



2020 Annual Report



2020 Annual Report

About Norfolk

The Mission of the City of Norfolk is to “provide quality public services in an effective and efficient manner to enhance the common good and quality of life including citizen involvement.”

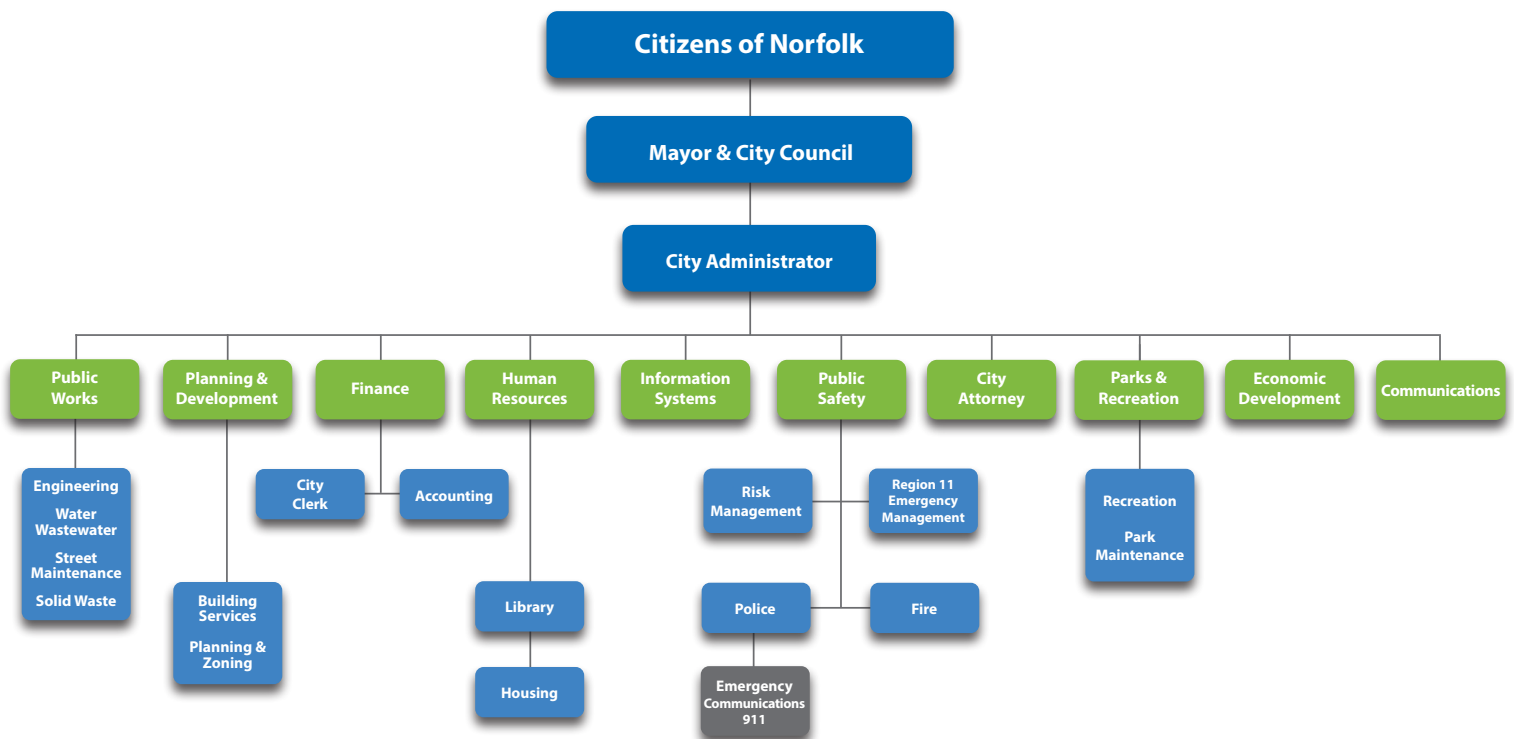
In 1881, the Village of Norfolk was organized. The settlers proclaimed “North Fork” to be their permanent post office address, named after the river, but suggested “Norfork” as the simplest compounding of “North Fork.” Postal authorities, thinking the word had been misspelled, changed the spelling to “Norfolk.”

This is why you may hear some Norfolks pronounce it Nor-fork. Whichever way you decide to say it, know that we are glad to have you here.

*Skatepark cover photo courtesy of the Norfolk Daily News

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Josh Moenning
Mayor

jmoenning@norfolkne.gov

Dear Norfolkans:

I think we all got more than we bargained for in 2020.

Nevertheless, despite an unprecedented public health pandemic and national discord to go with it, 2020 was in many ways a year of continued growth and new beginnings in our community.

Norfolk keeps moving ahead the best way we know how. By working hard, by being creative and innovative, by adapting, and by doing our best to love our neighbors as ourselves.

We focused on things we could control. Supporting our small businesses, growing new jobs, building new housing options, creating new attractions, and making our city look and feel just a bit more inviting and welcoming with each step.

The following report provides an overview of much of this work. Whether it's continued infrastructure development, business growth, or quality of life investment, you'll see that despite unforeseen circumstances plans moved forward, projects were started and finished, and new ideas became new opportunities.

Finding a way through, flipping obstacles to opportunities in the process, is what our ancestors did. It's what we'll continue to do, building a better place for our families and for those who come after us.

Sincerely,



Josh Moenning, Mayor





MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

The City of Norfolk has a Mayor/ Council form of government. The Mayor and eight council members are elected on a non-partisan ballot.

The Norfolk City Council meets at 5:30 p.m. on the first and third Mondays of each month in the City Council Chambers at 309 N. 5th Street, Norfolk, Nebraska.

NEW REPRESENTATION

On November 3, 2020, voters elected Kory Hildebrand to succeed Dick Pfeil and Frank Arens to succeed Jim Lange. Both Pfeil and Lange chose not to run for re-election. Hildebrand and Arens began their terms at the December 7, 2020 City Council meeting.

Mayor Josh Moenning and council-members Gary Jackson and Thad Murren all ran unopposed and were elected to serve another four years in their respective roles.

