

INDEPENDENCE CONNECTION

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MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

To good neighbors, old and new: We are delighted to have you as a vital part of our community. Speaking as mayor of Ralston and on behalf of our city government, we recognize that our citizens are our most important asset. We strive to provide an environment that enriches our community and its residents. Although an island surrounded by a much larger city, we continue as a small town with a “Spirit of Independence.” As we continue to our focus on economic devel-

opment, we are pleased to welcome the many new businesses in Ralston. Construction along the 72nd Street corridor continues as does new and expanded construction and remodeling in our city. The enthusiasm with Ralston grows with the addition of newcomers. We bid you all a warm “Spirit of Independence” welcome.



Donald A. Groesser
Mayor, City of Ralston

SPORTS AND ENTERTAINMENT CENTER

The future of Ralston holds great opportunities with the construction of a Sports and Entertainment Center. This center will offer numerous opportunities from ice-related sports to hosting various tournaments and other venues. With the planning

of the Sports and Entertainment Center in its infancy, the planning, design, construction, and opening of the center will involve many steps and processes. Through the entire process, people can come back to this page to keep up to date

on documents, various key dates, and other useful information. To date, the city has made great strides in reaching its visionary goal of the Sports and Entertainment Center.

First, (continued on pg. 3)

WHAT'S GOING ON @ THE LIBRARY?

The Baright Public Library would like to thank the Carrell family for displaying their beautiful Christmas Towne through the month of December. It brought a smile to every library visitor's face.

Story-times will begin again in February. Call or visit the library to register your child. Registration begins on January 18th.



We will have limited federal tax forms available, but will not have printed state tax forms.

On January 8, from 7 to 8:30pm, come listen to local poets read excerpts from their poetry. Refreshments provided.

Computer classes will begin again on January 6th. Call or visit the library to register.

Visit www.ralstonlibrary.org for more information on library events.

The library will be closed Sunday, January 16th and Monday, January 17th for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

RALSTON AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

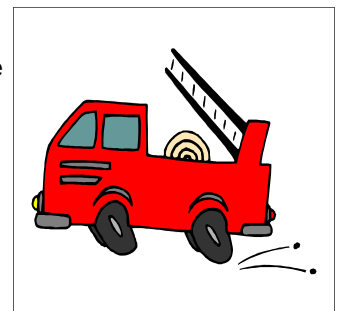
The Ralston Area Chamber of Commerce is an organization of metropolitan area businesses, organizations and individuals working to promote the development of business, industry, and the community. They serve as an information clearinghouse, a legislative advocate, a tireless promoter of economic development, and the voice of our business community. We strive to fulfill our mission of "enhancing and energizing existing business and creating jobs by encouraging the location of new businesses into the community."

Founded in 1960, the Ralston Area Chamber of Commerce is a non-profit organization that has grown to nearly 300 members, ranging from small businesses to large corporations; professionals from the fields of medicine, law, education; and civic leaders. The members work together, dedicated to business and (continued on pg. 3)

RALSTON FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Ralston Fire Department was organized in 1932 by several local residents and businessmen. Since that time the department has grown into a non-profit corporation. The city of Ralston contracts with Ralston Fire & Rescue Inc. to provide fire suppression and advanced life support EMS. The department also provides fire protection to Douglas County Suburban Fire Protection District #4, and has an automatic mutual-aid agreement with the La Vista Fire Department in Sarpy County.

The Ralston Fire Department operates out of one station and protects a primarily suburban area. The first due area includes over 6300 residents living in an area of one square mile. In 2008, their busiest year to date, they responded to 692 calls for service.

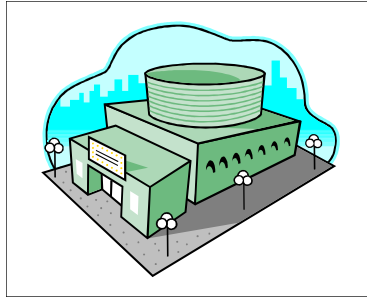


For more information, call 402-331-5369 or visit www.ralstonfire.com

"Please stop in the library and pick up a magnetic 2011 calendar!"

SPORTS AND ENTERTAINMENT CENTER CONTINUED...

after negotiations with the American Legion, it was communicated by them that they were not interested in moving. Based on their current position, the mayor immediately went back to our engineering firm and determined that the project could go forward without the requirement of relocating the American Legion. The city is very happy that the American Legion will remain at a place they call "home."



