

# Talk of the Town

February 2016

436-5096 \* [www.gering.org](http://www.gering.org)

A publication of the City of Gering

## A Message from the Mayor

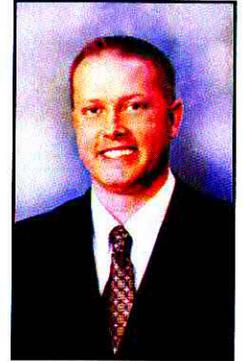
First I want to take this opportunity to thank you for providing me the opportunity to serve our great city. Wow its 2016! I'm sure you all can appreciate how quick the time goes by. Nevertheless, I believe it's safe to say that for the City of Gering 2015 was a successful and prosperous year. The year has been filled with building relationships, improving communication and transparency, old projects, new projects, challenges, strengthening relationships, planning for the future, and a lot of hard work. So, what has Gering been working on in 2015? Here are some of the highlights.

Communication was at the top of the list and has helped to cultivate stronger relationships between the Mayor, City Council, City Administrator, staff and the community. The Lane Auction House was taken down and

the site was cleared for future development. The Downtown Revitalization Committee helped to facilitate a new vision for our downtown which includes a new outdoor plaza that will help to enhance our downtown. We adopted the new regional economic development plan and participated in an historic meeting with all the communities within Scotts Bluff County to begin the process of working together to build our communities and a stronger economic region. A new tenant for the golf course restaurant was selected. The City of Gering enhanced our relationship with TCD to work on business retention, business development and housing projects. The Sports Facility Advisory Committee worked to facilitate a recommendation to the City of Gering that ultimately includes the development of a new baseball and softball field complex at Oregon Trail Park. The City

continued its partnership efforts with Scottsbluff and Terrytown regarding our future waste management plan.

In addition to the highlights from 2016 the City continues to be proactive in the areas of policy, procedure, ordinances, and regulations to ensure our community is well positioned for the future. As we look ahead into 2016 and continue to focus on the Council's responsibility to govern, the staffs responsibility to support, and the relationships between the Mayor, Council, staff and community you should expect another great year in 2016.



## Quick access to fire hydrants could save lives or property



**Homeowners, Business and snow removal contractors, please do not pile snow on or near fire hydrants.**

## Community Conversations

The Gering Public Library will be hosting a series of open meetings with our local city government officials. "This will be a great opportunity for Gering citizens to speak directly with their local government officials," said Library Director Diane Downer. Community Conversations will be held at different times on different days throughout the year to allow everybody a chance to attend. Mayor Tony Kaufman will be the first to participate in Community Conversations. Mayor Kaufman will be at the Gering Public Library on Thursday, February 18, from 2:00-3:00 p.m. Refreshments will be provided. QUESTIONS? Contact the Gering Public Library at (308) 436-7433 or [gpl@geringlibrary.org](mailto:gpl@geringlibrary.org).



The Monument Grill is now open at the Monument Shadows Golf Course! A full menu and hours are

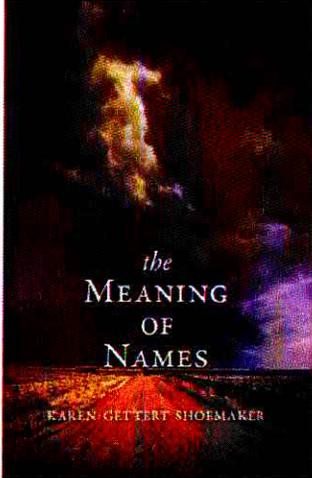
featured in this newsletter. Please help us in welcoming Stephanie and Brody Rask as the new golf course restaurant owners!



# What's NEW at the Library?

Thanks to the generous support of our community the Gering Library has added new books to the Children's and Teen sections! In August the annual Runza Great Books for Great Kids Fundraiser raised over \$600 to update and expand our Children's Fiction section. The library staff would like to thank Runza for making this possible, and the community of Gering for coming out to eat delicious food and supporting the library!

In May a donation of more than \$600 was made to begin a Teen Non-Fiction section at the library. Librarian Christie Clarke worked diligently to build a core collection of books for Teens who need accurate information geared toward Teen readers. Donations were in honor of Penny Businga's career at ESU 13. The library would like to send out a huge Thank You! Know that your support of youth and the library is appreciated!