Incoming Councilmen
Effective December 2020



Kory Hildebrand
Ward 1, Term expires 12/2024



Frank Arens
Ward 2, Term expires 12/2024

Ward 2



Jim Lange
Council President
jlange@norfolkne.gov
Term expires 12/2020

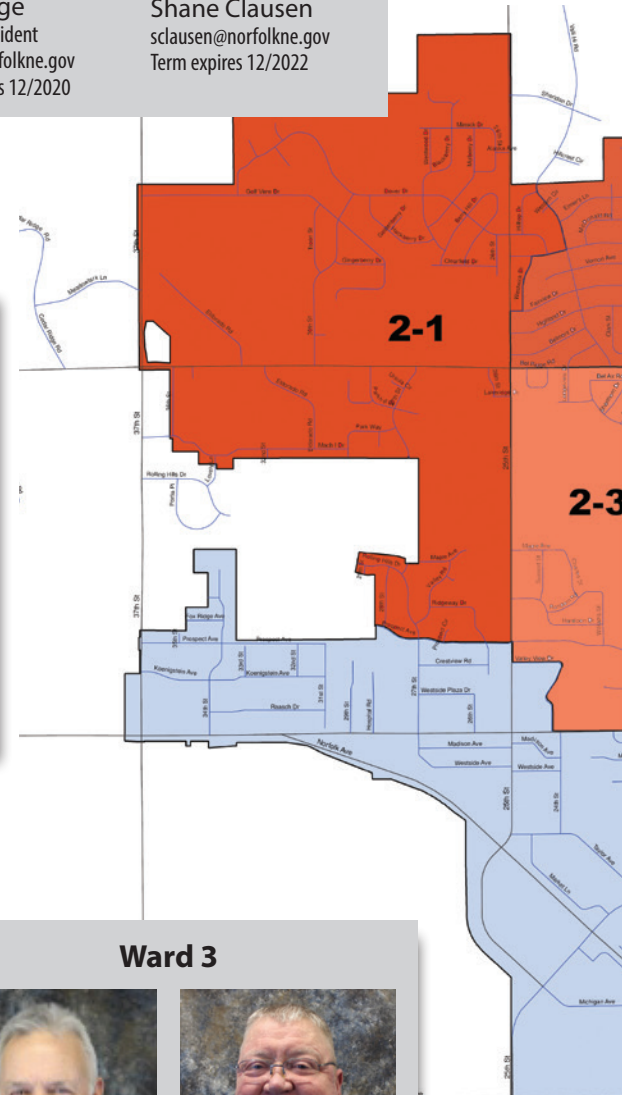


Shane Clausen
sclausen@norfolkne.gov
Term expires 12/2022

Mayor



Josh Moenning
jmoenning@norfolkne.gov
Term expires 12/2024



Ward 3

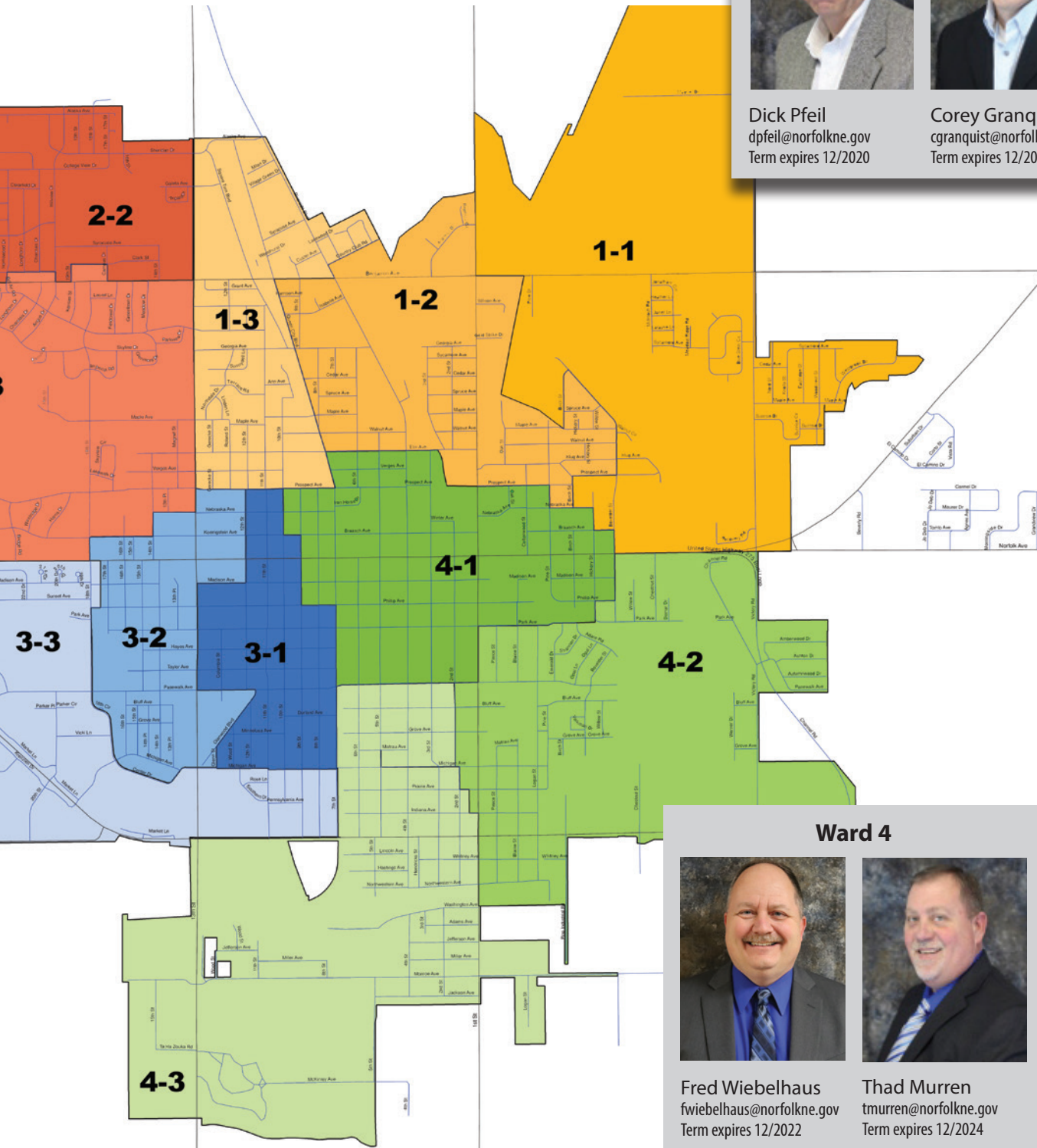


Rob Merrill
rmerrill@norfolkne.gov
Term expires 12/2022



Gary L. Jackson
gjackson@norfolkne.gov
Term expires 12/2024

2020 Norfolk City Council Representatives



Ward 1



Dick Pfeil
dpfeil@norfolkne.gov
Term expires 12/2020

Corey Granquist
cgranquist@norfolkne.gov
Term expires 12/2022

Ward 4



Fred Wiebelhaus
fwiebelhaus@norfolkne.gov
Term expires 12/2022

Thad Murren
tmurren@norfolkne.gov
Term expires 12/2024

Administration



Members of the 2020 Norfolk City Council being sworn in by the Honorable Judge Ross Stoffer

COUNCIL MEMBERS SWORN IN

On Monday, December 7, 2020, Frank Arens (Ward 2) and Kory Hildebrand (Ward 1) began their terms on the Norfolk City Council after being elected on November 3, 2020. The new councilmen replaced Jim Lange and Dick Pfeil, respectively.

Lange had been a Ward 2 councilman for the past 20 years and served as City Council President from 2014 to 2020. Prior to serving as a City Councilman, Jim served on the Norfolk Planning Commission from 1990 to 2000 and as Chairman of the Planning Commission from 1992 to 2000. Pfeil served as a councilman for Ward 1 for the past 8 years. Both chose not to run for re-election.

Incumbents Gary Jackson (Ward 3) and Thad Murren (Ward 4) ran unopposed and retained their seats on the City Council.

Jackson first joined the City Council in 2016 and Murren has been a member since 2010. Mayor Moenning also ran unopposed and retained his seat.

The Honorable Judge Ross Stoffer oversaw the swearing-in of Jackson, Murren, Arens, Hildebrand and Moenning. Councilman Rob Merrill (Ward 3) was appointed to serve as Council President.

Norfolk City Council members do more than just attend the bi-monthly City Council meetings; they also sit on subcommittees,

research various projects, and field phone calls from citizens within their respective wards.

Norfolk City Council meetings are held at 5:30 p.m. every first and third Monday evening in the City Council Chambers located at 309 North 5th Street (use the north-west door). Council meetings are also live-streamed on the City website as well as cable television. Every quarter, there is a public comment period at which citizens may speak about items not on the agenda; no action may be taken on any public comment period item.



Mayor Moenning presenting award to Councilman Pfeil



NEW HEAD OF COMMUNICATIONS

Candace Schmidt serves as the Communications Manager for the City of Norfolk. Candace was hired in 2009 for the Economic Development office. She began her new role on March 1, just days before the announcement of the global pandemic. With that came an array of meetings and press conferences, in which she made it a priority to expand the accessibility of information by bringing forth the incorporation of sign language and bi-lingual interpreters. Communicating effectively to all Norfolk residents remains a top priority.



Candace Schmidt,
Communications Manager

MAYOR'S DIVERSITY COUNCIL

The City of Norfolk received a grant from the Norfolk Area Community

Foundation for the Mayor's Diversity Council (MDC) efforts. Part of the grant provided diversity and inclusion training to MDC members, through the Inclusive Communities group out of Omaha.

STRONG SALES TAX DESPITE PANDEMIC

In fiscal year 2020, the City's sales tax receipts were \$9,175,595. This compares to \$8,622,914 received in fiscal year 2019. **Sales tax increased \$552,681 or 6.41% from fiscal year 2019 to 2020 despite the global COVID-19 pandemic.** The City saw two months of sales tax decreases for April and May sales, and the following months have all been increases. The first three months of sales tax receipts for fiscal year 2021 are up \$95,869 or 4.12% from the same period in the prior year.

