



2019 Annual Report



2019 Norfolk City Council Representatives

Table of Contents

City Council Members & Ward Map	1-2
Mayor's Message	3
Nebraska's Historic Flood	4
Administration Updates and Awards	5 - 6
Public Works	7 - 9
Library	10
Economic Development	11 - 12
Parks & Recreation	13 - 14
Public Safety	15 - 16
Planning & Development	17 - 18
Housing	19
City Organizational Chart	20
Property Tax Breakdown	21
Revenues & Expenditures	22
Helpful phone numbers	23

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.

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 "Norfolk" 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 Norfolkans pronounce it Nor-fork. Whichever way you decide to say it, know that we are glad to have you here.

Ward 2



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

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


Ward 1



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


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

Mayor



Josh Moenning
jmoenning@norfolkne.gov
Term expires 12/2020


Ward 3



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

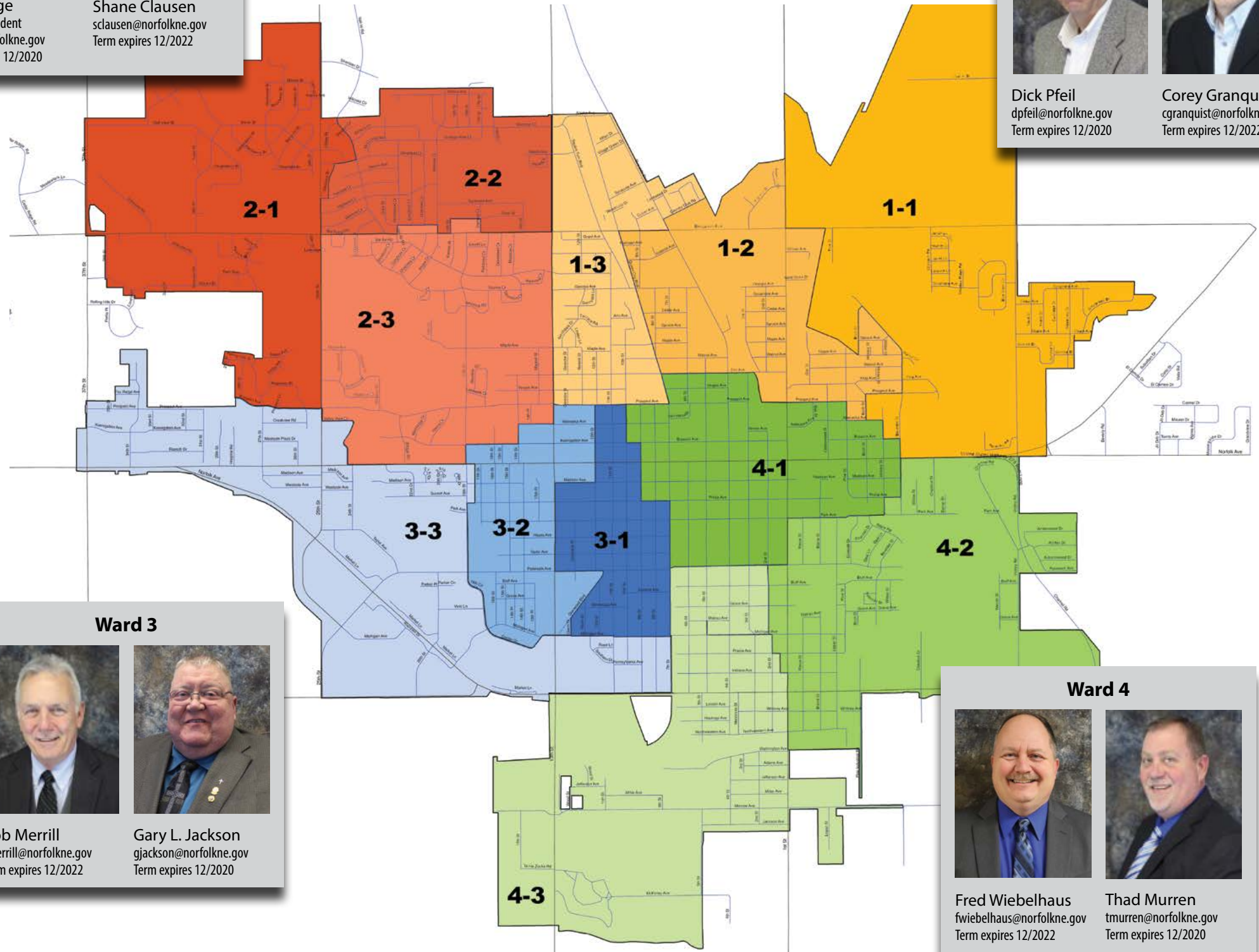
Gary L. Jackson
gjackson@norfolkne.gov
Term expires 12/2020

Ward 4



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

Thad Murren
tmurren@norfolkne.gov
Term expires 12/2020





309 N 5th Street
 Norfolk, NE 68701
 P402-844-2010 F402-844-2001
 www.ci.norfolk.ne.us

Josh Moenning
 Mayor

jmoenning@norfolkne.gov

Dear Norfolkans:

2019 was a year of both tragedy and progress. We withstood a natural disaster of historic proportions, came together as neighbors to manage the hardship and then carried forward to new beginnings.

March flooding challenged our levee system like never before. But the prudent investments and vision of past leaders to plan for a future beyond their time paid off. Norfolk was protected from devastations seen elsewhere. We, however, did not escape this disaster untouched. Our community lost a great young man, lifelong Norfolkian, and friend, Scott Goodman, who was taken from us much too soon.

In the recovery process, we worked with FEMA and the Army Corps of Engineers on the most urgent repairs to our levee system, and continue work in preparation for the inevitability of future events. While recovery efforts delayed some of our larger planned projects, like Braasch Avenue reconstruction, most moved forward. Now, freshly completed utility expansions are accommodating new housing and commercial construction.

Housing construction has increased steadily in the past three years and new multi-family housing units reached an all-time high this year. Sales tax receipts also reached record highs in 2019. Both are indications of strong market demand and robust local economic activity. Significant quality of life enhancements came to being in 2019, including the YMCA expansion, new childcare options, park and trail additions, public art initiatives, and ongoing downtown development. In the meantime, new state-of-the-art health care facilities solidified our reputation as a center of regional health care excellence.

2020 looks to be another year of large projects: the reconstruction of Braasch Avenue, finalization of Benjamin Avenue redesign, bridge repairs, gap paving, a new skate park, and the largest community solar project in the state. We'll kick start the creation of a new business park, ensuring new and expanding businesses have shovel-ready spaces to put down roots and grow. Norfolkans can expect new business growth and further commercial development, including new retail offerings.

One of my favorite quotes is from writer Wendell Berry. He says, "When going back makes sense, you are going ahead." I think this idea fits well with much of our ongoing community work. Whether it's upgrading existing infrastructure that protects us and helps us grow, rebuilding our downtown district that was once the beating heart of northeast Nebraska, restoring Johnson Park to its former WPA beauty, or reconnecting Norfolkans to our city's namesake, the North Fork, we are revisiting and renewing the work of past generations to make our place in the world better for future ones.

The past year illustrated our community's resilience. In the face of unanticipated adversity, Norfolkans demonstrated once again we have the capacity to persevere and collaborate, building a better community for those who will come after us.

The following report was prepared to provide you with a sense of how your tax dollars work throughout our city. Take a few moments to review and please share with us your thoughts. We look forward to another year of opportunity to grow as a community.

Sincerely,

Josh Moenning, Mayor



Nebraska's Historic Flood



March 2019 floodwaters shown entering the flood control

THE HISTORIC FLOOD OF 2019

The historic flooding season of 2019 is one that we will not soon forget.

Due to a long history of flooding in town because of the North Fork of the Elkhorn River, City officials were determined to build a flood control (levee) for the safety and protection of the city – especially after seeing the effects of the 1962 flood.

Construction of the flood control began in the spring of 1966 with the intentions of building a system that would withstand a "100-year flood." Due to forward-thinking City leaders at the time, the 4.5 mile long canal was constructed to contain twice that amount of water. On the morning of March 13, 2019, the levee was about to be given its greatest challenge.

Ironically, just two weeks before the flood hit, Bobbi Risor - Region 11 Emergency Manager, Shane Weidner - City of Norfolk Public Safety Director, and numerous City staff attended an Emergency Preparedness Plan meeting to discuss how to handle a flood event. That training paid off tremendously two weeks later as the waters rushed into Norfolk's Levee system.

Prior to the start of the flood, Risor and Weidner visited the counties in Region 11 (Antelope, Madison, and Pierce) to assess the topography and areas of greatest concern for flooding. After their evaluations were complete and

they had new reports from the National Weather Service, they decided to start communicating with citizens to inform them of the severity of the situation.