## Nebraska Writer's Novel Chosen for 2016 One Book One Nebraska

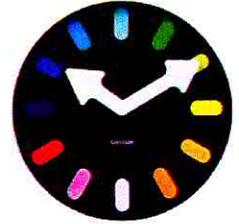
Karen Gettert Shoemaker's *The Meaning of Names*, a Nebraska-set novel with a World War I backdrop, is Nebraska's reading choice for the 2016 One Book One Nebraska statewide reading program. *The Meaning of Names* follows a German-American woman trying to raise a family in the heartland and keep them safe from the effects of war and the influenza panic, as well as from violence and prejudice.

The One Book One Nebraska reading program, sponsored by the Nebraska Center for the Book, is entering its twelfth year. It encourages Nebraskans across the state to read and discuss one book, chosen from books written by Nebraska authors or

that have a Nebraska theme or setting. A committee of the Nebraska Center for the Book selected this book from a list of twenty-seven titles nominated by Nebraskans from across the state. The book was published in 2014 and was announced as the 2016 selection at the Celebration of Nebraska Books on November 14 in Lincoln.

The Gering Public Library has a copy of the book in their collection. They can also borrow a book club kit from the Nebraska Library Commission, or any of Nebraska's Regional Library Systems. One Book One Nebraska is sponsored by Nebraska Center for the Book, Humanities Nebraska, and Nebraska Library Commission.

# Gering Public Library



## New Library Hours

**9 a.m. - 7 p.m.**  
**Monday-  
Thursday**

**10 a.m. - 5 p.m.**  
**Friday  
and Saturday**

Please Plan to attend the

Save the  
Date!

# Mayor's Prayer Breakfast

May 5, 2016

Gering Civic Center

6:45 a.m.

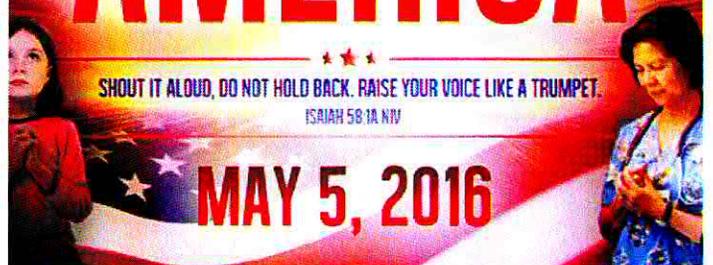
Call 436-6812 for more information

# WAKE UP AMERICA

SHOUT IT ALOUD, DO NOT HOLD BACK. RAISE YOUR VOICE LIKE A TRUMPET.

ISAIAH 58:1A NIV

MAY 5, 2016



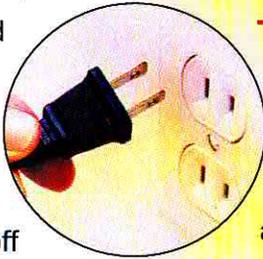
# Fire Safety Tips

The Gering Fire Department brings you the following fire safety tips.



## Electrical Safety

- Have all electrical work done by a qualified electrician.
- Only plug one heat-producing appliance (such as a coffee maker, toaster, space heater, etc.) into a receptacle outlet at one time.
- Major appliances should be plugged directly into a wall outlet; do not use extension cords or plug strips.
- Use ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) to reduce the risk of shock. GFCIs shut off an electrical circuit when it becomes a shock hazard. They should be installed inside the home in bathrooms, kitchens, garages and basements.
- Test AFCIs once a month to make sure they are working properly
- Check electrical cords to make sure they are not running across doorways or under carpets. Extension cords are intended for temporary use.
- Use light bulbs that match the recommended wattage on the lamp or fixture.



### Call a qualified electrician or your landlord if you have:

- Frequent problems with blowing fuses or tripping circuit breakers.
- A tingling feeling when you touch an electrical appliance.
- Discolored or warm wall outlet.
- A burning or rubbery smell coming from an appliance.
- Flickering or dimming lights.
- Sparks from an outlet.

