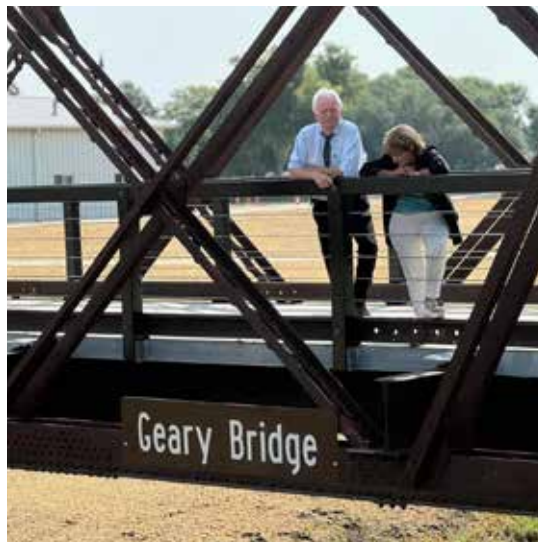




# 2024 Annual Report



# 2024 Annual Report

## About Norfolk

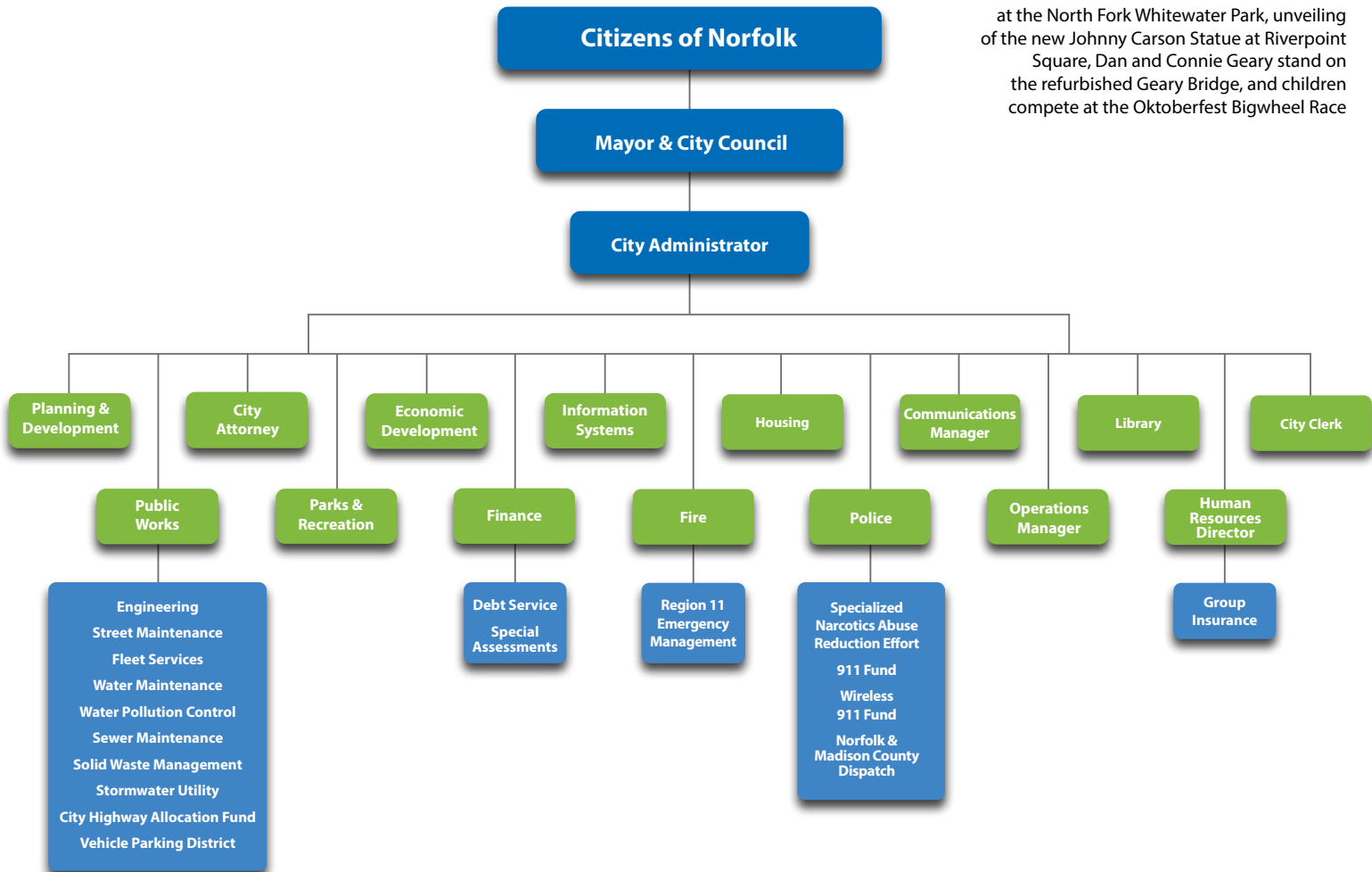
The Mission of the City of Norfolk is to “provide quality public services in an effective and efficient manner to enhance the common good and quality of life including citizen involvement.”

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

## Table of Contents

Mayor’s Message	1
City Council Members & Ward Map	2 - 3
Administration	4 - 5
Community Engagement	6 - 7
Public Works	8 - 10
Public Safety	11 - 13
Parks & Recreation	14 - 15
North Fork Whitewater Park	16 - 17
Economic Development	18 - 19
Planning & Development	20 - 21
Housing	22 - 23
Library	24
Property Tax Breakdown	25
Helpful phone numbers	26



Cover: A surfer rides the waves of a surf feature at the North Fork Whitewater Park, unveiling of the new Johnny Carson Statue at Riverpoint Square, Dan and Connie Geary stand on the refurbished Geary Bridge, and children compete at the Oktoberfest Bigwheel Race





309 N 5<sup>th</sup> Street  
Norfolk, NE 68701  
P402-844-2010 F402-844-2001  
www.norfolkne.gov

Josh Moenning  
Mayor

jmoenning@norfolkne.gov

Dear Norfolkans,  
2024 was a year for wrapping up big projects that make Norfolk a better place to live for all its citizens.

Improvements in infrastructure and renovation of public spaces topped the list of accomplishments. Finishing touches on Benjamin Avenue, for example, left in place a safer, smoother, and more inviting east-west thoroughfare.

The openings of Johnson Park and the North Fork Whitewater Park transformed what had been unsightly, unsafe, and mostly unused public spaces into areas that will provide new recreation and gathering opportunities for generations to come. The work re-imagined and revitalized the very area where Norfolk began, restoring it to its rightful place of community pride and identity while setting a landmark to our history and illustrating the promise of our future.

2024 was another year of incremental progress as Norfolk continues its quest to be a welcoming, active, safe, and opportunity-filled home to residents and newcomers. It's been an extraordinary privilege and unique honor to have served as your mayor. I wish you all a healthy and productive new year. Forward!

Sincerely,

Josh Moenning



309 N. 5<sup>th</sup> Street  
Norfolk, NE 68701  
P402-844-2000  
[www.norfolkne.gov](http://www.norfolkne.gov)

Shane Clausen, Mayor

[sclausen@norfolkne.gov](mailto:sclausen@norfolkne.gov)

Dear Norfolkans,  
I am deeply honored and humbled by your trust and confidence in electing me as Mayor of Norfolk. It is a privilege to serve a community as vibrant and dedicated as ours, and I am truly grateful for the opportunity to lead in this capacity.

Norfolk's recent successes are a testament to the strength of our collective efforts. Together, we have demonstrated the power of collaboration in fostering growth and progress. As your Mayor, my top priorities will include sound fiscal management, ensuring that your hard-earned tax dollars are used wisely and responsibly to address the needs of our community. At the same time, I am committed to creating and supporting new economic opportunities that will drive innovation and enhance the quality of life for all residents.

I believe that our community thrives when we stand united. By continuing to work together, we can build on the momentum we've achieved and ensure a brighter future for everyone in Norfolk. Collaboration will remain at the heart of our endeavors, and I look forward to engaging with all of you to identify and act on opportunities that will benefit our city.

Thank you for entrusting me with this important role. I am excited about the work ahead and eager to serve Norfolk with dedication, integrity, and a vision for a prosperous future.