Nearly all City divisions played major roles during the event. The Street Division filled numerous sandbags for Public Works crews to place around lift stations and well heads for protection. Through the night Street, Public Safety, and Parks personnel patrolled the levee by foot to watch for any signs of stress, weakness, or abnormalities along the dike. This crew also manned the pumps releasing water from the North Fork of the Elkhorn River into the flood control to help control the water level in town.

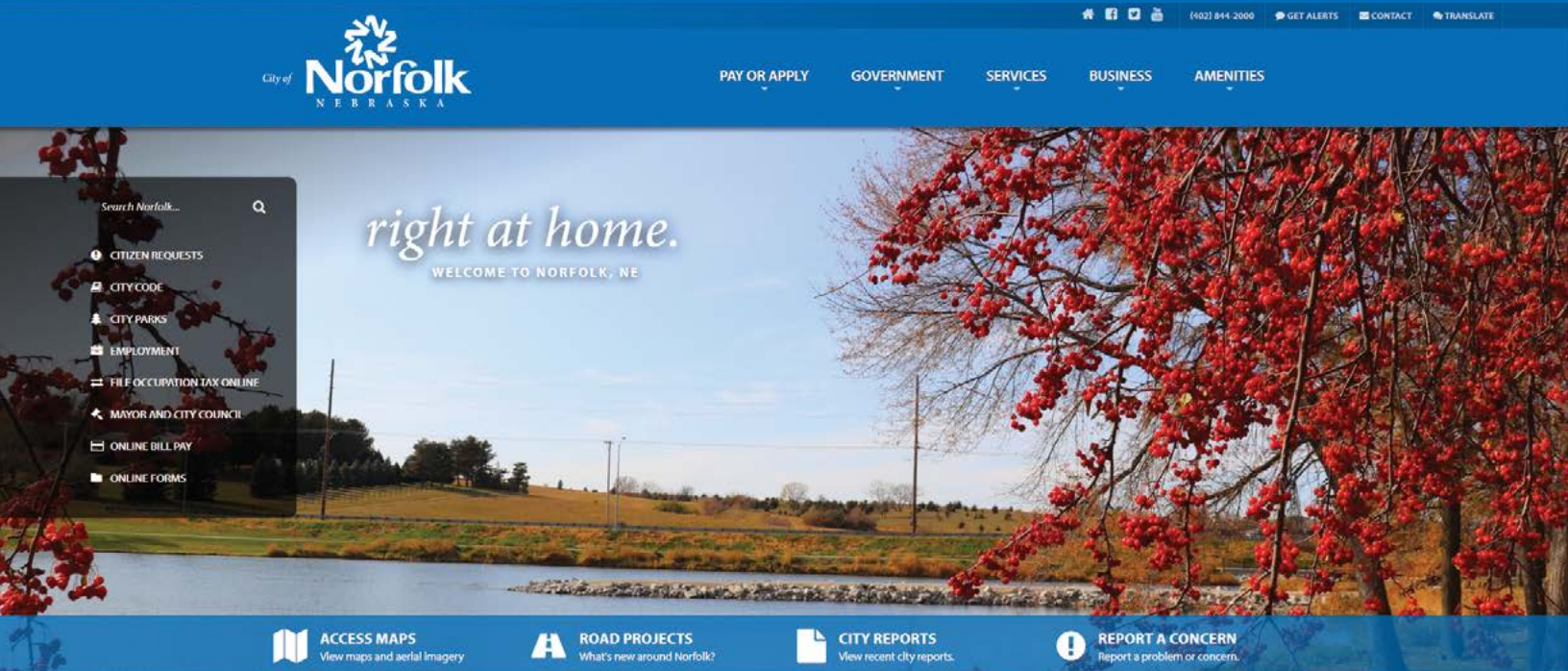
As the waters began to rapidly rise the night of March 13, Weidner wrestled with the idea of evacuating a large area of town that would be affected the most. Early the next morning, the evacuation of over 1,000 residents began as the roaring flood waters neared the upper ledge of the dike.

The Police Division took control of the evacuations, going door-to-door in the evacuation area that covered nearly 1/3 of the town. The Fire Division called in all off-duty staff and began rescue operations for citizens left stranded by the quickly rising waters. Due to the mutual faith and trust between city officials and citizens, the evacuation process went smoothly.

Three shelters were established by the City with many other churches, businesses, organizations, and community members volunteering time and materials to help the evacuated residents. A 24-hour Emergency Operations Center, staffed by personnel from the Administration Offices, was opened to act as a line of communication between the community and City officials.

The levee system endured the flood waters for three days while some homes and businesses endured the aftermath for many days, weeks, and months after the waters receded. Representatives from Federal Emergency Management Agency were present in the community to assess the damage done by the flood. Because the damage was so great, residents within Region 11 were able to apply for individual assistance to recover from the flood. The Planning and Development Department also played a large role during the aftermath, assisting with appropriate construction permits and answering Floodplain Insurance questions.

According to the National Weather Service, preliminary numbers show that the North Fork crested at 17.34 feet on March 14, 2019. The action stage for a flood begins at 11 feet. The highest previous crest was 15.10 feet, which occurred on February 19, 1971, shortly after the construction of the flood control was complete.



NEW WEBSITE

Have you noticed our new website? In order to enhance citizen communication and provide more user-friendly service, we overhauled our old website and launched www.norfolkne.gov.

The new, modern design is friendly, ADA compliant, and features a section on the homepage for City highlights, Helpful Links corresponding with the division page, as well as a calendar with City events listed on the homepage.

On the website, users can check on street/construction projects, make a request, sign up for emergency alerts, pay utility bills, review the City budget, and contact elected officials and City staff with ease. Some of the maps and aerials of the City have also been updated to an interactive feature.

The new site launched earlier this fall. To correspond with the new URL, www.norfolkne.gov, staff email addresses were also updated and changed to @norfolkne.gov.

FINANCIAL REPORTING AWARDS

For the 26th year, the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) announced that the City of Norfolk received GFOA's Distinguished Budget Presentation Award.

The award represents a significant achievement by the entity and is a reflection of the commitment of the governing body and staff to meet the highest principles of governmental budgeting. To receive this award, we had to satisfy nationally recognized guidelines for effective budget presentation. These guidelines are designed to

assess how well an entity's budget serves as:

- A policy document
- A financial plan
- An operations guide
- A communications device

Budget documents must be rated "proficient" in all four categories, and in the 14 mandatory criteria within those categories, to receive the award.

When a Distinguished Budget Presentation Award is granted to an entity, a Certificate of Recognition for Budget Presentation is also presented to the individual(s) or



Sheila Rios, Senior Accountant and Kelli Svitak, Engineering Administrative Assistant play a critical role in the development of the City's budget

department designated as being primarily responsible for having achieved the award. The award was presented to Kelli Svitak, Engineering Administrative Assistant, and Sheila Rios, Senior Accountant.

There are more than 1,600 participants in the Budget Awards Program. The most recent Budget Award recipients, along with their corresponding budget documents, are posted quarterly on GFOA's website. Award recipients have pioneered efforts to improve the quality of budgeting and provide an excellent example for other governments throughout North America.

A copy of the budget can be found on the Finance webpage (norfolkne.gov/finance).

NEW AUDIO/VISUAL SYSTEM

It's now much easier to watch and follow along at Norfolk City Council meetings.

Audio and visual equipment in the City Council Chambers was upgraded in June, enhancing the experience of those watching both online and from the Council Chambers. Originally purchased and installed in 2005, the dated system consisted of a standard resolution analog camera, analog video mixing equipment, and low-resolution bulb-style projectors.

The updated system consists of three high-definition (1080p) video cameras with 12 times the resolution of the old cameras; high-definition projectors and dais monitors; and new video mixing equipment and cabling to support the transition to high-definition. New projectors produce light

by using lasers instead of light bulbs, resulting in a much brighter display with greatly improved color reproduction. Amazingly, they will never need new bulbs, do not dim over time, and turn on instantly compared to the long warm-up time of the old projectors.

With the updates to the system, presenters can now feed high-definition video directly into the video mixer to allow the content to display in full resolution on the projection screens, dais displays, and online streaming.

As part of the upgrade, five hearing assistance devices were also added and are available for use in the Council Chambers. The new system and equipment went live at the July 1, 2019 City Council meeting.

NEW CITY CLERK IN OFFICE AFTER 25 YEARS

After 25 years serving as City Clerk, and 30 years with the City of Norfolk, Beth Deck retired from her position in November.

