

THE BEAT

The Beat is a biannual publication designed for Beatrice residents and stakeholders, offering valuable insights into City government operations.

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www.beatrice.ne.gov

400 Ella Street



Coming Soon: Outdoor Learning Area at Beatrice Public Library

An exciting outdoor learning area is beginning to take shape at the Beatrice Public Library after several years of planning by the Library Foundation. The project will include a pollinator garden, a custom pergola, outdoor musical instruments, and an outdoor classroom, creating new opportunities for programs, learning, and connection. This space will expand library services, support health and wellness, and offer a welcoming new gathering place for the community.



Mayor's Message

Wow, time flies. We're already moving into 2026. Overall, 2025 was a good year for the City. We remain in a strong financial position and continue to move projects forward that will support Beatrice's growth in the years to come.



Mayor Bob Morgan

One major accomplishment was the demolition of Lincoln and Paddock Lane Elementary Schools and their conversion into two housing developments, creating approximately 40 residential lots for future development and growth. We also completed a new landfill, providing the City with an estimated 70 years of capacity for solid waste disposal.

Additional work was completed at the airport, and we continue to make steady progress, taking small bites at a time, toward the demolition of the Dempsters site. In the months ahead, we are hopeful to receive positive news on a \$4 million Brownfield grant application, which would provide much-needed funding to significantly accelerate the Dempsters demolition.

As we look ahead to 2026, we will continue planning for the future of Beatrice in a thoughtful, financially sound manner to ensure our community remains strong and thriving for generations to come.

Candidacy Filing

Candidacy filing is now open for elected municipal offices appearing on the May 12th Primary Election ballot, including Mayor and four City Council seats (one from each Ward). Candidates must be registered voters and Ward residents; Council races are non-partisan, with the top two

vote-getters per Ward advancing to the November 3rd General Election. Filing fees are \$65 for City Council and \$97.50 for Mayor. Stop by the City Clerk's Office at 400 Ella Street to begin. Deadlines are February 17 for incumbents and March 2 for non-incumbents.

First Responder Face-Off 5K Walk/Run & Gravel Grinder Race - April 25th

Get ready to run, walk, or ride for a great cause at the First Responder Face Off, coming to Chautauqua Park on Saturday, April 25, 2026. Hosted by the Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 84 and IAFF Local 1098, this family-friendly event features a fun rivalry between the Beatrice Police Department and the Beatrice Fire Department.

Participants can choose from a 5K run/walk, 1-mile walk/run, or a Gravel Grider cycling event.

When registering, participants will pick **Team Police**, supporting Project Lifesaver, or **Team**

Fire, supporting Muscular Dystrophy.

All ages and fitness levels are welcome - whether you're racing for bragging rights or just enjoying the day with family and friends. Come support local first responders and two important causes.

Register online using the QR code below, or contact Officer Courtney Brauch at the Beatrice Police Department.

Choose your team today!





Resident Alert System

The City of Beatrice and Beatrice Police Department have joined the **Southcentral Nebraska Notification System** to share important community information.

If you've already registered to receive alerts from the City of Beatrice, no action is needed - you'll continue receiving notifications as usual.

If you'd like to enroll for the first time or update your notification preferences, visit our website or scan the QR code above for step-by-step instructions.

Choose how you receive messages: phone, text, email, or app. Subscribe to updates about public safety, weather, garbage schedules, power outages, street closures, and more.

Holiday Garbage Collection Schedule

Below are the holidays that will affect your garbage collection schedule throughout the year. Please remember to place your containers at the curb by 6:00 a.m. to ensure collection. The time of day your route is collected may vary. This schedule applies to all residential routes. Commercial routes may vary depending on the frequency of service.



| Holiday | Date observed (no collection) | Collection date |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Memorial Day | Monday, May 25th | Tuesday, May 26th |
| Independence Day | Friday, July 3rd | Monday, July 6th |
| Labor Day | Monday, September 7th | Tuesday, September 8th |
| Thanksgiving Day | Thursday, November 26th | Wednesday, November 25th |
| Day After Thanksgiving | Friday, November 27th | Monday, November 30th |
| Christmas Day | Friday, December 25th | Monday, December 28th |
| New Year's Day | Friday, January 1, 2027 | Monday, January 4, 2027 |

Investing in Inclusive, Accessible Play

The City is continuing to enhance its outdoor spaces by upgrading playgrounds and ensuring play equipment is inclusive and accessible for people of all abilities. Through a public-private partnership with the Beatrice Sertoma Club, Sertoma-Astro Park now features two new playsets, one for preschoolers and one for school-age children, and a variety of inclusive equipment. These playsets are surrounded by new ADA-compliant sidewalks and poured-in-place rubber surfacing.