CITY BOARDS & COMMISSIONS

If you are interested in serving on a City Advisory Board or Commission, you may fill out and print the online application, or pickup an application at the City Administration office located at 309 N. 5th Street.

BOARDS & COMMISSIONS

Interested in serving?
Let us know!



- HOUSING AGENCY BOARD
- PLUMBING BOARD
- CITIZEN ADVISORY REVIEW COMMITTEE



- TREE ADVISORY BOARD
- TRAIL ADVISORY BOARD
- RIVERFRONT OVERLAY REVIEW BOARD



- LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD
- VEHICLE PARKING DISTRICT ADVISORY BOARD
- VEHICLE PARKING DISTRICT LOAN ADVISORY BOARD



- PROPERTY TAX COMPLIANCE REVIEW COMMITTEE
- BOARD OF ZONING ADJUSTMENT
- PLANNING COMMISSION



- FIRE CODE APPEALS BOARD
- CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION
- BUILDING CODE APPEALS/PROPERTY MAINTENANCE BOARD OF APPEALS

MORE INFO AT NORFOLKNE.GOV

CITY RECEIVES TWO FINANCE AWARDS

The City of Norfolk was again recognized by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA).

The first recognition was a Distinguished Budget Presentation award. The City was recognized for its Annual Budget for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 2019. In order to receive this award, a governmental unit must publish a budget document that meets program criteria as a policy document, as a financial plan, as an operations guide, and as a communications device.

The second was a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting. The GFOA established this certificate to encourage and assist state and local governments to go beyond the minimum requirements of generally accepted accounting principles to prepare comprehensive annual financial reports that evidence the spirit of transparency and full disclosure and then to recognize individual governments



CITIES STRONG TOGETHER

that succeed in achieving that goal.

The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in governmental accounting and financial reporting.

MAYOR ELECTED TO NATIONAL LEAGUE OF CITIES BOARD

In November, Norfolk Mayor Josh Moenning was elected to serve on the Board of Directors of the National League of Cities (NLC), the nation's largest membership and advocacy organization for local elected officials, at its 2020 Virtual City Summit.

Moenning was appointed in 2019 to serve on NLC's Small Cities Council and its Energy, Environment and Natural

Resources Advocacy Committee. He will be the only Nebraska elected official serving on the NLC Board of Directors for 2021-2022 and one of a few representing cities in the Midwest.

The National League of Cities is an organization comprised of city, town, and village leaders who are focused on improving the quality of life for their current and future constituents. With more than 90 years of dedication to the strength, health and advancement of local governments, NLC has gained the trust and support of more than 2,000 cities across the nation. Its mission is to strengthen local leadership, influence federal policy and drive innovative solutions.

More information can be found on the website: <https://www.nlc.org>.



City staff: Kelli Svitak, Randy Gates, Melissa Drevecky, & Shelia Rios all help put together the City Budget

COVID-19



COVID-19 joint press conference held March 16, 2020

THE GLOBAL PANDEMIC OF THE 21ST CENTURY

Following a year of historic flooding, one might have expected 2020 to be ordinary, but it quickly turned extraordinary once spring arrived. In March, the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a global pandemic. Shortly thereafter, the State of Nebraska declared a State of Emergency on March 13. The City of Norfolk followed suit on March 23.

Wasting no time, City officials quickly began meeting with the public health department, medical partners, and other community stakeholders on a regular basis.

A joint press conference was held in the City Council Chambers to provide information to the community on the current state of the COVID-19 pandemic in the area. Along with City officials, representatives from the Elkhorn Logan Valley Public Health Department (ELVPHD), Faith Regional Health Services, Midtown Health Clinic, Norfolk Area Chamber of Commerce, YMCA and local schools were all present. Unlike a flood, the pandemic is not isolated to just a section of town; it has had a profound impact on the entire Norfolk area and beyond.

DIRECTED HEALTH MEASURES

The State of Nebraska implemented Directed Health Measures (DHMs) like many other states in hopes of slowing the spread of the coronavirus.

This affected Norfolk area businesses, schools, and residents alike. The City of Norfolk eventually had to limit walk-in services in many of the City buildings. Through it all, the City remained functioning and available to serve Norfolk residents.

As local traffic slowed, the City took it as an opportunity to proceed with many construction projects around town. Georgia Avenue, Elm Avenue Bridge repair, and Braasch Avenue reconstruction are just some of the projects completed during this time.

SMALL BUSINESS ASSISTANCE

In addition, in true Norfolkian fashion, the community still found ways to rally together. From to-go margaritas, curbside takeout, and drive by scavenger hunts, the people of Norfolk remained supportive as ever. Mayor Josh Moenning and the Norfolk Area Chamber of Commerce organized a Small Business Virtual Roundtable event in an effort to provide small business owners guidance on available resources to weather impacts of the pandemic.

The conference included speakers from the Nebraska Department of Economic Development, Nebraska State Chamber of Commerce, Nebraska Bankers Association, Nebraska Department of Labor, U.S. Small Business Administration, U.S. Department of Agriculture and members of Norfolk's Small Business Resource Team.

City staff in collaboration with the Norfolk Area Chamber of Commerce, community partners, and generous donors created the Regrow 2020 Program, a small business relief gift card program designed to provide immediate support to Madison County Businesses. More than \$350,000 was infused into the regional economy as a result.

PUBLIC SAFETY

The City of Norfolk also worked with the state in providing Test Nebraska locations to conduct mobile COVID-19 testing along with generating awareness for the free testing service made available to Nebraska residents.

Even as some DHMs were relaxed, the pandemic did not slow down. This led to the City Council making a tough decision on passing an emergency ordinance on November 23 which required in-door mask usage. The Council did so in consultation with the medical community, based on concerns of hospital capacity. With a vaccination on the horizon the City remains hopeful that if we all play our part in slowing down the spread— not only are we all safer, but we can keep our businesses open, kids can remain in school, and healthcare workers along with first responders can catch a well-deserved break.

Click the Red Banner on City Website to locate COVID Resources in English & Spanish



norfolkne.gov

Infrastructure Projects



Paving of Braasch Avenue

BRAASCH AVENUE

In a much-needed face lift to the downtown area, the Braasch Avenue Reconstruction Project was completed just before Thanksgiving of 2020.

The project was broken into three phases, all of which included utility work, paving and landscaping work. Narrowing of the road allowed for a paved concrete trail on both sides of the roadway making this a more pedestrian friendly walkway.

The project stemmed from a community survey which was part of a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) awarded to the City of Norfolk.

As the project progressed, video

updates were provided by Mayor Josh Moening and Staff Engineer John Cahill. The videos were posted to the City's social media pages.

SOUTH 25TH STREET

Street panel replacement on South 25th Street from US-275 south to the west private drive of Wal-Mart and the adjacent shopping center was completed in June. Work was completed by city staff which helped save cost.

GEORGIA AVENUE

Paving was completed on 2nd Street and Georgia Avenue behind the Norfolk Middle School and YMCA. Along with paving of the two streets, utility work was also completed as a part of the project throughout the summer.

RIVERPOINT SQUARE

Construction is nearly complete on the Riverpoint Square, located next to the Johnny Carson murals at the corner of Third Street and Norfolk Avenue. Much of the work was completed in the fall with a few smaller details that will be completed in the spring of 2021.

Outdoor seating, planters, canopy lighting, and a shade structure are all components of the downtown pocket park. The project also includes the paving of an adjacent alleyway.

The City was awarded a CDBG grant from the Department of Economic Development for downtown revitalization to help fund a portion of the project.





John Cahill, staff engineer, discussing progress with local contractors

VICTORY ROAD WATER & SANITARY SEWER EXTENSIONS

Victory Road water and sanitary sewer extensions were installed the spring of 2020. The project consisted of the installation and construction of approximately 3,000 linear feet of 12" water main, 1,800 linear feet of 8" water main, 3,000 linear feet of 15" sanitary sewer, and 2,000 linear feet of 8" sanitary sewer. The project also involved the crossing of Victory Road at both the Bluff and Grove intersections.