As City Clerk, it was her job to serve as a liaison between citizens of the community, elected officials

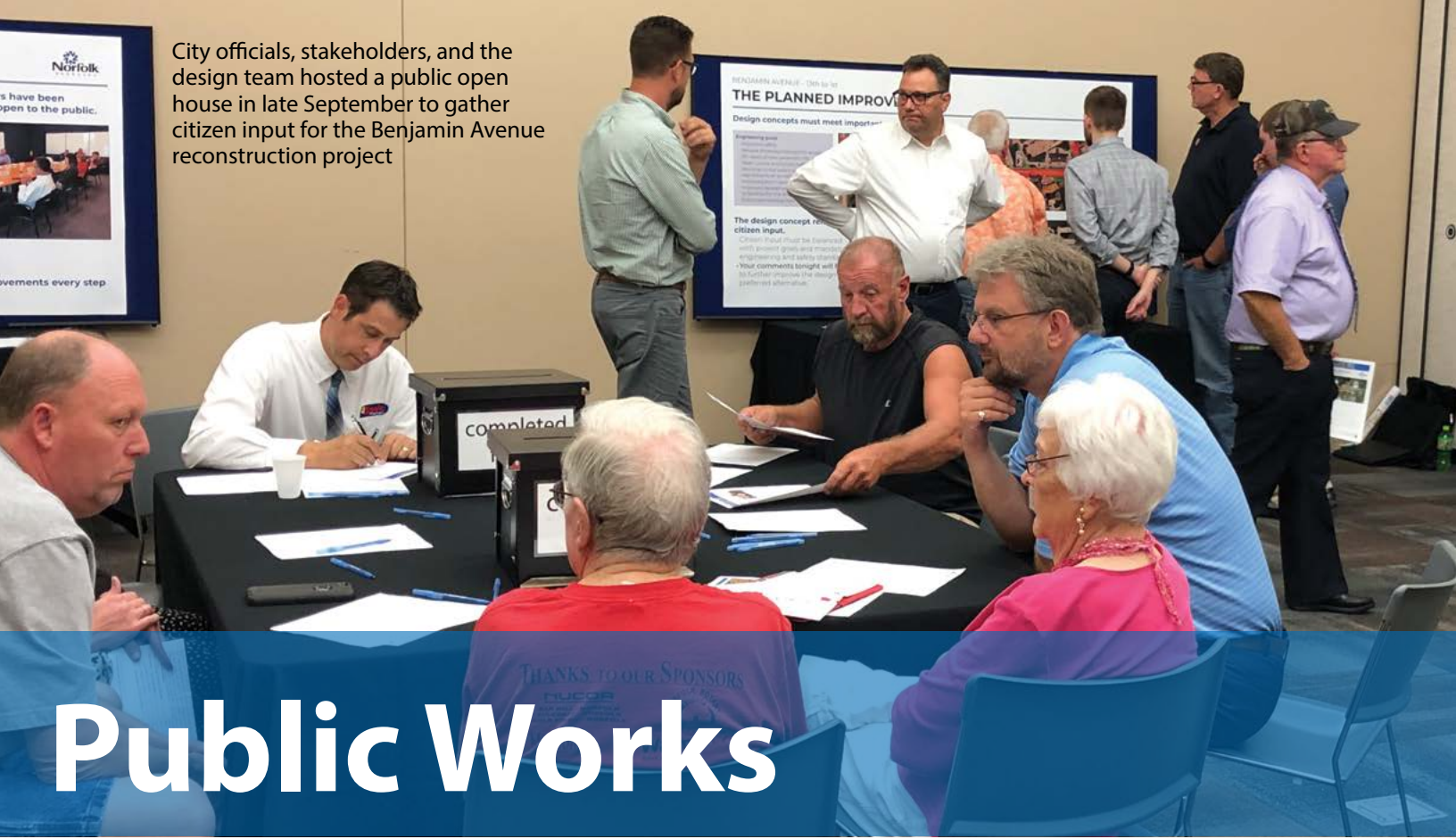
and City staff. Some of her job responsibilities included: issuing miscellaneous licenses and permits; preserving, microfilming and/or digitally archiving all official records; coordinating retention and disposition of all official records; and preparing and maintaining official minutes of meetings – just to name a few.

The City Clerk's Office could be described as the "front office" of City Government. It could be said that no other office in the municipality has as many contacts as this office. The office serves the mayor, the city administrator, the council, and all departments and divisions. All of them call upon it almost daily for some type of service or information. The office of the City Clerk is where the seal is kept; where oaths of office to public servants are filed; where all official documents and city records, both historical and current, are kept on file.

In October, Brianna Duerst was appointed as the new City Clerk. Prior to her appointment, Brianna served for four years in the Planning and Development Department.



New City Clerk Brianna Duerst shown with former City Clerk Beth Deck



Public Works

CITIZEN INPUT GROUP ESTABLISHED FOR BENJAMIN AVENUE RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT

A group of property owners along Benjamin Avenue, from First Street to Thirteenth Street, representing a variety of interests and points of view was established to serve as a Vision Group for the Benjamin Avenue Street Reconstruction Project. The Vision Group consists of men and women representing businesses, residential properties, schools connected with Benjamin Avenue, and the Chamber of Commerce.

The group first began meeting in April of this year to learn about the goals and challenges for making improvements to Benjamin Avenue. Through the series of four meetings, the group worked with roadway design engineers retained by the City to help identify key features for the street improvement project.

City Officials, stakeholders, and the design team hosted a public open house in late September. The design

team has considered the comments that were received from both the vision group and the general public and has made changes to the concept based on citizen feedback.

The design process for Benjamin Avenue reconstruction is gearing up, but City staff wants to gather additional feedback from more public input sessions before the final design is created. The design, right-of-way acquisition, and utility work is expected to begin in 2020 with an anticipated start of construction in 2021.

SOLID WASTE RECEIVES GRANT FUNDS FOR COMPOSTING MACHINE

In 2017, the Norfolk Transfer Station applied for the Recycling Equipment Grant from the Nebraska Environmental Trust (NET) to help purchase a new composting machine. The Recycling Equipment Grant from the Nebraska Recycling Council is one of 85 grant projects in 2017 receiving \$16.6 million

in grant awards from Nebraska Environmental Trust. The Trust is funded by proceeds from the Nebraska Lottery, and has awarded more than \$265 million to more than 2,000 natural resource projects in Nebraska since 1993. The Nebraska Recycling Council is a non-profit, membership organization of public and private organizations, as well as individuals, and has been a recycling advocate for Nebraska since 1980.

The Norfolk Transfer Station ordered the machine in 2018 at a cost of \$31,000 with the NET grant supplying \$20,000, paying for 2/3 of the machine. The Transfer Station crew was able to put it to use at the beginning of this year. From April 1 through November 30 of each year, State law prohibits mixing grass clippings and leaves with household trash headed for the Coalition landfill. The City of Norfolk Transfer Station uses the composting machine to turn yard waste into a beneficial organic compost for residential use.

reliability. right at home.

Compost is available free of charge on a first come, first served basis for those who load it themselves. This can be done anytime during operating hours. The Transfer Station will load small loads for \$10.00 per load. Loading is available Monday – Friday from 8:00 am – 3:00 pm. The Transfer Station is located at 600 E. Monroe Avenue.

STORMWATER FEE CHANGES

In an effort to comply with the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit, the City of Norfolk implemented a stormwater fee that is charged to people who are connected to the municipal water and/or sanitary sewer systems.

The owner, occupant, or any person who is responsible for the payment of water and/or sewer service to the property will be responsible for paying the fee. The fee is a flat rate of \$1 per month for residential meters and \$3 per month for commercial and industrial meters, and will be shown as an additional line item on all water and sewer utility bills.

State and federal regulations require us to take proactive measures in an effort to clean our stormwater runoff before it enters local rivers and streams. These measures must be completed, documented and reported annually to ensure compliance with the federal permit. These efforts require staff time, materials, equipment, and maintenance. Previously grant funds were available to help fund a portion of these efforts, but those funds were eliminated last year.

There are roughly 2,000 communities or districts across the country that have adopted some type of stormwater fee to help fund the costs of their stormwater program. In Nebraska, similar communities like Scottsbluff, Kearney, Grand Island, and Columbus have all implemented a stormwater financing mechanism similar to what the City of Norfolk implemented.

The fee was implemented on October 1, 2019.

