

Our Town

Mayor's Message

Hello Everyone. The holiday season is over and we are all looking for that method of losing a few pounds. Last year Deb and I got a Malamute-Husky mix rescue dog, so that is our exercise — chasing after the dog. We certainly hope that everyone had a safe and wonderful holiday.

All departments are running smoothly. The resurfacing of Main Street thru Q Street was a wonderful change. The 84th street bridge is now open with some work to do yet in the Spring. The Arena is keeping busy with winter holiday dinners and the Lancers' games. We were very proud to host the World Cup Curling Event. Our Ralston Arena was the only place it was held in the United States. Thanks to the Omaha Athletic Commission for helping us land the event. Everyone was very impressed with our facility and staff. Congrats to all involved.

Next year we are going to be working on developing and attracting more retail business in our downtown. We have started a Downtown Retailers Group as part of the Ralston Chamber. This group has been responsible for several events the past year and are looking forward to having several more events in the coming year. Stay tuned and watch for information on our web site. Congratulations to all the new businesses.

We are also working on the Hinge Development which ties the Arena to the downtown area. Public meetings will be held to gather ideas. Please call City Hall if you want to be included in some discussions.

Have a safe winter. Mayor Don



The Omaha Sports Commission hosted the 3rd leg of the World Cup Curling event at the Ralston Arena December 3rd through 9th, 2018. Pictured is Mayor Groesser with Team USA.



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Meet Our New Council member . . .

At the December 4th City Council meeting, Brian Kavanaugh was sworn in as the new Ward III Council member. Brian is a software developer and manager at Orion Advisor Services, LLC. He graduated from the University of California, Santa Barbara with a bachelor's degree in history and from Ohio University with a master's degree in physical education.



He moved to the Ralston area in 2000 and bought a home in Ralston in 2006. Brian's hobbies include golf and home brewing. Brian and his fiancée, Amy, also foster Greyhounds awaiting their forever homes.

Brian has been active with the Jaycees organization for many years and served as President of the Ralston Jaycees. He is currently the President of the Nebraska Jaycee Foundation Board of Directors. Brian served on the Baright Public Library Board of Trustees from 2015 to 2018.

Brian thinks an improvement could be made in Ralston by transforming Ralston's downtown district into a destination area, similar to what has been done in Benson, Dundee and the Blackstone District.

Brian's time in the Jaycees has taught him the importance of community involvement. Ralston is the first place he has called home since leaving college and he wants to be part of addressing the challenges facing Ralston. Brian loves the feeling of living in a small town while living in a metropolitan area.

Thank You to Craig Alberhasky

The City of Ralston would like to take this opportunity to thank Craig Alberhasky for his service on the City Council. Craig served as Ward III Council member from December 2002 to December 2018. Craig's loyalty and dedication contributed to the betterment of the community for the residents. He exhibited leadership, character, and exceptional support to his constituents in Ward III through his service to the Ralston City Council.

At the City Council meeting on December 4, 2018, Mayor Groesser proclaimed that day as Craig Alberhasky Day throughout the City of Ralston in recognition of his outstanding contribution and dedication to the City of Ralston.

Best wishes Craig. May the future hold success and the best of health and happiness.

When Do You Need a Building Permit?

For many different types of home repair and improvement jobs, permits are required. Though simple repairs usually don't require a permit, additions or major changes usually do require that you get the appropriate permit.

If your project involves minor cosmetic surgery, you probably will not have to worry about getting a building permit. If you are making changes to your house's structure, plumbing, or electrical wiring, a permit **IS REQUIRED**. If in doubt, please call City Hall at 402-331-6677.

Once you have received a permit, it's important to ensure your permit is finalized when the work is complete. A final inspection of your project by the City is required in most cases. Call City Hall to schedule an appointment with the building inspector.

Welcome to These New Ralston Businesses



Making It MOD Boutique, 7632 Burlington Street

Making It MOD Boutique offers unique, handcrafted and customized furniture, home & seasonal décor, jewelry, clothing & more. Making it MOD has ever-changing, one of a kind items displayed from local artists at their historic Ralston boutique.



Sing Omaha, 8438 Park Drive

Sing Omaha provides the most highly-skilled individuals in the area with the opportunity to study and perform choral music with like-minded people. They showcase a high level of artistic excellence, a dedication to musical integrity, and a mindset that puts people first.

Baright Library News

The library has had a fantastic year, and the numbers show it! You can see just how much the community enjoys the library through the statistics we collected from this past fiscal year, October 2017 through September 2018.

Library materials, whether they are electronic or print, circulated over 78,000 times last year. Adults checked out about 39 percent of that total, and children checked out another 31 percent. The final third of the pie included eBooks, computer use, and teen materials checkouts. Our current collection at the Baright Public Library includes over 45,000 items for the public to browse and check out! We keep the materials on the shelf as fresh as we can by rotating in and out about 3,500 materials each year. Looking at the number of visits that occurred last year, we saw 73,876 people come in throughout our open hours. We had nearly 4,000 more visits than two years ago! More than 225 people on average visit us on a daily basis at the library, whether that's to check out materials, attend an event, or use the computers to apply for a job. Our two free reservation meeting spaces saw 8,236 visitors on their own.

Library visitors frequently use the computers to access the Internet. Nearly 18,000 computer uses were recorded this past year, not including the 5,162 uses of the children's educational gaming computers. Staff logged 137 one-on-one instructional sessions with those seeking technology assistance.