Sincerely,

Mayor Shane Clausen



## 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 Monday of each month in the City Council Chambers at 309 N. 5th Street, Norfolk, Nebraska. Council meetings are also live-streamed on the City website as well as cable television.



The council holds a public comment session the last meeting of each quarter for all community members.

## NEW REPRESENTATION

On November 5, 2024, voters elected Sue Beckman to succeed Thad Murren and Jeff Jensen to succeed Justin Snorton. Beckman and Jensen began their terms at the December 2, 2024 City Council meeting.

Shane Clausen was elected mayor, and outgoing Mayor Josh Moenning decided to not seek a third term.

**Ward 2**

**Frank Arens**  
farens@norfolkne.gov  
Term expires 12/2028

**Jim Lange**  
jlange@norfolkne.gov  
Term expires 12/2026

**Mayor**



**Shane Clausen**  
sclausen@norfolkne.gov  
Term expires 12/2028

**Ward 3**




**Justin Webb**  
jwebb@norfolkne.gov  
Term expires 12/2026

**Jeff Jensen**  
jjensen@norfolkne.gov  
Term expires 12/2028

**Outgoing Mayor & Council Members**

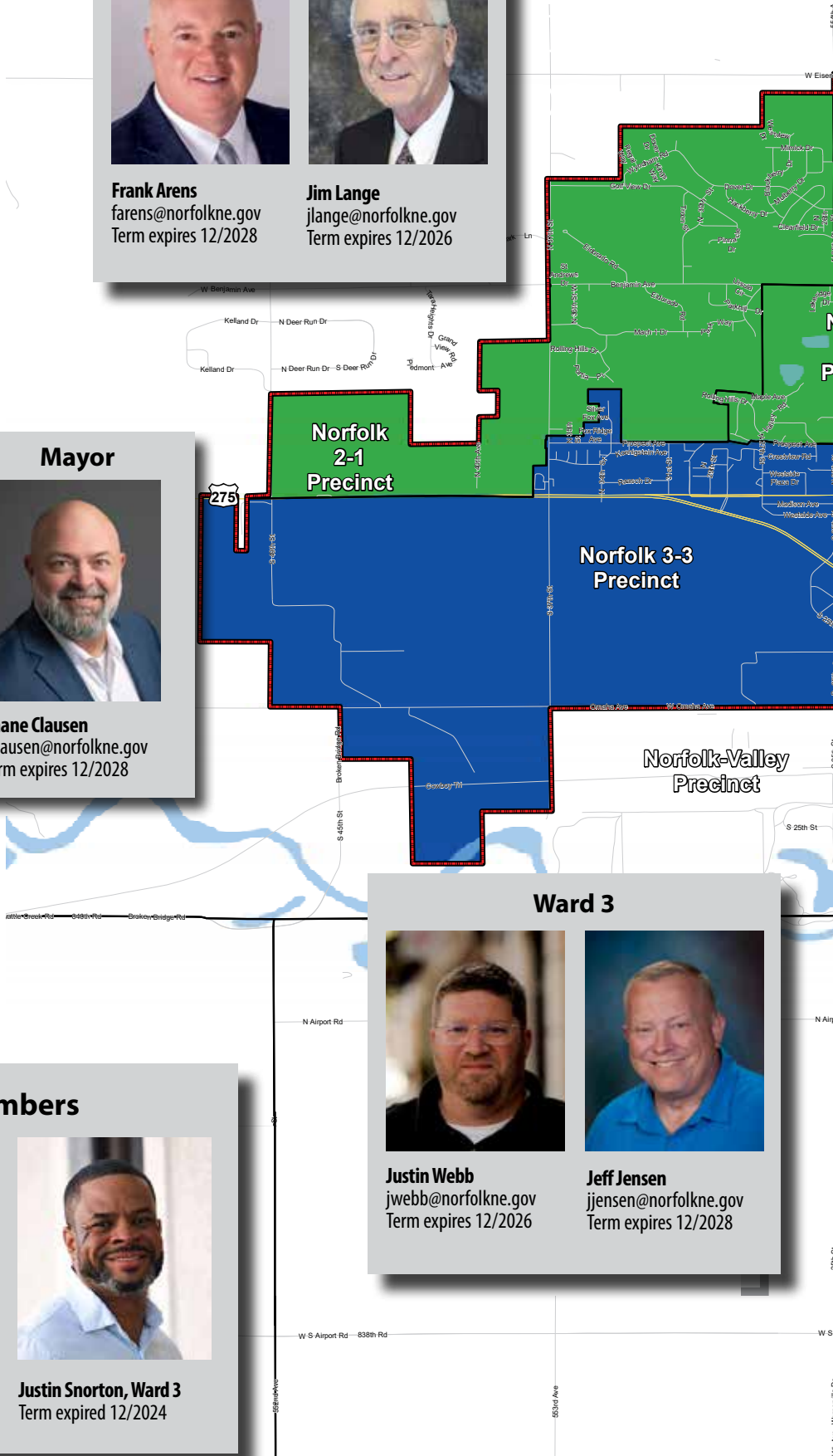




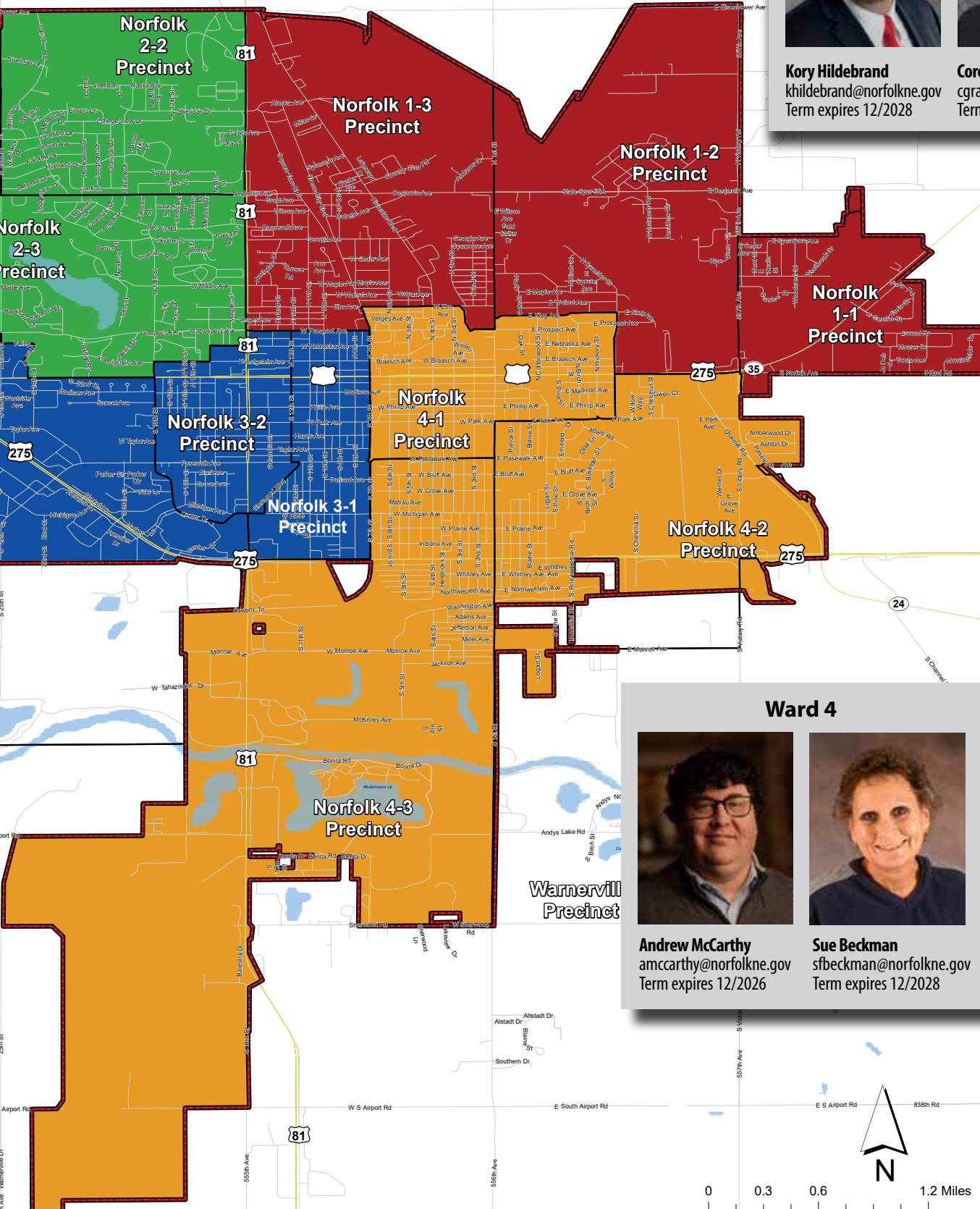
**Mayor Josh Moenning**  
Term expired 12/2024

