

# TALK OF THE TOWN

February 2018

A publication of the City of Gering



Kathy Welfi, Editor

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



## Your Assistance is Needed

Please read and comply with City ordinances pertaining to Snow Removal

**Per City Ordinance - please clear public walks within 12 hours after the cessation of a storm. Thank you for your cooperation!**

ORDINANCE 2059 - PUBLIC WALKS; SNOW, ICE, SLEET AND MUD REMOVAL FROM SIDEWALKS

**AMENDED  
FEBRUARY 12, 2018**

### SECTION 1. SNOW, ICE AND MUD.

It shall be unlawful for the occupant of any lot or lots, or the owner of any vacant lot or lots within the corporate limits of the City of Gering, Nebraska, to allow snow, sleet, mud, ice or other substance to accumulate on the sidewalk contiguous thereto, or to permit any hard trodden snow, sleet, ice, mud or other substances to remain upon said sidewalk; but such sidewalk shall be cleaned within twelve (12) hours after the cessation of a storm. In addition, any snow, sleet, ice, mud or other substance which remains on a sidewalk contrary to the provisions of this section is hereby declared to be a public nuisance, in the discretion of Gering Transportation Superintendent or other agent of the City.

### SECTION 2. NOTICE TO REMOVE AND PENALTY.

Notice to remove such substance shall be made upon the owner or occupant of the premises, or their agent. If the person owning or occupying such premises be unknown or cannot be found, or if any reasonable service cannot be

had upon any such owner, agent or occupant within this City, then such service of said notice shall be made by posting a notice in a conspicuous place on the premises; and any owner or occupant who fails to clean off and remove ice, snow, mud, sleet or other substance which constitutes a nuisance as required herein, and upon conviction thereof shall be deemed guilty of an infraction and shall be fined \$100.00.

### SECTION 3. EMERGENCY.

If the Transportation Superintendent or another agent of the City shall determine that an accumulation of snow, sleet, ice or mud is so unsafe, or is unsafe in a respect such that a delay in removal thereof would result in undue danger or other hazard to the public, he or she may declare in writing that there exists an emergency requiring that the snow, sleet, ice or mud be removed immediately and order the owner or occupant to remove the snow, sleet, ice or mud from public walkways and sidewalks.



**PLEASE DO NOT PILE SNOW ON OR AROUND FIRE HYDRANTS**

## Gering Civic Plaza Conceptual Design Receives Thumbs Up by Gering City Council



**City of Gering  
Concept: Amphitheater Garden  
Chrissy Peters / January, 2018**

Staff is continuing work on the Downtown Civic Plaza, located on 11th Street just north of the Civic Center. At their February 12th meeting, City Council approved the above conceptual design. The goal of the design is to create a beautiful space for outdoor events that can also serve the public on a daily basis by providing a place to walk, eat lunch, or just enjoy the landscaping. For more information on the project, contact Annie Folck at 436-3307 or [afolck@gering.org](mailto:afolck@gering.org).

Design by Chrissy Peters, Landscape Designer.

# Emergency Snow Routes

**EMERGENCY**

THANK YOU for your cooperation!

## ORDINANCE AMENDED DEC. 11, 2017

Section 1. That Title VII: Traffic Code be amended by adding the following:

### § 76.02 SNOW EMERGENCY DECLARATION

(A) A snow emergency is defined as a special condition of a snowfall event requiring residents to move their vehicles off the snow emergency routes to accommodate emergency snow removal.

(B) A snow emergency declaration allows for the towing of vehicles from the emergency snow routes. A snow emergency is normally declared after a measurable snowfall of two (2) inches or more; however, any amount of snow combined with ice, rain, and/or wind can also require a snow emergency to be declared.

(C) The City Administrator or Public Works Director may declare a snow emergency. A snow emergency may be declared in advance of an anticipated storm, to start at a specific time; or a snow emergency may be declared anytime during or after a storm. A snow emergency will normally not last more than 72 hours past the end of the last snowfall.

