



## Environmental Services



**APRIL 20, 7 A.M. TO NOON!**  
 A current City of Gering utility bill is required for Free Dump Day.



**Yard waste pick up begins April 11**

### GERING LANDFILL

200531 West 'U' Street,  
 (308) 436-7568

**Hours of Operation:**

Mon. - Fri., 6:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.  
 No hazardous or liquid wastes accepted.

## What's new at the Gering Public Library?

The Gering Library's Summer Reading Kickoff Event is scheduled for May 29 in Legion Park - *Adventure Begins at Your Library*. Library staff have all kinds of adventures planned for June! Just a few of the childrens' programs this summer include learning about nature, writing an adventure story, and enjoying a play written and performed by Theater West. Teens can try out glow-in-the-dark painting. Adult programs will include a craft, a writer's clinic, and a humanities speaker.



## PUBLIC ASSISTANCE NEEDED

Overgrowth of trees, bushes and shrubs in alleys has caused obstruction or damage to City equipment and/or interference with power lines. The overgrowth poses a potential safety risk to City employees as they provide essential or emergency services to the community. Per City Code § 95.04: *It shall be the duty of the property owner adjacent to the alley to keep the alley clear of weeds, and to prevent obstruction of the alley by overhanging shrubs and trees.*

City code § 53.35: *Alleys are public thoroughfares and are to be kept clear of obstructions at all times.* The City is asking for your cooperation by assessing the public right-of-way adjacent to your property and, if necessary, removing overgrowth and debris. This includes the following: landscape timbers, pavers, blocks, fencing, bushes, shrubs, trees, debris of any type, wood/building materials, household goods including but not limited to furniture, mattresses, TVs and appliances.



## Property Owners and Sidewalks

City Officials would like to remind citizens that sidewalks along and contiguous to lots and pieces of land must be in good and proper repair, and in condition reasonably safe for all travelers. Please contact Jeff Vance, Building Inspector/Code Enforcement at (308) 436-6813 if you have questions about how to proceed with getting repairs made.



**If you're building a garage, putting up a fence, installing a furnace, etc., don't forget to come to City Hall to get a permit!**



## How can I protect my family from cross connections?

1. Check your water softener or other in-home treatment device to ensure that any drain lines have a proper air gap prior to entering the sewer line. The floor drain is considered a sewer line and there should be an air gap if the drain line runs into the floor drain.
2. Check all faucets where a hose might be connected and install a hose bib vacuum breaker to protect these connections.
3. Install a Pressure Vacuum Breaker on your underground sprinklers and have it tested annually when the sprinklers are turned on for the season.
4. If you have a boiler for home heating, make sure the fill line is protected with an approved backflow prevention assembly.
5. If you have old-style sinks or bathtubs, be sure to never fill them so the water level is higher than the fill spout.

## BACKFLOW PREVENTION

What you can do to prevent cross connections and keep your drinking water safe.

1. **Check your faucets** to be sure that all faucet endpoints are above the flood level of the sink, tub, basin, or other apparatus they supply.
2. **Protect faucet extensions** by installing proper backflow prevention devices (i.e. hose bib vacuum breakers) on all faucets capable of having a hose or other extension attached.
3. **Check drain lines** (refrigerator drink dispensers, water softeners, heat exchangers, etc.) to be sure there is an adequate air gap between the drain line and the floor drain or sewer line into which they discharge.
4. **Never use unprotected faucets** to fill non-drinking water containers (water beds, wading pools, stock tanks, hot tubs, etc.). Following these guidelines and using common sense will help to eliminate the possibility of contaminating your drinking water, your neighbor's drinking water and your community's drinking water. This not only affects the residents of your community, but their visitors and those people who are passing through.



## Common Backflow Preventers and Their Uses

### REDUCED PRESSURE PRINCIPLE BACKFLOW PREVENTER

These assemblies are used in situations where a high hazard exists, and an air gap cannot be used. This can occur when water pressure is required beyond the point of protection. In this case, an air gap would not likely work well as water pressure can only occur beyond the air gap if a pump is installed to place the water back under pressure. These assemblies are not common in homes; although homes that are heated with boilers connected to the public water supply system will likely need one of these installed on the boiler feed line. As with the other assemblies, a reduced pressure principal backflow preventer will have to be tested on an annual basis by a licensed backflow tester to ensure it is operating properly.



### SURVEY YOUR RESIDENCE

Homeowners should inspect their plumbing to determine if they have any of these devices or assemblies installed. If you do not have hose bibs with built-in protection or hose bib vacuum breakers installed, you can purchase these from your local hardware store or plumber and install them yourself. If you find one of the testable backflow preventers on your property, you should check with your water provider to determine if you need to have it tested on a routine basis, or if there is any regular maintenance that needs to be performed. Preventing backflow is the responsibility of all customers of the water system, and the safe water that results from installing proper protection benefits everyone.

## HOW TO PREVENT ENTRY CONTAMINATION

When the hazard of contamination exists, effective steps should be taken to correct the condition. *If the condition cannot be corrected, then an appropriate backflow prevention device must be installed on the internal plumbing system.* This is generally the responsibility of the water user.

Everyone should want to eliminate possible cross connections. Those who drink water on your premises will likely be the first to be injured if water becomes contaminated in your system. An awareness of how contamination can enter a system is important. We must work together to keep everyone's

water safe. The people who are in charge of your public water supply system are aware of the dangers of cross connections. Your public water supply system has adopted a policy on cross connection control to comply with Nebraska regulations. One of the most effective and the most inexpensive controls is to always keep an air gap between any potential contaminant and the water system. Don't allow garden hoses or other hoses connected to the water system to drop into sources of contamination. Hydrants drain back even when shut off and contaminants can be siphoned into the hose or hydrant. If you need further information or need assistance in determining what devices are appropriate, contact your public water supply system.

**PROTECTING OUR WATER IS A JOB FOR EVERYONE**