

Spring is in the air and so is the excitement that comes with the warmer weather, outdoor activities, longer days, leaves on the trees and the end of another school year. This is the season for planting this year's garden, going to sporting activities, backyard grilling or front yard conversations. Gretna is also full of excitement and much to look forward this Spring too. Here's what's new and the updates on your community!

May your Spring be full great memories and good health for you and your family.

Mike Evans

Mayor, City of Gretna

Community Complex

The official groundbreaking ceremony for our new Community Complex was April 9th, 2025. The last time Gretna built a Community Center and City Hall was over 90 years ago. Included in the project will be the new City Library, Community Space and the City Hall. This marked the beginning journey for this site, not just to become a community center, but to be the *Center* of our *Community*. Construction work begins immediately, and completion is scheduled for late 2026 or early 2027.

Forest City Recreation Area

The 15-acre lake, within a 65-acre park was named by the NRD, Forest City Recreation Area. This new lake is located immediately west of 204th Street with the northern entrance at Schram Road. The name recognizes the area's history, as the town was originally known as Forest City before the railroad's arrival shifted development to present-day Gretna. The approximately \$12 million project was federally funded. This lake provides much needed flood control, conserves green space, includes a playground and adds another fishing hole in town! It is estimated to be completed late summer of 2025.

North Park Improvements

While adding new parks to our community is exciting, it's important we continue to invest and upgrade the parks that the city and its residents have grown up with. On April 11th, we reopened the play area in North Park with new playground equipment and surface.

UPDATE - Road Construction

A street project our community is in much need of is the Schram Road improvements. With the recent growth to the south of the community, traffic on Schram Road and south 204th has significantly increased. Since 2023, the city council has approved a total of \$3 million towards this project. In 2024, Congressman Bacon's request for federal funding of \$5 million was approved, completing funding for the project. A requirement with the federal funding is that Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT) will oversee the project. Currently NDOT and the engineering consultant's agreements were submitted and approved. The project design will be finalized in 2025, with construction possibly beginning in 2026. Until that time myself and the council have made this corridor a priority for maintenance. Our public works team will watch these roads carefully and take needed measures to support the volume of traffic this road is seeing.

Good Life District

After the passage of the special election allowing the city of Gretna to establish an Economic Development Program for the Good Life District, the city did so. By creating this program, the city was able to capture the half of the State's sales tax that was not being collected. This did not raise taxes at Nebraska Crossing, but brought the State's sales tax back to where it was. These revenues are held in its own account for use as prescribed in state statute.

There is a great deal of legislative discussion on this topic in the Unicameral this session to address various concerns. With the uncertainty of pending legislation, we expect little progress with regards to the Gretna Good Life District until further guidance is established to resolve the matters in question.

Sherriff Department New Gretna location

As our community has grown, the Sarpy County Sheriff department has increased both their presence and commitment to Gretna. To provide the level of service our residents expect and to further develop relationships within the community, the sheriff's department will be locating an office in Gretna. This location will be announced soon, along with the date of its opening. We truly thank Sarpy County Sheriff London, Captain Boldt, all the officers and Sarpy County for providing the resources for this location in Gretna and their dedication for keeping our community safe.

What Are You Looking For?

New to our community or just want to keep up on all the news and events around town? We have a variety of places to find all kind of information and resources. Below are just a few things you can find and where.

Website

Exciting New businesses and Developments - [Economic Development](#) page under the Business tab (on Home page).

[News Flashes](#) – Home page

[Events Calendar](#) – Home page

Park Information and Reservations – New [Park Page](#) under the Community tab

Facebook

[City of Gretna, Nebraska](#)

News, Current Events City Highlights, City Announcements

[City of Gretna, Events](#)

News on all upcoming City Events

New Resident Packet from Gretna Chamber of Commerce. Pick up at City Hall.

Speaking of Events, here is what is coming up soon!

May 3rd - Clean Up Day – Gretna Public Works **20090 Husker Dr** - 7:30am-2pm

May 2nd, 9th, 16th & 23rd – [Food Truck Fri-Yay at Gretna Crossing YMCA](#) – 4:30pm-6:30pm

May 17th & 18th [Grass Volleyball Tournament](#) at Gretna Crossing Soccer Fields

June 7th - October 4th [Gretna Farmer's Market](#) – Downtown Gretna; 8am-12pm

June 22nd [Paws at the Park](#) at Gretna Crossing Dog Park – 11am-2pm

July 12th – Music at the Crossing – Doors open at 6pm at the Gretna Crossing Park Amphitheater