(D) That a snow emergency has been declared will be communicated to the public through mass media outlets as deemed appropriate by the City Administrator, Transportation Superintendent or Public Works Director.

### § 76.03 SNOW EMERGENCY ROUTES

(A) A system of marked snow emergency routes has been established to maintain the flow of traffic, goods and services to the City of Gering on thoroughfare streets.

**EMERGENCY SNOW ROUTES SHOWN RIGHT** →

(B) Modifications to Ban. The foregoing prohibition shall be modified within the area of the Downtown Business District designed for parking and more particularly described as follows:

- (1) 10<sup>th</sup> Street from "K" Street to "S" Street;
- (2) "M" Street from 9<sup>th</sup> Street to 14<sup>th</sup> Street.

(C) The foregoing prohibition shall not apply to the above described area during the business hours of six o'clock (6:00) a.m. to seven o'clock (7:00) p.m.

### § 76.04 DRIVEWAYS AND SNOW REMOVAL FROM PRIVATE PROPERTY.

(A) City snowplows will not clear private driveways. The snow placed in driveways by City plows is a natural result of clearing the streets and is the responsibility of the property owner to remove.

(B) Only on emergency snow routes, when plowed windrows exceed 24 inches, if time and conditions allow, the City will attempt to plow open private driveways at the curb line.

(C) Snow from a private driveway, private sidewalk, business driveway, or parking lot may not be placed on a City street. Penalty see § 10.99.

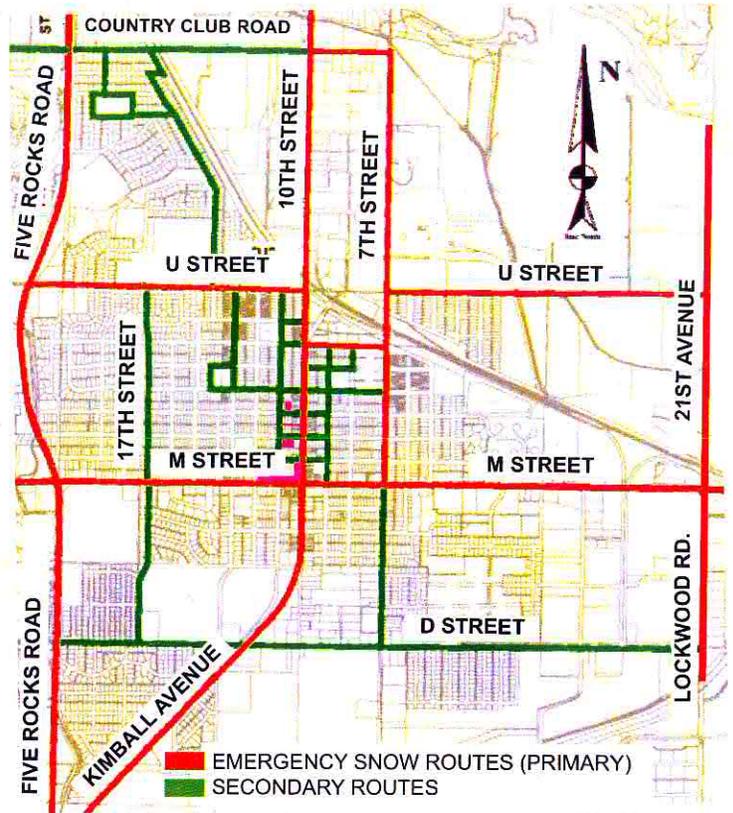
(D) City equipment will not be used to remove piled snow or push snow away from private property or businesses. Snow will only be removed from City facilities. Using City equipment to clear snow from private property is a violation of this code unless it is necessary to allow emergency vehicles access to the private property for ambulance, fire or police calls.

### § 76.05 VEHICLE TOWING DURING DECLARED SNOW EMERGENCIES.

Vehicles parked on a designated Snow Emergency Route street during a declared Snow Emergency are subject to tow without notice to the owners, and at the owners' expense. In addition, if a vehicle is left on a public street or alley on a designated snow route in such a fashion as to hinder snow removal, that vehicle may be towed at the expense of the owner of the vehicle, provided that an attempt was made to contact the owner to have the vehicle moved; and that either the owner could not be located, or the owner was contacted, that the owner of the vehicle failed to move the vehicle within fifteen (15) minutes after being contacted.

