creek being the most recent. Since my election I was able to work with the City of Omaha and Sarpy County to modify our sewer service area with them. By deferment of other service areas, the City is in the process of running sewer south of Gretna to open up 2500 acres of developmental ground. It took time with Sarpy County for their approval, however through this process we provided deferment of our area to allow Sarpy County to take advantage to provide sewer service for the area where Facebook is building. If the City had not agreed, there would of been no sewer service for that area.

Jim Timmerman
Gretna Mayor

Fall Clean Up Of Grass And Leaves

As part of the City of Gretna's efforts to educate residents about the impacts of certain practices on the storm-water system and the quality of the protected "waters of the state", we want to provide information about proper yard waste disposal practices and what actions are a violation of the City's Municipal Code.

Grass clippings and leaves blown or swept into storm drains or into the street harms waterways and our creeks. Storm drains flow into pipes and into drainageways. When anything but rain and snow melt goes down the storm drain, it can become a drainage problem. Improper disposal of yard wastes, including leaves, have the potential to impact both the water quality in creeks and waterways, and cause drainage problems during a storm event.

Did you know?

- When yard waste is discarded or blown into a stormwater inlet, the street system, or along a stream bank, it can cause flooding problems. Leaves and yard debris can block the natural flow of water in the storm drainage system, which can cause water to back up and flood within the drainage system or the creek.
- When yard waste is discarded within the stormwater drainage system, it will decompose. Decomposing yard waste can supercharge the creek with nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorus, causing algae blooms resulting in low dissolved oxygen. Severely low dissolved oxygen levels in creeks can cause fish kills. According to the U.S. EPA, phosphorus is one of the most troublesome pollutants in storm water runoff and it is considered the primary cause of water quality problems in our waters.
- When yard waste is discarded within the stormwater drainage system, it can bring harmful chemicals into the creek, including fertilizers, pesticides, and herbicides. While these chemicals can be used to protect grass, they will harm aquatic life and cause additional adverse effects to water quality when released into streams.

Proper Management and Disposal

- Grass clippings can be left on the ground to improve the health of the lawn itself. There is no excuse for sweeping grass and/or leaves into the storm drains or waterways.
- . Consider starting a compost pile for leaves and yard waste or invest in a mulching blade for your lawn mower.
- Leaves can be bagged and left for trash pickup (First, please contact your trash hauler regarding the services they offer).



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