

Our Town

Mayor's Message

Welcome to Spring, maybe?? We had such a harsh winter and then the flooding in our communities! We have been reaching out to several cities that experienced flooding and are trying to help out where we can. Ralston fared very well and we should count our blessings. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your assistance in helping the flooding victims. The Ralston Area Chamber of Commerce is taking donations for the flood victims, so drop your donations by the Chamber Office.

The Hinge Project planning continues to move forward. The short-term focus has shifted to include the downtown businesses. If you are interested in what is going on with the Hinge Project further information is available at City Hall.

As you may have already heard, as of April 1st Spectra Management Group has taken over the management of the Ralston Arena. This was a decision that was made to help the arena succeed with more opportunity to help it run debt-free. We think you will see more concerts and activities taking place at the arena. Please check the arena website at ralstonarena.com to keep informed of the events and activities.



Photo courtesy of Eric Taylor, Ralston Recorder

Mayor Groesser hands out chocolate treats during the 1st Annual Downtown Ralston Chocolate Walk on Saturday, February 9, 2019.

Have a wonderful Spring and I look forward to seeing you at the first "Tunes in Town Square" on May 23rd, 2019.

Mayor Don

Inside this issue

| | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Patching Potholes | 2 |
| Library News | 2 |
| Hinge Redevelopment | 3 |
| Ralston Arena Events | 3 |
| Tree City USA | 3 |
| Officials | 4 |
| Welcome Officer Byers | 4 |

Patching Potholes . . .

After a much-needed break in the weather in early March, City of Ralston Public Works Department employees were busy patching potholes.

We had 8 tons of asphalt left over from last year to use in patching. However, to date we will have used an additional 32 to 35 tons of asphalt.



The Public Works employees continue to work diligently to take care of the potholes throughout the City.



Public Works employees Greg Dittmer (above) and Jason Prisantas (left)

Here's a list of the upcoming events at Ralston's Baright Public Library!

Please join us!

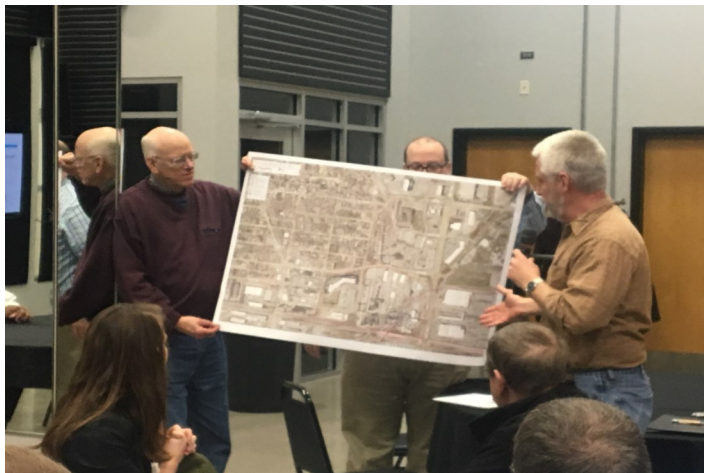
Easter Egg Hunt - Friday, April 19th at 1:00 PM – Come to the library for an Easter storytime, crafts, pictures with the Easter Bunny and an epic Easter egg hunt inside the library!

Out & About Storytime @ Ralston Park – Thursday, April 25th at 10:30 AM – Help us celebrate Arbor Day! Meet us at Ralston Park for storytime and help us plant trees for our parks! (77th & Park Drive)

Sixth Dimension Show Choir – Tuesday, May 14th at 12:15 PM – Ralston's 6th Grade Show Choir will be ending their tour here at the library! Join us for some live entertainment.

Our **Annual Summer Reading Program** begins May 28th and continues through July 31st. This reading program is for all ages. The kick-off party will be on Wednesday, May 29th at 1:30 PM. Wildlife Encounters will be introducing us to amazing animals from all over the world. Come learn about wildlife conservation and how each of these creatures live and survive in the natural world.

Hinge Redevelopment Moves Forward



In late January, the Ralston Arena was the site of a public meeting attended by 50 people gathered to provide input on the ongoing “Hinge Redevelopment Project.” Mayor Groesser hosted the meeting attended by representatives of city council, several city boards and commissions, the Ralston Area Chamber of Commerce and downtown business community, the Greater Omaha Chamber, the developer community, the Metropolitan Area Planning Agency, Congressman Don Bacon’s office, and members of the public.

