

THE BEAT

July | 2025

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

NEW LANDFILL CONSTRUCTION UNDERWAY

Construction is underway on the new Beatrice South MSW Landfill. This major project will ensure the city's waste management needs are met well into the future.

The new landfill is being built on an 80-acre site directly south of the existing facility. Once complete, it will provide an estimated 70 years of landfill capacity for the community.

Construction is expected to be completed by fall of 2025.

INVESTING IN PLAY

Enhancing quality of life is a big part of running a city, and Beatrice is making strides by upgrading playgrounds across town.

Using a \$955,000 Rural Community Recovery Program grant, the City is installing **new playground equipment** at Froberry Park and the east side of Chautauqua Park. The grant is also expected to help fund future playgrounds at the planned Heritage Heights development (formerly Lincoln School) and the former Stoddard Elementary site. These improvements replace older equipment and bring sites up to current accessibility standards with rubber surfacing and sidewalk access.

Separately, new inclusive playground equipment for Sertoma-Astro Park is being delivered soon through a public-private partnership, with installation planned in the coming weeks.

While playgrounds can be costly, the joy they bring to families and the long-term value to the community make them a worthwhile investment. Future upgrades are also being considered for Robertson Park and in west Beatrice near the former Cedar Elementary.

The City is committed to creating safe, inclusive, and fun spaces for all children in Beatrice.

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Many of you are likely familiar with the saying, "How do you eat an elephant? One bite at a time." That phrase perfectly describes our ongoing work with the Dempsters property. The City now owns all but one parcel, and we're hopeful that by this fall, we'll have full ownership.

With that in mind, we've taken a few more "bites" by contracting a company to remove asbestos over the next two to three months. These small but meaningful steps help us continue moving forward. While it may not look like much progress is happening from the outside, we're steadily working through this massive undertaking. As the saying goes, slow and steady wins the race.

We're also excited to kick off two new housing developments at the former Lincoln and Paddock school sites. It will be exciting to see progress as we lay out the streets at Heritage Heights (Lincoln School site) and Corral Crossings (Paddock School site). Together, these developments will add more than 40 housing lots to our community to help with our housing shortage.

We look forward to continuing this progress as we build a stronger future for Beatrice in the years ahead!

Mayor Bob Morgan



REVITALIZING A DOWNTOWN LANDMARK

The **Paddock Kensington building** at 6th and Court is being redeveloped into modern apartments and commercial space by Hoppe Development.

Built in 1924, the multi-story structure will be transformed to include office and co-working space on the first floor, complete with rentable conference rooms for community use, and 36 residential units on the upper floors. The apartments will offer a mix of studio, one-, and two-bedroom layouts.

The 18-month build is underway, with the first residential units expected in early 2026. Commercial space is likely to follow in summer 2026, with full project completion targeted for 2027.

NEW HOUSING DEVELOPMENTS MOVING FORWARD

Exciting progress is underway at two former school sites in Beatrice. The Lincoln School property has been re-platted as **Heritage Heights** Addition, and the former Paddock Lane site is now **Corral Crossings** Addition.

Heritage Heights will offer 20 single-family lots and a new playground, while Corral Crossings will feature 16 single-family lots and six townhouses.

Utility prep work is set to start soon, with the Water Department relocating hydrants, installing new water mains, and making loop connections. Van Kirk Brothers Construction will handle storm and sanitary sewer installation, street paving, and grading. Work is expected to begin in July and continue through October, with lots anticipated to be available for purchase by November.

COMMUNITY FEEDBACK SURVEY

The **Beatrice Police Department** invites all community members to participate in their Community Feedback Survey. This is your opportunity to share your thoughts and experiences to help shape the future of local policing.

The survey is designed to gather insights into several key aspects of their performance, including:

- Response time
- Professionalism
- Communication
- Safety measures
- Community engagement efforts
- Transparency
- Access to resources

Your honest and candid responses are essential. They will help BPD identify their strengths and the areas where they can grow and improve in order to better serve you.

Scan the QR code to take the survey, or visit www.beatrice.ne.gov/police.

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT



POLICE - COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Join Beatrice Police Department for **National Night Out**, a nationwide event designed to strengthen police-community partnerships. This exciting evening is packed with activities for all ages, delicious food from local vendors, and opportunities to connect with your neighbors and the dedicated officers who serve your community.

Event Highlights:

- Meet and greet with local law enforcement, Fire Department, and other emergency personnel
- Game booths hosted by business and non-profit organizations
- Food truck vendors

Date: Tuesday, August 5, 2025

Time: 4:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Location: Charles Park, 200 N. 5th Street



SCAN ME