We are proud to have on our team [ICON Architectural Group](#) from North Dakota. Their track record for designing facilities that maintain a great balance between cost, needs, and construction will be invaluable at designing a nice user-friendly facility. As Mayor Groesser has stated in town hall meetings, "This will not be a Taj Mahal," but it will be an attractive building that will provide a great representation of the City of Ralston, compliment the entry into the (continued on pg. 4)

RALSTON TURNS 100 IN 2012

The City of Ralston is looking for volunteers and contributors to help make 2012 a year to remember in Ralston. To coordinate the historical remembrances and special events celebrating the City's 100th birthday, the Mayor and City Council have created a Centennial Celebration Committee. This committee will plan a variety of events intended to remember and honor Ralston's fascinating history, its family-proactive present day, and its exciting future!

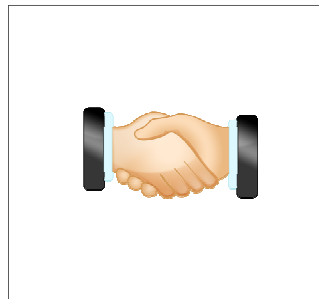
All members of our community are encouraged to get involved and celebrate. If you have Ralston information or memorabilia you could share, please do! If you know someone who grew up in Ralston and/or is familiar with community history, call Ralston City Hall at 331-6677. *Let's celebrate Ralston's milestones together!*

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Ralston's milestones
together!"*

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE CONTINUED...

community betterment and development. Expanding the Chamber membership, finding new ways for the members to network, promoting businesses and serving the community's needs are the goals of the Ralston Area Chamber of Commerce. As all of our business communities are intertwined, any business, organization, or individual in the metropolitan area may join the Ralston Area Chamber of Commerce.

The goals of our Chamber are to enhance, energize, and expand our economy for the benefits of businesses and our community.



For more info,
call (402) 339-7737 or visit
www.ralstonareachamber.org.

City of Ralston

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Independence City, U.S.A.

*City Hall will be closed
January 17th*

IN MEMORIUM, WILLIAM D. "BILL" WHITE

William D. "Bill" White, age 63, passed away on December 25, 2010. Bill was the Chief of Police for the Ralston Police Department until July 4, 2009. His law enforcement service spanned 35 years within the Ralston Police Department, and he was proud to serve the community of Ralston. On November 18, 1975, Bill White was shot twice while conducting a traffic stop at 84th and Q Street. He received the Law Enforcement Purple Heart for his injuries.

Bill was also a graduate of the 181st session of the FBI National Academy in Quantico, Virginia. Prior to becoming a police officer, Bill served in the military as a helicopter pilot in Vietnam. During his time in Vietnam, Bill flew 1144 combat hours. He earned the Air Medal with 30 oak leaf clusters, National Defense Service Medal, Army Aviator Badge, Vietnam Service Medal, and the Vietnam Campaign Medal.

He is preceded in death by his parents, survived by wife, Teresa White of 33 years; children, Don White, Christine (Richard) Fife, Rich (Dena) White, Joe White; brother, Terrence White; grandchildren, Jessica, Calvin, Jacob, Kaitlyn, and Kyle. A memorial service was held on Thursday, December 30th at Ralston High School. Military Honors provided by Millard American Legion Post 374 and Millard VFW Post 8334. Memorials can be directed to the Methodist Estabrook Cancer Center (8303 Dodge St. Omaha, NE 68114). Visit bramanmortuary.com for online condolences.

SPORTS AND ENTERTAINMENT CENTER CONTINUED...

city, and be designed in a manner that use of it will only be limited by the imagination.

The city is also pleased to announce that it has selected a local firm to be the Construction Manager At Risk, [Boyd Jones Construction of Omaha](#). Boyd Jones Construction has a great reputation for quality of work. This, coupled with a very competitive proposal submittal, being a local company, and their wide array of past projects, the City of Ralston is pleased to have them as part of the project.

In addition, the city has entered into a letter of agreement with the engineering firm of [Olsson Associates](#) of Omaha. Olsson Associates has done engineering work for the city in the past, and we are confident in their abilities to insure that all of the engineering plans associated with this area meet the needs of the overall area.

While the Sports and Entertainment Center itself will go to the vote of the people early spring of 2011, the city still looked at this area in a strategic fashion. Based on past input from the community, it is obvious that there are various development directions the community wanted to go and some directions the community did not want to go. Based on this, the City of Ralston, with approval from the City Council, signed a purchase agreement for a portion of the subdivision and signed an option to purchase on other property. This initiative will allow the city to have input and more control over what is developed in this area and what is not.

Any general questions regarding this project can be asked by emailing arena@cityofralston.com.