NORFOLK LEVEE REPAIR

Work was completed on the Norfolk Levee Repair project in the summer of 2020. This was an

effort to return the Norfolk Levee to its condition prior to the flood of 2019.

Part of the project was to reconstruct the Norfolk Avenue and Benjamin Avenue trail undercrossings that were washed out with the flood. These undercrossings became unsafe for pedestrian traffic and citizens were not able to use the undercrossing trails until construction was complete.



Levee trail repair

RAASCH AVENUE

The reconstruction of Raasch Avenue from 34th Street to the west entrance of Sugar Plum Oak was completed in the spring of 2020. The project included removal and replacement of concrete pavement, updated handicap ramps, and adjustment of drop inlets to grade.



Elm Avenue Bridge completed

ELM AVENUE BRIDGE

The Elm Avenue bridge between 3rd Street and 4th Street was repaired in the spring and summer of 2020 and was finished just ahead of schedule. The project consisted of deck repair, approach mill and overlay, and sidewalk repair.

BENJAMIN AVENUE BRIDGE

The Benjamin Avenue Bridge over the North Fork of the Elkhorn River was also updated this past summer. The project included deck repair, abutment repair, girder painting, barrier rail repair, new approach guardrail, expansion joint repairs, and approach slab repairs.



Raasch Avenue paving

City officials, stakeholders, and staff hosted an open house in August to gather citizen input for the One & Six Year Street Plans



Public Works

ONE & SIX YEAR PLANS

The Nebraska Department of Transportation requires each county and municipality to develop, adopt, annually update, and maintain a One and Six-Year Plan or Program of highway, road and street improvements. The plan is based on priority of needs and calculated to contribute to the orderly development of an integrated statewide system of highways, roads, and streets.

The Mayor and City Council must hold a public hearing, approve, and adopt the Plan or Program at the time of the budget finalization, but no later than September 30 of each year.

A packed house attended an informational meeting held in

August at the Norfolk Public Library. At the meeting, the City was able to gather community input on the Street Improvements Plan from attendees. A brief presentation was given along with a short video and an optional survey for residents. Several staff were also on hand to answer any questions. A storyboard with the information is available on the City website for community members to review.

BENJAMIN AVENUE RECONSTRUCTION

Benjamin Avenue from 1st to 13th Street is an urban arterial roadway that connects the City of Norfolk from east to west and provides access to many businesses. Major portions of Benjamin Avenue's pavement has exceeded

its intended life cycle. Stormwater drainage along the road is also in need of improvement and will be completed as a part of this project. The city has engaged a design team, led by Doug Holle of Schemmer Associates, to study the area and provide a design solution for the roadway.

An open house was held in February at the Lifelong Learning Center to discuss the Benjamin Avenue Improvements. The project is on schedule to bid in the summer of 2021 with utility relocations starting immediately in the fall of 2021.

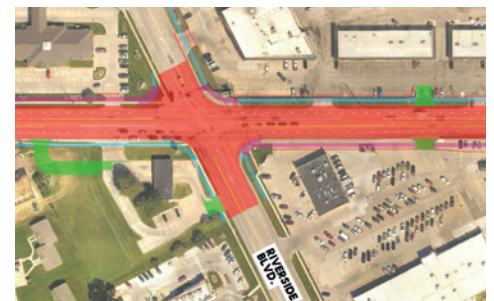
Stay up-to-date on this project and others by checking out the newly featured *City Projects* page on the City website. Project maps, descriptions, timelines, and more can be found there.



Councilmen Merrill & Wiebelhaus visiting with citizens at one & six year planning session



City staff member Jason Hansen engaging with citizens at one & six year open house



Benjamin Avenue reconstruction concept



Northeast Water Tower construction

NORTHEAST WATER TOWER

Located northeast of Norfolk, the Northeast Water Tower project consisted of the construction of a 750,000 gallon elevated steel water storage tank.

The project also included improvements to the northeast booster station including the installation of a 100 Hp booster pump, bypass line, valves, piping, fittings, electrical, and painting. The tower went into operation just before the end of the year.

INCREASED PARKING DOWNTOWN

More than 40 spots were created as City crews repainted the street parking on Norfolk Avenue. The new spots were created by changing the angle and size of the parking spots on the street from 1st to 8th street, by increasing

the angle from 30 degrees to 36 degrees and slightly narrowing the spots to 8½ feet.

The City is in the process of putting together a parking analysis for the entire downtown area.

SPRING CLEANING

The Norfolk Solid Waste Division lent a hand to residents in an effort to make spring cleaning a little bit easier. The City provided a two-week “Spring Clean-Up” period for residents to bring old appliances and clean concrete for disposal. This year a record 44,540 lbs. of appliances were recycled and 33 bicycles were delivered to the Orphan Grain Train.

TOILET PAPER SHORTAGE

Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, wastewater officials across the state reported increased clogged pipes as a result of citizens flushing items such as paper towels and disposable wipes down the drain. Even when those items make it through the drainage pipes in a person’s home, they can wreak havoc with pumps and other equipment at the community’s wastewater treatment plant. Outreach was done by City staff to



Solid Waste Transfer Station

help generate public awareness on the issue. Staff stressed that sewage drainage pipes are meant for carrying water, excrement and toilet paper– that’s it. If other items have to be used, dispose of them in the trash versus down the toilet.



Dennis Watts Water & Sewer Director



Downtown Norfolk

Public Works

reliability. right at home.

NORTH FORK RIVER AND JOHNSON PARK RESTORATION

The State of Nebraska announced the City of Norfolk was awarded \$1.125 million through the Civic Community Center Financing Fund (CCCCF) to help fund Johnson Park and Riverfront Improvements.

CCCCF grants are awarded to municipalities and administered by the Nebraska Department of Economic Development (NDED) to encourage and foster enhanced quality of life. CCCCFF grants are awarded on a competitive basis, and \$1.125 million is the maximum amount allowed.

The City of Norfolk was also awarded \$425,000 in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Tourism Development funds from the Nebraska Department of Economic Development to help fund the project.



Mayor Moenning & Steve Rames,
Public Works Director

PEDESTRIAN SAFETY MONTH

The City of Norfolk partnered with Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD) to highlight the importance of pedestrian safety in the month of October. Crosswalk signs were presented to the City for placement at two high-traffic areas by NPPD.



Cathy Kathol, NPPD & Steve Rames,
Public Works Director

SOLAR PROJECT

The City of Norfolk is the latest Nebraska municipality to become part of the Nebraska Public Power District's (NPPD) SunWise Community Solar Program. Another component of the project is the installation of a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) that will be tied to the solar array as a demonstration project.

NPPD, with support from the City of Norfolk, received a grant from the Nebraska Environmental Trust



(NET) in the amount of \$490,000 over two years for the BESS project.

NPPD has entered into a 30-year agreement with N Solar for an 8.5 megawatt solar unit to be constructed on land within the City's well field on west Highway 275. The expectation is construction will begin in the spring with operations starting by the end of 2021.

Learn more about
City of Norfolk projects
on our website at
www.NorfolkNE.gov



October is Pedestrian Safety Month

- * Look out for pedestrians everywhere, at all times. Use extra caution when driving in hard-to-see conditions, such as nighttime or bad weather.
- * Slow down and be prepared to stop when turning or otherwise entering a crosswalk. And, never pass vehicles stopped at a crosswalk. There may be people crossing that you can't see.
- * Yield to pedestrians in crosswalks, and stop well back from the crosswalk to give other vehicles an opportunity to see and stop for the crossing pedestrians.
- * Follow the speed limit, especially around people on the street. Follow slower speed limits in school zones and in neighborhoods where children are present.
- * Be extra cautious when backing up—pedestrians can move into your path.



Norfolk library staff diligently worked to bring creative access solutions to the public to address the COVID-19 challenges encountered in 2020

Norfolk Library

enrichment. right at home.

COVID ADJUSTMENTS

When the library closed its doors in March due to the pandemic, service to the public was able to continue in new ways.