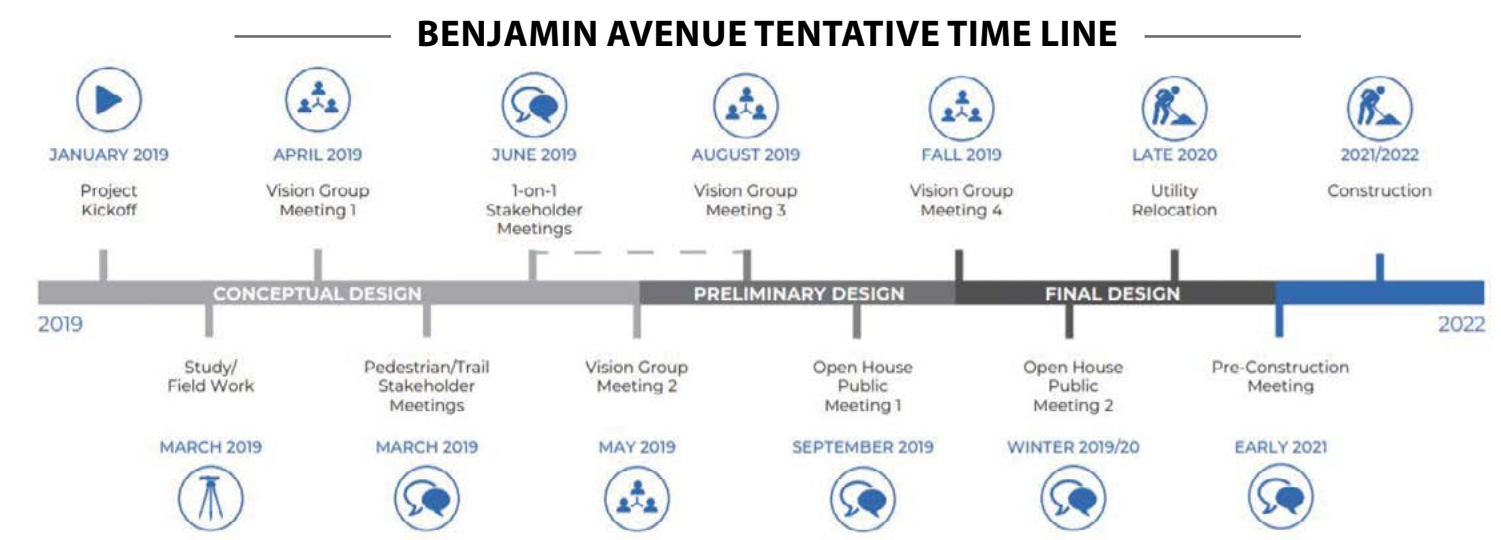
PANEL REPLACEMENT PROJECTS

Because of resources that are more prevalent in our area, Norfolk has numerous streets that are constructed with concrete as opposed to asphalt.

Concrete roads are more durable than asphalt roads resulting in a longer life span. Another difference between the two is that repairs aren't needed as frequently for concrete roads. However, concrete streets still need to be maintained.

One function of the Street Division is to replace panels of broken concrete when they become greatly damaged. Panel repairs are an option used on concrete streets and involve completely removing a section of old concrete and replacing it with a new slab. A common panel can be as large as 12' x 8'. This year, the Street crew used 700 cubic yards of concrete in panel replacement projects around town.

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



*All dates beyond September 2019 are tentative

Public Works

reliability. right at home.

WATER AND SEWER UTILITIES INSTALLED IN ANTICIPATION OF FUTURE GROWTH

The Raasch Dam Sewer project was installed to serve residential properties northwest of town. It is estimated that this line can serve up to an additional 600+ acres of residential development in the area.

The northeast section of town also saw the addition of utilities to provide water and sewer service to some of Norfolk's industries already established and those that may come in the future.

The water and sewer mains were extended from approximately Benjamin Avenue and Victory Road north to the Northeast Industrial Tract. Both services end at the Nucor Steel Mill location. Construction on the Northeast Industrial Water and Sewer Extension Projects was completed earlier this fall.

CRACK SEALING ESSENTIAL TO STREET MAINTENANCE

Crack sealing is the process of sealing joints and random cracking in the street to prevent water and moisture from entering the pavement and creating issues.

The cracks are cleaned with compressed air and filled with a hot tar, and if needed can be covered by biodegradable tissue or sprayed with a surfactant to prevent tracking. This process helps prolong the life of the pavement by preventing potholes and pavement breakups.

Every year, the Street Division crew works to seal the cracks on the street surface. They have their own sealing machine (120 gallon) and seal all of their work on utility breaks and pavement repairs. When the time, workload, and weather permit (an open, dry winter) then they are able to put a crew together to seal selected streets.

Sometimes the projects prove to be too large for the Division to handle. This year, a crack-sealing contract was approved and the Street Division was able to continue working on other major projects while the contractor took on the crack sealing.

The original sealant of joints has a life expectancy of up to 10 years, but random cracks can still appear at any time. When that happens, additional crack sealing is needed to prevent further damage.



Crack sealing on Norfolk Avenue

TRANSFER STATION MASTER PLAN ALMOST COMPLETE

An updated Master Plan for the Norfolk Transfer Station is in the works.

Currently, engineers are in the final stages of design for the updated plan. The primary focus is on public safety while entering, exiting, and using the transfer station. Another focus is efficiency. New scales have been proposed in the plan – one to weigh in and one to weigh out – which will help with not only shortening the wait time for customers, but with their safety as well.

The addition of a maintenance shop is also part of the plan. Currently, there is no maintenance shop available for staff to work on the vehicles – they do all of their maintenance and repairs outside which proves rather difficult, especially during the cold wintry months.

A lot of time has also been spent discussing the future possibility of a recycling facility and how it can flow on the Transfer Station site.

The goal is to go to bid in early 2020 so that construction can begin in the spring of 2021.

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

Amber Peterson, Youth Services Librarian, works with an afterschool book club at the Middle School



Norfolk Library

enrichment. right at home.

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

Early Literacy programs, like Lapsit for ages 0-2, and Storytime for ages 3-8, are developed with careful attention to be engaging, educational, and boost early language and learning skills.

1,000 Books Before Kindergarten is an at-home program that encourages families to read 1,000 books together before their child enters Kindergarten. Rewards are earned for every 100 books read and an annual graduation ceremony is held to recognize those who finish.

Golden Sower Book Club meets once a month to discuss books nominated for the Golden Sower Award, Nebraska's Children's Choice Book Award. This book club makes meaningful connections with literature and learning through fun discussion and book-related activities.

Lego Club meets once a month to build, play, and complete challenges. Kids engage in creative free play as well as build problem-solving and STEM skills.

TEEN PROGRAMS

Young Adult Book Group is for any teen who loves to read and talk about books. The group members select which books they want to read and also write a blog.

ADULT PROGRAMS

Book Clubs provide meaningful engagement with literature, expand readers' horizons, and are a great way to meet new friends. New members are always welcome and an active library card is the only requirement.

20's & 30's Book Club – This club is especially for adults in their 20's & 30's and typically meets on the last Thursday of the month.

Tuesday Night Book Club – Typically meets on the last Tuesday of the month and reads a variety of fiction and non-fiction titles.

Wednesday Morning Book Club – Typically meets on the last Wednesday of the month and reads a variety of fiction and non-fiction titles.

MORE ADULT PROGRAMS

Needles, Hooks, & Books – This program is for needle-crafters of all ages. It's an informal time to work on projects, share and learn skills, talk about books, and meet others interested in the needle arts. This group meets every other Saturday afternoon.

Creative Coloring – Coloring has been shown to reduce stress and is a great relaxing and creative activity. Join us on Monday afternoons at 2 p.m. to color and unwind.

Tech Tutoring – Get personal tutoring to gain technology skills and learn how computers and technology work.

MakerSpace Classes – The library's MakerSpace currently has an Embroidery Machine and a Laser Cutter. The MakerSpace provides public access to high-tech equipment to boost technology skills and creative opportunities.

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 BEING ESTABLISHED

The Norfolk Area Economic Development team is working alongside the Greater Norfolk Economic Development Foundation (GNEDF) to build a shovel ready business park for commercial and industrial uses.

The 140-acre site is located at the northeast corner of South 37th Street and West Omaha Avenue. The Foundation has undergone extensive master planning activities through which the above concept was created and expects to begin site development in 2020.

The business park came to fruition after it was recognized that businesses were struggling to assemble various sized parcels for heavy commercial and industrial uses. The City of Norfolk used \$300,000 in KENO funds to establish a revolving loan fund to assist the GNEDF with the purchase.

KING STEEL EXPANDS OPERATIONS

King Steel Manufacturing expanded their Norfolk operations in 2019. Their products can be found in the agriculture, automotive, construction, heavy truck, mining, erosion control, and energy industries.

The expansion included the acquisition of a 15-acre parcel north of the current property, increased the building footprint an additional 80,000 square feet to 182,410 SF, saw the addition of a second heat treat line, straightener, and auxiliary equipment, and resulted in 12-15 new jobs for the Norfolk area.



