

2023

Annual Report

www.gretnane.org



Mayor's State of the City

It has been a great year for Gretna. A year full of packing pickleball courts, Saturday mornings at the Farmer's Market, shopping at one of the many new businesses or getting in a work-out at the new YMCA. While we added some nice things to our community in 2023, it's our residents that make Gretna the Great Life.

Thank you for being part of Gretna.

Mike Evans
Mayor, City of Gretna

Community Focus

Regardless of the size of Gretna, it's very important that we keep our identity, our sense of community and the values that make this a special place to live. The new Farmer's Market, adding Pickleball Courts, Opening Day events at Gretna Crossing Park and the growing Christmas lighting tradition are examples of what we did this year to continue our emphasis on community. We will not only carry on these events, but add to these to create more opportunities for more experiences, activities and memories. Organizations such as: the Gretna Chamber, Gretna Day's Foundation, area Churches, Gretna Public Schools, and many non-profits also hold fantastic events. These events take a lot of people and these organizations are looking for more people to help. If you are looking to be more involved in our community, I encourage you to reach out and help us keep Gretna The Great Life.

Fiscally Conservative

Gretna has always been known for its fiscally conservative approach and we continue to genuinely respect our citizens tax dollars. Our staff does an excellent job of running a lean and responsible organization. They look for better and more efficient ways to provide services without sacrificing on the quality of life and the resident's expectations. The administrative cost to run our city is a very low 13% of our budget. Last year, Capital Expenditures accounted for almost 70% of our budget, which includes the cost to build our roads, sewers, water network and our new Park.

After lowering the levy for the first time in 13 years in 2022, we kept the levy the same in 2023. While valuations increased our revenue just over \$700,000, that amount was used to cover our expense for the addition of full time Emergency Medical Service. In 2023, our Gretna Fire Department made over 1,500 calls, including car accidents, heart attacks, and stroke victims where every minute matters. We support our fire department and want to provide the resources necessary to respond to you, your neighbors and people traveling through our community.

We work hard on diversifying our economic base and not overly relying on property taxes. Last year property taxes accounted for only about 20% of our revenue. With our location along I-80, we are able to bring in revenue from many outside our community. A significant part of this sale tax is used to pay the bonds for our new park. We will continue to build our tax base by adding more commercial developments. Lastly, we will be completing a financial management plan to ensure we keep our debt low, make strategic financial decisions and collect only the taxes we need.

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Quality of Life

Gretna is not only known for its sense of community, it is also known for the quality of life and many experiences we have to offer in the area. The addition of Gretna Crossing Park (sponsored by United Republic Bank) provides us a place to be active, enjoy new amenities and to create memories for generations. In 2025, NRD will complete construction on a new 17-acre lake and 20-acre park. The addition of Highland Trails development north of town will deliver a new park and small lake connected by trails. Many best-of-class businesses opened this year in Gretna, highlighted by Hy-Vee. In 2024, we are looking forward to opening Hillcrest's Senior Living campus that will offer new options for families to stay close to their parents and grandparents. All of these new business not only provide us great choices for shopping closer to home, but bring job opportunities for our residents.

Intentional Planning our Future

To make sure Gretna is a not only a great community today, but for the generations, it's critical we develop a plan that allows us to lead developers to what we want our community to be. These plans represent what is important to our residents: our values, our quality of life, yet also a financially stable and sustainable community. We are currently updating our Comprehensive Plan with The Lakota Group. Make sure to review their plans and be a part of defining our town and our future. Adding a park that scales with our community is a good example of looking forward. We will make announcements soon that reveals more about a project that will include our new library, community center and city offices.



Looking for a career with great benefits that's close to home? The City of Gretna is hiring!
 Find job opportunities at <https://www.gretnane.org/Jobs>

STATE OF THE LIBRARY REPORT



** All Time Records

- **\$1,594,046 - Amount of \$ saved by patron who utilized Library Services**
 - * Increase of 21% from 2022
- **ROI (Return on Investment) was 173% for 2023**
 - * For every \$1 the Gretna community invest in the Library, it was converted into \$1.73 for the community
- **Active Users = 6,834 ****
 - * Increase of 9% from 2022
- **31,375 visitors to the Library in 2023**
 - * Increase of 22% from 2022
- **138,344 items were checked out in 2023 ****
 - * Increase of 27% from 2022. The closest year was 2024 with circulation of 126,342 a 9% difference.
- **609 Library events held in 2023 with 15,805 people attending**
 - * Increase of 3% from 2022 in events with a 28% increase in people
- **Young Adult Programs saw the largest increase in event attendance with 1,891 teens attending programs ****
 - * In 2013 247 teens attended programs (666% increase) with a 91% increase from 2022 to 2023 of 989 attendees.
- **40,190 unique website visitors**
 - * Increase of 32% from 2022

Gretna Suburban Fire Department



Calls Answered:

- In 2021 there were 1,263
10% Increase from 2020
- In 2022 there were 1,402
11% Increase from 2021
- In 2023 there were 1,554
11% Increase from 2022

Calls on average:
 68% medical,
 21% fire,
 11% personal injury

Number of Lots Platted:

2021 - 748
 2022 - 1,273
 2023 - 207

Number of Permits Issued:

*Includes Commerical/Residential, Electrical, Sign, Fence and misc permits issued