A set of lockers was installed outside the library so that library patrons could continue to checkout and utilize library materials. Staff would pull the requested items, check them out, and place them in a secure locker for pickup. This no-contact option was well-used by avid readers and students who needed continued access to educational materials. For those that needed internet access, a total of 40 WiFi hotspots were available for checkout. Ten of those hot spots were funded through the Johnny Carson Foundation and an additional ten were funded through the Norfolk Area Community Foundation



Fund and Daycos4Good. WiFi was also available in the library's parking lot 24/7.

LIBRARY PROGRAMS & EVENTS

Library programs went virtual for the spring and summer, with Storytime and Book Clubs meeting on Zoom and author presentations happening on Facebook Live. Storytime-To-Go was available for families to checkout. The Summer Reading Program went all digital as well, with over 900 readers participating in the on-line only program. Craft and STEM kits were created and over 3,000 were distributed over the course of the summer.



Outdoor event at the library

MAKERSPACE CLASSES

The library's MakerSpace currently has an Embroidery Machine, Laser Cutter, 3D Printer, Vinyl & Fabric Cutter, and a Button Maker.



Library MakerSpace

The MakerSpace provides public access to high-tech equipment to boost technology skills and creative opportunities. The 3D Printer, Vinyl & Fabric Cutter, and a Button Maker were added to the MakerSpace this year through a grant from the Nebraska Library Commission.

Video classes were created so that training and use of the equipment could continue even when in-person classes were not possible.

Author Programs, Computer Classes, Humanities Programs, and other special events are often added to our regular monthly programs. Please check the Event Calendar on our website (www.norfolkne.gov/library) or sign up for our monthly newsletter to see everything currently offered!



Economic Development

BRADFORD BUSINESS PARK LAUNCHES WITH TWO ANCHOR BUSINESSES

On Wednesday, September 30, the Greater Norfolk Economic Development Foundation (GNEDF) celebrated the groundbreaking of Bradford Business Park.

The 140-acre business park is located at the northeast corner of South 37th Street and West Omaha Avenue and was designed to accommodate 22 shovel-ready sites for new and expanding businesses.

Support from the Norfolk City Council and financial partnerships with Midwest Bank, Elkhorn Valley Bank, First National Bank and Frontier Bank made the project possible. The project also received tax increment financing to assist with public infrastructure development.

The business park will soon be home to two area businesses. FieldWise, an agricultural based

technology company and Heartland Beverage, originally founded as Adamson Distributing in O'Neill, announced expansion projects at a September groundbreaking ceremony.

FieldWise is a family-based technology provider established in 2008 that specializes in telemetry for agriculture. Fieldwise products include pivot monitors, pump monitors and moisture probe readers. They have more than 100 dealers throughout the United States, Australia, New Zealand, Canada and serve as global exporters for the Ag tech industry. Future growth plans include up to 50 employees.

Heartland Beverage is a third

generation company founded in 1963 as Adamson Distributing. In the beginning, Adamson Distributing covered five counties with 38 different products and had four employees.

In 2016, Adamson Distributing purchased Premier Midwest Norfolk branch and called it Heartland Beverage. Adamson Distributing and Heartland Beverage now cover 22 counties, sell more than 1,100 products, and have 30 employees.

The development of public infrastructure at Bradford Business Park is expected to be complete in the summer of 2021.

More information can be found at www.NorfolkNebraskaED.com.



Representatives from the GNEDF and FieldWise



City staff, Mayor Moenning & Lyndsy Jenness with DED

CITY OF NORFOLK RECOGNIZED AS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CERTIFIED COMMUNITY (EDCC)

Norfolk is one of 40 Nebraska communities to earn EDCC status in a program sponsored by the Nebraska Diplomats and administered by the Nebraska Department of Economic Development (DED). State officials established the EDCC program in 2005 to recognize communities for preparedness to

attract new industries and grow existing businesses. Norfolk was first certified in 2009.

As part of the (re)certification process, qualifying communities must present a well-defined program that actively engages with their existing business community and offers a supportive environment for welcoming new economic development projects.



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT RECEIVES AWARD

On August 27, the Norfolk Area Economic Development Council was presented with the Chairman's Award at the 2020 Norfolk Area Chamber of Commerce Annual Banquet. The Chairman's Award is selected by the outgoing chairman of the Chamber Board of Directors and represents any person or entity determined to have been an outstanding partner to the Chamber and has made a significant impact on the community.

CITY OF NORFOLK NAMED IN TOP 100 MICROPOLITANS IN THE UNITED STATES

In October 2020, Heartland Forward published a ranking of 515 micropolitan communities across the United States. Norfolk ranked in the top 100, and was one of only two in the state. Heartland Forward's goal is to promote regional innovation and entrepreneurial ecosystems that foster job creation, wage gains, and economic growth.

This ranking is supported by the startups, expansions, and development seen in the Norfolk area in recent years.



Downtown business



Recently completed Norfolk Skate Park
Photo courtesy of Norfolk Daily News

Parks & Recreation

NEW SKATE PARK

A ribbon-cutting celebration was held on August 22 for the new skate park in Norfolk. Live demos were performed by local skaters, BMX riders, and rollerbladers following the remarks.

The skate park was designed by Spohn Ranch in collaboration with local users through a series of design workshops. The park features a kidney bowl, a variety of street elements, and a mini-ramp section. The well-balanced terrain combined with lights for night use and Spohn Ranch's signature architectural aesthetic makes Norfolk's skate park one of the best in the state.

The City of Norfolk was awarded \$425,000 in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Tourism Development funds from the Nebraska Department of Economic Development that helped fund the project.

2020 IN 2020

Thanks to a variety of partnerships and citizen engagement, the goal of distributing and planting 2020 trees in Norfolk in 2020 was exceeded in just under three months.

The 2020 in 2020 campaign included the Community Tree Recovery, a program of the Arbor Day Foundation and the Emerald Ash Borer Grant program from the Peter Kiewit Foundation, which provided 250 free trees to Norfolkans for planting at their residences. The City of Norfolk and Johansen's Greenhouse coordinated efforts for the week-long distribution in late April.

More tree activities and distributions were made possible by the Lower Elkhorn Natural Resources District, Aftershock, Children of the Trees, The Zone, Norfolk Public Library, Norfolk Area Chamber, Norfolk Now, and participating businesses.

Altogether, more than 2,075 trees were distributed and planted. The City Parks and Recreation Division continued to plant trees in parks

and public areas throughout the spring and fall.

TA-HA-ZOUKA PARK UPDATES

Five new campsites complete with concrete pads, electrical pedestals, and additional power and service were added this year.

The parks division installed a commercial double batting cage at the softball complex. The batting cage includes a concrete pad, electrical outlets, outdoor carpet, batting pad, frame, and netting.

Softball field #3 was agrilined, which changed it from a tipped infield to an aggressive sloped crown for better drainage.

The City purchased an adjacent property next to the park, which adds an additional 8.76 acres for future growth.



Community collaboration is certainly embraced in Norfolk. Every year the City of Norfolk partners with many businesses and organizations to promote healthy living, remembrance, and recreation. Whether it's temporarily blocking streets, assisting with traffic, or helping to secure the necessary permits, City staff are working behind the scenes in some way to foster collaboration with our community partners.

New Trees

The City of Norfolk was awarded a grant through the LENRD Community Forestry Program which allowed for the planting of trees north of City Hall as well as other parts of town.

Thanks to the Free Trees for Fall Planting program, an effort of the Nebraska Forest Service and the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum, the City received many trees to replace trees that recently died.

The City received LARM grant funding to purchase forestry and safety equipment for tree work that Parks has put to use over this past year.

Nursery of Hope

The second Legacy Tree commemoration took place at the Nursery of Hope in Skyview Lake Park. The ceremony included the announcement of the addition of musical playground equipment with shade canopy and benches.

2020 Census

City staff along with many community partners served on a Complete Count Committee for the U.S. Census. The Committee helped generate awareness on the importance of completing the census to ensure every person is counted.

