

It's nearly summer and green looks great in Gretna. I have always enjoyed the seasons our state has to offer, but the warmer weather and the excitement that spring and summer brings is always great.

It's a time for planting, graduations, grilling, outdoor activities and conversations over the fence with our neighbors. Our community is also in full spring mode, with growth in all directions, the excitement of new businesses on the way, and opening of new outdoor activities just around the corner. I hope you and your family are well and able to enjoy all things Gretna!

*Mike Evans*  
*Mayor, City of Gretna*

### **Tree Please...**

Gretna has a long tradition of supporting our community's natural resources and particularly the importance of trees. I want to thank our tree board for not only promoting all things trees, but also getting their hands dirty and planting them as well. Through their time and leadership Gretna was again named a Tree City USA by the Arbor Day Foundation. We are one around 3,600 communities nationwide that prioritize trees in our community and it shows.

### **Year in Review for '22**

This last year was a fantastic year for our community. We added businesses such as Fareway, Casey's, Heavy Brewing, Good Life Sports Bar, Stories Coffee, First National Bank and REI to name a few. Announced 2 new fiber providers who will deliver high speed internet to our community. We issued 1,273 building permits, versus 304 the previous year. We lowered our tax levy for the first time in 13 years. As our community continues to grow, we are focusing on meeting the infrastructure demands, scaling our services to match the needs of the citizens, keeping our quality of life, while continuing our culture of being fiscally conservative. We recently released our State of the City report, which you can find the full report on both at [www.gretnane.org](http://www.gretnane.org) or on the City of Gretna's Facebook page.

### **Gretna Crossing Park**

As the excitement continues to build we shift from building this great park, to opening it. The park is on schedule to open this coming September. We began immediately after the passing of the 2 funding elections in later 2020. In spite of a global pandemic, unprecedented supply chain challenges and labor shortages our partners and staff have done a fantastic job of delivering a generational park. We have raised over \$2 million dollars in corporate sponsorships to help minimize the tax payer burden on its maintenance. As construction winds down we will be releasing more information on Opening Weekend.



## **Pickleball Anyone**

The 6 new pickleball courts are now open. This sport offers individuals of all skills and ages to enjoy being active outdoors and meeting others. If you are a member of the library, you can check out a pickleball kit with instructions, paddles and balls. Give it a try!

## **Roads and Construction**

Adding housing options and bringing new businesses is exciting, but it also creates a lot of demands on the roads and infrastructure. Roads that a few years ago were lightly travelled are now becoming main corridors for daily traffic. We are working diligently with Sarpy County, NDOT and local developers to keep up with the demands. All these entities understand the need and urgency to improve our road network. We appreciate your patience through the planning, construction and delivery of these projects. Two big projects are being completed this year, first being the Connect Sarpy Project opening 180<sup>th</sup> north and Cornhusker to the west. The second is the opening of 204<sup>th</sup> Street to Capehart and then Capehart to Highway 6/31 later this summer.

## **Library**

Like so many of our community's services, infrastructure and resources our library has become much too small to serve our community, especially considering Gretna is forecast to be over 50,000 by area planners by 2050. Libraries built now are much different than the libraries of the past. New libraries include a variety of programs, resources and knowledge. The Library Foundation has been completing their community outreach to see what resources and services the residents of Gretna feel are most important. They will be sharing the results of this survey soon.

## **Safety & Service**

Thank you to our Sarpy County Sheriff department for their increased presence in our community and surrounding roads. Also, big Thank You to our volunteer Fire & Emergency services team. Four years ago these volunteers made 1,077 calls and in 2022 they made over 1,400 (an average of 4 calls/day). Their leadership understands our community will continue to grow and to support that they will need to begin hiring a full time crew for Emergency Medical Services. While a bigger financial commitment from the City is required, it is important we provide these often life saving services very timely.