### § 76.06 VIOLATION OF VEHICLES PARKING ON EMERGENCY SNOW ROUTES.

A violation of this ordinance shall be punishable by a fifty dollar (\$50.00) fine.



## EMERGENCY SNOW ROUTES

- 10th Street from "J" Street to "U" Street
- 10th Street (Scottsbluff/Gering Highway) from "U" Street to the river bridge
- "M" Street/Old Oregon Trail from the cemetery road east to Hwy. 71 bypass
- Kimball Avenue from Five Rocks Road to "J" Street
- Five Rocks Road from Robidoux Road to Country Club Road
- "U" Street from Five Rocks Road to 10th Street
- "U" Street from 7th Street east to City limits
- "S" Street from 10th Street to 7th Street
- 7th Street from "M" Street to Country Club Rd.
- Country Club Rd. from 10th Street to 7th Street
- Lockwood Road from Hwy 71 to M Street
- 21<sup>st</sup> Avenue from M Street to the North Platte River bridge

# Gering Public



## Nebraska Conservation Education Fund

The Nebraska Conservation Education Fund (NCEF)'s AmeriCorps Common Ground Program is a non-profit organization focused on community vitality through education about conservation. This program seeks to break political barriers by finding common ground with community members by getting the conversation started about conservation. Through educational events and community activities, Emily Hauck is introducing this brand new program to the panhandle. Building a resilient community through strong relationships, getting community members involved, and making the world a better place are the main goals of the program.

Emily graduated as valedictorian from Gering High School and recently graduated with two degrees from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. She is currently the Nebraska Panhandle Conservation Director with the NCEF AmeriCorps Common Ground Program.

The Common Ground Program has partnered with the Gering Public Library, the Lyman Public Library, the Legacy of the Plains Museum, Chimney Rock, and the Knight Museum and Sandhills Center to provide free educational events for the community. In addition to free events, the Common Ground Program is searching for volunteers to participate in long-term conservation projects throughout the community.

### Upcoming events:

For a full list of upcoming events, volunteer opportunities, or questions about the AmeriCorps Common Ground Program, contact Emily Hauck at (307) 735-3702 or [emilvhauck@nrcvfe.org](mailto:emilvhauck@nrcvfe.org).



# NCEF

Nebraska Conservation  
Educational Fund

## TAX FORMS ARE COMING

The IRS sends the library tax forms for the public. Last year they only sent the 1040, the 1040A and the 1040EZ as well as instructions for these forms. These and all the other tax forms are available online. You can find a link for this year's state and federal tax forms at [www.gering.org/library](http://www.gering.org/library) under "Useful Links."

## NEW TRAVEL INFORMATION ON THE LIBRARY WEBSITE

Have you been daydreaming about a vacation to somewhere warmer? With your Gering library card you can access websites to feed your taste for travel. The library website ([www.gering.org/library](http://www.gering.org/library)) has links to A-Z World Travel, A-Z World Food and Lingo Lite under Useful Links.



A-Z World Travel has great information on nearly 200 cities in the US and around the world. You can learn about the climate, public transportation, activities, maps, what kinds of food to expect, and lots of other useful info like whether or not your flat iron will work without an adapter.

You can use Lingo Lite to learn some useful phrases in the country of your destination. Lingo Lite uses images, text, and a native speaker to help you learn basic vocabulary in 30 different languages.

If it looks like you will be staying home, A-Z World Food has hundreds of recipes from around the world. You can get an authentic recipe for borscht from Russia or a French onion soup and even a Pavlova from Australia.



The nicest thing about these sites is that they are advertisement free, and aren't trying to sell you something. You can find these and many other useful links at [www.gering.org/library](http://www.gering.org/library).

