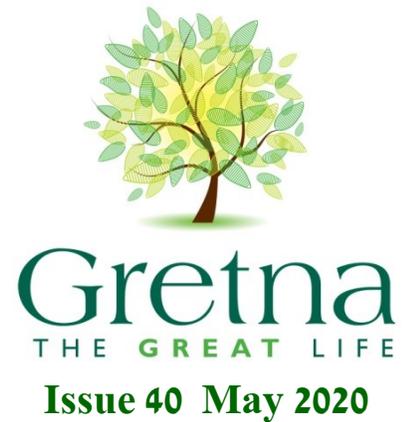


# THE GREAT LIFE NEWS

City of Gretna's Monthly Newsletter



## The Cost of a Green Lawn

With summer approaching, many of us are anxious to enjoy our lush green lawns. In an effort to go from brown to green, our irrigation systems are a great asset, but they can also cost a lot of green! It is not uncommon for folks to be shocked by summertime water bills because they don't realize just how much water is being used.

For example, if you have an 8 zone sprinkler system, each zone could use as much as 35 gallons per minute. If your sprinkler is set to run for 30 minutes, you could be using as much as 8,400 gallons of water; twice a week could take you up to 16,800. Before calculating household usage & customer service fees, a house that is located outside the city limits could be racking up about \$290/ mo. just in water for their lawn; and systems vary in size and output. It is often surprising to see just how much water is being used to keep that lawn beautiful. So before setting your sprinkler schedules this year, consider how much green you want to put into it!



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### Pedestrian Reminder

Now that the weather is improving and with the COVID-19 issue, more people are working from home, it's important to realize that more people are out walking. For the safety of pedestrians and courtesy to vehicular traffic, please walk on the sidewalks. They are there to use. Also, while you are out walking your dog, please have them on a leash and pick up after them. Your neighbors will appreciate it.

# Is it Time to Build a Shed or Accessory Building?

The Building Permit Application is available on our website, [www.gretnane.org](http://www.gretnane.org) in the Building and Zoning Department

**The City of Gretna requires all construction to comply with the 2018 International Residential Building Code, 2017 National Electrical Code and the City of Gretna Zoning Code**

- Call Digger Hotline 1-800-331-5666 or 811 for buried utility locations before construction
- Please allow a 24 – hour notice when calling for an inspection — 402-332-3336 Ext. 1209
- Building may not be located in the side yard or front yard, unless its in a TA or AG Zone
- Building may not be located closer than 6 ft. to the principal structure or any other building on its own property or any adjacent properties
- Building may not be located within an easement or right-of-way
- All buildings, regardless of zoning district, shall be subordinate to be principal building with regard to size and building footprint except in the AG and TA Districts
- Maximum Size in R1, R2, R3— 720 sq. ft., maximum of 2 structures with a total of 720 sq. ft.
- It is the homeowner's responsibility to identify existing easements, location of lot lines and, if applicable covenant restrictions.
- Refer to our zoning code or call the office for set-back requirements

## **Storage shed**

### **An accessory building of 144 square foot or less**

- Buildings 80 sq. ft. or less do not require a permit but must comply with setbacks and anchorage
- Inspections Required Rough and Final Electrical if applies and a Final on the Building Permit



## **Accessory Building**

### **A structure larger then 144 square foot**

#### **Inspections that are required**

- **Footing Inspection**—Once the footings are dug for the poles and before concrete is poured
- **Rough-in Electrical**—Before rough-in framing inspection
- **Rough-in/Framing Inspection**—After all Framing, electric and plumbing (if applicable) are “roughed-in” and before enclosing or covering
- **Final Electrical Inspection**—Before final building inspection
- **Final Building Inspection**—After the completion of the entire building

# PLANTING TREES

Whether you might be looking at large deciduous trees for shade and reducing the load on an air conditioner, or evergreen trees for a windbreak to help reduce heating bills; selecting the right tree for the right location is an important first step before planting a tree and this writer believes the most important factor is the location.

You will need to take size and space needed into consideration, keeping the future in mind for the mature tree. Remember to leave plenty of distance from foundations, overhead power lines, and do not plant on top of water, sewer, gas, and communication lines.

The National Arbor Day Foundation and University of Nebraska Extension have good reference materials for tree plantings here in Nebraska. You could also consult with a Certified Arborist from the Nebraska Arborists Association or a local Nurseryman for professional help.

The City also has ordinances that restrict trees from being planted between the street and the sidewalk. If you want to plant a tree in this area, a written permit must be obtained from the City; which is approved by Council. There is no fee for this tree planting permit. If a tree is growing between the curb and sidewalk and it becomes an obstruction for line-of-site or becomes a hazard, the owner will be notified to remove the tree at his/her expense. (Ordinance 335, 4/7/87)

As a final note, with the recent problems with Pine Wilt and the Emerald Ash Borer; it is not recommended to plant any variety of Ash or Scotch Pines.

Do your research, make your choice and before you dig, call Diggers Hotline (811).

HAPPY PLANTING!



You can FRIEND us at "City of Gretna, Nebraska". You will receive notices on job openings, the City Calendar, and recent notices that we also post on our website.

## **Gretna City Hall**

204 N. McKenna Ave

Gretna, NE 68028

402-332-3336 ph.

[www.gretnane.org](http://www.gretnane.org)

## **Sheriff's Dept.**

Non-Emergency: 402-593-4111

**Emergencies: 911**

