

## Mayors Quarterly Update: FALL 2021

Fall is truly one of my favorite times of the year. Not only is there the beauty in the colors that nature has to offer, but crisp mornings, holidays to look forward to and the foods that seem to taste better in the Autumn...starting with a good bowl of chili!

In Gretna, we are so lucky to have one of the finest fall attractions in the Midwest and in my opinion nationally. I hope you had a chance to spend time at Vala's Pumpkin Patch this year! In addition to an unmatched combination of autumn experiences, foods and fun, the Vala family is very special. Our thoughts are prayers are with them as they wrap up a very busy season without Jan.

As we head into the month of Thanksgiving, my hope is you and your family have much to be thankful for!

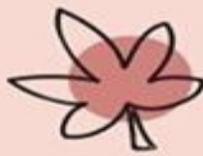
*Mike Evans*  
*Mayor, City of Gretna*

### **Hillcrest Sr Living campus on the way!**

We are very excited to have Century Development teaming up with Hillcrest Health Services to bring a fantastic complex to Gretna. The two phase senior living campus will include a variety of living options; apartments, assisted living, memory care, skilled nursing suites as well as garden/townhomes. This will significantly add to our current senior living options for the many families moving to our community that want their parents to be close to them. This nearly \$90 million project will also have a big economic impact on both Gretna and the area. For Gretna it will bring an estimated 200 jobs to our town.

### **And that's not all!**

Cobalt Credit Union & Hy-Vee's Fast & Fresh both opened in Gretna this summer. Fairway & AutoZone's construction is well on its way, with Casey's not far behind! Our community values, demographics, and location to the interstate is drawing interest from business leaders across the region. We thank these businesses for believing in us and look forward to supporting them soon!

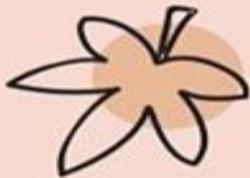


### **New Neighbors?**

In case you have not noticed, Gretna is adding housing developments and new houses at a rapid pace. Just like the businesses that select us, new residents are choosing Gretna because of our quality of life, schools, community based values and location to the metro. If you are new to town, welcome! Make sure you get involved in one of our many organizations, churches, school functions or just be sure to introduce yourself to your neighbor...there's a good chance they are new too!

### **Study Time?**

Gretna is at an exciting and challenging time. With all the growth there comes demands on things such as increasing infrastructure needs, zoning changes, keeping our taxes down and most importantly retaining our sense of community. Over the next couple months we will be undertaking a project that will help us address these challenges. I look forward to sharing more on this project soon!



### **Gretna Crossing Park**

This exciting project continues to move forward with the features being more refined, budgets developed and on-site work progressing on time. Like many construction projects across the US, we are being challenged with increased prices and supply chain problems. We are committed to delivering a project our community will be very proud of and our partners (MCL, JEO and DLR) have done a fantastic job of finding ways to reduce cost without sacrificing vision and looking for ways to do things better. Additionally, we are working very hard to secure financial support through various grants that would offset the cost increases that we are realizing.

### **Annexation Update**

On August 10<sup>th</sup> the annexation was completed. Our staff has done a tremendous job of servicing thousands of new residents along with managing the various assets and property that was included. With the city's strong bond rating and the favorable interest rates, we will be refinancing many of the SID bonds the city is now responsible for. This will save an estimated one million dollars in payments.

WELCOME TO GRETNA

### **Looking to Run?**

As we became a city of the first class and increased our households, we will be creating another ward that will include two more council members. The delay in the federal census release has set us, along with many other municipalities, back a bit for completing the new redistricting and addition of a ward. We hope to have our new wards completed in December. This will give residents some time to consider running and being able to file for the election well before the May primary.

**Winter is coming!**

With winter weather around the corner, it's time for a couple reminders. When Gretna proclaims a Snow Emergency, make sure to have your cars moved off the streets. You can find information on a Snow Emergency on any local news station, City Website and Facebook. When there is a snow, the city ordinance states that all sidewalks be cleaned, by the property owner, within 24 hours of the snows end. If you see sidewalks not maintained, let us know by calling (402) 332-3336 ext. 1234.

*Happy Holidays*

**Reports**

Gretna saw the 2021 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter activity levels happening as shown below.

Library's Crayon Drive Collection	85 lbs	Acres Mowed Per Week	500
Library Visitors	4,697	New Utility Connections	90
Residential Permit Valuations	\$11,415,000	Commercial Permit Valuations	\$4,175,000