

City of Ralston  
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Ralston, NE 68127  
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[www.cityofralston.com](http://www.cityofralston.com)

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# Our Town

## Good Bye and Good Luck Mark!

In October 2019, long-time Ralston City Attorney Mark Klinker announced his retirement as City Attorney effective December 17, 2019. Mr. Klinker served as City Attorney for 27 years and was a City Council member from 1979 to 1982.

At the December 17th, 2019 City Council meeting, Mayor Groesser presented Mark a plaque in appreciation for his years of service to the City of Ralston. At the same meeting, Don Ficenec was appointed as the new Ralston City Attorney.



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## Ralston Hinge Project

Mayor Don Groesser conducted a press conference on Thursday, December 19th, 2019 to announce a \$7.5 million gift from a former Ralston resident. The gift will provide critical funding for Ralston's economic development effort known as the Hinge Project and put Ralston on the right path to the future. The Ralston Community Foundation Fund in collaboration with the City of Ralston announced the \$7.5 million gift from longtime resident LaDonna R. Johnson. Miss Johnson was a strong proponent of the Hinge Project and her bequest states that the gift must be used only in furtherance of the effort.

The Hinge Project is an economic development vision to develop the Ralston area around 72nd and Main Streets so it serves as a connection between the arena and the city's downtown. The idea came out of the city's 10-year comprehensive plan completed in 2014 and includes mixed-use developments, entertainment and dining areas. The plan is designed to attract new residents and businesses and provide more amenities to Ralston visitors and residents.

The Ralston City Council adopted the Ralston Downtown/Hinge Master Plan in November 2019 and it can be viewed in its entirety on our website at [www.cityofralston.com](http://www.cityofralston.com).

Follow us on Facebook!

The City of Ralston now has a Facebook page. Follow us to make sure you get up-to-the minute news and information  
[www.facebook.com/CityofRalstonNE](https://www.facebook.com/CityofRalstonNE) or @CityofRalstonNE



## Designated Snow Emergency Routes



The City will declare a snow emergency when forecast conditions are such that it is imperative to clear residential streets of snow from curb to curb. Generally, if four or more inches of snow are forecast and a prolonged period of below-freezing temperatures is projected, a snow emergency will be declared.

When a snow emergency is declared, the following streets within the City limits of Ralston, are designated as snow emergency routes:

1. "Q" Street between 84th Street and 80th Street; 80th Street between "Q" Street and Oakwood Street; Oakwood Street between 80th Street and Miller Avenue; Miller Avenue between Oakwood Street and the Main Street-77th Street Intersection; Main Street between the Miller Avenue-77th Street intersection and 72nd Street.
2. 77th Street between the Miller Avenue and Main Street intersection and Serum Avenue; Serum Avenue between 77th Street and 78th Street; 78th Street between Serum Avenue and Harrison Road.
3. Park Drive between 84th Street and 76th Street.
4. Ralston Avenue between 78th Street and 84th Street.
5. Highland Street between 80th Street and 72nd Street.

6. 77th Avenue between Highland Street and "L" Street.
7. Burlington Street between 77th Street and 75th Street; 75th Street between Burlington Street and Main Street.
8. Monroe Street between 90th Street and 84th Street.
9. The streets within the Ralston Village PUD consisting of Serum Avenue east of 77th Street, 76th Avenue south of Serum Avenue, and 77th Street South of Serum Avenue.

When a snow emergency is declared, it will be unlawful to park any motor vehicle on any designated street within a snow emergency route. Residents must refrain from parking on the street for 24 hours after the end of the storm, or until all snow has been plowed to the curb, whichever comes sooner. Any automobile that remains parked on the street during a snow emergency may be removed by the Police Department. Other possible penalties for the violation of the ordinance include civil action and/or criminal charges.

If you have any questions regarding the snow emergency routes, please call City Hall at 402-331-6677.

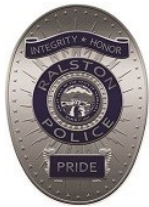
## Baright Public Library Gingerbread House Competition

The Baright Public Library was the site of a gingerbread house competition on December 7th and 8th, 2019. Children and teens were able to visit the library and make gingerbread houses. Once finished building the house, pictures were posted on the Library's Facebook page. The houses that received the most "likes" after one week won a Barnes and Noble gift card. The event was sponsored by the Baright Library Foundation and HyVee and was free for all participants.

Winners were:

Kelli Patocka—House #9  
Natali Zdan—House #8  
Jordan Mayo—House #1  
Anna Tarvin—House #10





## Winter Driving Tips from the Ralston Police Department

Winter is here along with cold weather and snowfall amounts that will definitely cause problems on the roadways. It's time to think about preparing for winter driving. Here are a few tips to keep in mind when going out on those cold and/or snowy days and nights.