Alleyway Art

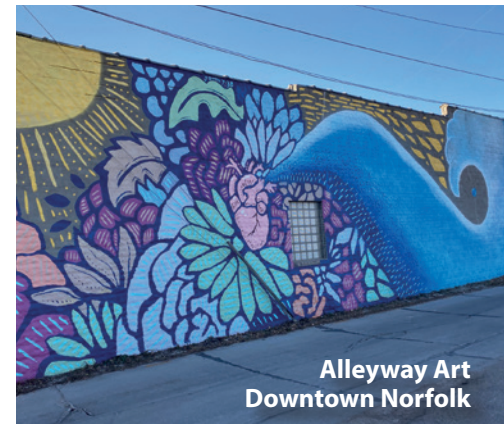
The NAVB Alleyway Art project began this year to bring new artwork to downtown in the form of murals on the exteriors of some downtown businesses. The project serves as a nice compliment to the Sculpture Walk introduced last year.

Ballot Drop Box

Voters in Madison County had another option available to them when it came to participating in the 2020 election. A ballot drop box was added near the Norfolk City Administration building. The ballot box sits beside the City utility drop box on the west side of the building. This was the result of teamwork that occurred between Madison County and the City of Norfolk. The drop box receptacle will remain in place for elections in the future.

Beer for Buds

Throughout the month of July, District Table & Tap (DTT) donated \$1 from every pint of any Divots beer sold Monday through Thursday to the City of Norfolk's Tree Bud Program. The Norfolk Tree Bud program allows utility customers to give an additional \$2 on each water bill to purchase, plant and care for trees in Norfolk on City owned or controlled property. For more information please visit the City's website.



Alleyway Art
Downtown Norfolk



LENRD board member Scott McHenry presenting check to Mayor Moenning and Pat Mrsny



New batting cages at Ta-Ha-Zouka Park 17

Water rescue team with new boat



Public Safety

NORFOLK FIRE DIVISION ADDS RESCUE BOAT

The newest addition at the Fire Division is a Rescue 1 aluminum flat bottom boat equipped to handle the roughest river waters.

The City purchased the boat in January of 2020. The motor for the boat was donated by the Earl and Elaine Reeves family. The Norfolk Area Community Foundation contributed as well by helping purchase state-of-the-art equipment needed to properly and safely perform water rescues.

The equipment consists of boogie boards, dry suits, wet suits, swim fins, boots, gloves, helmets, knives, whistles, life jackets, line guns, ropes, and other rope rescue equipment.

Firemedics Lance Conroy and Ross McKenzie traveled to Kansas City in July of 2019 to receive

the Swift Water 1 and 2 training. Later they traveled to Fort Collins, Colorado to become certified instructors. Conroy and McKenzie brought back the strategies they learned and held a three-day course for first responders in Northeast Nebraska. Day one was in the classroom, day two entailed practicing throw ropes along with other tactics, and day three was spent responding to mock rescue situations.

The crew has already used the new boat twice for actual emergencies. The first rescue occurred when six youth tubing the Elkhorn River were caught in debris. Firemedic Jonathon McKenzie helped perform the rescue along with approximately 20 others. Ultimately, the rescue lasted about an hour and resulted in no serious injuries or fatalities. The crew was called again to another rescue in June, this time a trapped kayaker got caught up in debris as well. The

Firemedics were able to use ropes to pull him to safety.

The rescue crew warns individuals to not underestimate water. Most people think about the dangers of white water rafting, but swift water is really any water moving over 1.5 mph. The Elkhorn River is generally tame, but it can become very dangerous when the water levels are high.

If you are planning to get in the water for any reason, public safety officials stress to reach out to local outfitters (NorthFork Outfitting) to check the water level status or download one of the many apps available that provides the data.

Now fully equipped and properly trained, the team is ready to respond to water emergencies in our region, but they would rather people use preventative measures so rescue services are not necessary.

EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER ESTABLISHED

The Public Safety department established two new Regional Emergency Operations Centers (EOCs). One is located in the City Administration building at 309 N. 5th Street and the secondary EOC is at the Fire Station at 701 Koenigstein Avenue.

The former Permits and Codes services transitioned to the Administrative Building in March 2019. The offices stood empty for nearly a year when the fire division made the decision to open up the area and return it to an EOC/classroom. The spaces are now used for classes, training, social gatherings such as retirement parties, and large meetings.

The department contacted NEMA and received large maps of Antelope, Madison and Pierce Counties along with the City of Norfolk, which encompasses Region 11. The maps have been framed and are hanging in both the new EOCs.

UTV USAGE

This year the Norfolk City Council passed an ordinance to allow Utility Terrain Vehicles (UTVs) on public streets within the corporate city limits of Norfolk.

UTV use on city streets is only allowed

following inspection and once registration is obtained from the Norfolk Police Division.

The ordinance was developed after extensive consideration by the Norfolk Police Division and elected officials. Vehicles need to meet specific equipment requirements, and be operated according to current city and state laws and regulations.

Anyone wanting to register a UTV can bring the vehicle to the Norfolk Police Station. A copy of the requirements and restrictions are provided during registration.

AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

The Norfolk Optimist Clubs recognized Officer Cash Campbell (Norfolk Police Division), Trooper Dustin Nutsch (Nebraska State Patrol), and Bob McElroy (Norfolk Fire Division) for their service to our community at a presentation during a City Council meeting.

The National Council for Home Safety and Security ranked Norfolk 3rd as to overall public safety in Nebraska. Norfolk's population makes it one of the top 10 largest cities in the state. The City of Norfolk exhibits a low violent crime rate comparable to the two preceding entries on the list.



2020 Police & Fire Division Recruits



Joe Pedersen
Fire Division



Jacob Hakari
Police Officer



Hayden Johnson
Police Officer



New citywide radio system installed & operating



Award presented to Bob McElroy



Award presented to Dustin Nutsch



Award presented to Cash Campbell



Paul Serres, Plumbing/
Mechanical Inspector, with a
local contractor

Planning & Development

INSPECTIONS PROVIDE SAFETY AND SECURITY FOR CITIZENS

The mission of the Planning and Development Department is to support and promote managed, safe and sustainable development.

This is achieved through responsible planning, zoning, and building practices within the City of Norfolk and its extraterritorial jurisdiction. Planning and Development staff respond to community needs in the areas of planning and zoning, electrical, mechanical, plumbing and general construction.

In order to assure structures are built to international standards, City code requirements align with State code building requirements. The City recently adopted the 2018 International Code Council (ICC) Codes for Building, Energy Conservation, Fire, Fuel Gas, Mechanical, Plumbing, Property Maintenance and Residential.

The permitting process and work of inspectors act as a means of quality control for the citizen or owner. This ensures construction work on remodels, new homes, commercial, industrial, and additions are done safely, properly, and up to international standards.

Building Services staff play a key role in accomplishing the mission of the Department. Each of the staff worked for many years in the private sector, performing the jobs they now inspect, before becoming City inspectors. Staff of the building services are:

- Steve Nordhues, Building Inspector
- Paul Serres, Plumbing/Mechanical Inspector
- Willie Nelson, Electrical Inspector

Helpful Building Services Information Sheets, Permits, and Year-To-Date (YTD) Building Permit Reports are available on the City website.



Midwest Bank



Elkhorn Valley Bank



Madison County Bank

NEW DEVELOPMENTS CONTINUE THROUGH COVID-19

It was anticipated planning and building would slow due to the pandemic. However, planning for future developments and work on current developments continued to be strong.

The Planning Commission plays an important role in evaluating submitted projects. To assure future projects stayed on track, Planning Commission meetings continued via Zoom with no disruption to scheduled meeting dates.

Some of the projects during this time include: final plats for numerous housing and commercial developments such as Legacy Bend 4th & 5th Additions, Bradford Business Park Subdivision, Arbor View Subdivision, and Walters East Knolls 13th Addition. **Nearly 600 new residential unit permits were issued in the last two years.**

Another aspect of growth that the Planning Commission considers is the expansion of the Extraterritorial Jurisdiction (ETJ). The City's ETJ

expanded to the southwest of Norfolk this summer due to recent annexations.

Planning Commission meetings are held at 7:30 a.m. on the first and third Tuesdays of every month. The meetings take place at the City Council Chambers at 309 N. 5th Street. The public is welcome to attend.