Through the planning process, it was discovered that a substation was needed to complete the project.

The Norfolk Area Economic Development office put together a \$150,000 Site and Building Development Fund (SBDF) grant application to assist with the funding of the substation and worked alongside partners at the Nebraska Department of Economic Development, Madison County, and Elkhorn Rural Public Power District to support the project.

Pictured below: Tom Rudloff, Elkhorn Rural Public Power District; Lyndsy Jenness, Nebraska Department of Economic Development; Troy Uhlir, Madison County Commissioner; Candace Schmidt, City of Norfolk; and Jon Schnebel, King Steel

NORTHEAST NEBRASKA GROWING TOGETHER

The economic development office has been working alongside the Aksarben Foundation and other regional partners on a plan called *Northeast Nebraska Growing Together*. The Growing Together plan aligns a number of strategies aimed at addressing population outmigration and workforce development strategies.

At its core, the plan involves transformative activities focused on the downtown district that will appeal to 20-35 year olds, a demographic that is showing an alarming decline in numbers in rural areas. The plan also includes activities such as the creation of a co-working space, cooperative scholarships for four-year degree students, venture capital sourcing, workforce retraining opportunities, artists in residence, and early childhood education.

The Growing Together plan is complementary to a number of projects that are already underway in Norfolk. The community's investment in placemaking projects such as the Riverfront Development Project, River Point Square, Miracle Skatepark, Embrace Park, the Norfolk Public Library and more will add to the list of amenities younger generations and families are seeking to access.



Several members of the Northeast Nebraska Growing Together initiative at the Aksarben Stakeholders meeting

HOUSING DEVELOPMENT UNDERWAY

In 2014, it was recognized that low unemployment rates, coupled with a large number of job opportunities, demonstrated circumstances that were favorable for new growth in the Norfolk area. However, employers were struggling to recruit the skilled workforce needed due to the lack of available housing.

Because housing deficiencies were affecting the growth of the local economy, the economic development office began working alongside city staff and community partners to examine housing needs, identify land suitable for new development, work through local incentive activities, and facilitate discussions with housing developers. A housing study completed in 2016 showed a need for the new construction of 444 owner-occupied and 318 rental units by 2021.

Now five years later, the City of Norfolk is on track to meet the targets identified in the housing study. Developments like Nor-Park, Legacy Bend, Heritage Communities, Medelman's Lake, Victory Village, and Madison Villas are underway and complement the various speculative housing projects, build to suit contributions, and second story downtown housing that is expected to support exponential growth in the coming years.





Members of the Parks and Recreation Department

Parks & Recreation

PARKS AND RECREATION NOW ONE DEPARTMENT

The start of the fiscal year, which begins in October, brought the combination of the Parks and Recreation Divisions into one department.

In previous years, Parks and Recreation were two different divisions functioning out of two different departments – Parks was a function of Public Works and Recreation was a function of Administration. The crew consists of a director, two supervisors, one facilities manager, 9 park maintenance staff, 10 seasonal park caretakers, one secretary, and more than one hundred summer workers – most of which work in a supporting role at the pools. By combining the two and allowing one director to oversee the operations of the division, it will allow for continuity and efficiency within the operations.

This restructuring is also critical due to growth in the community and public park areas. The Parks and Recreation Division has been very busy – especially with the addition of Embrace Park and the added responsibility that stems from the new park.

EMBRACE PARK COMPLETE WITH ADDITION OF RESTROOMS

Embrace Park is officially complete after the construction of ADA accessible bathrooms.

In 2017, the community saw the construction of the all-inclusive Embrace Park. Following the completion of the Embrace Park playground in 2017, a splash pad and multi-purpose field were added to the park in 2018. Additionally, in order to better accommodate patrons now utilizing the once vacant field, 60 parking spaces were added around the Embrace Park Area.

Local service groups, including the Lion's Club of Norfolk and Norfolk Public Schools JOI Club also contributed to the park by donating a drinking fountain with a plaque and a landscape bed

near the splash pad respectively. Construction was completed on the ADA accessible bathrooms earlier this fall with construction beginning last May. The building includes features such as outdoor lighting, motion sensors for inside lighting, epoxy flooring, hot and cold running water, as well as a path connecting to the splash pad.

The City received generous grant funds from the Norfolk Area Community Foundation Fund and from the Lower Elkhorn Natural Resources District as well as funds raised by the same volunteers for the playground and splash pad. Patrons will be able to utilize these facilities after the winter season.

The splash pad's operational period runs from Memorial Day through September 30th.



New restrooms at Embrace Park

Community collaboration is certainly embraced in Norfolk. In 2019, the City of Norfolk was able to partner 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.

Nursery of Hope

During the month of October (SIDS Awareness Month) parents, families, and friends were invited to plant a "Legacy Tree" in remembrance of infants who have passed away. The tree plantings serve as an opportunity to raise awareness of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) and infant loss, and stand as a tribute to the beautiful babies lost. In total, 37 trees were planted at Skyview Park along the walking trail west of 25th Street. Trees will be planted every October.

Cinco de Mayo

The 2nd annual Cinco de Mayo celebration was held in May at Central Park in Norfolk. This year, more than 400 people were in attendance at the family celebration hosted by the Mayor's Diversity Council. The event featured traditional food and beverages, live music, games and dancers.

Sculpture Walk

In 2019, the Norfolk Sculpture Walk debuted with 11 sculptures placed on public property throughout the downtown district and at Veteran's Memorial Park. The effort is a collaboration between the Norfolk Area Visitors Bureau, the Norfolk Arts Center, and the City.

Earl May 100 Years, 100 Trees

On Wednesday, October 23, a crew from Earl May stopped by Skyview Park to plant five trees that were given to the City from their 100 Years 100 Trees anniversary celebration. The business donated one tree to the City for every 10 trees sold through the month of April!

Laugh and a Half Marathon

This race begins in TaHaZouka Park and hosts approximately 500 participants annually. It has been named a "Top Race Worth Traveling For" in Nebraska by Flip-Key by Tripadvisor. The list, comprised of charity races, full marathons, half-marathons, and local road races, was selected to showcase races that display qualities that create a "destination" experience including any of the following: strong commitment to charity; gorgeous landscapes and popularity through strong reviews from those who have participated.

YMCA Expands Operations

In April, the Norfolk Family YMCA unveiled a two-level expansion that added more than 106,000 SF to the existing 75,000 SF footprint. The City of Norfolk was among the numerous donors and has pledged \$625,000 of Keno funds (during the 2020-21 fiscal year) to the \$13.7 million raised for the project.



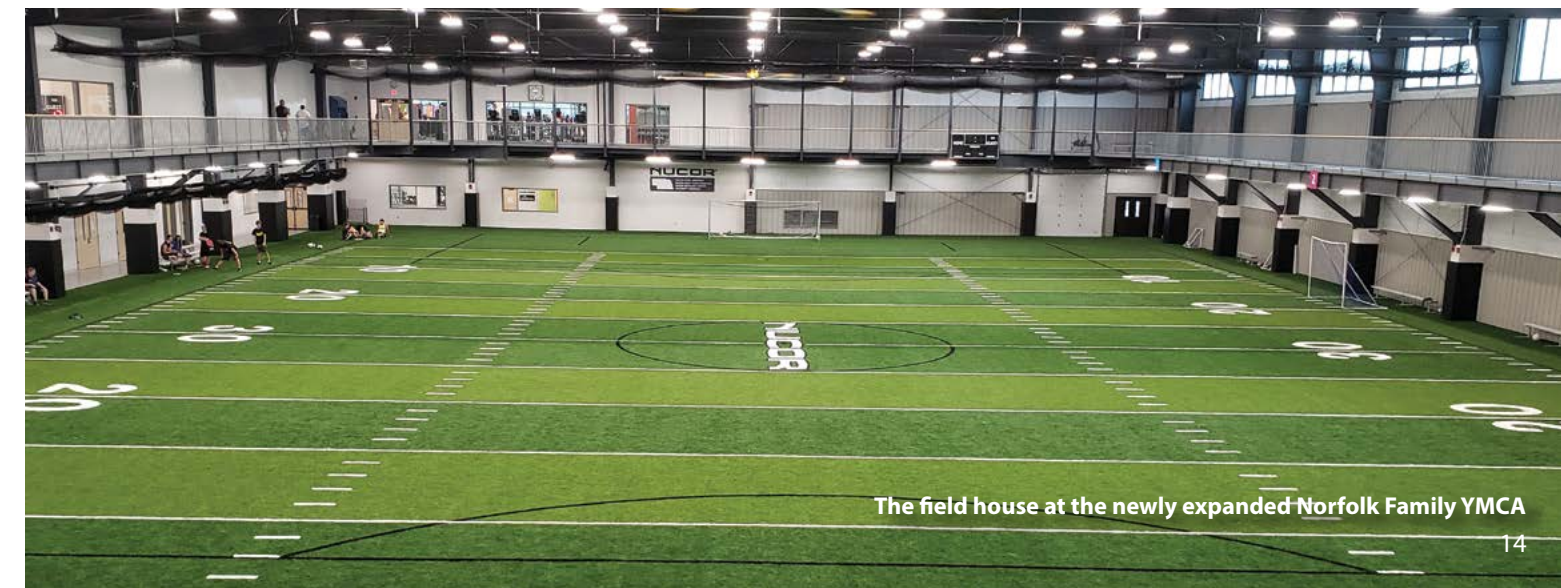
Nursery of Hope at Skyview Park



Cinco de Mayo at Central Park



Earl May's 100 Years, 100 Trees



The field house at the newly expanded Norfolk Family YMCA



Tower One is a mid-mount aerial platform truck that can reach up to 100 feet in the air

