

Mayor Evans Quarterly Letter

July 27, 2021



Gretna
THE GREAT LIFE



It's summer time and I hope you and your family have been able to enjoy some of the many great outdoor attractions surrounding our community. Within minutes of Gretna you can: watch a AAA baseball game, visit one of 4 state parks, swing away on 3 golf courses, enjoy the water and views of 2 rivers, peddle along the MOPAC bike trail, relax at one of the area wineries or stroll thru NE Crossing. If that's not enough, in 2023 you will be able to go to your brand new park and rec center...more on that below!

We are fortunate to have so many great things in and around our community, but the biggest asset to Gretna is our people! The perfect example of this is all the time and support our businesses, organizations and individuals take to put on Gretna Days. I want to thank all of them for their work on this great community event and hope to see you there!



Annexation, We won...twice!

On May 28th, 2021, the Nebraska Supreme court justices agreed with Gretna that the annexation in 2017 was legal and allowable, which appeared to end an almost 4 year legal battle initiated by the Sarpy County Attorney's office. Not agreeing with the recent decision, the Sarpy County Attorney's office requested the Nebraska Supreme Court to rehear the case, further adding time and cost to a long legal battle. The Nebraska Supreme Court, on July 13th, 2021, released their ruling to deny the County's motion to rehear the case and brings a close to the case.

Beginning with the first ruling, we started working on plans to support and provide services to the newly annexed area and residents. The County's hearing not only added more cost to the process, but it added some uncertainty and extended the time frame. We are working closely with the County, the SID's, the businesses and others within the newly annexed area to make a smooth transition.

We will be providing more information to all involved and will be adding a FAQ to our webpage

([Gretna, NE - Official Website](#) | [Official Website \(gretnane.org\)](#) regarding frequent questions.



Ms. Paula Dennison, took over as Gretna's new City Administrator June 1st. She comes from Stillwater, OK with her husband Steve. Paula has already made a big contribution to Gretna since starting her new role just shy of 2 months. Her 25 years of public service, appreciation for community and her ability to work with others through challenging topics is making an impact now and for years to come. We are excited to have her as our City Administrator and part of our community! If you happen to see Paula around town, be sure to tell her hi!

How Big is Gretna?

The 2020 Census should be coming out in August and as you might expect Gretna will be bigger than it was in 2010. With the delays of the legal proceedings and timing of the census release, this number will not include the newly annexed portion. Once all the filings are done and the annexation completed, our population numbers will be modified and will reflect our actual size.



Park Update!

Work continues daily on Gretna Crossing Park. The grading is all done for now, plans for Capehart Road are nearly complete and we continue to refine the details of the Recreational Center, Aquatic Park and the many features of the outdoor park. The council approved an agreement between the City of Gretna and Gretna Public Schools and an agreement to have the YMCA operate the recreational center and the water park. The YMCA will bring their many programs, their experience managing recreational centers and their community outreach to Gretna. This project is an example on how public entities and non-profits can work together to efficiently deliver quality resources to the community. Get updates as they come available at www.gretnacrossingpark.com.

Keep those scissor sharp!

Over the last couple of months, the Gretna Chamber of Commerce has welcomed a number of businesses! The exciting part of this is, not only are businesses moving to Gretna, but they are choosing to be part of a local organization and our community. Our Chamber is doing a fantastic job working with and supporting both the new and current businesses in Gretna. I am sure they all would appreciate you keeping your Green in Gretna and supporting them as well!



Reports

With Paula getting settled in we will be discussing ways to share with the residents more about our community and what's going on. If you watch our Council Meetings, you will notice more groups providing reports to us and we hope you find that useful. For now, here are some information from this last month.

Pool Passes 841(to homeowners inside city limits)

Library: 3,057 (number of visitors to Main library since its opening on May 17th)

Library: 950 (number of visitors to Children library since its opening on June 29th)

Fire Calls: 661 (Year-to-Date); July 4th saw 10 calls in 8 hours!

Be safe & enjoy your summer!

Mike Evans

Mayor, City of Gretna

THANK YOU!