## YOU CAN CHECK OUT BOOKS FROM THE LIBRARY ON YOUR NEW E-READER

Did you get a tablet or other ebook device for Christmas? Make an appointment with Sherry at the library to learn how to get ebooks or audiobooks free from the Overdrive online library.

## 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. 2017 was a great year for the City of Gering as we focused on downtown revitalization, tourism, economic development, strengthening existing relationships, building new relationships, improving communication, attracting great people to the City and planning for the future. Working with our community boards and commissions has reaped great rewards for the community in 2017. Here are some of the highlights.

Gering has a great Downtown Revitalization Committee who has spent countless hours helping to shape the vision for our downtown district. We are finally seeing the fruits of their hard work and dedication. Our downtown has seen a tremendous transformation over the past 12 months as we have welcomed a new hotel and have seen the completion of phase I of the Downtown Revitalization Plan. This includes the creation of a new downtown civic plaza and several improved fa-

ces on our downtown businesses.

The City of Gering has also been working with our Project Team and our Parks and Recreation Board to help shape the vision for the Oregon Trail Park Renovation Project. Phase I of construction is well under way and is on track to be ready for the 2018 spring baseball season. When this project is complete Gering will be home to one of the premier baseball and softball facilities in the region. This project also opened the door to provide the opportunity for Gering to be home to the Pioneers, our very own collegiate summer wood bat team. They will begin play on their new home field in May of this year.

Gering also has a strong community LB840 Committee that focuses on economic development and business retention. Their vision and commitment helped lead Gering to the establishment of a regional business and industrial park. This critical building block for economic growth and development will

help to provide both Gering, and the region, opportunities to attract new businesses and provide existing businesses expansion opportunities.

Communities in today's fast-paced world have to be competitive on multiple fronts if we want to grow and create opportunities for our future generations. We have to have economic opportunities, excellent schools, sound infrastructure, affordable housing, and recreational opportunities.

While I only highlighted a few of our efforts I can safely say that Gering is a great community and has outstanding community-minded people helping to shape the vision of our community for tomorrow and beyond. To build and grow a community it takes all of us to make a difference. So, thanks to all of you for helping to make Gering special. Now let's focus on 2018 and continue to build and grow Gering.

Tony Kaufman  
Mayor  
City of Gering



Don't let a good drop go bad!

### What is Stormwater?

Stormwater runoff is water from rain, melting snow or irrigation water that "runs off" or across impervious surfaces instead of seeping into the ground. This untreated runoff flows in ditches, curbs, gutters, storm inlets and is then carried to the nearest waterway such as a pond, lake, creek or river. Stormwater pipelines are separate from wastewater pipelines, stormwater is not treated and does not flow through wastewater treatment plants.

### How does Stormwater Runoff Become Polluted?

Stormwater runoff can become polluted anywhere people are using or altering the land. People going about their daily lives are the main source of stormwater pollutants, and they are unaware of it. Common examples of people contributing to stormwater pollution include: over fertilizing, excessive pesticide usage, not picking up pet waste, using salt or sand to de-ice driveways, allowing oil to drip out of their vehicles and, of course, littering. If these pollutants are not properly used or picked up, then rainfall or snow melt will wash these pollutants into the storm inlets where they discharge into nearby waterways.

### What Can I do to Prevent Stormwater pollution?

If you own a car, maintain it, so it does not leak oil or other fluids and if you wash your car at home, be sure to wash it on the grass or at a car wash, so the dirt and soap do

not flow down the driveway and into the nearest storm drain.

Do not over fertilize your grass and never apply fertilizers or pesticides before a heavy rain. If fertilizer falls onto the driveway or sidewalks, sweep

it up and throw it away or place back onto the grass. Make sure mulch, leaves, and grass clippings are not blown into or left in the street. Be sure to pick up all yard waste and place into a yard waste container or use it as compost to prevent yard waste from entering into the nearest storm drain.

Other things you can do to prevent runoff on your property is to turn your gutter downspouts away from hard surfaces – instead point them into flower beds, grassy areas, or consider building a rain garden to contain the water. To avoid erosion, seed or place sod down on bare spots in your yard.

