



# Summer Newsletter



Summer is in full swing along with all its activities. I hope you and your family are enjoying all things this season has to offer. The great thing about Gretna is you can find so many of those in your hometown. Whether its ballgames, picnics, hiking, fishing, bike rides or strolling through a farmer’s market - all this is within minutes of Gretna. Below are a few reminders of the many places and things our area has for you to take advantage of this summer. Wishing you and your family a safe, fun, and relaxing summertime!

*Mike Evans  
Mayor, City of Gretna*

**Nebraska State Parks:** There are 4 state parks within 20 minutes of Gretna offering zipline, great hikes and fantastic views. Gretna’s very own, Schramm State Park along the Platte River offers some of the best hiking and views and features their unique Schramm Education Center. *Schramm Park | Nebraska Game & Parks Commission (outdoornebraska.gov).*

**Wehrspan Lake & Chalco Hills** off Highway 370 has a 246-acre lake and is surrounded by 940-acre Chalco Hills Recreation Area. The area offers 7 miles of biking, hiking, and jogging trails, a nature trail, an arboretum, native prairie grasses, a birdwatching/waterfowl observation platform, and a universally accessible fishing pier. *Chalco Hills at Wehrspan Lake - Papio NRD Nebraska.*

**Gretna’s Farmer Market** has become a very popular Saturday morning activity. Local vendors offer home grown produce, baked goods, locally raised meats and crafts of all kinds. The market is open Saturdays 8am – 12pm, located in downtown Gretna on McKenna Avenue.



**Gretna Crossing Park** is a wonderful addition to our community and this summer it really has come to life! The park is home to local ballplayers with hosted tournaments bringing teams and their families from across the US. The pool is a great hit, the trails are busy, and I understand the fish are biting! I am thankful for all the community leaders, citizens and others who provided the vision, voted for the park, and delivered it to our community. It’s a great place to host a reunion, play some disk golf or just go for a walk.



**Gretna Days:** A summer in Gretna would not be complete without enjoying all the fun activities the week of July 24th-28th has to offer. This event provides everything from parades, car shows, fireworks, community picnics and MUCH, MUCH, MORE! Visit *Gretna Days* ([gretnadays.com](http://gretnadays.com)) to see the list of activities or to get involved in this great community event.



**New Website:** Speaking of visiting, make sure to go to [GretnaNE.org](http://GretnaNE.org) and look at the community's new website. It is easy to use and full of resources and useful information.

**Comprehensive Plan:** This forward-looking plan is essential to making sure our community is able to maintain our small-town feel, while still welcoming the new opportunities and residents. The plan addresses issues such as resiliency, economic development and sustainability. The three phases include Engage & Assess, Envision and Plan & Implement. We continue to collect information, share feedback, and seek our residents' thoughts. To learn more, receive project updates or submit comments visit *Gretna Comprehensive Plan* ([gretnacomplan.com](http://gretnacomplan.com)).

**Community Complex:** Another very exciting project is our new Community Complex that will be a multipurpose facility housing community space, a new library and city hall. This project will be located just west of Gretna Crossing Park and east of Highway 6/31. The project is well under way and we will be reaching out to the community for ideas and comments on how to make this truly a Community Complex. Be sure to follow the City of Gretna on Facebook or the city website for updates.



**Gretna Landing:** The buzz continues about all the exciting businesses, jobs, housing, and activities this development could bring to our community. Just a few short years ago this was a farm and rumors of a Hy-Vee coming to Gretna was all the news. The developers, business and the city are working closely to make this a project that continues to bring best of class experiences, shopping, housing, and employment to Gretna.



**Good Life District:** Nebraska Department of Economic Development approved Gretna's Good Life District in February this year, based on 2023 legislation. This essentially allowed the state's sales tax to be cut from 5.5% to 2.75% in the approved geographic boundary based on the applicant's plan to develop a project that would 1) be a destination district with new to state venues, retailers, experiences, and 2) be an economic driver for the area and the state. The 2024 legislation was passed to maximize financial incentives the state created, provide for a transparent process and structure to develop, and manage these districts. To take advantage of the 2024 legislation a city would need to create an Economic Development Program, which requires a vote of its citizens. While the item to call for a special election has appeared on the Council's agenda twice, it has been tabled both times due to concerns first from the state and then second from the Good Life District applicant. I feel it is important to have our community involved in this process and use the program the state has created to best manage these districts. I look forward to the council proceeding with setting the election at a future council meeting. I also understand this is a very large project and taking our time to do it right is equally as important, so taking our time and working with all stakeholders benefits the parties involved and the Gretna community. To learn more about the Good Life District, visit [GretnaNE.org](http://GretnaNE.org) and click the Good Life District section.



**The Library:** Known for keeping busy during the summer break, the library has been buzzing from recent events and initiatives! Their booth at the Business Expo was a hit, attracting 437 curious and enthusiastic visitors. Gearing up for the Gretna Days Parade, our friends at the library plan to hand out 800 books to the community members watching. At the end of June, they have already collected 252 pounds of glass from their recycling initiative and have had over 1,500 people register for the summer reading program. That is not it for them however... Over 4,500 people have visited the Main and Children's Library for June, what a busy month! It is also fun to add in, 50 board games, 2 Disc Golf Kits, 9 Pickleball Kits, and 42 Puzzles were also checked out. Our community knows how to keep busy during these summer months, utilizing the library's great resources. Looking forward to many more amazing adventures, stay up to date with all of their events: [GretnaPublicLibrary.org](http://GretnaPublicLibrary.org).

**Development Numbers:** There's been a lot happening in our great city that hasn't received as much attention. In June alone, a whopping 179 permit applications were submitted to the Building and Zoning Department! This means exciting growth opportunities and plenty of meetings to ensure these developments align with our vision. We can't wait to see how the rest of the year unfolds for our city's development!

**Thank you!**