NEW APARTMENT COMPLEXES & OTHER HOUSING IN PROGRESS

The City of Norfolk worked with a wide variety of developers to meet the demands for rental units and affordable housing.

2021 NORFOLK PLANNING COMMISSION

CHAIRMAN
Dan Spray

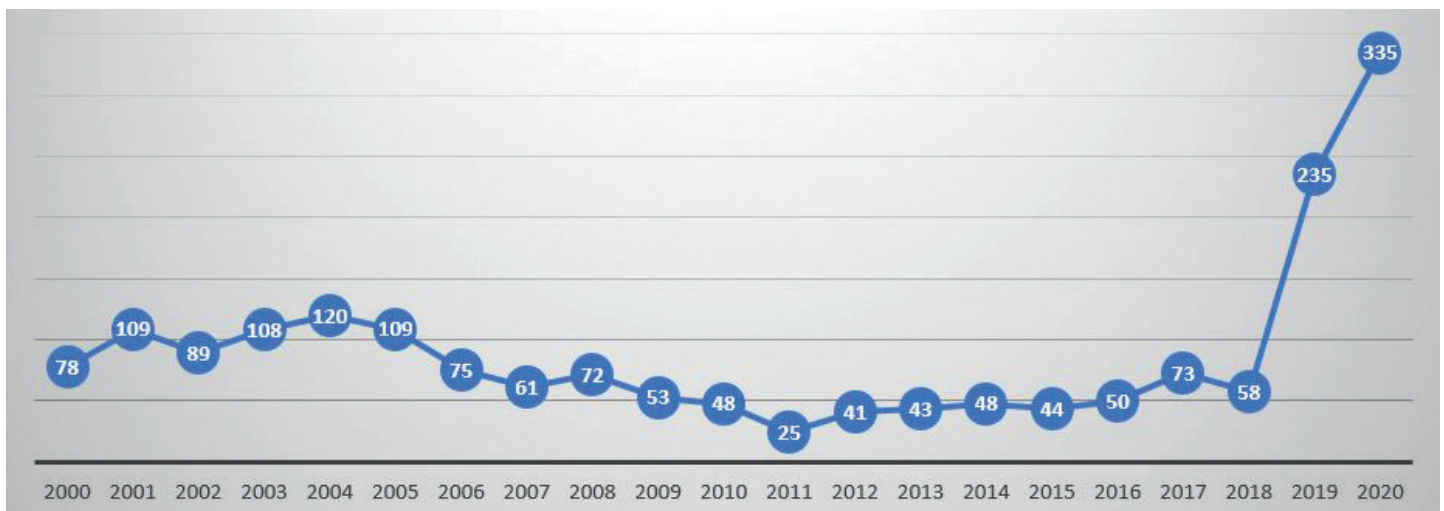
VICE CHAIRMAN
Dirk Waite

MEMBERS
Mel Figueroa
Matt Gilmore
Martin Griffith
Zack Gangwer
Kyle Deets
Jacob Thone
Mary Hammond



NueVue Ribbon-Cutting

RESIDENTIAL DWELLING UNITS



Planning & Development



NueVue Apartments

The first phases of apartment developments include the opening of Legacy Bend, Victory Village and NueVue Apartments. More phases and units are underway and planned for the future.

A ribbon-cutting celebration was held in the fall of 2020 for the NueVue apartment building located southeast of Norfolk. The NueVue apartment complex will be complete when the future phases of 56 additional units and a clubhouse are built.

Legacy Bend platted two additional phases this year, including additional future

apartment buildings and smaller lot traditional single-family lots. This neighborhood will include apartments, smaller lot single family, larger lot single family, open space and a clubhouse.

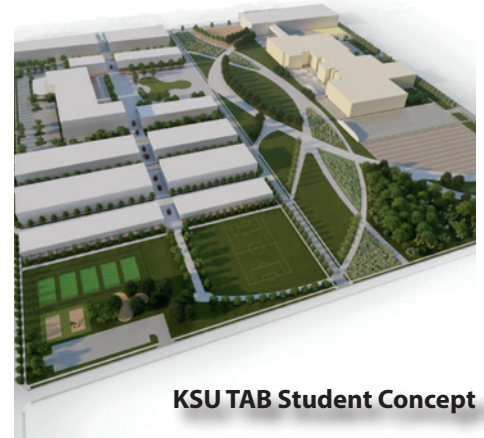
In 2020, Victory Village began leasing its first apartment buildings. At completion, the complex will have 160 units with a clubhouse.

We appreciate all our developers and contractors who help keep Norfolk growing.

KSU/TAB PROJECT

The City of Norfolk was selected to partner with the Kansas State University Technical Assistance to Brownfields (TAB) and the Department of Landscape Architecture and Regional & Community Planning to generate ideas for revitalization of underutilized areas in Norfolk.

One group of students focused on property formerly occupied by the Norfolk Stockyard and the former



KSU TAB Student Concept

Tyson facility; the other group focused on a study area along Omaha Ave (US-275) corridor.

Planning and design concepts were presented at an Open House in November. As a part of the program, typically students travel on-site to see the study areas in person. Due to the pandemic, the students had to perform all their research and planning virtually.

City staff will be able to utilize the information to seek additional resources to develop the area. The student concepts can be found on the City website.



Members of the Community Advisory Committee meeting with representatives from KSU

Demolition taking place at a new housing project



Housing

opportunity. right at home.

NORFOLK HOUSING AGENCY PROGRAMS

The Norfolk Housing Agency and the City of Norfolk utilizes funds from various grants to provide financial assistance for low-to-moderate income families for Owner Occupied Rehabilitation units. These units are safe, sanitary, and affordable within the city limits of Norfolk.

The Housing Agency facilitates and coordinates the development of housing and economic development initiatives. The goals are to give assistance to those persons of greater need, improve the availability of housing, promote home ownership and increase attractiveness of designated underdeveloped neighborhoods and increase local employment.

The City and Norfolk Housing Agency complies with the Fair Housing Act and regulations as spelled out in the guidelines approved for this program.

PROGRAM OUTREACH

The Norfolk Housing Agency participated as a vendor at Project Homeless Connect in Norfolk on October 9, 2020.

Over 500 household members received services that day-- ranging from a hot meal, haircuts, housing advocacy, flu shots, medical assessments or interventions, mental health evaluations, and so much more.

Project Homeless Connect is a one-day, one-stop event where individuals and families who are homeless or near homeless are able to receive a wide variety of immediate, on-site services and support for unmet needs for free.

HOMEBUYER ASSISTANCE

Director homebuyer assistance is available for qualified buyers of new



Newly constructed housing

and existing homes through the Norfolk Housing Agency. Income Guidelines provided below.

OWNER OCCUPIED REHABILITATION INCOME GUIDELINES

1-PERSON	\$ 40,150
2-PERSON	\$ 45,850
3-PERSON	\$ 51,600
4-PERSON	\$ 57,300
5-PERSON	\$ 61,900
6-PERSON	\$ 66,500
7-PERSON	\$ 71,100



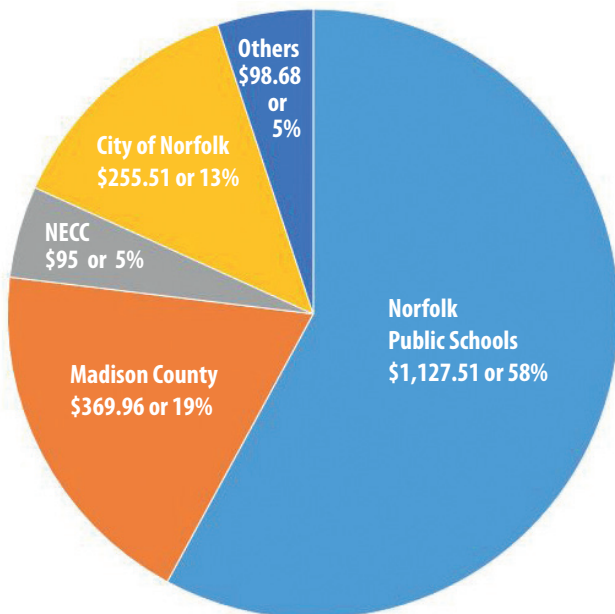
Property Tax Breakdown

Where Your Property Tax Dollars Are Spent

City of Norfolk Your Tax Dollars at Work

On a \$100,000 home, your property taxes for 2020 are \$1,946.66.

