

# Our Town

## Mayor's Message

Hello to everyone in Ralston...

Well it's a cold and snowy start to 2022. I hope everyone stays safe and warm. The city sent out a postcard so everyone may sign up for a text to be sent to you when we are working on streets for snow or other important information. If you didn't get a postcard, call city hall and have it sent to you. Please sign up and be part of the information-sharing within our city.

I hope you've had an opportunity to drive by the Granary lately. There have been lots of changes and it is so good to see that I See It Ventures is upgrading the Granary to make it a thriving place to be in Ralston. Thanks for all their work. The next part of the project will be building condos on the west side of the property. We are excited for this project to be complete.

The new Hinge Flats across from the Fire Department are close to being completed. Several flats have been rented and we are getting more people walking, shopping and working around downtown. Congratulations to Jerry Reimer and his team for making the project happen!

The latest news about the Arena is that we have sold the naming rights. So the Ralston Arena is now named Liberty First Credit Union Arena. If you haven't noticed, the arena has been really busy with concerts and the Lancers games. The General Manager says we are one of the busiest arenas in the country. Ralston is so fortunate to have this asset! The Arena and Hinge projects are just a few of the amenities that make our city a wonderful place to live.

**Happy New Year to all Ralston residents and hope you have a healthy and prosperous 2022.**

Mayor Don



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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



## **Snow: What To Do and When**

**By Rick Hoppe, City Administrator**

### **Snow season is upon us.**

Ralston is changing, particularly in the Hinge and downtown area. That's why we are adopting new strategies and new tools to clear snow and keep traffic moving safely. But we need your help to make it work.

What can you do to help?

### **Sign Up for Snow Alert Texts**

The most important step you can take is to sign up for the City's new text notification service. You will receive a text so you will know what we need and when we need it in regards to snow clearance.

By simply texting RALSTONSNOW to 91896, you will sign up to receive a text when the City issues a snow declaration. The text allows us to give you as much advance warning as possible when cars need to be moved.

### **Don't Park on Streets between 2 AM and 6 AM**

Ralston's ordinance already prohibits on-street parking between 2 AM and 6 AM for a variety of reasons. During the last snow storm, our Public Works team found that many residents were not aware of the parking restriction. When possible, the City schedules snow removal specifically during this time to avoid conflict with parked cars. This strategy leads to better plowing and less hassle for residents.

### **Downtown Snow Change**

Our growing downtown is bringing new people and new businesses to Ralston. It is also changing how we handle snow removal in the area.

The City needs to be able to clear the public parking spots along 76<sup>th</sup> and 77<sup>th</sup> between Main and Burlington; and Main, Park, and Burlington between 76<sup>th</sup> and 77<sup>th</sup>. During snow events, this is impossible to achieve when residents and businesses are parked in those spots overnight or for

long periods during the day. That's why the City will declare those streets and parking spots as "no parking" during snow events.

To help these downtown businesses and residents, the City has made arrangements with the management of Hillcrest Landing. Hillcrest Landing will allow cars to park in the northwest lot (look for signs). This will occur when the City issues a declaration banning parking on the streets previously mentioned. Commercial vehicles should park on their own property. We are grateful to Don Perry for allowing Hillcrest to be used as back-up parking during snow events.

Again, the best way to know when the City is declaring snow-related parking bans is to sign up for Snow Alert texts. You can also check the website at [cityofralston.com](http://cityofralston.com) or call 402-935-5386.





## MADD HEROS

This dynamic duo is back again. Sgt. Leifeld and Officer Brown made almost 50% of the DUI arrests for their agency in 2020. In a year when law enforcement contacts were limited, these two dedicated their efforts to removing impaired drivers from the roadways and keeping the streets of Ralston safe.

Congratulations to repeat MADD Heroes Sgt. Leifeld and Officer Brown.

*Courtesy of MADD Nebraska.*



## Events

Mark your calendars and plan to attend the following events at the Arena if they are not sold out!!

- ◆ Gabriel "Fluffy" Iglesias —February 4, 2022 at 8:00 PM **SOLD OUT**
- ◆ Walker Hayes - February 5, 2022 at 7:30 PM
- ◆ Omaha Lancers Hockey—February 6, 2022—April 22, 2022
- ◆ Los Elegantes De Jerez — February 12, 2022 at 8:30 PM
- ◆ Cole Swindell — February 18, 2022 at 7:30 PM
- ◆ Omaha Beef Football — March 5, 2022 – June 4, 2022
- ◆ Banda El Recodo — March 6, 2022 at 8:00 PM
- ◆ Papa Roach — March 9, 2022 at 7:00 PM
- ◆ One Night of Queen, Performed by Gary Mullen and The Works - March 11, 2022 at 8:00 PM
- ◆ Omaha City Golden Gloves — March 16, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.
- ◆ LOL Surprise! Live — March 17, 2022 at 6:00 PM
- ◆ Alice Cooper with Special Guest Buckcherry — April 4, 2022 at 7:30 PM
- ◆ Chicago — April 20, 2022 at 7:30 PM
- ◆ Justin Moore with Special Guests Granger Smith feat. Earl Dibbles Jr. and Lucas Hoge — May 20, 2022 at 7:30 PM
- ◆ Price is Right Live! - October 26, 2022 at 7:30 PM

**New events are added daily! Keep up on the events by visiting the Liberty First Credit Union Arena website at [www.libertyfirstcreditunionarena.com](http://www.libertyfirstcreditunionarena.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**—Tim Brousek

**Ward 2**—Lee Fideline

**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**—Maura Kelly

**City Attorney** - Don Ficenec

**Chief of Police**—Marc Leonardo

**Building Official**—Dan Freshman

**Public Works Superintendent**—Greg Dittmer

**Library Director**—Amanda Peña

**Arena General Manager**—Brian Krajewski

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Sold out crowd for Cody Johnson at Liberty First Credit Union Arena on November 19, 2021

***Just a reminder . . .*** 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.