# Working

## SMOKE ALARMS

## SAVE LIVES

# Please remember to get your permits

## Chapter 150. BUILDING REGULATIONS PER CITY OF GERING CODE OF ORDINANCES

### 150.030 PERMIT REQUIRED.

It shall be unlawful to construct or alter any building or structure in the city or within the area of the zoning jurisdiction of the city as determined by the official zoning map of the city without first having procured a written permit from the city therefor. (Prior Code, § 4-1-13) Penalty, see § 10.99

### 150.037 VIOLATION OF BUILDING REGULATIONS.

It shall be unlawful for any contractor or any other person engaged in the actual work of constructing or altering a building or other structure within the city or within the zoning jurisdiction, as determined by the official zoning map of the city; to proceed with the work thereof until he or she knows positively that the owner has obtained a building permit as herein before provided. In the event that it is determined that work has started on any construction or alteration of any building or other structure as covered by this chapter, the Building Inspector shall immediately give notice to the owner of the property directing them to cease and desist from any further work so started, before issuance of the permit, until such a permit is obtained. (Prior Code, § 4-1-18) Penalty, see § 10.99

**150.060 INSPECTIONS REQUIRED.** All construction or work for which a permit is required shall be subject to inspection by the Building Inspector. (Prior Code, § 4-1-15)

**PERMITS: Building – to include residential, industrial or commercial: ramps, decks, carports, awning or canopy, additions, storage sheds, garages, porches, hot tub enclosures, cell towers, roof top antennas, remodels, grain bins, retaining walls, multi-family homes, new homes, new buildings, new townhomes, apartments, sunrooms, concrete slabs, foundations, playhouses, greenhouses, churches, schools, pergola, elevator, solar, dog platforms, woodstove, fireplace, etc. Plumbing, mechanical, roofing, fence, sign, moving a building, certificate of occupancy or temporary occupancy, curb & sidewalk, demolition, heavy equipment moving, septic tanks, well installation, egress windows and more. Call the City for details.**

## ATTENTION ALL WATER USERS

Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services Regulations Title 179, Chapter 22, requires the City of Gering to conduct an on-going program for the detection and elimination of cross-connections. The City of Gering is conducting this survey to assist customers in reporting potential backflow hazards and to comply with this regulation.

All customers of the Gering water system must report cross-connections to the City of Gering not less than every five years. This may be accomplished by completing and returning the Cross-Connection Control Survey (to the right) to the City within the next 30 days. Failure to do so may result in loss of water service. If you have questions or need assistance please call 436-6857.

Examples of cross-connection control are: installing a hose connection vacuum breaker on an unprotected hose faucet; installing an air gap (a physical break between the appliance and the sewer line) on a water supply line to a water softener or process tank. These are examples only. Every building and its plumbing system are unique and need their own customized approach to ensure adequate protection.

### City of Gering

P.O. Box 687, 1025 P Street  
Gering, NE 69341

### CITY OF GERING

### Cross-Connection Control Survey Form

Please complete and return to  
the City of Gering, P.O. Box 687,  
Gering, NE 69341

State Law requires consumers of public water supplies to inspect their facilities not less than once every five years. Completing and returning this form fulfills State requirements.

Customer Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Customer Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have a private well located on your property? Yes No

If yes, is it connected to the home water supply? Yes No

Do you have any pumps on your water lines? Yes No

Do you have a swimming pool or hot tub? Yes No

If yes, is it protected by a testable backflow preventer? Yes No

Do you have boiler heat or water to air heat pump? Yes No

If yes, is it protected by a testable backflow preventer? Yes No

Do you have a water softener? Yes No

If yes, is it protected with an air gap? Yes No

Do you have a reverse osmosis device? Yes No

If yes, is it protected with an air gap? Yes No

Do you have an underground sprinkler system? Yes No

If yes, is it protected by a testable backflow preventer? Yes No

Do you have photo, chemical, medical or other lab facilities? Yes No

If yes, is it protected by a testable backflow preventer? Yes No

How many threaded hose connections inside and outside do you have?  
Please list: \_\_\_\_\_

(Includes faucets and lawn hydrants; excludes washing machines and hot water heater drains.)

How many threaded hose connections are protected by Hose Bibb Vacuum Breakers? \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

By completing this form you will help prevent the accidental contamination of our drinking water. Thank you. - City of Gering Water Department

## Cross-Connection Surveys

The City mails approximately 75 cross-connection surveys per month to our residential and low hazard commercial customers. If you receive a survey you must complete the survey and return it within 30 days to the City of Gering, P.O. Box 687, Gering, NE 69341.

A cross-connection occurs whenever there is an actual or potential physical connection between the public drinking water system and any possible source of contamination. Whenever there is a loss of pressure in the water system, these cross-connections can allow unsafe substances to enter the public water supply. Sources of contamination can include both high

hazard materials, which can cause illness or death, and low or non-hazardous materials which are mainly just a nuisance and can cause the water to look, taste or smell unpleasant.