**Thad Murren, Ward 4**  
Term expired 12/2024

**Justin Snorton, Ward 3**  
Term expired 12/2024



# 2025 Norfolk City Council Representatives



**Ward 1**



**Kory Hildebrand**  
khildebrand@norfolkne.gov  
Term expires 12/2028



**Corey Granquist**  
cgranquist@norfolkne.gov  
Term expires 12/2026

**Ward 4**



**Andrew McCarthy**  
amccarthy@norfolkne.gov  
Term expires 12/2026



**Sue Beckman**  
sbeckman@norfolkne.gov  
Term expires 12/2028



# CITY OF NORFOLK



## Administration

### MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBERS SWORN IN

On Monday, December 2, 2024, Jeff Jensen (Ward 3) and Sue Beckman (Ward 4) began their terms on the Norfolk City Council after being elected on November 5, 2024. The new council members replaced Justin Snorton and Thad Murren, respectively.

Snorton had been a Ward 3 councilman since February of last year after being appointed to fill the remainder of Gary Jackson's

term. Murren served Ward 4 since 2010. Incumbents Kory Hildebrand (Ward 1) and Frank Arens (Ward 2) won re-election and retained their seats on the City Council.

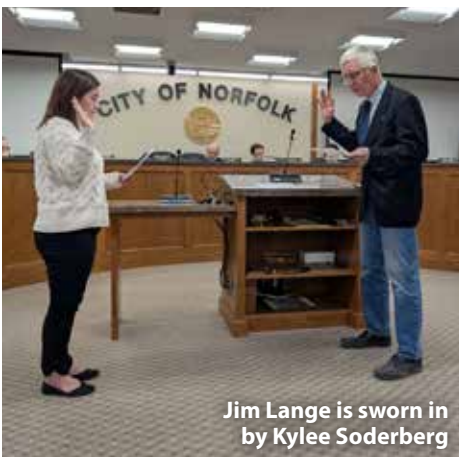
Shane Clausen, Ward 2 councilman, won the mayoral race and was sworn in as Norfolk's next mayor. Mayor Josh Moenning chose to not seek reelection after serving two terms.

City Clerk Kylee Soderberg

oversaw the swearing-in of Clausen, Hildebrand, Arens, Jensen, and Beckman.

Councilman Frank Arens (Ward 2) 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 and emails from citizens within their respective wards.



Jim Lange is sworn in by Kylee Soderberg

### WARD 2 APPOINTMENT

Following his election as Mayor of Norfolk, Shane Clausen vacated

the Ward 2 seat, which opened up for a two-year appointment.

The City received 12 applications for the position and preliminary interviews narrowed the field to three finalists, Dr. Mark Davis, Soshia Bohn, and Jim Lange. These candidates participated in a public interview process on Wednesday, December 11, allowing residents to observe and provide feedback. The process also enabled the full council to engage directly with the candidates and ask questions. After the interviews and public

comment, Mayor Clausen appointed Jim Lange to fill the position, a decision that received overwhelming approval from the council.

"Jim's past experience on the council demonstrated steady leadership, thoughtful decision-making, and a commitment to fiscal responsibility. These qualities will be important as we work to move our community forward and foster unity after a challenging election season," shared Mayor Clausen.

## NORFOLK RUNNER UP IN STRONGEST TOWNS CONTEST

Norfolk won the runner-up title in the 9th Annual Strongest Town Contest, an international, March Madness-style tournament that celebrates North American cities. Sixteen cities from coast to coast competed for the Strongest Town title by shining a national spotlight on their progress toward safety, financial resiliency, housing and transportation.

It was a close match, and Norfolk earned its advancement through five rounds (and an honorary title) through its efforts to transform its downtown into an inviting place where people want to live and spend time. Their efforts include improving street safety by adding mid-block crossings, transforming signalized intersections into four-way stops, and investing in improvements to downtown businesses.

All cities across North America could participate, with 16



Mayor Josh Moening presenting to the 2024 Nebraska Economic Development Association conference attendees

nominees selected. Cities were eliminated via weekly voting rounds. In the first round, there were four honorary winners with Norfolk being selected for "Most Progress Toward a Robust & Responsive Housing Supply."

Strong Towns is a 501c(3) non-profit and media advocacy organization that shifts conversations around the North American development pattern. Through articles, podcasts, videos, live events and city partnerships, they provide knowledge and tools to help cities transform their streets and communities.

## NEW HR DIRECTOR & DEPARTMENT RESTRUCTURE

In 2024, the City welcomed Jessica Dvorak as the new Human Resources Director. Dvorak brings extensive experience to the role, having previously served as Vice President of HR and Organizational Development at Northeast Community College.

Following the retirement of Payroll and Benefits Administrator Pat von Glan, the Human Resources team was restructured to enhance support for employees.

The updated team includes Nancy Wright as Talent Acquisition and Development Manager, Isabella Chappell as Benefits and Compensation Manager, Stacey Hansen as Payroll Coordinator, Gustavo Magana as Human Resource Specialist, and Marsha Brown as Administrative Assistant.

## NEW CITY CLERK

Kylee Soderberg was appointed as the new City Clerk in September. Soderberg, who has been with the City since 2021, previously served as an



Kylee Soderberg

Administrative Assistant and transitioned to Benefits and Compensation Manager in early 2024.

In her new role, Soderberg oversees the administration of city records, manages public inquiries, and ensures that city operations comply with state and local regulations.

She succeeds Brianna Duerst, who recently transitioned to the Planning & Development Manager position within the Planning and Development Division.



Human Resources staff





# Community Engagement

## LIFE SAVER AWARD

Two outstanding citizens, James Kelley and Steve Janssen, were recognized for their heroic efforts in saving a life this past summer. They were presented with Life Saver Awards for performing bystander CPR on Tony Pruss during a cardiac arrest, while Norfolk Fire and Rescue crews responded to the emergency.

Their swift actions underscore the vital role of bystander CPR, a critical intervention proven to significantly increase survival rates for out-of-hospital cardiac arrests. Although an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) was not available at the scene, the success highlights just how crucial bystander CPR can be.



Salvation Army Ribbon Cutting

Thanks to a generous donation from Anne and Tony Pruss and their family, the Norfolk community now has access to another AED. Andrew Smeal and his team at Eldorado Hills have graciously accepted this life-saving device, which will be available to members, customers, and the community in case of an emergency.

## SALVATION ARMY RIBBON CUTTING

The Salvation Army held a ribbon-cutting ceremony in December to celebrate the opening of its new facility at 401 N. Fourth St., where the former post office building had sat vacant for years.

The new facility will better accommodate the growing needs of the Norfolk community, featuring a larger warehouse for storing and processing food, additional classrooms to support students, and expanded lunch programs.

Phase 2 of the capital campaign is now underway to further address the community's increasing needs.



Salvation Army new location



**INTERNATIONAL VISITORS**

City Hall hosted two distinguished international visitors during its own "International Week," highlighting Norfolk's global connections.

The Honorable Chipiliro Mpinganjira, Member of Parliament in Malawi and City Councillor from Norfolk's sister city, Blantyre, visited to strengthen our partnership focused on cultural exchange and development.

Later, Dr. Danilo Centrella, Mayor of Cocquio-Trevisago, Italy, stopped by while visiting his

daughter, who plays basketball at Northeast Community College.

These visits remind us how small and connected the world can

be, offering opportunities for friendship and collaboration. Norfolk proudly embraces these global ties that enrich our community.



Mayor Josh Moenning with the Honorable Chipiliro Mpinganjira of Blantyre, Malawi



Dr. Danilo Centrella, Mayor of Cocquio-Trevisago, Italy with Mayor Josh Moenning

**LOCAL SPORTS TEAM RECOGNIZED**

The City of Norfolk had the honor of celebrating two historic athletic achievements this year, showcasing the exceptional talent and determination of our local teams. These victories have not only brought immense pride to our community but also underscored the power of teamwork, perseverance, and sportsmanship.