We enjoyed spending time with each and every one of you in the Ralston community at special programs throughout the year. Staff took pleasure in each opportunity to connect and serve you all, whether it was through the summer Lunch Truck, story times, school book clubs, adult educational programs, or volunteering.

We hope you continue to visit us! We are open to the public seven days a week with 62 total open hours and 24/7 access to our electronic library as well!

Eagle Scout Projects in Ralston



James Strabala, Boy Scout Troop 359

On October 23, 2018, James Strabala presented his completed Eagle Scout project to Mayor Groesser and Council member Craig Alberhasky. James constructed bat houses. He chose this project because he thinks that bats are interesting and their numbers are declining. A single bat can eat about 5,000 insects in a night and over time can save thousands of dollars in pest control. The bat houses are 26 inches tall and 24 inches wide and 2 inches deep and will hold about 50 bats. The City will hang the bat house in Wildewood Park and Alberhasky plans to hang his bat house at his home.



Tyler Richards, Boy Scout Troop 282

Tyler Richards' year long Eagle Scout project was dedicated on November 1, 2018. Tyler's project is a tribute to first responders in Koch Park consisting of a firefighter, police officer and EMT. Tyler started planning the project in late 2017 and sold flags, first aid kits and battery packs to help reach his fund-raising goal of \$19,000. Tyler was also able to find sponsors to help fund the statues. The concrete work was donated and Tyler received discounts on wood for the benches. Tyler's fundraising efforts exceeded his goal and he plans to put the extra money aside into a fund to help with maintenance costs for the project.

Ralston Arena Events

Mark your calendars and plan to attend the following events at the Ralston Arena!!

January 2019

Jan 13

Omaha Lancers vs Tri-City

Jan 19

Omaha Lancers vs Lincoln

Jan 26

Omaha Lancers vs Youngstown

Jan 27

Omaha Lancers vs Youngstown

February 2019

Feb 1

Omaha Lancers vs Madison

Feb 2

Omaha Lancers vs Lincoln

Feb 8

Omaha Lancers vs Sioux City

Feb 15

Omaha Lancers vs Sioux City

Feb 16

Omaha Lancers vs Des Moines

Feb 22

Omaha Lancers vs Fargo

Feb 23

EXTREME

Presented by Beertopia

Feb 24

Omaha Lancers vs Chicago

March 2019

Mar 1

Omaha Lancers vs Lincoln

Mar 9

ONE NIGHT OF QUEEN

Mar 15

Omaha Lancers vs Sioux Falls

MAR 16—JUN 22

OMAHA BEEF 2019 SEASON

Mar 18

PJ MASKS LIVE

Mar 22

Omaha Lancers vs Sioux City

Mar 24

Omaha Lancers vs Sioux Falls

City of Ralston

Our Vision Statement

“The City of Ralston will deliver economic, creative, cultural, and community development strategies to generate a quality of life that is a beacon of dynamic and independent small town culture within the metro area.”

Local Government Officials & City Department Heads

Mayor—Donald Groesser

City Council Members:

Ward 1—Maureen Konwinski

Ward 2—Lee Fidelity

Ward 3—Brian Kavanaugh

Ward 4—Jerry Krause / Council President

Ward 5—Michael Sanchez

Ward 6—Ben Preis

The Ralston City Council meets on the first and third Tuesday of every month at 5:30 PM in the Council Chambers, City Hall, 5500 S. 77th Street.

City Administrator—Dave Forrest

Finance Director—Tim Bohling

City Clerk—Rosie Russell

City Attorney - Mark Klinker

Chief of Police—Marc Leonardo

Public Works Director—Dan Freshman

Library Director—Bailey Halbur

Arena General Manager—Stan Benis

To receive this newsletter via email, visit our website at www.cityofralston.com.

Click on the newsletter tab and sign up.

Or contact us at cityhall@cityofralston.com



Ralston's Winter Weather Ordinances

Winter is here and with it comes ice and snow. Be a good neighbor and make sure that after a winter storm you clear your sidewalk.

The following are some of the applicable ordinances regarding snow. For more detailed information, the Ralston Municipal Code is available in its entirety on our website, at City Hall or at Baright Public Library.

Sidewalks; Kept Clean (Sec. 8-201) - It is the legal responsibility of the occupant or the owner of any property to keep the sidewalks clear of snow, ice, mud, etc. Sidewalks within residential neighborhoods shall be cleared within 24 hours after the end of the weather event. In business districts, sidewalks should be cleared within 5 hours from the end of the storm or by 8:30 am if the storm ended overnight.

Parking-Designated Snow Emergency Routes (Sec. 5-624) - All designated snow routes are marked with permanent signs. These streets will be cleared first by the City of Ralston.

Parking-After Declaration of Snow Emergency (Sec. 5-625) - When the Mayor declares a snow emergency, the news media is notified. It is illegal to be parked on any designated

snow emergency route beginning at the stated time until 24 hours after the snow ends or until the accumulated snow has been plowed to the curb on both sides of the street, whichever is sooner. Any automobile parked on a snow emergency route is in violation of this section and may be ordered to be removed by the Ralston Police. If the vehicle is not removed or it's presence makes it impossible to plow the snow, the person is in violation and shall be civilly liable to the City of Ralston for any added plowing expense incurred as a result of the illegally parked vehicle.

Parking-Snow Emergency Route Violation (Sec 5-627) - In addition to the removal of the vehicle and civil liability imposed, the owner of any vehicle parked in violation of these sections shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and subject to penalties.