If you need assistance completing your cross-connection survey, please call the Water Department at 436-6857.

## Sure Shot Gun Range Named Official Local Qualifying Location For American Marksman

Sure Shot Gun Range has been approved as an officially recognized Local Qualifying Location for American Marksman – a new concept shooting competition TV show by Outdoor Sportsman Group. Amateur target shooters from the Scottsbluff/Gering area will have the chance to qualify to earn bids to the Regional Competition and, ultimately for the American Marksman national championship, where they will compete for a grand prize of \$50,000 and the title of the very first American Marksman.

After registering on [www.AmMarksman.com](http://www.AmMarksman.com), competitors will come to Sure Shot Gun Range in Gering, open seven days a week (1:00 pm to 6:00 p.m. during March, April and May of 2016), where they will be taken through the local qualifying course of fire that includes .22 caliber rim fire ammunition fired from .22 caliber rifles, handguns or

both. Scores will be uploaded to the American Marksman leaderboards on the website as soon as they complete the contest.

Sure Shot Gun Range is Western Nebraska's only indoor gun range open to the public seven days a week. "We couldn't be more proud and excited to be named as an official local qualifying



range for American Marksman, said Rich Schank, Owner of Sure Shot Gun Range. "Our organizations share the same goal, to bring new folks into the shooting sport in a safe and fun environment. We look forward to welcoming competitors into our facility beginning in March", stated Schank.

American Marksman, owned by Outdoor Sportsman Group in Denver, Colorado, will also produce a television show that follows the tour and select competitors as they advance. The show will air, beginning in December 2016, on both the Outdoor Channel and Sportsman Channel television networks.

"American Marksman is thrilled to have Sure Shot Gun Range on board with us as an official local qualifying location", said American Marksman Tour Director Brian Tatum. "Rich and his staff have done a tremendous job promoting the shooting sports in Gering and have taught many new target shooters how to have fun and do things in a safe manner. We couldn't be happier to be working with them to continue that mission".

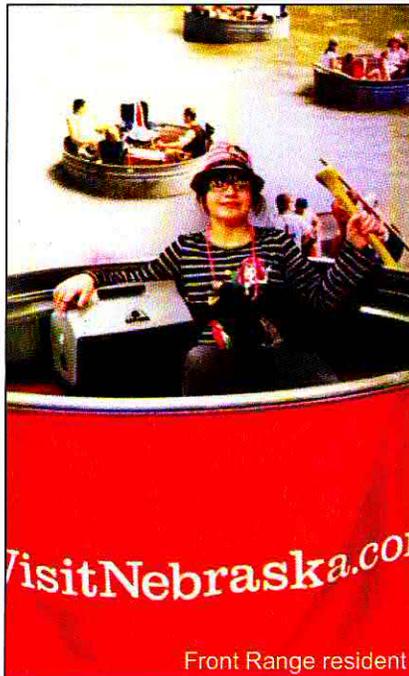
For more information about Sure Shot Gun Range, visit [www.sureshotgun-rangegering.com](http://www.sureshotgun-rangegering.com) or call 308.633.2723.

For more information about American Marksman, visit [www.AmMarksman.com](http://www.AmMarksman.com)

## Tanking in Nebraska - by Gering CVB Director, Karla Niedan-Streeks

I worked the opening weekend in the Nebraska Tourism Commission booth at the National Western Stock Show in Denver; it was a great opening weekend. Denver/Front Range attendees are very interested in Western Nebraska; many have connections with Nebraska from living here in the past or having relatives who still live in our state. Visitors to the booth are very interested in outdoor recreation, open spaces to access for hiking, hunting and fishing and unique experiences.

Our booth draw is a tank with a beautiful four-color "tanking on the Loup River" backdrop; booth visitors are encouraged to get in and take their picture and it looks exactly like they are experiencing "tanking" in Nebraska. Shown right is a photo of a young visitor to the booth; she wanted an oar in one hand and our Gering CVB cooler on the other side for the photo! On this particular Saturday, there was a record setting attendance for the first Saturday of the Show with a little over 50,000 people attending National Western...great exposure for us, Western Nebraska and the entire state!