The Northeast Community College Men's Soccer Team brought home

the 2024 National Junior College Athletic Association DII Men's Soccer Championship with a dramatic 2-1 victory over Neosho County. This win marked the first National Title in school history, solidifying the Hawks' legacy in collegiate athletics.

On the heels of their third consecutive State Football Championship, the Norfolk Catholic Knights were recognized by the

Norfolk City Council for their unparalleled success. The Knights secured a 27-13 victory over Bishop Neumann at Memorial Stadium.



Mayor Josh Moenning with the Northeast Community College Men's Soccer Team



Mayor Josh Moenning with the Norfolk Catholic Football Coach Jeff Beller



# Public Works



Community members take part in a walk audit

## CITY PARTNERS WITH SAFE STREETS FOR ALL

The City of Norfolk is taking significant steps toward creating safer, more accessible streets with its Safe Streets for All initiative, part of a broader multimodal transportation action plan. Funded through a \$220,000 U.S. Department of Transportation grant with an \$80,000 local match, the plan focuses on improving safety and connectivity across Norfolk's streets, sidewalks, bikeways, and trails.

Citizens took part in an interactive survey which included a citywide map, to mark areas where they feel safe or unsafe and locations they frequent most often.

The transportation action plan goes beyond routine street

maintenance, focusing instead on revising city policies and prioritizing projects that enhance safety and accessibility. Potential improvements could include better crosswalks, enhanced lighting, signage, and even extending sidewalks, such as those on South First Street to connect with the Cowboy Trail.

This planning process covers a broad area, extending two miles beyond city limits. To address jurisdictional challenges, an action plan committee was created which includes representatives from North Fork Area Transit, city staff, and officials from state and county agencies.

The city aims to finalize its plan by spring or summer of 2025. This timeline aligns with the opportunity to apply for

an implementation grant by September 2025, enabling Norfolk to transition seamlessly from planning to execution.

Norfolk's Safe Streets for All plan reflects the city's commitment to creating a more inclusive and secure environment for all residents. With community input guiding the process, the initiative promises to set a strong foundation for long-term improvements in transportation safety and access.



Safe Streets Open House



## PUBLIC WORKS DIVISION RECOGNIZED

Two of the City's Public Works Divisions received prestigious accolades for their dedication to safety and operational excellence.

At the Nebraska Water Environment Association Fall Conference, the Water Pollution Control (WPC) Plant was awarded the Gold Safety Award, which recognizes exceptional achievements in accident prevention and safety programs. The Norfolk WPC Plant has maintained an exemplary safety record, with no time-loss accidents for over six years.

The WPC Plant also received the Scott Wilber Award, which celebrates outstanding facilities that demonstrate superior environmental and operational standards.

Additionally, at the 2023 American Water Works Association Conference, the Water Division was honored with the 2023 Safety Award. This recognition underscores the division's commitment to maintaining an exceptional safety record, implementing a robust safety program, and providing comprehensive safety training.



## ONE IN SIX-YEAR IMPROVEMENT PLAN

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.

Each year an information meeting is held at the Norfolk Public Library to gather community input on the plan.

## CITY PARTNERS WITH STREETSCAN

The City of Norfolk is partnering with StreetScan to enhance the management and maintenance of city streets. This collaboration will provide accurate, up-to-date information on street conditions to guide future repairs and infrastructure planning.

StreetScan uses advanced data collection and analytics tools, including 3D cameras, radar, and GPS, to assess the condition of streets and sidewalks. Its GIS-based software, Streetlogix, enables cities to visualize infrastructure conditions, prioritize repairs, and optimize budgets.

In September, the StreetScan vehicle conducted assessments throughout Norfolk. The City will receive a Pavement Condition Index for the streetscape, which will help determine the appropriate repair methods needed.



# Public Works



Street Division doing patch work in Norfolk

## 2024 STREET CREW MAINTENANCE

The City of Norfolk Street Division concluded 2024 with significant accomplishments in infrastructure maintenance, traffic services, and fleet management, reinforcing its commitment to providing quality public services. Here's a look at the key achievements and metrics from the past year.

### Infrastructure Maintenance

- Concrete Poured: 1,029 yards, improving road durability and pedestrian pathways.
- Storm Sewer Maintenance:
- Jetted: 64,226 linear feet of storm sewer.
- Cleaned: 706 inlets.
- Asphalt Patching: 449.43 tons applied to enhance road safety and smoothness.

### Traffic Services

- Line Striping: A remarkable 300,487 feet of roadway received fresh markings, ensuring visibility and improved traffic flow.
- Symbols Painted: Over 300 symbols painted on city streets for clearer navigation and safety.

### Team and Collaboration

- The Division is powered by a dedicated team:
  - 15 Equipment Operators
  - 1 Signal Technician/Electrician
  - 4 Seasonal Street Workers
  - 4 Equipment Mechanics
  - 1 Administrative Assistant

### Fleet Services

The Fleet Division played a vital role in maintaining city operations:

- Conducted preventative maintenance on a wide range of city vehicles, including police cruisers, fire apparatus, and heavy equipment.
- Customized and prepared new vehicles for deployment, ensuring each was equipped with necessary tools and safety features.

### Snow and Ice Management

The Street Division was well prepared for winter, utilizing 1,257 tons of salt in the 2023-2024 snow year. Looking ahead, the fleet includes:

- 5 Brine Trucks ready for the 2024-2025 snow year.
- 9 Liquid Salt Trucks to tackle icy conditions efficiently.



In collaboration with city departments, state agencies, and local organizations, the Street Division continues to focus on projects that enhance Norfolk's infrastructure and quality of life. As we look forward to another productive year, the Street Division remains committed to maintaining the city with efficiency and innovation.



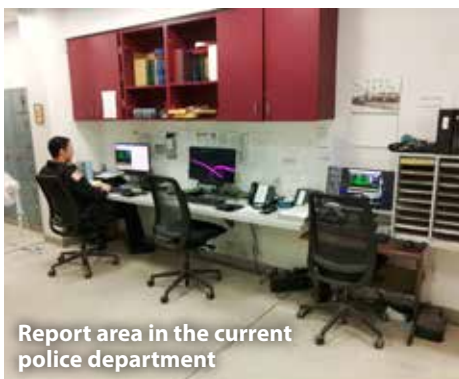


# Public Safety

## VOTERS APPROVE POLICE EXPANSION SALES TAX

In November, Norfolk voters approved a half-cent sales tax increase, projected to raise around \$15.6 million over four years. This revenue will fund the \$10.1 million expansion and renovation of the Norfolk Police Division at 202 North 7th Street, with remaining funds directed toward street repairs. The project will be financed on a pay-as-you-go basis, meaning no debt will be incurred. Construction is expected to begin in 2025, with completion anticipated within two to three years.

Currently, the Norfolk Police Division's 17,365-square-foot facility



Report area in the current police department

houses the police division, city jail, regional dispatch center, and city attorney's office. Public safety consultants have identified the need to expand to about 26,000 square feet to accommodate both current demands and anticipated needs for the next 30 years. The new design will include a multipurpose garage for up to seven vehicles, supporting increased functionality and efficiency.

Additional enhancements will include dedicated juvenile observation rooms, firearm maintenance areas, secure evidence processing and storage, and expanded fitness facilities. Other improvements include a third high-capacity boiler, more dressing and shower areas, and expanded locker rooms for both male and female officers. The new training facilities will feature a multipurpose classroom and designated spaces for driving and shooting simulators, available for training by other agencies as well. The expansion will span two stories, with a garage on the east side of the building.



Faythe Petersen

## PETERSEN RETIRES

After nearly 44 years of dedicated service to the Norfolk Fire Division, Faythe Petersen retired in 2024. She spent her career as Region 11 Emergency Manager, an Administrative Assistant, and spent time as the Emergency Manager Coordinator. Katelyn Palmer was named the new Administrative Assistant and Emergency Management Coordinator in June. Palmer has been with the City since 2020 serving in the Planning and Development Division.



Katelyn Palmer





# Public Safety

## FIRE TRAINING

Norfolk Fire took part in a number of unique training exercises this past year. With the opening of the North Fork Whitewater Park, Norfolk Fire took to the north fork of the Elkhorn River at Johnson Park for specialized training sessions amidst the flowing currents. The water team had the opportunity to practice self-rescue techniques, deploy throw ropes, and package a patient on a backboard in moving water. The training not only enhanced water rescue skills but also familiarized the team with the seven drop structures as well as access points to the river in case of an emergency.