1. Remember to keep a scraper in your vehicle at all times. Always **completely** scrape your windows **before** proceeding to drive your vehicle. A "peephole" is not a safe way to operate your vehicle.
2. Don't let your gas tank get below  $\frac{1}{4}$  tank. If your vehicle gets stuck you might need to run the heater to keep warm. Also, it's a good idea to keep a blanket in your vehicle, just in case.
3. Check your tire pressure to be sure your tires are properly inflated. Also, check your tires to be sure they have enough tread depth so that you can get traction on wet or snowy pavement.
4. Check your car battery to be sure that it has enough cold cranking amps to get your car going on those cold days. If not, replace your car battery.
5. Be sure to keep your washer fluid reservoir full. When the snow melts, the roads get messy and you will need it to keep the windshield clean.
6. Also, check to see if your wiper blades need to be replaced. If they appear worn or aren't operating properly they should be replaced so that you get maximum visibility.
7. Always clean the snow off of your headlights and taillights. You might "think" your vehicle can be seen, but if the person in front or behind you can't see the lights on your car you might be hit by another vehicle. Remember to have your headlights on while driving if it's raining or snowing.
8. A small shovel is a good thing to keep in the trunk. This is in case you get stuck or need to dig out your vehicle. Also, a small bag of kitty litter is a good thing to have on hand as it can be poured under the tires to help get traction.
9. These days when many people have a garage and park close to the door when going somewhere don't always wear a coat or jacket. Take one with you in case your vehicle gets stuck or breaks down. Keep a hat, gloves and boots with you too.
10. Last, but not least, make sure to keep plenty of distance between you and the car in front of you, and always make sure everyone is wearing seatbelts. It takes extra time to stop your vehicle when the roads are wet or icy. Pump your brakes so that they don't lock up or you could lose control of your vehicle.

## Ralston's New City Administrator

During the December 17th City Council meeting, the Ralston City Council approved the appointment of Rick Hoppe as Ralston's new city administrator effective December 30, 2019.

Rick previously served as Lincoln Mayor Chris Beutler's chief of staff for 12 years. In addition to his experience in public administration, Rick also has extensive experience working in economic development. He was an integral part of the team that built the Pinnacle Bank Arena in Lincoln.

We are extremely pleased that Rick chose Ralston as the next step in his professional journey.



## Ralston Arena Events

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

### January 2020

Jan 5

Omaha Lancers Hockey

Jan 10 + 11

Omaha Lancers Hockey

Jan 24 + 25

Omaha Lancers Hockey

Jan 31

Chris Janson

### February 2020

Feb 7

Cody Jinks

Feb 8 + 9

Omaha Lancers Hockey

Feb 22

Beertopia Ultimate Beerfest

Feb 23

Omaha Lancers Hockey

Feb 28 + 29

Omaha Lancers Hockey

### March 2020

Mar 4

Blippi Live

Mar 8

Omaha Lancers Hockey

Mar 11

Dancing w/the Stars Tour

Mar 13 + 14

Omaha Lancers Hockey

Mar 15

Baby Shark Live

Mar 27

Omaha Lancers Hockey

**New events are added daily!**

**Keep up on the events by  
visiting the Ralston Arena  
website at  
[www.ralstonarena.com](http://www.ralstonarena.com)**



## 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**—Rick Hoppe

**Finance Director**—Tim Bohling

**City Clerk**—Rosie Russell

**City Attorney** - Don Ficenec

**Chief of Police**—Marc Leonardo

**Public Works Director**—Dan Freshman

**Library Director**—Bailey Halbur

**Arena General Manager**—Brian Krajewski

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Click on the newsletter tab and sign up.

Or contact us at [cityhall@cityofralston.com](mailto:cityhall@cityofralston.com)



In 2020, our nation will conduct the Census required by the U.S. Constitution. Work on this large undertaking has already begun in our community and we will need your help to get the count right. The City of Ralston wants you to know how important it is to Nebraska, and to the City of Ralston that we make sure every person is counted.

The Census is required by the U.S. Constitution just once every 10 years. So the information collected will decide how over \$675 billion in federal funds are distributed annually until the next Census in 2030. The count will determine Nebraska's number of representatives in Congress, and effect how voting districts are drawn at the state and local level. Census information is also used by businesses, local governments, and other organizations to locate their services and plan for the future. In fiscal year 2016, \$3.995 billion in federal funds were obligated in Nebraska based upon resident counts from the 2010 Census and subsequent annual population estimates. This equates to \$2,096 in federal funds distributed annually for each Nebraska resident. That's why it is so important for everyone to be counted once, only once, and in the right place!

And here's some great news: participation has never been easier! In 2020 you will be able to respond securely and confidentially online, by phone, or by mail. So keep an eye out for notices in the mail, beginning in March 2020, and make sure our community is counted!

For more information, visit: [2020CENSUS.GOV](http://2020CENSUS.GOV)

## Remember...

It is unlawful to deposit snow or leaves onto City streets.

Ralston Municipal Code §8-313 states:

### **STREETS; UNLAWFUL DEPOSITING OF SNOW OR LEAVES.**

It shall be unlawful for any person, firm, corporation, or other party to remove snow or leaves from any public, semi-public, or private parking lot, or driveway or sidewalk and place it upon any street or sidewalk within the City, or upon any fire hydrant. Also, it shall be unlawful for such snow to be placed within 150 feet of the intersecting centerlines of 2 streets at height above which such snow would become a traffic hazard by inhibiting proper sight distance at intersections herein determined to be a height of 2 feet above the top of the curb.

