

Independence Connection

LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

Mindful Insights from our Mayor



Hello!
Summer is over and fall is in the air. We have cool mornings and soon, the leaves will turn beautiful colors and begin to fall.

Ralston has had another great year, increased development, winning ball teams, and great music in Independence Square. We had a good turnout for our **Tribute to the Fallen Nebraska Soldiers**, their family members, and the Patriot Guard. Ralston residents are wonderful at supporting our city and presenting great respect for our country. Speaking of

American value's, please VOTE November 4th. It's a blessing to live in a free country and have the privilege to vote.

I thank each and every one of you for keeping Ralston a fantastic place to call home. Deb and I wish you a wonderful holiday season.

Sincerely, Mayor Don



Mayor - Donald A. Groesser

Council Persons:

Ward 1 - Maureen Konwinski

Ward 2 - Mike Gillespie

Ward 3 - Craig Alberhasky

Ward 4 - Jerry Krause, President

Ward 5 - Rich Onken

Ward 6 - Ben Preis



Election Day - November 4th

Voter Registration by Mail - Must be postmarked by October 17. The election commission will send you a permanent voter information card, containing your polling place and the districts in which you reside.

Mail the registration to:

Douglas County Election Commission
225 North 115th St. Omaha, NE 68154

Voter Registration in Person - Deadline to register in person at Douglas County Election Commission is October 24, between 8:30 am - 5:00 pm.

Eligibility Requirements - You must be a registered voter. In order to register, you must:

- * Be a U. S. Citizen
- * Be at least 18 years of age
- * Live in Nebraska
- * Have not been convicted of a felony, or your parole was completed longer than two years ago.
- * Have not been officially found to be mentally incompetent

Douglas County Election Commission
225 North 115th St. Omaha, NE 68154

www.votedouglascounty.com
402 444 VOTE (8683)

RALSTON'S BEST CHILI CHEF

Saturday October 18,
2 pm - 5 pm in Downtown Ralston, 77th & Main St.

"Celebrity" Judges will Award Prizes to the
"BEST CHILI CHEF" Winners!

BROADCAST LIVE!



Attend the "BEST CHILI CHEF" Contest for \$8 and Sample Chili's to find your favorite and receive a bowl full!
(All proceeds benefit the Local Food Bank)

Various Downtown Businesses will be open
Ralston Fuel & Service Flea Market, 9 am - 5 pm
Rhonda Minardi, 578 8509

Ralston City Council and Police Department presented a Police Hall of Fame Life Saving Award to Sgt Mark Cerny & Officer Matt Herrick

for saving the life of an unconscious woman who had no pulse. Without delay these police officers began CPR & used a Defibrillator, which restored her pulse. The woman was taken to the hospital and thankfully survived.



Check it out at the Baright Public Library

Annual Book Sale: Thank You to the Friends of the Baright Public Library and the Library Foundation for sponsoring the sale. Dee Van Driest and Cindy Sadowski organized and planned the sale with great volunteers. An Enormous "Thank You" to everyone who supports the library! The sale is successful because people support the library. Thank you to the people who donated books throughout the year.

Wii Gaming: Adults and Teens join us once a month for a fun time! Check the library's website www.ralstonlibrary.org for exact dates.

Lunch & Learn every third Wednesday of the month at noon. Bring your lunch, the library will provide beverages and dessert in the meeting room. October 15th, a local psychic will explain her work.

Bi-lingual Café: Practice your conversation skills in English and other languages, Sunday afternoons with Yolanda. The Café is generally held in September through November, and February through April. Check with the library staff for dates and topics - The conversations depend on you!

Library Holiday Magic, November 30th. Come for Surprises!

Book Fair: November 29th and 30th & December 6th and 7th. We'll have lots of new books - it's a great opportunity to purchase gifts! The proceeds benefit the library.

Build a Gingerbread House, Saturday, December 13th 10:00 am, Noon, and 2:00 pm. Pre-Register children age's five to eleven for the tasty holiday tradition! Children under nine must be accompanied by an adult. Registration is required and begins Nov. 24. Call 331-7636 for more information. Thank you Baright Library Foundation for funding this program!

Display Cabinets: Share your collection by putting your items on display in the Library's two cases near the entrance. The

cases are kept locked, so your collection will be safe. We've had horses, teapots, toys, and clothing displayed in the past four months. If you would like to display your collection, call Sharon, 331-7636.

Computer Classes are generally offered Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday. Call for class times.

Computer Classes in English and Spanish:

Basic Computer & Internet Skills - Learn what a computer is used for, what the symbols mean, and how to move around on the Internet.

Using the Internet Wisely - Learn to navigate the Internet, evaluate web sites, & search the Internet more efficiently.

Word Processing - Learn how to edit a Word document: from basics, spelling helps, bullet points, inserting, and editing pictures and/or clip art.

Computer classes in English:

Excel Spreadsheets - Learn to create spreadsheets for your address book, inventories, or simple bookkeeping. For dates and times, contact Karen for details in English; contact Yolanda Jasso for details in Spanish, 331-7636.

Story Times for Pre-school and Toddlers: February 2nd to March 20th, 2009. Call the library to register.

Please note these Library Closing Dates:

Early closing November 26th at 5:00 pm. Closed November 27th and 28th.

Closed December 24th and 25th.

Early closing on December 31st at 2:00 pm. Closed January 1st, 2009.