Training also took place at the various properties purchased by the Northeast Nebraska Regional Land Bank which were scheduled to be demolished. "Opportunities like these cannot be duplicated as every

structure brings its own unique challenges, allowing us to use critical thinking skills along with physical firefighting skills to help us become better firefighters," said assistant fire chief Trever O'Brien.



Norfolk Fire trains at the North Fork Whitewater Park

## 2024 OPTIMIST AWARDS PRESENTED

The Norfolk Morning and Noon Optimist clubs recognized Norfolk's Public Safety Divisions. Firefighter/Paramedic Ethan Larson of the Norfolk Fire Division and Lieutenant Ted McCarthy with Norfolk Police were recognized. Sergeant Scott Rutten with the Nebraska State Patrol was also honored. Optimist International highlights those who inspire respect for the law.



Firefighter/Paramedic Ethan Larson recognized by the Noon Optimist Club



Lieutenant Ted McCarthy and Sergeant Scott Rutten recognized by the Noon Optimist Club



### COMMUNITY GATHERS 9/11 MEMORIAL STAIR CLIMB

196 community members joined 30 firefighters at Veterans Memorial Field to honor the sacrifice of fallen firefighters by climbing 110 flights of stairs—symbolizing the number of floors in the World Trade Center towers. This event, held on September 11, brought together community members, firefighters, and city officials, all united by a common goal: to remember and honor those who gave everything in the line of duty.

Participants donned gear and climbed in solidarity, reflecting on

the courage and commitment of first responders. The event not only memorialized those lost but also served as a reminder of the bravery and selflessness that define the firefighting community. The Norfolk Fire Division expressed gratitude for the community’s support and the shared commitment to ensuring the legacy of the fallen remains alive.

The 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb stands as an enduring tribute, reflecting the city’s deep respect for the sacrifices made and its commitment to honoring heroes—past, present, and future.



Community members hold the American flag following the 9/11 memorial stair climb.

### NORFOLK FIRE AWARDED

The Norfolk Fire Division received the 2024 Mission Lifeline Silver Award for EMS from the American Heart Association. The Mission: Lifeline EMS Recognition Program is designed to showcase prehospital agencies’ nationwide for excellence in heart attack and stroke care.

Prehospital personnel are the first care providers to patients suffering from acute emergencies. Their role in the care system for these patients is crucial and often sets the course for the patient’s outcome.

The Mission: Lifeline EMS Recognition Program was launched in 2014 and continues to celebrate the achievements of prehospital providers and their collaboration with each other and hospitals, specifically in patient care.

### 2024 Fire, Police, and Dispatch Staff Promotions and Hiring

#### FIRE DIVISION



Isahia Swan



Fritz Cloete

#### POLICE DIVISION



Stuart Hasemann



Conor Dempsey



Jake Bartosh



Kevin Rodriguez

#### DISPATCH



Shelby Andersen



Riley Feary

Every 40 seconds, someone in the U.S. has a stroke or heart attack. Heart disease and stroke are the No. 1 and No. 5 causes of death in the United States, respectively. Studies show patients can recover better when providers consistently follow treatment guidelines.



Norfolk Fire with Dr. Tom Surber and Mayor Josh Moenning





# Parks & Recreation

## JOHNSON PARK COMPLETED

Johnson Park, a cornerstone of Norfolk's history and recreation, has been reimagined for a new era.

In September, local and state officials, residents, and special guests gathered to celebrate the transformation of this nearly century-old park into a vibrant community hub.

The park's legacy dates back to the 1880s when Col. Charles Mathewson's mill on the North Fork River set the foundation for Norfolk's development. By the 1930s, city leaders, under Nels P. Johnson, transformed the



Johnson Park new trails and greenery

old riverbed into Johnson Park, featuring a sunken garden, pond, and play areas built by Works Progress Administration laborers. While much of the original park was lost to flooding in 1944, its significance remained.

After years of planning and determination, Johnson Park has been revitalized with features that bridge its storied past and a promising future. Walking paths, playgrounds, an amphitheater, an ice skating rink, and access to the North Fork Whitewater Park now grace the grounds.

"This effort began decades ago, but everything came together in 2017," Moenning explained. "We had the right ingredients to get things done." He expressed gratitude to the many individuals, organizations, and businesses whose collaboration made the project possible.

A highlight of the redevelopment is the historic railroad bridge, relocated and preserved thanks to Dan and Connie Geary. When the bridge faced demolition, the couple stepped in to save it, giving it a new purpose as part of



Johnson Park new playground

the park's walking trail. The park's transformation has also boosted Norfolk's appeal as a regional destination. Visitors from Omaha, Lincoln, and beyond are coming to enjoy its amenities, an outcome celebrated by state Senator Rob Dover, who remarked, "Who would have thought people from Omaha and Lincoln would come here for the weekend?"

The park's renovation honors its history while embracing a forward-looking vision. Longstanding features, like the 1930s American Legion flagpole and gates from the original dam, remain as symbols of its heritage.



## PARKS & RECREATION MASTER PLAN

Parks and Recreation is dedicated to providing top-tier parks, recreation facilities, and programs for the community. To advance this commitment, the City initiated the development of a Parks and Recreation Master Plan with PROS Consulting. Results from a citizen survey were shared earlier this year, and trails, walking paths, and connectivity improvements ranked as top priorities for residents. There is widespread community enthusiasm for enhancing public green spaces and expanding programming.

The master plan is part of the City's overall effort to improve facilities in the community over the next several years.

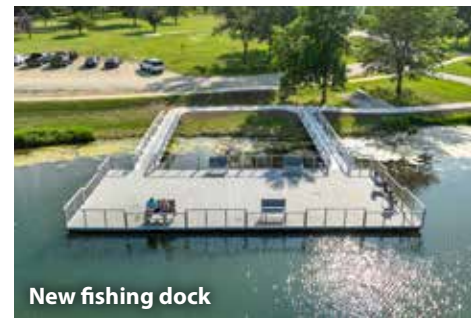
Some community needs include lack of access to recreational facilities for underserved areas, a need for multi-generational programming to engage youth, adults, and seniors alike, and demand for more sports fields, outdoor event spaces, and picnic areas.



## DONATION OF PICKLEBALL COURT

The City of Norfolk is expanding its recreation options, thanks to Mike Wingate, Tom Schueth, and Bryan Adams who made a generous donation of \$300,000 to support the construction of four pickleball courts complete with lighting and fencing.

Construction began in August in Liberty Bell Park. "This incredibly generous donation is helping make Norfolk a better place, one park project at a time. We are grateful for such a wonderful partnership and look forward to putting the gift to good use for the community," said Mayor Josh Moenning.



New fishing dock

## NEW SKYVIEW FISHING DOCK

Skyview Lake in Norfolk has a new fishing dock thanks to a generous donation. The Mahlon "Jack" Kohler estate donated \$250,000 for the construction of the dock. Additionally, a table and bench with recognition to Jack and Norma Kohler will be placed in the area of the bandstand.

Visitors are encouraged to visit the lake, explore the new dock, and enjoy the peaceful setting. Whether you're a seasoned angler or simply looking for a tranquil spot by the water, the new dock is ready to provide memorable experiences.



Johnson Park new ice rink

To sign up for any of our upcoming recreation activities please visit our Active Net page!





## North Fork Whitewater Park

### **NORTH FORK WHITEWATER PARK OPENS**

On June 8, the City of Norfolk celebrated the grand opening of the North Fork Whitewater Park on the North Fork of the Elkhorn River. This state-of-the-art recreational facility offers unique outdoor experiences, including tubing, kayaking, and even river surfing, all in the heart of Norfolk.

The park features seven drop structures, with depths ranging from 1.5 feet to 3 feet, designed for various activities. It's one of only five parks in the U.S. to provide river surfing on a natural river, making it a standout attraction for outdoor enthusiasts and tourists across the Midwest. Access to the whitewater park is free, with several convenient entry points. Visitors are encouraged to spend a morning or afternoon enjoying the half-mile stretch of whitewater and the scenic float downriver.

To ensure a secure experience for all, the city has placed life jacket and helmet stations at Winter Park and Johnson Park. Life jackets, donated by Motoplex of Norfolk and Prime Stop, are mandatory for all users, while helmets are strongly recommended. Both are available at no cost and should be returned after use.