In 2017 the city hired Omaha-based engineering firm HDR to lead the city’s effort to create a master plan for the 30-acre redevelopment area along Main Street, between 72nd Street and downtown Ral-

ston. Participants at the January meeting helped identify the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT analysis) posed by the project and brainstormed ideas for what kinds of businesses and residences might ultimately be located in the redevelopment area.

A three-day workshop was held in March to incorporate what was learned at the January meeting. During this workshop, the Hinge project strategy shifted to a short-term focus to improve the City’s downtown area. Starting small in the downtown area could make adjacent areas more appealing.

The plan will be further refined and a final draft will be ready later this year.

33 Years as a Tree City!!!

The City of Ralston has earned the Tree City USA recognition for 2018, marking **33 years as Tree City USA status!** The Tree City USA program is sponsored by the Arbor Day Foundation in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service and the National Association of State Foresters. Ralston achieved Tree City USA recognition by meeting the program’s four requirements: a tree board or department, a tree-care ordinance, an annual community forestry budget of at least \$2 per capita and an Arbor Day observance and proclamation.

Thank you to our Parks Department personnel. Thank you also to our Park and Tree Commission members for your dedication and service to the Park and Tree Board.

Ralston Arena Events

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

April 2019

Apr 6

Midwest Golden Gloves
2019 Regional

Apr 6-7

Train & Toy Show

Apr 12

Omaha Lancers vs Lincoln

Apr 13

Omaha Beef vs Wichita

Apr 19

FOP Presents—A Tribute to
Frank Sinatra

Apr 20

Magnum Pro Wrestling

Apr 25

WWE Presents NXT Live!

Apr 26

George Thorogood &
The Destroyers

Apr 27

Omaha Beef vs Texas

Apr 27

Stand-Up Comedy Nite
w/Aubree Sweeney

May 2019

May 10

101.9 The Keg Presents Hairball

May 25

Omaha Beef vs Oklahoma

June 2019

Jun 1

Omaha Heart vs Nashville

Jun 15

Omaha Beef vs Salina

Jun 22

Omaha Beef vs Sioux City

**New events are added daily!
Keep up on the events by
visiting the Ralston Arena web-
site at 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—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—Brian Krajewski

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

Click on the newsletter tab and sign up.

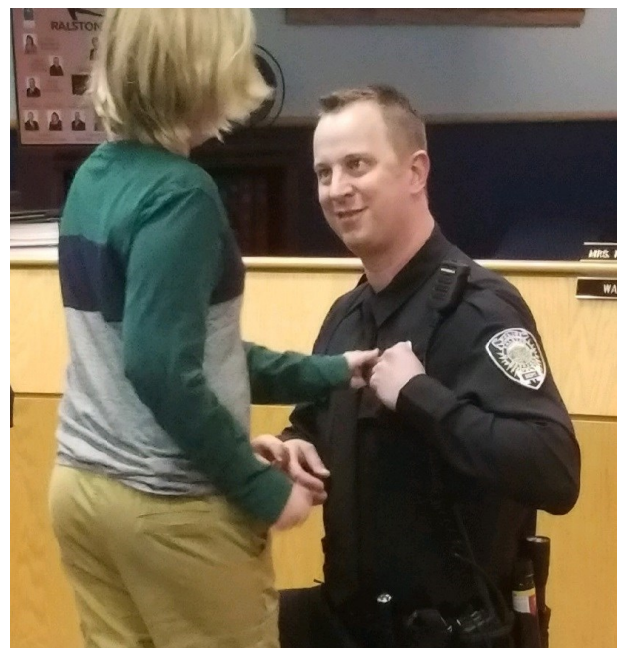
Or contact us at cityhall@cityofralston.com

Welcome to Ralston Officer Byers

On March 19, 2019, the Ralston City Council approved the appointment of Zachary Byers as Ralston’s newest Police Officer.



City Attorney Klinker administers the Oath of Office to newly appointed Police Officer Zachary Byers.



Officer Byers' son helps pin on his badge.