Public Safety

NORFOLK FIRE DIVISION UNVEILS NEW ADDITION TO FIRE FLEET

There's a new truck in town! The newest addition to the Norfolk Fire fleet, Tower One, was delivered to Fire Station One on the morning of Tuesday, June 11. A crowd gathered around the station parking lot as it was unveiled.

The process of designing and purchasing Tower One was shared between the City of Norfolk and the Norfolk Rural Fire Protection District. The two entities partnered together to split the cost of the \$1.2 million aerial. A committee consisting of Fire Division employees, both past and present, began researching and identifying the specifications in 2016. Members of this committee traveled to other fire departments to see and learn about similar equipment, as well as factory tours watching actual trucks being built.

In 2017, the process of requesting bids began and three companies

submitted bids on the aerial. Smeal Fire Apparatus Co. of Snyder, Nebraska, was ultimately awarded the bid in November 2017.

Tower One is a mid-mount aerial platform truck that can reach up to 100 feet in the air. It is high enough to reach Norfolk's tallest residential, commercial, and industrial buildings. Most similar sized Nebraska cities have a ladder truck in the 100 foot range. Tower One is taking the place of the 1974 Snorkel.

The Snorkel, an 85 foot aerial, was commissioned in December 1974. It was the first aerial apparatus in Norfolk. As part of the bidding process for the new truck, the Snorkel was sold as a trade-in to Danko Fire Equipment Company, who was the authorized dealer for Smeal Fire Apparatus.

The Snorkel was then purchased by a local reserve firefighter with the intent to keep it in the Norfolk area. Though it is decommissioned as a

part of the Norfolk Fire emergency fleet, you may still see it in parades and at other local celebrations.

NEW COMMUNICATIONS TOWER

If you have driven on 25th Street, it is hard not to notice the water tower housing numerous communications antennas. Now, there is a new kid on the block.

Due to the high cost of maintaining the water tower, City officials had to come up with another tool to support the vital communications equipment. Because the cost of a new communications tower was nearly the same as repainting the water tower, it was decided to build a safer and more reliable tower. The communications tower not only holds antennas for the City Public Works and Public Safety radios, but also for other regional entities and private enterprise as well. The 190 foot tower was assembled earlier this fall.

NORFOLK POLICE UPDATE HIRING & RETENTION PLAN

Norfolk is feeling the effects of a nationwide shortage of law enforcement applicants. For instance, in 1990 the division could receive 99 applications without having a position open. Today, pool sizes contain about 20 officer hopefuls. The testing process remains the same with applicants having to pass a written test, physical fitness test, background check, polygraph, and psychological examination.

To help the recruitment process and incentivize current law enforcement officers, the Norfolk Police Division created a hiring and retention plan, which went into effect with the start of the current fiscal year. To incentivize current law enforcement officers, there will be a recruitment bonus for current staff that recruits quality police applicants; detectives are now able to receive on-call pay; and the salaries have increased becoming more competitive.

In an effort to encourage officers to remain in law enforcement and grow both personally as well as in their position, officers can earn the rank of Master Police Officer (MPO). The MPO position was created to improve performance, service to the community, and boost morale. An officer must meet certain requirements to earn this title, including: longevity advanced training requirements, positive performance evaluations, formal education requirements, involvement in current programs (i.e. Tactical Team, Accident Team, Field Training Officer, Training Instructor, etc.) and physical fitness standards.

When full, the department is staffed with 22 patrol officers, five investigators, two school resource officers, four corporals, five sergeants, two captains, and one police chief. Applications are always accepted and kept on file until the next hiring date.

NORFOLK POLICE DIVISION PUTTING AN EMPHASIS ON VICTIM ASSISTANCE

With recent legislation in the state, over the last several years there has been a focus on shorter prison sentences, increased probation, earlier prisoner release and softer penalties for many crimes. Most of these crimes committed have a victim attached to them who will often be further victimized and traumatized by their perpetrator.

Due to an approach taken by the new administration, the Norfolk Police Division is emphasizing

the continuation of support to those victims. This includes empathetically listening to their concerns and reports, giving them realistic expectations of what can and cannot be done by law enforcement officers, aggressively investigating their cases, following up on all leads, referring them to appropriate resources in the community, and keeping them updated on the status of the investigations.

Norfolk Police will also continue to increase their use of technology as the need continues to grow.

2019 Police Division Promotions



Don Miller
from Operations Captain to Chief of Police



Chad Reiman
from Patrol Sergeant to Operations Captain



Richard Frank
from Corporal to Patrol Sergeant



Josh Bauermeister
from Detective to Corporal

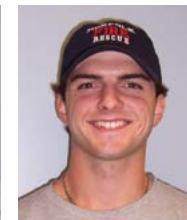
2019 Fire Division Recruits



Alexander Webb
Firefighter



Kevin Kneifl
Firefighter



Max Hesman
Firefighter



Stephanie Smith
Firefighter

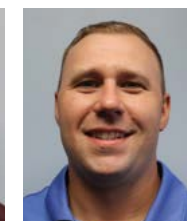


Tricia Faimon
Firefighter

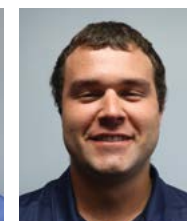
2019 Police Division Recruits



Cash Campbell
Police Officer



Christopher Hansen
Police Officer



Collin Jurgensmeier
Police Officer



Pascal Vantilborgh
Police Officer

Members of the Planning and Development Department
 Left to right: Paul Serres, Jen Olson, Willie Nelson,
 Valerie Grimes, and Steve Nordhues

progress. right at home.



Planning & Development

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT PLEASSED WITH EASE OF TRANSITION

This year was the first full year for the Planning and Development Department, consisting of the former Planning and Zoning and Prevention Bureau divisions, and their new location under one roof.

Formerly housed at the fire station, City inspectors made the move to the City Administration Building in an effort to make the planning and development process more streamlined and efficient for citizens, developers, businesses, contractors, and City staff. In August, the department welcomed Jen Olson to the team.



Midwest Bank

Jen replaced Brianna Duerst who was promoted to city clerk. The five-person crew is overall happy with how smoothly the transition went, bringing everyone together under one roof.

It was evident that the combining of the two vital divisions was essential, especially with the amount of projects occurring in 2019. The crew kept busy with many big development projects and numerous residential projects as well.

Several of the largest developments include the new construction of three banks. Midwest Bank and Elkhorn Valley



Elkhorn Valley Bank

Bank will have new facilities along west Highway 275, while Madison County Bank is expanding their own operations on North Highway 81.

The Planning and Development department works alongside our community partners to ensure standards are being met in building, plumbing, mechanical and general construction to manage development and growth and ensure safety. Following the process of applying for permits and arranging routine inspections guarantees quality assurance. The team also assists with zoning functions and annexation procedures.



Madison County Bank

SIDEWALK CAFES DEBUT

Sidewalk cafes made a debut at two of the newest small businesses located in downtown Norfolk this year.

Two restaurants along Norfolk Avenue aspired to expand their service area to the outdoors, offering the option of a more natural atmosphere to diners. Because this concept was new in Norfolk, City Code had to be amended to allow businesses to build out into the sidewalks.

Business owners and City staff worked together to create a way to allow the cafes for the business owners currently seeking them and for those aspiring to add them in the future. The goal of adding sidewalk cafes is to help make downtown an active and attractive pedestrian environment. By allowing sidewalk cafes, not only is there an opportunity for creative, colorful, pedestrian-focused commercial activities, but also encouragement for the upgrade of storefronts and development of compatible and well-designed elements within downtown Norfolk.