The North Fork Whitewater Park complements the renovations at Johnson Park, which include

a new amphitheater, a seasonal basketball court that converts into an ice rink, and updated playground equipment.

"The park is a game-changer for recreation and tourism, bringing together natural beauty, urban convenience, and thrilling outdoor activities. We can't wait to welcome visitors to experience it for themselves," said Mayor Josh Moenning.



River view looking west towards  
new 1st Street bridge





City staff after winning Parks & Facilities Development Award

### RIVERFRONT EARNS MULTIPLE AWARDS

The City of Norfolk was awarded the Park & Facilities Development Award by the NE Recreation and Parks Association for the innovative development of the North Fork Whitewater Park and Johnson Park projects.

The award highlights the unique qualities of the projects, as well as the anticipated usage and benefits. The park will provide a year-round outdoor recreation experience for all residents, offering access to whitewater activities, trails, and engaging play features.

“This project wouldn’t be possible without the efforts of many. We need to thank those with the vision and community involvement, elected officials, city staff, and all the donors, grants, and

partnerships that came together to make this possible. The park is for everyone, and we’re excited to provide year-round outdoor recreation,” said Nathan Powell, Parks and Recreation Director.

The Riverfront project was also awarded the Placemaking award at the Mid-America Economic Developers Association annual ceremony in December. The Northeast Nebraska Growing Together initiative was recognized with a Workforce award.

These awards reflect our region’s dedication to fostering a thriving community and a robust workforce. Norfolk and Northeast Nebraska’s recognition, among programs across 13 states, underscores our commitment to enhancing quality of place and supporting workforce development.



### FUNDING BREAKDOWN

<b>City of Norfolk</b>	
■ Keno	\$ 1,681,701
■ Highway Allocation Funds (1st Street Bridge replacement)	\$ 4,360,000
■ Enterprise Funds	\$ 320,000
■ American Rescue Plan Act	\$ 1,000,000
<b>Grants/Partnerships</b>	
■ Lower Elkhorn Natural Resources District	\$ 1,031,701
■ NE Department of Natural Resources Grant	\$ 1,997,409
■ Norfolk Sanitary Improvement District	\$ 250,000
□ DED CCCFF Planning Grant*	\$ 15,000
■ DED CCCFF Grant	\$ 1,125,000
■ DED CDBG Tourism Grant	\$ 435,000
■ Anonymous Donor	\$ 500,000
■ Peter Kiewit Foundation	\$ 500,000
■ Robert B. Daugherty Foundation	\$ 500,000
□ Trees for Nebraska Towns*	\$ 8,502
<b>Private Fundraising</b>	
■ Local Donors	\$ 2,055,468

DED - Nebraska Department of Economic Development, CCCFF - Civic and Community Center Financing Fund, CDBG - Community Development Block Grant, \* - not pictured on graph



Mid-America Economic Developers Association Awards in Columbus, Ohio  
Angie Stenger (Riverfront Fundraising Committee), Kaitlin Kamper (DED), Steven Rames, Candice Alder, and Connor Lammel (DED)



Floater shows his approval



# Economic Development

## NORFOLK NAMED COMMUNITY OF THE YEAR

Norfolk received the prestigious Community of the Year award at the Nebraska Diplomats' annual banquet, recognizing the city's outstanding economic growth and community development over the past decade.

Key accomplishments include:

- **Industrial and Business Growth:** The development of Bradford Business Park and industrial expansions at Norfolk Crush, Nucor, Norfolk Iron & Metal, CIE, and Milk Specialties.
- **Entrepreneurship Support:** Intersect Coworking & Incubator and One Million Cups meetings foster local innovation and new

business ideas.

- **Workforce Development:** The Northeast Nebraska Growing Together initiative builds a pipeline of college graduates for professional roles in Norfolk.
- **Strategic Investments:** Significant public and private investment has modernized infrastructure, enhanced transportation, and supported placemaking and downtown revitalization.

Norfolk's holistic approach to addressing housing, workforce, and infrastructure needs has positioned it as a leader in economic development.

"We are honored to receive this recognition from Nebraska's

largest private economic development organization. This award highlights the power of collaboration and the importance of a strategic approach in addressing all the key factors that drive successful economic development," shared Candice Alder, Economic Development Director.

Commodity Solutions of Norfolk was also recognized with the Governor's Excellence in Agriculture Entrepreneurship Award. Commodity Solutions helps farmers and livestock producers take advantage of agriculture futures and options to capture added value for their commodities.



Governor Jim Pillen, Mayor Josh Moenning, Andy Colvin, Angie Stenger, and Desiree Wineland, President of Nebraska Diplomats



Commodity Solutions Award - Governor Jim Pillen, Jed Christensen, Sherry Vinton and Desiree Wineland





Traci Jeffrey with Visit Norfolk and Kara Weander-Gaster with the River Point Creative District participate in a creative district seminar at the NEDA conference

**NORFOLK AWARDED \$1.125 MILLION**

The City of Norfolk was awarded a \$1.125 million Civic and Community Center Financing Fund (CCCCFF) grant from the Nebraska Department of Economic Development (DED) to support the further enhancement of Norfolk’s downtown and riverfront areas in 2024. This grant, in conjunction with matching funds, will fuel a series of projects aimed at improving pedestrian safety through enhanced lighting, creating navigational signage, fostering connectivity, enhancing outdoor recreation, and creating safe, walkable spaces for residents and visitors alike.

Working hand in hand, the City, River Point Creative District, and downtown stakeholders explored a variety of activities and initiatives to present to the DED for consideration. The

implementation activities include the planning and implementation of an over-the-street downtown district sign, along with enhanced lighting initiatives that focus on alleyway lighting, enhanced lighting at intersections along Norfolk Avenue, and corridor lighting along walkways and trails leading to the river.

**NORFOLK HOSTS 2024 NEDA CONFERENCE**

In June, Norfolk had the privilege to host the annual Nebraska Economic Developers Association (NEDA) conference at Divots Conference Center & Norfolk Lodge & Suites.

NEDA is Nebraska’s leading association of professional economic developers dedicated to fostering economic growth and improving the business climate. The theme for the 2024 NEDA Conference was ‘Why Placemaking



Candice Alder with Ron Tillery of Phelps County

Matters’ and professionals from around the state came together to take advantage of leading education programs, to share ideas, and network. This year’s conference was a record attendance of over 200 attendees.

At the conference, Candice Alder, Economic Development Director for the City and Norfolk Area Economic Development, was named the 2024 Nebraska Economic Developers Association Professional of the Year.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STAFF UPDATES**

In May 2024, business resource specialist Melissa Figueroa graduated from the University of Oklahoma’s Economic Development (ED) Institute. This program of study includes at least 117 hours of ED-focused coursework.



Melissa Figueroa

Brooke Anderson joined the economic development team in May as the economic development coordinator after 18 years of service to the Norfolk Police division.



Brooke Anderson



City staff with representatives from the NE Department of Economic Development and the Northeast NE Economic Development District. Norfolk was recognized as a showcase community for the Community Development Block Grant program’s 50th anniversary with \$4.2 million awarded this past decade



# Planning & Development

## NEW DEVELOPMENTS

Norfolk saw the completion of the \$395 million Norfolk Crush plant in 2024 as well as the start of a number of exciting projects.

Two new dining options—Freddy's Frozen Custard and Steakhburgers and 7 Brew Coffee Shop—are coming to southwest Norfolk. The City Council unanimously approved a zoning change for the site of a former car dealership at the intersection of Highways 81 and 275. The 54,013-square-foot lot, owned by RDK Holding, was rezoned from a light industrial district (I-1) to a service commercial district (C-3).



7 Brew Coffee Shop under construction

Mayor Josh Moening praised the project, noting its alignment with efforts to revitalize the heavily trafficked corridor. "We're excited about another investment there and for the cooperation helping beautify that space as well," he said. Completion is anticipated in the first quarter of 2025.

The City Council also cleared key hurdles for the Foundry Apartments, a 166-unit housing complex near West Pasewalk Avenue and Highway 275. Initially delayed last year due to rising

costs, the project is back on track with state grant funding. Construction is expected to begin in early 2025.

These projects highlight Norfolk's commitment to growth, enhancing both its business and housing options. Among the significant developments this year is the impressive remodel of the Faith Regional Health Services Cancer Center and the addition of a state-of-the-art sterile processing area, enhancing healthcare services for our community.