Norfolk Public Schools.....	\$1,127.51
Madison County.....	\$ 369.96
Northeast Community College.....	\$ 95.00
City of Norfolk.....	\$ 255.51
Others.....	\$ 98.68



Property Tax Dollars

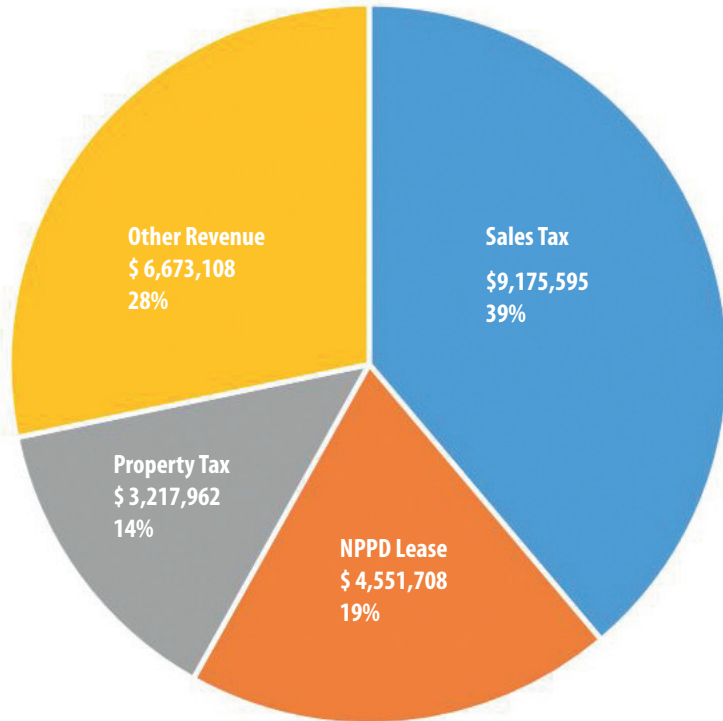
On a \$100,000 home, your property taxes for 2020 are \$1,946.66.

■ Norfolk Public Schools	\$1,127.51	58%
■ Madison County	\$ 369.96	19%
■ Northeast Community College	\$ 95.00	5%
■ City of Norfolk	\$ 255.51	13%
■ Others	\$ 98.68	5%
	<u>\$ 1,946.66</u>	<u>100%</u>

Revenues & Expenditures

General Fund Revenues

FY 2019 - 2020



General Fund Revenues

FY 2019 - 2020

■ Sales Tax	\$ 9,175,595	39%
■ Nebraska Public Power District Lease	\$ 4,551,708	19%
■ Property Tax	\$ 3,217,962	14%
■ Other Revenue	\$ 6,673,108	28%
Total Revenue	\$ 23,618,373	100%

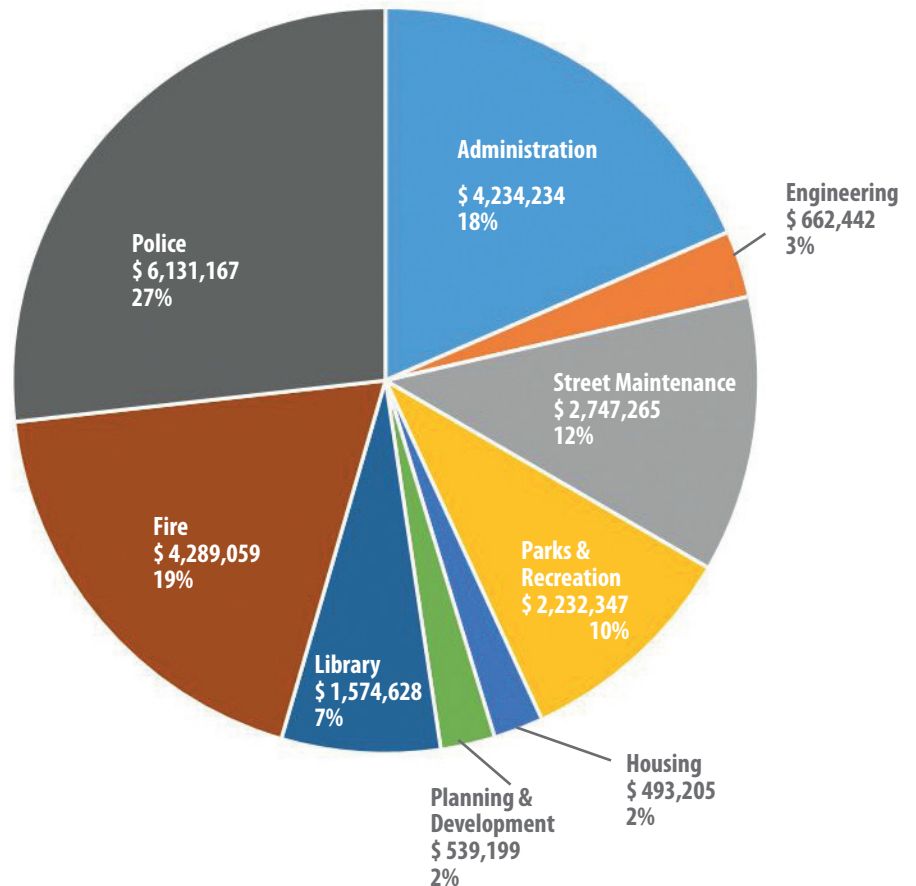
General Fund Expenditures

Distribution by Division or Function
FY 2019-2020

General Fund Expenditures

Distribution by Division or Function
FY 2019-2020

■ Administration	\$ 4,234,234	18%
■ Engineering	\$ 662,442	3%
■ Street Maintenance	\$ 2,747,265	12%
■ Parks & Recreation	\$ 2,232,347	10%
■ Housing	\$ 493,205	2%
■ Planning & Development	\$ 539,199	2%
■ Library	\$ 1,574,628	7%
■ Fire	\$ 4,289,059	19%
■ Police	\$ 6,131,167	27%
Total	\$ 22,903,546	100%





309 N. 5th Street
Norfolk, NE 68701

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PAID
Norfolk, NE
Permit No. 125

CITY SERVICES

Fire & Police - emergency	911
Fire Division - non-emergency	402-844-2050
Police Division - non-emergency	402-644-8700
Administration	402-844-2000
Building Services	402-844-2060
Housing Division	402-844-2080
Library	402-844-2100
Parks & Recreation	402-844-2180
Planning and Development	402-844-2280
Solid Waste - Transfer Station	402-844-2231
Street Division	402-844-2180
Water and Sewer Maintenance & Emergency Service 24x7	402-844-2210
Snow information	402-844-2299

For emergency alerts text: "NorfolkAlerts" to 74121.
For City news text: "JOINNORFOLKNE" to 22828.
Learn more and subscribe to City e-News at www.norfolkne.gov.
Interact with us on Twitter @*NorfolkNE*, on Facebook
at *City of Norfolk Nebraska Government*, or download
our app *Norfolk Area Connected*.

MOVING IN? WELCOME TO NORFOLK!

NPPD - Electricity	877-275-6773
Black Hills Energy - Gas	888-890-5554
City - Water	402-844-2000
Auto Licensing	402-454-3311
Animal Shelter	402-750-4665
Norfolk Public Schools	402-644-2500
Norfolk Public Transportation	402-379-4595
Area Agency On Aging	402-370-3454
Meals on Wheels	402-371-8626

FAMILY FUN

Norfolk Public Library	402-844-2100
AquaVenture Waterpark	402-844-2270
Elkhorn Valley Museum	402-371-3886
Norfolk Arts Center	402-371-7199
Madison County Museum	402-992-1221

Visit NorfolkNE.gov, VisitNorfolkNE.com, or
www.NorfolkNow.org to learn more about the
Norfolk area.