The opportunities for sidewalk cafes vary among location, depending on the amount of traffic and whether or not building into the sidewalk will still remain within ADA compliance.

PLANNING COMMISSION

The Norfolk Planning Commission plays an important role in the planning and development process for the City of Norfolk.

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.

2019 NORFOLK PLANNING COMMISSION

CHAIRMAN
Dan Spray

VICE CHAIRMAN
Frank Arens

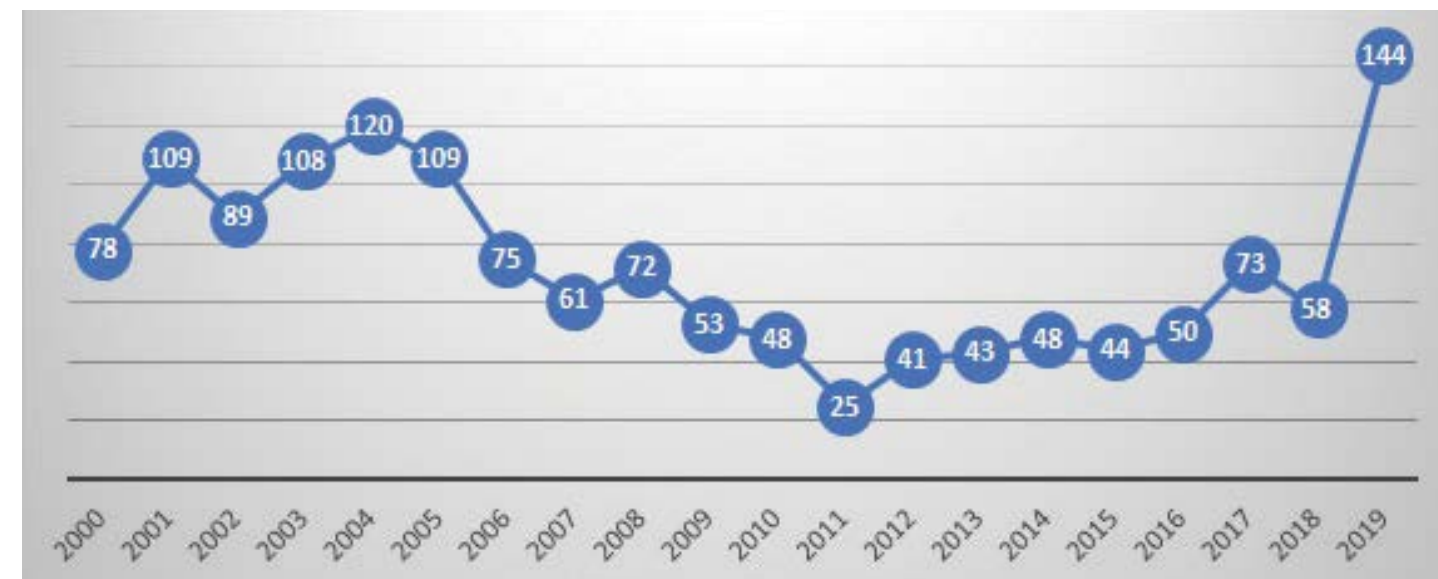
MEMBERS

- Dirk Waite
- Matt Gilmore
- Martin Griffith
- Zack Gangwer
- Kyle Deets
- Jacob Thone
- Mary Hammond



City staff works alongside a local contractor and business owner to design cafe seating that complies with ADA standards in the downtown district

RESIDENTIAL DWELLING UNITS



Eligibility interviews and annual reviews are a required part of the housing voucher program



Housing *opportunity. right at home.*

HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHERS

The Housing Choice Voucher program is a federally funded program by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). It provides a rental subsidy for individuals that meet qualified income and eligibility criteria to help pay their monthly rent.

Individuals fill out an application and provide social security cards and birth certificates for all family members listed in order to be placed on the waiting list for funding. The waiting list has a preference system and individuals that are disabled, elderly, or working at least 20 hours per week or more in our jurisdiction will have a shorter wait time than individuals that do not have a preference. An individual's total gross income must be under the guidelines (50% of area median income) for the area.

INCOME GUIDELINES (Gross Income)

- 1 - Person \$24,500
- 2 - Person \$28,000
- 3 - Person \$31,500
- 4 - Person \$35,000
- 5 - Person \$37,800

When a family reaches the top of the waiting list, an interview takes place and income and assets are verified. A criminal background check is also completed to determine eligibility.

If eligible, the individual is given a voucher that gives them the opportunity to locate a unit in the jurisdiction of the Norfolk Housing Agency. This jurisdiction includes Norfolk and Woodland Park, Battle Creek, and Hadar. The individual then finds a rental unit in the price range they are given and work with a private landlord. The unit is inspected and has to pass the Housing Quality Standards inspection before rental assistance can begin.

Once the inspection passes, the individual signs a 12-month lease agreement with the landlord, and the tenant pays between 30-40% of their monthly adjusted gross income towards their rent and utility costs. The Housing Agency also pays a portion of rent directly to the landlord.

One myth of the program is that individuals on this program are not working. The fact is, most of the individuals do work while being assisted. The wages they earn do not cover the rent and utility costs for the area.

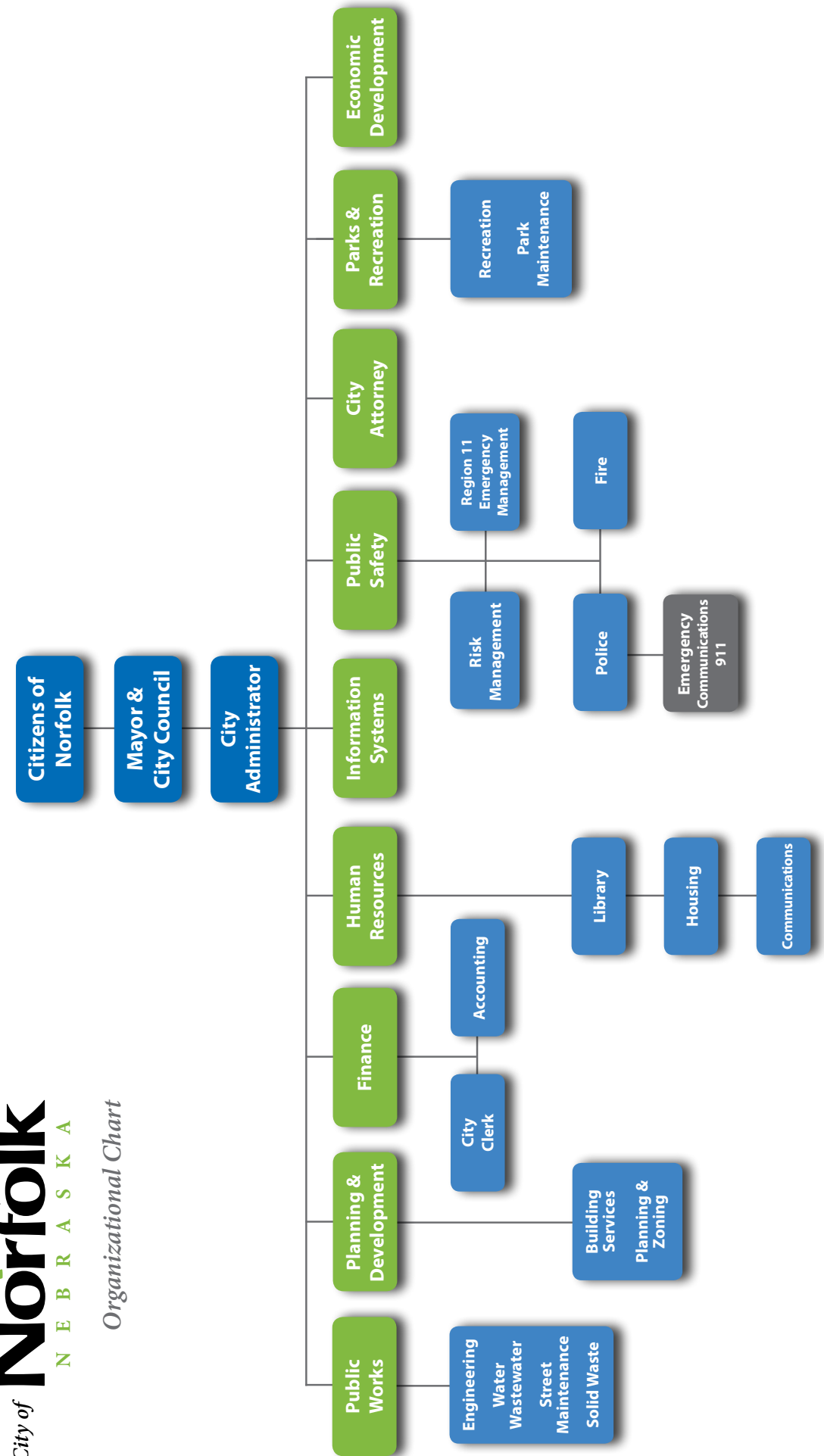
The voucher is also portable, meaning after completing the lease term and leaving the unit in good standing, the individual may request their voucher be transferred to another location in the Agency's jurisdiction or to another City/State that offers this program.