Faith Regional Health Services new Sterile Processing Department



## NEW CODE PASSED IN 2024

Norfolk added to its city code in 2024, by adopting new regulations for condominium plats and the 2023 National Electrical Code (NEC).

Condominium plats now comply with Nebraska statutes and city-specific requirements, including exemptions from minimum lot size and public access rules. The approval process involves reviews by the Planning and Development Department, the Planning Commission, and final approval by the Mayor and City Council. Developers must submit detailed plans, including surveys, unit dimensions, easements, and improvement plans, to ensure compliance.

The city also adopted the 2023 NEC, aligning with state amendments to regulate electrical wiring, installations, and apparatus, ensuring safety and modern standards.

These updates reflect Norfolk's proactive approach to accommodating development while prioritizing safety and quality. By refining condominium plat guidelines and incorporating state-of-the-art electrical standards, the city is fostering a streamlined, transparent process for developers and ensuring the well-being of its residents.

**Planning Commission meetings are held at 7:30 am on the first and third Tuesdays of every month at 309 N. 5th Street.**

## PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT STAFF

This year brought several changes to the Planning and Development Department. In February, the Code Compliance Official position was brought under the Planning and Development umbrella to better serve the community. Chris Hassler assumed those duties at that time. Following Katelyn Palmer's transition to Norfolk Fire, Brianna Duerst became the planning and development manager in June, after serving as city clerk for five years.

Steve Nordhues continues to serve as the building official, while Willie Nelson, the electrical official, ensures safe and reliable electrical systems. Paul Serres oversees plumbing and mechanical systems as the plumbing/mechanical official, and Val Grimes leads the department as the planning and development director. The Planning and Development Department collaborates with community partners to uphold standards in building, plumbing, mechanical systems, and general construction. These efforts

support managed development and growth while ensuring public safety. By following the process of applying for permits and scheduling routine inspections, the team helps maintain quality assurance. Additionally, the department provides assistance with zoning, platting, floodplain regulations, and annexation procedures.

## 2024 NORFOLK PLANNING COMMISSION

### CHAIR

Dirk Waite

### VICE CHAIR

Cody Ronnfeldt

### MEMBERS

Brandon Franklin

Chad Bryant

Colleen Hupke

Jill Sock

Jordan Mason

Kaycee Kube

Martin Griffith



Planning and Development staff

# Housing

*opportunity. right at home.*



## **NORTHEAST NEBRASKA REGIONAL LAND BANK FORMED**

After two years of dedicated efforts, the Norfolk City Council unanimously approved the establishment of the Northeast Nebraska Regional Land Bank in partnership with the Village of Hadar. The new organization aims to address affordable housing shortages and rehabilitate neglected properties in the region.

A land bank is not a traditional financial institution but rather a specialized entity that acquires, manages, and transitions properties in need of improvement. It offers incentives to developers interested in affordable housing projects or property rehabilitation, helping revitalize communities and meet critical housing needs.

The Northeast Nebraska Regional Land Bank is the second of its kind in the state, following Omaha's model. It has the potential to form partnerships with other municipalities in the region, broadening its impact.

A nine-member board of directors was appointed, with two additional seats available for future expansion. The board's first meeting was in January, and so far the land bank has acquired two properties, 210 North 9th Street and 110 South 9th Street.

## **DRAHOTA AWARDED**

Julie Drahota was honored with the 2024 Orville Stanton Distinguished Service Award at the Nebraska Chapter of the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (NE NAHRO) fall conference in Norfolk.

This award is presented to a leader and active member of NE NAHRO who has demonstrated exceptional commitment to promoting safe and affordable housing in Nebraska.



**Section 8 Program Manager  
Julie Drahota**

Drahota has been a cornerstone of the Norfolk Housing Agency

for over 30 years, earning widespread admiration for her dedication and expertise. She began her career while still in high school and has since advanced to the role of Program Director for the Section 8 program, accumulating extensive knowledge in various housing initiatives.

## **NEW HOUSING DIRECTOR**

Rita Heinemann joined the Housing Agency as the next Executive Director. Heinemann joined Norfolk from Fremont, where she led the Fremont Housing Authority since 2016.

Heinemann succeeded Gary Bretschneider, who retired after 16 years with the City, having served as the Housing Agency Executive Director since 2019.



**Housing Director  
Rita Heinemann**

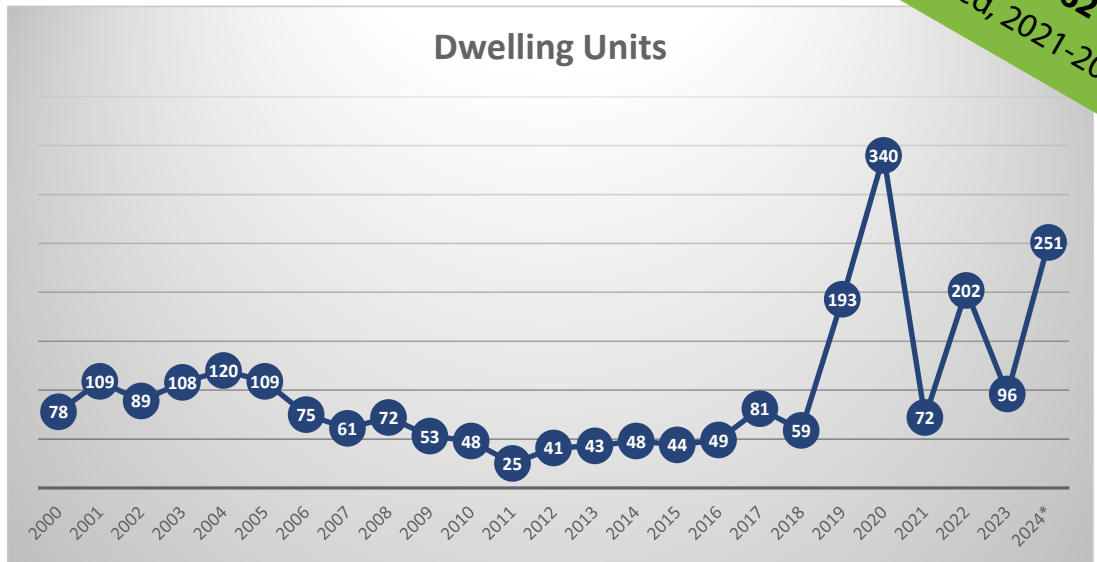


## NEW HOUSING DEVELOPMENT PROGRESS

Building permits issued by Norfolk Planning and Development

Year	Dwelling Units
2000	78
2001	109
2002	89
2003	108
2004	120
2005	109
2006	75
2007	61
2008	72
2009	53
2010	48
2011	25
2012	41
2013	43
2014	48
2015	44
2016	49
2017	81
2018	59
2019	193
2020	340
2021	72
2022	202
2023	96
2024*	251
2025	
2026	

\* as of December 11, 2024



Building permits for **621** housing units issued, 2021-2024\*

### 2021 HOUSING STUDY GOALS

(new units between 2021 - 2026)

**769** | MEDIUM POPULATION PROJECTION

**977** | HIGH POPULATION PROJECTION

**1,116** | BOOST POPULATION PROJECTION

On average, **between 2018 and 2023**, for every

**\$1 of TIF** invested into projects, the community will receive more than

**\$5 in PRIVATE investment** in return

## HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

In Norfolk, the development of housing has been a top priority to meet the needs for healthy community and business growth. Norfolk has utilized several programs to facilitate housing development, including the NE Department of Economic Development's Rural Workforce Housing Fund (RWHF). To date, this revolving loan program has supported the completion of 40 housing units, with a second project currently underway that

will add another 166 units to Norfolk's housing stock.

Another impactful tool has been Tax Increment Financing (TIF). Since 2016, building permits have been issued for over 1,300 housing units, with TIF playing a role in facilitating the development or eventual development of more than 900 units.

This demonstrates the importance of leveraging public

incentives to attract substantial private sector investment. Continued growth and building construction generates sales tax from building materials and property furnishings, provides opportunities for local contractors, supports mortgages for local banks, and contributes commissions for local realtors. When outside contractors and consultants stay in our hotels, their spending benefits our restaurants, gas stations, and other local businesses.



# Library *enrichment. right at home.*

The library engaged community members of all ages through learning opportunities, connection to resources and technology, and cultural enrichment.