## So you're running for public office... What you need to know about temporary political signage

### Ordinance No. 1731:

**Subsection #8 of Section 10.1506: Temporary political signs announcing political candidates seeking public office, political parties, and or political issues contained on a ballot for an election may be located only on private property, not sooner than eight (8) weeks prior to a primary or general election, and shall be removed no more than five (5) days following the election.**



# City of Gering Environmental Services



## PLEASE RECYCLE!

The Environmental Services Department would like more people to participate with recycling in the City of Gering. We have gained landfill space because of the people who are currently recycling in Gering and we appreciate and applaud their effort and participation! If interested please call 436-7568 for information on recycling carts.

We would also like to see if the residents of Gering with trees in alleys would trim up the trees so that we are not damaging our trucks. Also the easements in most alleys are 20 feet so we would like alleys cleaned out so we are not running over things.

**Thank you!**



## 2016 Free Dump Days

**Saturday, April 16 & Saturday, April 23**

**Hours: 6:30am to 2:30pm**

The City of Gering will be having free dump days for residents of Gering, Scottsbluff and Mitchell. Residents will need to bring their utility bill and matching driver's license to dump

their trash at the landfill. Two tires per one load only. We will be doing oil recycling on the 16th from 9:00am to 12:30pm at Main Street Market. Gering's tree dump will also be open Saturday the 16th from 6:30am to 2:30pm and Monday the 18th through Saturday the 23rd from 6:30am to 2:30pm. Residents will also need their utility bill with matching driver's license to dump trees. We will not accept dump trucks or farm trucks of any kind.

# Talking Trash...

## BLUE CONTAINERS

The Single Stream Recycling Pilot Program continues...

- The City has residential carts available
- North of "Q" Street is picked up on one week and South of Q Street will be picked up on the other week.

## Commercial size containers are also available!

**Drop boxes at Northfield Church and at the corner of 9th & N are available for Recyclables!**

NO GLASS OF ANY KIND  
NO PLASTIC BAGS OF ANY KIND  
DO NOT PLACE RECYCLABLES IN PLASTIC BAGS

## GREEN CONTAINERS - Yard Waste

- Residential alley containers are for grass and leaves only
- If you have larger yard waste debris take it directly to the landfill
- Yard Waste is collected through the summer/Fall

## LANDFILL

located at 200531 West 'U' Street

**Hours of Operation:** Monday through Friday, 6:30 am to 2:30 pm

- No hazardous or liquid wastes accepted

## BROWN CONTAINERS - Residential Waste

Residential alley containers are residential waste only

## NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION DEBRIS!

If you have construction debris take it directly to the landfill

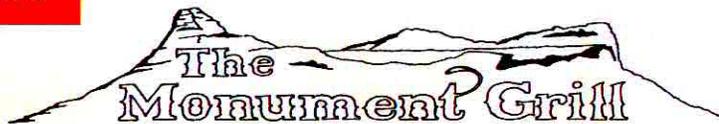
## Overgrowth in Alleys

The City of Gering would like to inform residents that the City has an easement in alley ways. Please trim trees and make sure we have the space our trucks need to get through the alleys.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION!**

## Getting Started

Shrimp Bangers  
Beef Tips  
Onion Nest  
Mozzarella Sticks  
Chili Cheese Fries  
Wings  
Homemade Chips  
Cozumel Cocktail  
Brisket Nachos



## The Monument Grill is Open Daily

11 am - 9 pm

Bar open until  
11 pm

Sunday Brunch  
10 am - 2 pm

## Salads

Salad Wedge  
Chef Salad  
Grilled Chicken Caesar Salad  
Steak Salad

## Soups

French Onion Soup  
Soup Du Jour

## Wraps

Chicken Caesar Wrap  
BLT Wrap  
Clubhouse Wrap

## Burgers & Sandwiches

Bacon Blue Cheese Burger  
Chili Cheese Burger  
The Early Bird  
The Western  
Regular Hamburger  
Cuban  
Monte Cristo  
Philly  
BLT with a Twist  
Steak Sandwich  
Brisket Sandwich

## From the Grill

USDA Choice Steaks  
16 oz. Ribeye  
12 oz. New York Strip  
Steak Oscar  
10 oz. Canadian Walleye Filet  
8 oz. Chicken Fry  
Full Rack Ribs  
Half Rack Ribs  
Jumbo Butterflied Shrimp

## Pastas

Buffalo Chicken Pasta  
Chicken Parmesan  
Fettuccini Alfredo

## The Sweets

Cheesecake Factory  
Cheesecake  
Towering  
Chocolate Cake

**The Monument Grill is located  
on Clubhouse Drive  
at the  
Monument Shadows Golf Course**