Pet owners should pick up after their pets and dispose of pet waste in the garbage. Pet waste can be a major source of bacteria and excess nutrients in local waters. When it rains, any pet waste on lawns, parks or streets washes into the storm drain system and ends up in local waterways, resulting in high E.coli bacteria levels and making waterways unusable for swimming, boating or other activities.

Keep lawn and household chemicals tightly sealed and covered in a place where they will not get rained on. Never put anything down a storm inlet! Including paint and motor oil. And of course, do not litter!



## Responsible Pet Ownership begins with YOU! and, it's the law...



Please remember to keep your pet's vaccinations current, protect pets from harsh weather conditions, make sure they have plenty of clean drinking water, obtain a license annually and don't allow pets to run at large.

# Environmental Services

(308) 436-7568



## FREE DUMP DAY, APRIL 21

Free Dump Day will be on April 21, 2018. Residents will need their utility bill along with their matching driver's license or they will not be able to dump. Residents can also bring their utility bill and driver's license in during our normal hours for a free dump. Our hours are 6:30am to 2:30pm Monday through Friday. These are good for 60 days and it is for Gering, Scottsbluff, Mitchell and Lyman customers.

### BLUE CONTAINERS

The Single Stream Recycling Program continues...

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

Commercial size containers are also available!

Drop boxes at Northfield Church and at 9th & L Street (by Fresh Foods) 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 first of November

### LANDFILL

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

Hours of Operation: Monday through Friday, 6:30 am to 2:30 pm. No hazardous or liquid wastes accepted.



**PLEASE do not put plastic bags and glass in the recyclable containers at 9th & L Street and at Northfield Church.**

**THANK YOU!**

### BROWN CONTAINERS - Residential Waste

Residential alley containers are for residential waste only, **NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION DEBRIS.** If you have construction debris take it directly to the landfill.

## REMINDER - Free dump pass!

Gering residents have a **free monthly dump pass for excess trash** they need brought to the landfill. We would also like residents to consider recycling. Recycling keeps trash out of the landfill and numerous products get recycled and reused.

### City of Gering credit/debit card transaction fee

City of Gering customers will be assessed a credit and debit card transaction fee where ever credit and debit cards are accepted at City sites including utilities/administration, golf course, landfill, RV park and the civic center. The City encourages customers to consider auto pay for utility bills in order to avoid being assessed a fee.



### Seasonal Employment Opportunities

The City of Gering is now accepting applications for all seasonal positions. These positions include, but are not limited to: Laborers, Lifeguards, Cashiers, Assistant Swimming Pool manager, and Swimming Pool manager. Specific position duties, responsibilities, and desired qualifications are available with the application form. Apply at the City of Gering, 1025 "P" Street, Gering, NE 69341 or at [www.gering.org](http://www.gering.org). Positions are open until filled. EOE

### SNOW SHOVELING TIPS

- Avoid sudden twisting and turning motions.
- Bend your knees to lift when shoveling. Let the muscles of your legs and arms do the work, not your back.
- Take regular breaks to prevent straining your muscles.
- Wear a couple layers of clothing to keep your muscles warm and flexible.
- warm up before you begin - stretch your arms, shoulders, legs and back prior to shoveling snow.
- Prevent falls by being aware of ice hidden under snow.
- Your skin is your largest organ, protect it with gloves, earmuffs, face protection and heavy socks in addition to heavy clothing.



## Gering Fire Department to conduct fire safety education for students

Beginning February 15th the Gering Volunteer Fire Department will be conducting an extensive fire safety education program for all 5th grade students in the Gering school system.

This program is designed to provide young children and families with the vital lifesaving skills and information they need to protect themselves from fire. Unfortunately, many people have the danger-

ous attitude that a fire will never happen to them. A fire in your home is a very real possibility and your family needs to be prepared.