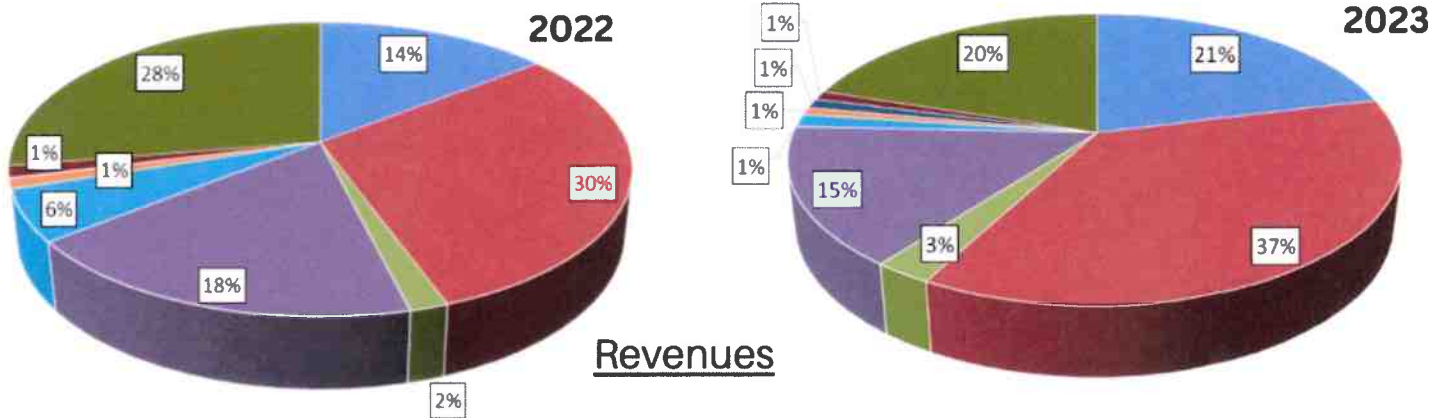
2021 - 1,228
 2022 - 2,131
 2023 - 2,135

Commercial and Multifamily Projects:

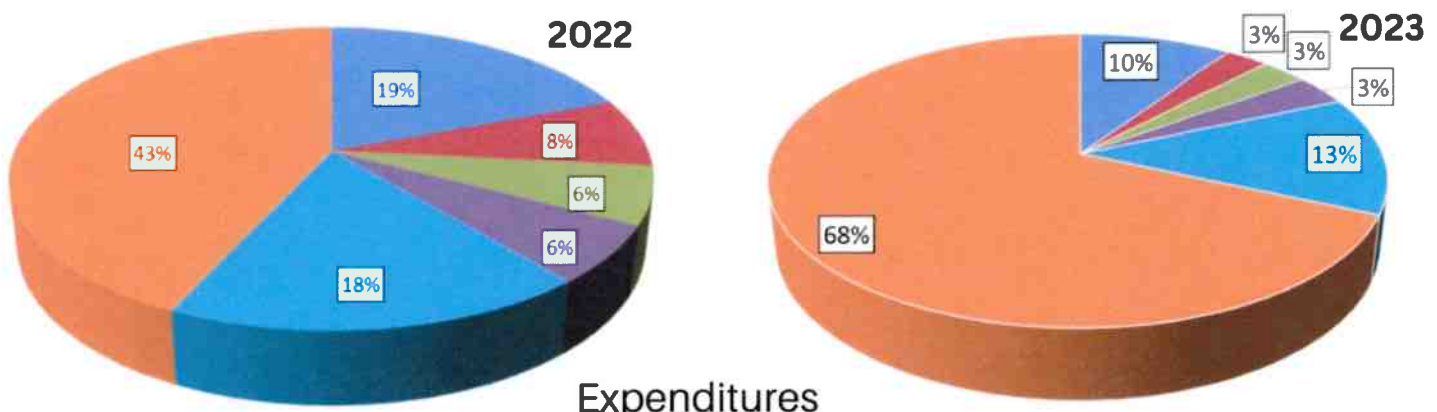
(Completed or Under Construction)

- 400,000 sq ft warehouse at Gretna Logistics Park
- Lovely Skin Warehouse
- Walgreen's
- Scooter's
- Culver's
- Chipotle
- Veridian Credit Union
- Hy-Vee
- Christian Brothers Automotive
- Elite Learning Academy
- Hawaiian Bros
- Middle School #3
- Elementary School #8
- Gretna East High School
- Gretna Crossing Park
sponsored by United Republic Bank
- Hillcrest Senior Living Campus
- Allora 168 Apartments

Governmental Funds Overview (Excluding Incentive & TIF Funds)



- Property Tax
- Sales Tax
- Other Tax
- Licenses & Permits
- Intergovernment
- Keno
- Interest
- Charges for services
- Reimbursements & other



- General Government
- Public Safety
- Culture & Recreation
- Public Streets
- Debt Service
- Capital Outlay

City Levy: \$0.046 per \$100 of Valuation

Mayor Mike Evans

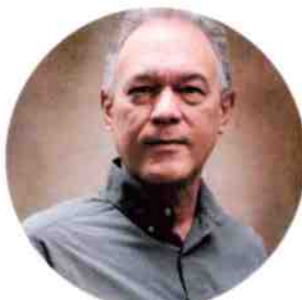


Kara Alexander



**Council President
Library Liaison
Ward 2**

Bill Proctor



**Planning Commission
Liaison
Ward 3**

Lauren Liebenritt



**Arbor Society Liaison
Ward 1**

Jeremy Westengaard



**Street, Water /
Wastewater Liaison
Ward 4**