CITY OF GERING

# Talk of the Town

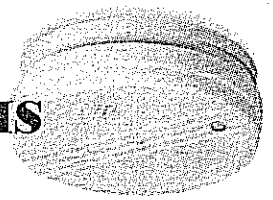
February 2015

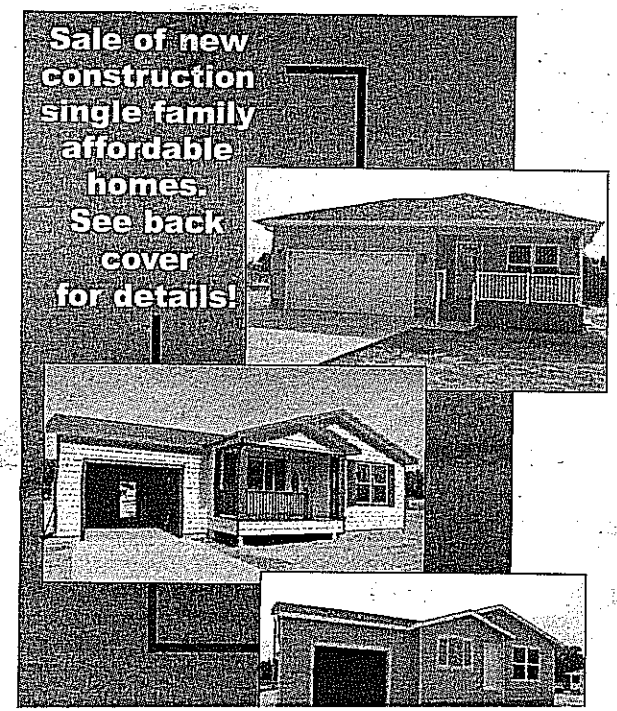
436-5096 * www.gering.org A publication of the City of Gering

## Fire Safety Tips

In this issue! The Gering Fire Department offers fire safety tips.

## Working SMOKE ALARMS SAVE LIVES






## *A message from the Mayor...*

First I want to take this opportunity to thank you for providing me the opportunity to serve our great city. The first few months have been busy as we reorganize, transition, and orientate new members. So, what does this mean? What have we been doing? After any election its Important to take some time to educate and provide orientation to staff, and new members.

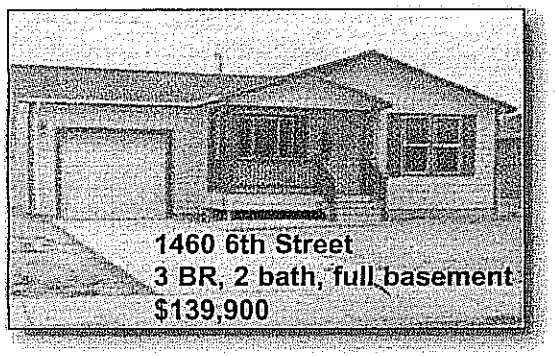
Communication is at the top of the list. The relationship between the Mayor, individual Council Members, the City Administrator and staff is vital to the continued success and prosperity of the City. In addition, it's important to review and revise the appropriate protocols regarding communication. Especially, how to approtions and concerns with each other and the community. Other topics in the orientation process include our financial structure and condition, land use, economic development, planning, personnel and labor relations, organizational structure, emergency preparedness, expectations regarding ethical conduct, provisions regarding sunshine laws or open meetings laws, Council norms, policies, procedures, ordinances, regulations, Council meeting protocols, Council member and Mayor roles regarding Council standing committees and service on local and regional boards and commissions, media relations and contact and communication with staff.

While the list is long and there is much to do, it's important for residents of the City of Gering to know that they have an experienced Council

passionate about Gering and only have the best interests of the community in mind. As we look ahead into 2015 and focus on these three principals: the Council's responsibility to govern, the staff's responsibility to support, and the relationships between the Mayor, Council, staff and community, you should expect great results for our City in the coming year.

Sincerely,
Tony Kaufman
Mayor, City of Gering

# Own one of these houses for $500 down!




**The City of Gering has these homes for sale! Prices include a sprinkler system, sod in the front yard and seed in the backyard!**

**Income Limits Based on Number of People in Household (shown below)**

An application must be completed by the homebuyer and program guidelines followed.

- The home must be the purchaser's principal residence.

- The homebuyer must pay $500 of their own funds to purchase the home (either when signing a purchase agreement or at the closing or a combination of both).

- The homebuyer must also take a homebuyer education class prior to closing - offered by CAPWN. (308-635-3089)

**- The homebuyer is eligible to receive up to $4,500 in down payment and closing cost assistance as a result of the grant program. This will be applied at the closing up to the needed amount.**

- The homebuyer cannot receive funds back at closing with this program. This can be forgiven in its entirety if the homebuyer lives in the home for five years.

**Income Limits based on number of people in household**

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| $50,280 | $57,480 | $64,680 | $71,760 | $77,520 | $83,280 |

# Public Library

**is sign up day for the SUMMER READING PROGRAM!**

## *A message from the Mayor...*

First I want to take this opportunity to thank you for providing me the opportunity to serve our great City. The first six months have been busy but I'm happy to report that the City of Gering is in great hands. While not everyone can be happy with every decision the City makes you can rest assured that the Mayor, Council and staff have only the best in mind for our community. We have a seasoned Council that truly cares about Gering and its future. You also have an experienced City staff that has the knowledge and skills to guide our City forward. So where are we headed?

Many of you know that on March 30th the City of Gering participated in a very historic meeting that included members from most of the municipalities in Scotts Bluff County including the County. At this meeting the participants discussed a regional economic development plan and how we as individual communities can help each other as we look forward into the future. The plan will have a significant impact on the residents and businesses regardless of where they are located in our region or extended community. Gering and Scottsbluff are the largest cities and there is no denying that they are the core of the region and the economic and social health of the entire region pivots on maintaining a strong core. Not every corridor community within the region is expected to be part of every single initiative directly, but indirectly each will benefit from more jobs, more investment and ultimately a higher quality of life in the region.

When people and businesses from outside our region visit they don't know or pay attention to our boundaries. They focus on opportunities and our ability to deliver a qualified workforce, great infrastructure, and a high quality of life. As we continue to develop our community and regional minded approach we have an opportunity to come to the table and take some ownership of the plan, its implementation and all of the benefits. Being an active participant in overseeing the implementation is the best way to ensure that the entire region and Gering benefits. At this point Gering has invested a little of its time and energy to help position our City and others for the future.

We all want a great community with good jobs and amenities that will help us and our future generations prosper. This regional economic development plan is a great framework to help build that vision. I look forward to working with our Council, staff and corridor communities to help build a stronger, healthier region and a stronger, healthier Gering.

Sincerely,
Tony Kaufman
Mayor, City of Gering