Fire claims a devastating toll in the United States every year. 8,700 people are killed and 300,000 people are injured by fires annually in this country. 4.2 billion dollars in property is damaged or destroyed. Those people who are injured carry disfiguring physical and mental scars with them for the rest of their lives. This fact becomes even more alarming when we realize that more than 30% of these injuries and deaths occur

among our children.

One child is badly burned every four minutes in this country, 150,000 of them yearly. More children are crippled by fire each year than were crippled in the worst year of the polio epidemic. These children suffer so greatly because they do not know what to do in case of a fire. They are not trained in correct escape procedures and are naturally curious about fire. However most young children do not understand the consequences of their actions when playing with fire. We want to make sure that your child never suffers needlessly

due to the lack of fire safety knowledge.

Our Junior Fire Patrol program runs six weeks and covers topics from Home Fire Escape Plans to Kitchen Hazards to Fire Extinguishers. 5th grade students will learn how to operate a fire extinguisher, how to render basic first aid and prepare to escape their home in the event of a fire. Each member of the Junior Fire Patrol will be furnished with a workbook, badge, identification card and numerous handouts. They will be exposed to presentations, lectures and hands-on training. Each student completing the program will be given a

Certificate of Completion. During graduation, we award students who received high scores on their homework. These students are identified as officers and receive a Chief, Assistant Chief, Captain and Lieutenant badges and plaques.

For more information about the program or to sign up your student please call the station at 308-436-2441 or email us at [firedept@gering.org](mailto:firedept@gering.org).



## Monument Dog Park opening in May

by Amber Schiltz

Construction of a brand new dog park is under way! Monument Dog Park, a five acre off-leash dog park recreation area, is expected to be open to the public as early as this May. Located on the Southwest corner of Five Rocks Road and U Street, Monument Dog Park was created through a partnership between the City of Gering, and Common Grounds Dog Park Committee (CGDPC), a non-profit organization dedicated to establishing and supporting a dog park in the Scottsbluff/Gering community.

"We believe that developing a dog park would promote responsible dog ownership, provide a safe environment for citizens to exercise their dogs and provide a common ground that enhances a thriving community," said Stacey Fisher, CGDPC President.

Since the project was proposed last year, CGDPC has received over \$75,000 for the project through grants and donations. The committee was awarded \$14,000 in Keno funds for the construction of the fence, and another \$10,000 from Oregon Trail Community Foundation towards the project last year. This allowed the construction of the dog park to begin last fall. This spring, a private donor with the Carol A. Fuller Foundation donated \$50,000 towards the efforts. This donation allowed the committee to reach their fundraising goal for the project.

"This generous donation will allow us to

continue construction on the dog park this spring, including a paved ADA pathway that will run along the inside perimeter of the park. As a committee we are overjoyed with this generous donation, and wouldn't have been able to finish the park without it!" said Amber Schiltz, CGDPC Vice President.

The park will be completely fenced around the five acres of land, and will have separate sections for small dogs and timid dogs in addition to the large free play area. The committee also plans on adding an AKC agility course in one of the sections, which will allow dog owners to not just exercise their dogs, but teach them new skills.

Today approximately 37-47% of all United States families own a dog, making them more present in our community and more important than ever in our homes. Off-leash dog parks are a growing trend among communities across America, and provide many benefits to dog owners, dogs and the community alike. Having a dog park in the community can promote responsible pet ownership and an active lifestyle for dog-owning residents. They can also serve as a destination for the many tourists who prefer traveling with their canine companion.

"Monument Dog Park will provide a beautiful space for the communities' dogs, their owners and tourists to recreate freely, exercise together and meet and socialize with other community members. We will continue work this spring to finish construction on the park, and are so excited to have it open to the public before the summer

starts!" said Amber Schiltz. Construction on the park is done by members of the committee and volunteers. If you are interested in helping with this project, please contact Stacey Fisher at (308) 631-6395. For more information about Common Grounds Dog Park Committee, you can find them on Facebook, or their website at [www.commongroundsdogpark.com](http://www.commongroundsdogpark.com).