One benefit to the landlord is that the rental subsidy share from the Agency goes directly into their bank account on the first of every month. The landlord still needs to do reference checks on the families they accept from the program.

Currently the program serves approximately 228 families in the community and approximately 85 landlords participate in the subsidy program.



Organizational Chart



Property Tax Breakdown

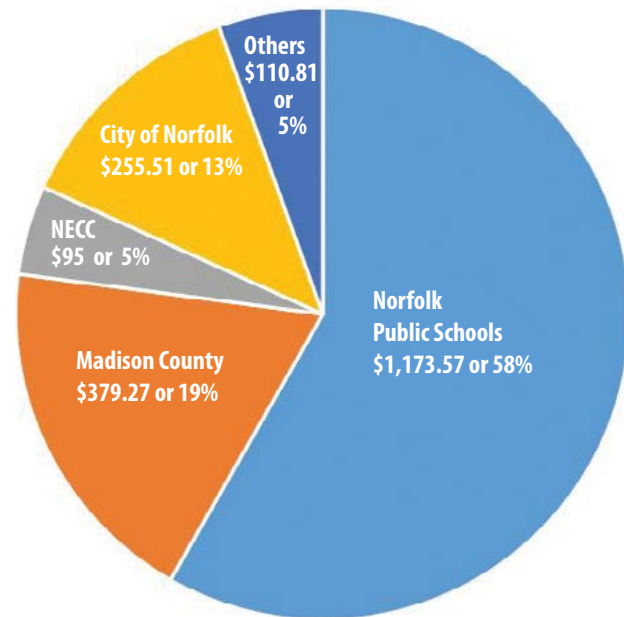
Revenues & Expenditures

Where Your Property Tax Dollars Are Spent

City of Norfolk
Your Tax Dollars at Work

On a \$100,000 home, your property taxes for 2019 are \$2,014.16.

Norfolk Public Schools.....	\$1,173.57
Madison County.....	\$ 379.27
Northeast Community College.....	\$ 95.00
City of Norfolk.....	\$ 255.51
Others.....	\$ 110.81



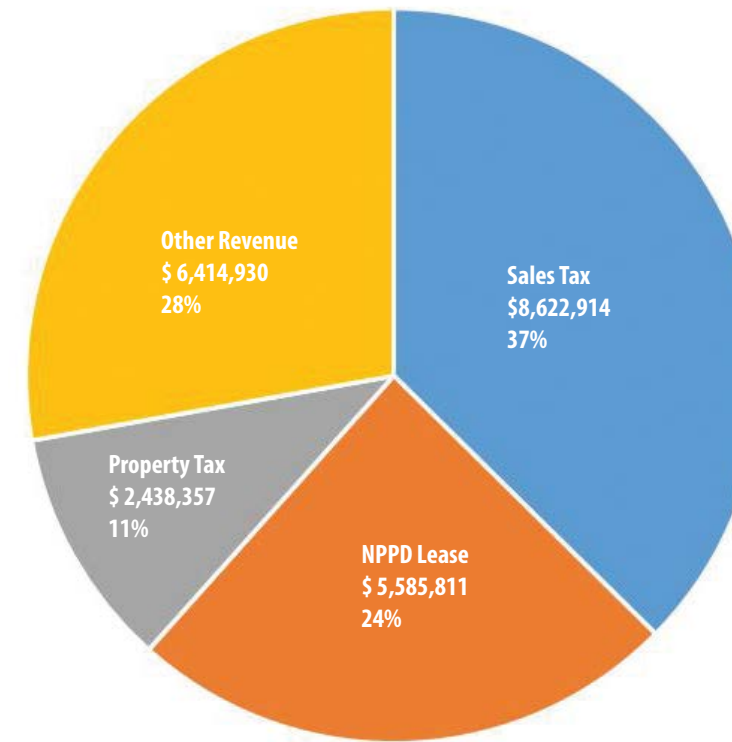
Property Tax Dollars

On a \$100,000 home, your property taxes for 2019 are \$2,014.16.

Norfolk Public Schools	\$1,173.57	58%
Madison County	\$ 379.27	19%
Northeast Community College	\$ 95.00	5%
City of Norfolk	\$ 255.51	13%
Others	\$ 110.81	5%
Total	\$2,014.16	100%

General Fund Revenues

FY 2018 - 2019



General Fund Revenues

FY 2018 - 2019

Sales Tax	\$ 8,622,914	37%
Nebraska Public Power District Lease	\$ 5,585,811	24%
Property Tax	\$ 2,438,357	11%
Other Revenue	\$ 6,414,930	28%
Total Revenue	\$ 23,062,012	100%

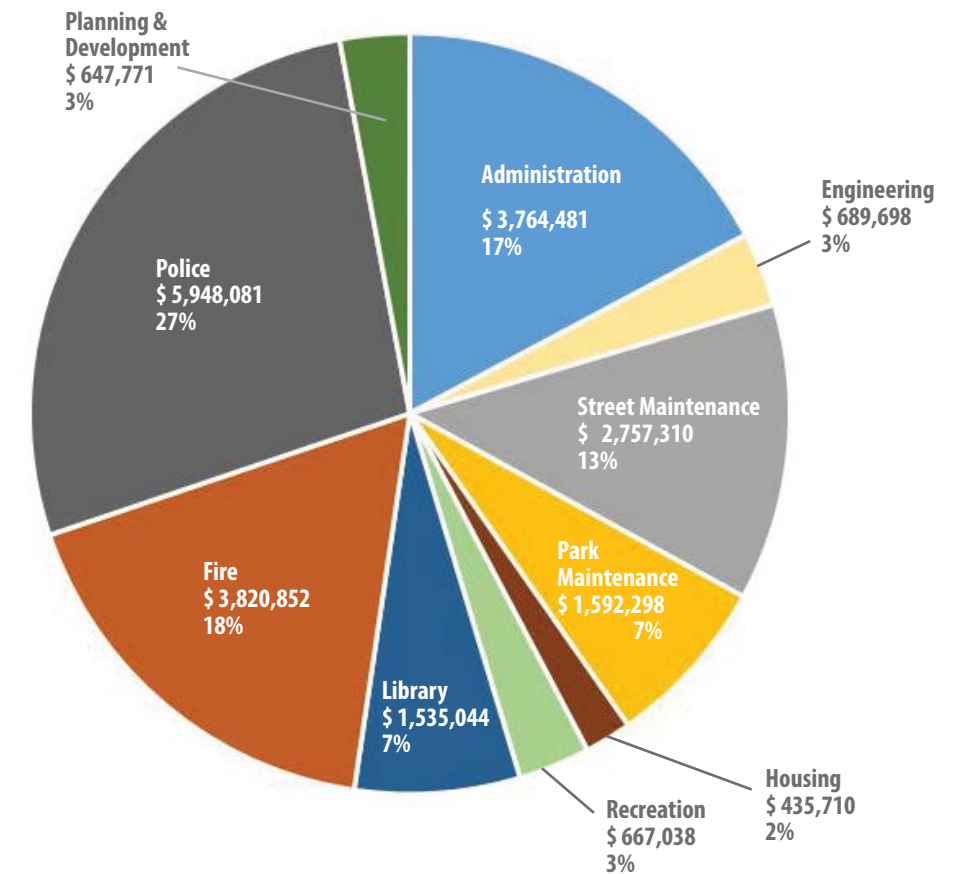
General Fund Expenditures

Distribution by Division or Function
FY 2018-2019

General Fund Expenditures

Distribution by Division or Function
FY 2018-2019

Administration	\$ 3,764,481	17%
Engineering	\$ 689,698	3%
Street Maintenance	\$ 2,757,310	13%
Park Maintenance	\$ 1,592,298	7%
Housing	\$ 435,710	2%
Recreation	\$ 667,038	3%
Library	\$ 1,535,044	7%
Fire	\$ 3,820,852	18%
Police	\$ 5,948,081	27%
Planning & Development	\$ 647,771	3%
Total	\$21,858,282	100%





309 N. 5th Street
Norfolk, NE 68701

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 81257.
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.