## CULTURAL ENRICHMENT

The library was a community partner in Humanities Nebraska's Chautauqua in August. Chautauqua uses historical re-enactors and presentations by scholars to explore our country's history through a variety of backgrounds and perspectives. The library hosted several lectures and events leading up to and during the weekend-long celebration.



Humanities Nebraska partnered with the Norfolk Public Library for Chautauqua presentation

## ARTS ENGAGEMENT

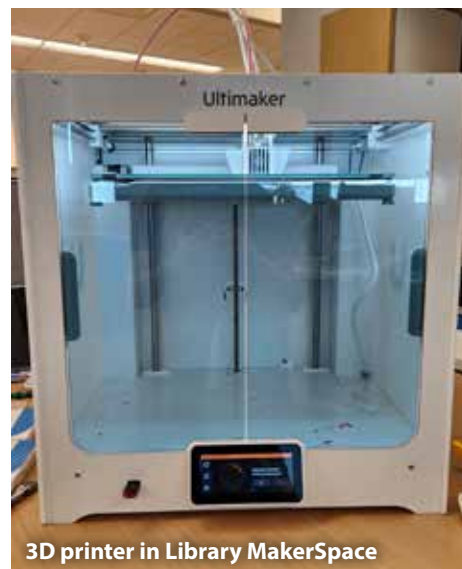
This summer, the library facilitated a Creative Aging Through the Arts program for adults aged 55 and older. This program, provided through a grant from the Nebraska Arts Council, fosters social engagement and artistic expression and skills. Artist Carrie Strobe led 14 participants through a two-day glass mosaic workshop, which culminated in an exhibition of the participants' artworks at the library.



Children try the new light table

## CREATIVE TECHNOLOGY

The MakerSpace provides access to creative, high-tech equipment. This year, the library added a second 3D printer. The new UltiMaker allows larger prints and different filaments, expanding the maker's capabilities.



3D printer in Library MakerSpace

## FACILITY IMPROVEMENT

The children's area received a much-appreciated update, allowing for better family interaction and supervision of little ones. Updates included adult-sized chairs, tables, and a sofa. A sensory light table and soft, moveable seating are recently added interactive features for children, keeping the space safe and inviting for families with young children.

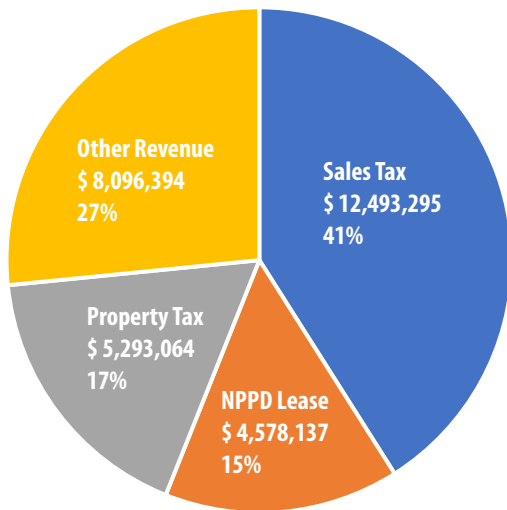
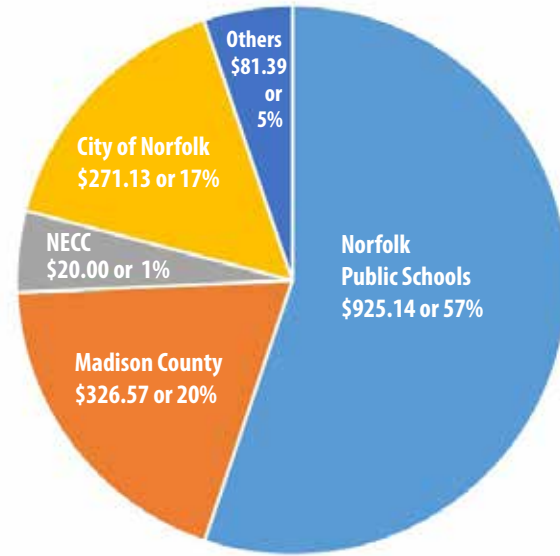


# Revenues & Expenditures

## Property Tax Dollars

On a \$100,000 home, your property taxes for 2024 are \$1,624.23.

<span style="color: blue;">■</span> Norfolk Public Schools	\$ 925.14	57%
<span style="color: orange;">■</span> Madison County	\$ 326.57	20%
<span style="color: gray;">■</span> Northeast Community College	\$ 20.00	1%
<span style="color: yellow;">■</span> City of Norfolk	\$ 271.13	17%
<span style="color: blue;">■</span> Others	\$ 81.39	5%
	<u>\$ 1,624.23</u>	<u>100%</u>



## General Fund Revenues

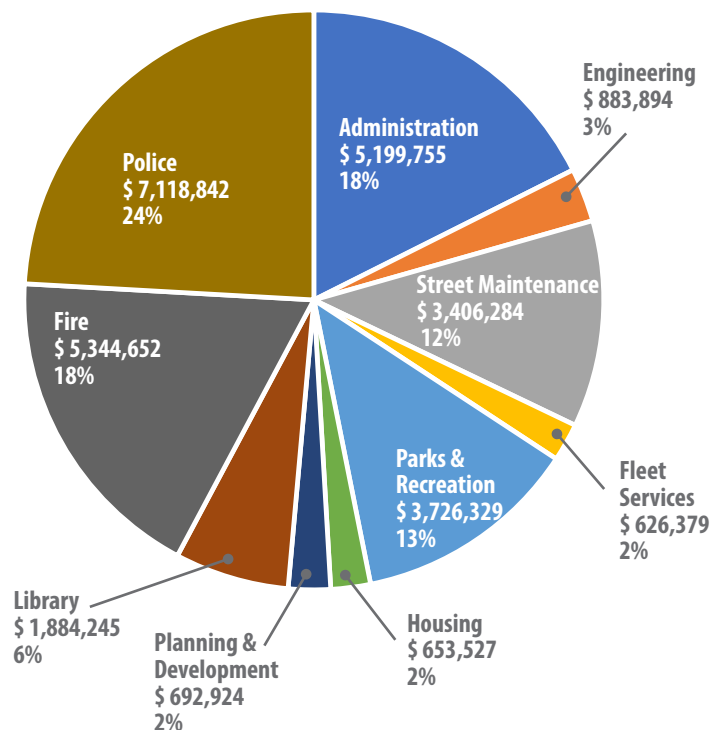
FY 2023 - 2024

<span style="color: blue;">■</span> Sales Tax	\$ 12,493,295	41%
<span style="color: orange;">■</span> Nebraska Public Power District Lease	\$ 4,578,137	15%
<span style="color: gray;">■</span> Property Tax	\$ 5,293,064	17%
<span style="color: yellow;">■</span> Other Revenue	\$ 8,096,394	27%
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<u>\$ 30,460,890</u>	<u>100%</u>

## General Fund Expenditures

Distribution by Division or Function  
FY 2023-2024

<span style="color: blue;">■</span> Administration	\$ 5,199,755	18%
<span style="color: orange;">■</span> Engineering	\$ 883,894	3%
<span style="color: gray;">■</span> Street Maintenance	\$ 3,406,284	12%
<span style="color: yellow;">■</span> Fleet Services	\$ 626,379	2%
<span style="color: lightblue;">■</span> Parks & Recreation	\$ 3,726,329	13%
<span style="color: green;">■</span> Housing	\$ 653,527	2%
<span style="color: darkblue;">■</span> Planning & Development	\$ 692,924	2%
<span style="color: brown;">■</span> Library	\$ 1,884,245	6%
<span style="color: darkgray;">■</span> Fire	\$ 5,344,652	18%
<span style="color: olive;">■</span> Police	\$ 7,118,842	24%
	<u>\$ 29,536,831</u>	<u>100%</u>





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	402-844-2250
Planning and Development	402-844-2280
Economic Development	402-844-2260
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
Tree Bud Program	402-844-2000

For emergency alerts text: "NorfolkAlerts" to 402-205-5535.  
Learn more and subscribe to City e-News at [www.norfolkne.gov](http://www.norfolkne.gov).  
Interact with us on X @*NorfolkNE* or on Facebook  
at *City of Norfolk Nebraska Government*.

**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	402-371-8299

**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](http://NorfolkNE.gov), [VisitNorfolkNE.com](http://VisitNorfolkNE.com), or  
[www.NorfolkNow.org](http://www.NorfolkNow.org) to learn more about the  
Norfolk area.