### Ordinance Reminder from Gering Code Enforcement

**City Ordinance 53.45 ALLEYS;** Use of Alleys are public thoroughfares and are to be kept clear of obstructions at all times. Containers must be placed in such a way that they will not obstruct the use of the alley as a public thoroughfare at any time, and provided that not permanent bases or foundations for such containers be permitted in the city alleys or street. If other collection facilities are to be used, they must be placed within the boundary of the private property, and immediately adjacent to the alley used by the Sanitation Contractor for pick-up service. 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.

# COMP PLAN = PHYSICAL GROWTH OF OUR COMMUNITY

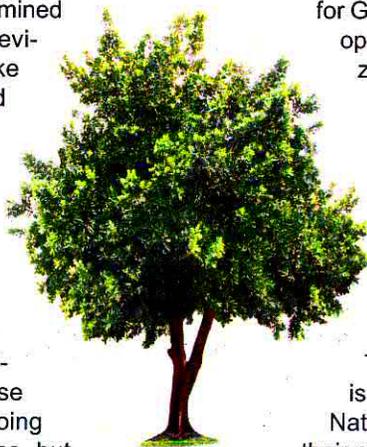
Husker volleyball has done it again! They won their fifth National Championship a few weeks ago. Many Nebraska volleyball fans are still riding high on the victory, especially because expectations at the beginning of the season were not too high for the team. It had been suggested that this would be a rebuilding year for the Huskers as they had graduated three All-American players. Also, the team was still lamenting an extremely disappointing performance and loss to Texas last year in the NCAA championship semi-finals. So how did this team go from low expectations to becoming the 2017 NCAA Volleyball National Champions? Vision and purpose.

Jeff Sheldon with the Omaha World Herald reported that at the beginning of the volleyball pre-season, John Cook (NU volleyball coach), knew it was going to be an extremely challenging year; he had lost several assistant coaches and key players. So as in years past, he asked his players to come together and evaluate themselves and come up with a motto for the year (apparently Cook is big on having his team create a yearly motto). He encouraged his team to look deep within themselves and determine who they were and what THEY wanted to accomplish. Through this process the teammates determined they had seen things the previous year that they did not like and THEY (the team) decided to build a completely new culture of Nebraska volleyball.

They came back to Coach Cook with their new motto: "With each other, for each other." Their intent was to play hard for each other and they were determined this attitude would make everyone else better. This team was not going to be about individual success, but about contributing toward the team's success. This motto took them all the way to a national championship. From the beginning, Cook empowered his team to define who they wanted to be. As a team they defined their values, their vision and their purpose, therefore they believed in it, invested in it, and owned it. With motto in hand, through his leadership and their belief Cook along with his coaching staff set a course based on the team's vision and values and in the end they won the 2017 National Championship and had fun all along the way.

So, how does any of this relate to trees? Gering citizens may have the opportunity to

be a part of something special just like the NU volleyball team. Citizens, in the near future may have the opportunity to come together and evaluate their community. The City of Gering is exploring the possibility of revising its comprehensive plan, which has not been revised since 1995. The comprehensive plan is a guide to the physical growth of a community. The Nebraska Planning Handbook states that "The comprehensive plan, or comprehensive development plan as it is referred to by Nebraska law, is the 'heart' of a local government's planning and implementation program that guides physical growth and development in Nebraska villages, cities, or counties. The comprehensive plan serves as a guide, a road map, for the preservation of valued existing conditions and development of desired future changes. The comprehensive plan provides goals, policies, and action strategies in the areas of land use, public facilities and utilities, transportation, and housing, as well as recommendations for plan implementation and plan maintenance. The planning process results in the creation of general, as well as specific and practical, directions and guidelines for both community and economic development."



This is a very exciting opportunity for Gering. Through the development of the plan, ALL citizens will have the opportunity to be heard. There will be opportunities for people to share what they like about the community, what they value, what they do not like and in what direction they would like to see the community go.

This is an opportunity that is parallel to what our 2017 National Champions did in their preseason planning. If the City is able to go forward with re-vamping the old plan, great things will come from it. For the first time in over two decades the future of Gering will be in the hands of Gering's current citizens!

