

Our Town

Mayor's Message

Well, it's already starting to look like fall—leaves turning colors, cooler mornings, and schools in session.

Did you know that part of Ralston's heritage includes having the designation of "Tree City USA" for 33 years? Our city is so blessed to have beautiful parks and tree-lined streets that help make Ralston a wonderful place to live.

We had a busy summer with Tunes in Town Square and the largest Independence Day parade in the state. Lots of fun activities took place this past summer!

Our Public Works Department has been busy filling the enormous number of potholes that have shown up due to the harsh winter. They have used about 160 tons of asphalt so far!

There have been mixed reviews on the tall grass program that we tried this year. We are reviewing the program with the Park and Tree Commission to determine what will be done next year.

Due to the deterioration of the concrete at the Ralston Arena new concrete was installed at the entrance to the Arena in August. The new concrete looks very nice!

The Baright Public Library has had a record number of young people attending the summer programs this year. We just received notification that the Library has once again received the gold level accreditation for another three years.

City Hall has been evaluating and updating the processes of permitting and inspections. We hope this will make it easier for Ralston residents to get their projects inspected.

Our Police Department is now back to full strength. The Police Officers do a great job of handling the Independence Day activities as well as working with the special programs for which we receive grants—special programs such as "Drive Sober, Get Pulled Over" and "Click It or Ticket".

Overall, we have had a good summer and are looking forward to fall and, hopefully, a mild winter.

Mayor Don



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news and information
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Congratulations to the Ralston Volunteer Fire Department and Rescue Squad

Thanks to Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation, the Ralston Volunteer Fire Department and Rescue Squad, Inc. was awarded a lifesaving equipment grant.

The Ralston Fire Department and Rescue Squad was awarded carbon monoxide monitoring capabilities for two existing cardiac monitors, valued at \$11,053.00.

The awarded devices will ensure first responders can quickly determine whether CO is present when responding to calls.

Pictured: Fire Chief Kevin Eischeid and Rescue Captain Jason Banks



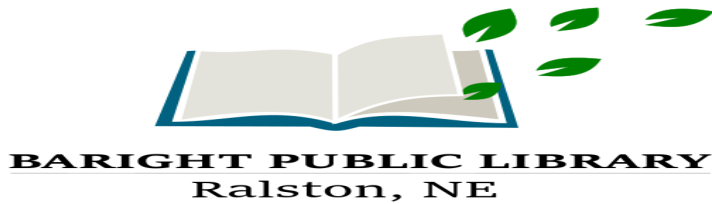
English Language Literacy Kits

If you or someone you know needs assistance in learning the English language, the library is now circulating English literacy bags containing resources that can help. Through a memorial fund in honor of Jo Gilreath, the Library Foundation was able to supply funding for these literacy bags. Jo Gilreath, a Ralston resident and Library Foundation volunteer who passed away on June 24, 2017, taught at Minne Lusa Elementary School in Omaha for many years, sharing her love of learning with her 4th grade students. The literacy bags are intended to serve as an active reminder of Jo's passion for reading, words, and libraries.

Library staff member, Linda Miles, who also teaches English at Lutheran Family Services,

teaches one-on-one English sessions at the library by appointment. Linda curated the resources that are in each of the 4 literacy bags. The first 3 bags contain content that increase in English language abilities as the English learner progresses. Each of the bags contain simple stories with high interest level content but simplified, yet important vocabulary for the person using the bag. The final and 4th bag contains an array of content designed for an entire family to engage in together. All of the bags contain a variety of materials: print books, audio books on CD, and Launchpads, a tablet equipped with educational games and vocabulary.





Baright Public Library Receives Gold Level Accreditation

Each public library in the state must go through a process of accreditation to encourage excellent library service in their subsequent community. Accreditation from the Nebraska Library Commission is valid for 3 years. The process of accreditation: establishes minimum standards for library service; ensures that libraries adhere to certain standards; offers libraries benchmarks; and offers libraries evidence that certain expenditures, services, and practices are needed and expected.

Based upon a point system in which libraries accrue points as they meet state standards and benchmarks,

there are three levels of accreditation with a maximum total of 275 points available.

Points required for each level:

- 250—Gold Level
- 200—Silver Level
- 175—Bronze Level

2019 was Baright Public Library's year to renew accreditation. After submitting the appropriate documentation in September, the library received notice that we will again be accredited at the highest Gold level for another 3 years until December 31, 2022.

Town Hall Meeting

Senator Steve Lathrop conducted the first Town Hall meeting for District 12 on October 1st in the Centennial Room at Ralston City Hall.

Senator Lathrop informed constituents of his work in the Legislature and held a question and answer session.

Pictured: Mayor Groesser and Senator Lathrop



Ralston Arena Events

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

October 2019

Oct 5

Omaha Roller Derby

Oct 11

Omaha Hockey Hall of Fame

Oct 12

Drip the Runway Fashion Show

Oct 12

Omaha Lancers Hockey

Oct 19

Magnum Pro Wrestling

Rocky Horror

Omaha Lancers Hockey

Oct 25

KGOR Deadman's Halloween

Party

Oct 26

Omaha Lancers Hockey

November 2019

Nov 2

Omaha Lancers Hockey

Nov 7—10

Autumn Festival—Arts & Crafts Affair

Nov 16

Llega La Banda Mas

Arrolladora Que Nunca

Nov 22

Omaha Lancers Hockey

December 2019

Dec 7

Omaha Lancers Hockey

Dec 13—14

Omaha Lancers Hockey

New events are added daily!

Keep up on the events by visiting the Ralston Arena website at

www.ralstonarena.com

Local Government Officials & City Department Heads

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."

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

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Click on the newsletter tab and sign up.

Or contact us at cityhall@cityofralston.com



Last Blast of Summer Fun!!



The Last Blast of Summer returned to Downtown Ralston on August 29th. The event featured the live band eNVy, lots of kids activities, and food trucks offering a variety of tasty treats!



With the weather changing, Don't forget ...

It is unlawful to rake or blow your leaves or deposit snow 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.

New Ralston Residents

The City of Ralston has new resident packets available. Visit our website at www.cityofralston.com and click on the "new to Ralston tab". Fill in the form to get the new resident packet mailed to you. The packet contains information on schools, utilities, trash pick up, Ralston parks, as well as other helpful information.