In addition, thanks to a Rural Communities Recovery Program grant, brand-new playgrounds have been installed at Froberry Park and Chautauqua Park. Froberry Park now boasts a 23-foot-tall Trellix Tower with slides, ropes, and steel climbers, an inclusive spinner, and imaginative play features for younger children such as a market stand and conga drums.

Chautauqua Park’s new playset, located west of the Tabernacle, features ADA-compliant turf and sidewalks and offers nature-inspired, treehouse-themed play with beloved Eric Carle characters.

Looking ahead, two more playgrounds are in the planning stage: the A.J. Stoddard Park playground at 8th and Scott Street, and the Heritage Heights playground near 19th and Lincoln Streets.



Froberry Park



Sertoma-Astro Park



Chautauqua Park

Updating Beatrice’s Comprehensive Plan

The City of Beatrice has been awarded up to \$53,000 in financial assistance from the Nebraska Department of Economic Development’s Community Development Block Grant Program to update the City’s Comprehensive Plan. This plan is a key policy document that guides the community’s vision for growth and development, helping align stakeholders, set goals and priorities, and provide the foundation for tools such as zoning,

subdivision, and annexation regulations. Beatrice’s current Comprehensive Plan was last completed in 2001, before smartphones, social media, and even Netflix, making this update an important step in ensuring the City’s plans reflect today’s needs and tomorrow’s opportunities.

Hannibal Park Update



Improvements continue at Hannibal Park to support the many softball games and tournaments hosted there each season. A new field is currently in the design phase and will help accommodate the hundreds of teams that play at the park each year, ranging from recreational leagues to competitive and high school softball. Plans also include a building extension to expand the concessions area and better serve park visitors. Pictured to the left, the Street Department begins removal of the old parking lot area to make way for the new Field.

Update: Dempsters Site Clean Up

Over the past several years, the City has been working to address long-standing issues related to condemned structures at the Dempsters site. In recent months, the City successfully acquired ownership of all parcels within the property and has been actively pursuing grant funding to help offset the costs of demolition and environmental cleanup.

Multiple Environmental Site Assessments and an asbestos survey have been completed, and the City has worked with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to remove PCBs and other hazardous chemicals associated with leaking

electrical transformers. The on-site mechanics shop with a collapsed roof has also been demolished.

Cleanup alternatives have now been identified and focus primarily on soil remediation and associated capital costs.

One alternative involves excavating and disposing of contaminated soil to a depth of two feet below ground surface, backfilling the area, adding four inches of topsoil, and implementing an Environmental Covenant that would limit future use to open-air or green space. This option is estimated to cost \$6.6 million.

The other alternative would

require excavation to a depth of fifteen feet, allowing for future structural development on the site, but carries an estimated cost of \$10.2 million due to the extensive excavation, hauling, backfill, and landfill needs.

Because the second option is not financially feasible, the City is recommending the first alternative. Once remediation is complete, the City envisions transforming the site into a multi-purpose park that could include a fitness course, canoe dock, soccer fields, lighted baseball fields, and picnic areas, creating a vibrant new space for recreation and community gatherings.

Stay in the Know

Staying informed helps residents make the most of life in Beatrice, from knowing about upcoming events and programs to understanding City services, projects, and important reminders. To support this, the City utilizes a diverse range of communication tools, ensuring that information is available in multiple formats and locations.

Print publications remain a key resource, including *The Beat* (that you're reading now), which is published twice each year. Additionally, the City shares information via utility bill inserts, postcards, and targeted letters.

Digitally, the City's website is updated regularly with department information, project details, and events. Social media platforms, including Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, Nextdoor and YouTube are used by various City departments to share reminders, highlights, and alerts.

City Council meetings are broadcasted live on Spectrum Channel 181 and can be livestreamed from any device. Rebroadcasts of Council meetings and the "Ask the Mayor" radio show can also be viewed via cable or livestream.

With so many options available, residents are encouraged to choose the tools that work best for them and use them often to stay connected and informed throughout the year. To learn more about these tools, please visit [beatrice.ne.gov/communications-community-relations](https://www.beatrice.ne.gov/communications-community-relations)