What do you want to leave for your children? It will be up to the citizens of Gering to determine their future. Collectively as a community Gering may GET TO CHOOSE what direction they want to go. You have the freedom to work together to determine what you want to protect, maintain, modify or create! With your neighbors, you will have the opportunity to look within, just like the Huskers did, and identify who you are as a community. You can collectively define

the values of the community and be part of developing a vision for Gering 20 years down the road. If the city is able to move forward with redeveloping the comprehensive plan I would encourage the citizens of Gering to set trees and green spaces as a priority within the plan. If Gering is able to define, as a community, that trees and greenspace are valued, it will make Gering stand apart from other communities and make it more attractive for economic devel-



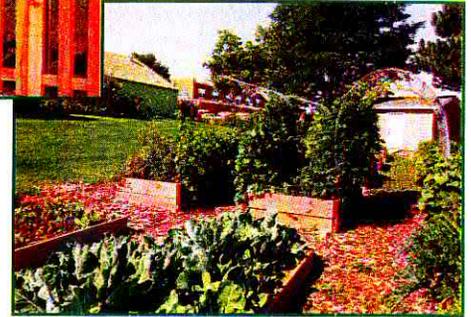
opment. With abundant tree canopy greeting visitors at our portals, softening our streets, capturing rainwater and saving our residents money on energy costs, it shows prospective businesses that we are forward-thinking and resourceful. When we advocate for more greenspace with trails and healthy, native ecosystems we are showing that 1.) We value not only ourselves but all things that dwell among us. 2.) We care for the physical health of our community by providing outdoor fitness and recreational opportunities and responsibly managing those spaces. 3.) We recognize that trees and greenspace are critical for our mental health (some doctors are now prescribing a daily 30 minute walk in nature over a prescription drug for some types of depression).

Certainly as a community forester trees are my strong suit. I love them but I also love the community of Gering and all of its great attributes. My hope is that if the City is able to invest in redeveloping the comprehensive plan, that each component of it will bring benefits to the residents of Gering. It will only be as good as the effort ALL of us put into it. Looking back at the WHY behind NU's motto, it is important to develop a plan together that will not just benefit a few but one that benefits the whole community; something we can all celebrate as a team victory. "With each other, for each other" our community will prosper, our quality of life will improve and we will be giving a promising future to following generations.

Amy Seiler  
Community Forester



## Gering Council Applauds Ever Green House Volunteer Efforts!



**UPDATE**

### Update on Ever Green House in Gering

- by Carol Knaub



Last year with funds from Gering Keno and the CHOW Grant we have been able to buy tools, put up a garden shed and fencing, along with 22 raised garden beds with drip irrigation. With the help of Erin Kampbell from the University of Nebraska Lincoln Extension office writing the grant, we were able to buy 12 of the raised beds, soil for the

beds, hand tools, a garden wagon and vegetable bins for harvest last fall. We donated 820 pounds of fresh vegetables to the CAPWN food Bank. Laurie Zitterkopf, Master Gardener, and her husband Mike installed the irrigation system. Ron Ernst, City Parks Department Director, and his crew put this on a timer. Mr. Bishop, with the Gering High School students, built the 12'X14' garden shed. Mr. Bosche's Art Class painted fence posts that will go up this Spring. Lincoln Elementary made and donated a scarecrow for the garden.



We have had many hands helping. AARP helped to plant seeds for the garden, the OHD group helped to pull weeds, and the Scotts Bluff County work crew helped a lot. This year, with the funds from Keno, we are replacing the windows and wall boards inside and will also be putting an exhaust fan on top of the green house. We will continue to work on the flower bed south of the greenhouse this year. We are still needing volunteers to help with the revitalization and beauti-

fication of the Community Ever Green House. You can call me, Carol Knaub, at 641-4169. I have been getting calls on garden plots this year and yes some are available, please call. Hoping the Community enjoys what has been done, and what will be done this year!

**Carol Knaub,  
Ever Green House  
Coordinator**