Francine Canfield, Library Director, 331-7636



Frank & Velma Johnson, Ralston Archives Museum

5615 Woodlawn Avenue (Corner of Woodlawn & Park Drive)

Archive Open House, Sunday October 19th 2 pm - 4pm. Featuring photos, articles, and artifacts of Ralston Parks, Hillcrest Shopping Center, Ralston Community Church & the United Church of Christ.

Holiday Magic Open House, Sunday, November 30th from 1 - 3pm. LaDonna Johnson and her music students will present a free Christmas music program at 2pm.

Need a Gift or Stocking Stuffer? Consider:

- A collectible **Ralstoy Truck**, \$10. Imprinted with Ralstoy, Ralston, Nebr. USA. The Ralston Toy & Novelty Company has been in Ralston since July 1939.
- Alice Shooter's book, Early History of Ralston, 1865 - 1950 for \$2
- Archives House Christmas Tree Ornament, \$5.

VISITS and TOURS: After hours, call Jan Gorman, Lauralee Grabe, or Mary Lou Smith, they'll be glad to open.

Ralston History is Always Appreciated - The Archive members would be glad to scan pictures and copy articles you would like to lend for display. We would love to add artifacts from Ralston's history to the Archive collection for people to enjoy!

Volunteers Needed! Learn more about Ralston! Help sort articles, pictures, and much more! If you're interested, please call Lauralee Grabe, 331-6032; Mary Lou Smith, 331-6746 or Jan Gorman, 331-1657.



JCI RALSTON

JCI Ralston is a long-standing member of the Ralston community, previously known as Ralston Jaycees. We are a volunteer group of men and women ages 21-40, who serve in many capacities, including community service work, leadership training, local business support, and social activities.

Members of the Jaycees organization have included: U.S. Presidents Bill Clinton, George H.W. Bush, Gerald Ford, and John F. Kennedy, pioneer aviators Howard Hughes and Charles Lindbergh, and even Ralston Mayor Don Groesser!

We collaborate with Ralston City Hall and the Chamber of Commerce providing assistance to many community events: Tunes in Independence Square, SURE Clean-up, Picnic in the Park, Independence Dance, Easter Egg Hunt, and we host events strictly for our members: Hayrack Ride, Golf Outing, Support the Troop's Campaign, Family Pumpkin Carving, Murder Mystery Party, and much, much more!

We try to make an impact in our community and for our members. We're here to make a difference! If you would like to learn more about JCI Ralston, please check out our website at <http://www.jci-ralston.org> Chad Sherrets, JCI Ralston President

The Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) has Spread through NINE States, Killing 100 Million Ash Trees.

EAB was discovered in the U.S. the summer of 2002. Since its discovery, the beetle has spread through nine states and is responsible for killing close to 100 million Ash Trees.

The threat of EAB reaching the Ralston area is severe. The beetle was discovered in Missouri this July. Not only does Nebraska share a border with an infested state, it also shares an interstate system that provides means for the transportation of these pests.

EAB only affects Ash Trees. Neither size nor health determines which trees will be attacked. Early detection and preventative treatments are critical in the fight against these invasive pests. Ralston needs to be proactive against the possibility of an EAB infestation. Trees with preventative measures, achieve up to 100% control. If you see the following warning signs, the problem may exist in your area:

- * Extensive dieback in the tree canopy.
- * Stripped bark
- * New sprouts forming at the base
- * D sharp exit wounds
- * Increased woodpecker activity

For more information contact a local arborist or visit: www.emeraldashborer.info



Ash Tree exhibiting 40% dieback.

Ralston Area Chamber of Commerce

Proudly serving our community since 1960.

Your Chamber works diligently to enhance, energize, and expand the Ralston economy for the benefit of businesses and our community.

The **Small Business Council of the Chamber** has planned unparalleled seminars for our Members *and* non-members! November 5th - **Sales Success**; January 22nd, - **Financing/Taxes/Insurance**, February 18th - **Human Resources**, and March 25th, - **Technology Advances**. All Seminars are at the Scott Conference Center, 6450 Pine St., 2-5 p.m. Cost is only \$10 / \$15 for non-members. **RSVP** to the Chamber, 339-7737 or jgoff@cityofralston.com, or online at www.ralstonareachamber.org

Annual Flu Clinic, Thursday, October 30th noon – 2 p.m. in the Centennial Room (next door to the Chamber office). Cost is only \$20 and shots are administered by the Pharmacists from Applewood Hy-Vee. Medicare is accepted – you must bring your card with you. **Please register** so we know how much vaccine to have on hand.

It's **Holiday Magic in downtown Ralston!** **Sunday, November 30th** Santa arrives in Independence Square on a fire truck at 4 p. m. There will be hot chocolate, popcorn, and cookies as children line-up to tell Santa what they want for Christmas! There will be reindeer and horse carriages too! It's great family fun!

Thursday, December 4th is the **Chamber's Annual Awards Banquet & Auction**. Doors at Georgetowne Club, 2440 S. 141st Cir. open at 5:30 p.m. The Citizen of the Year, Business and Business Person of the Year will be announced and honored, in addition to awarding \$1,000 scholarships to four Ralston High School Seniors. It's a festive night and includes a silent and oral auction. www.ralstonareachamber.org

For dates of our luncheons, activities, events, and to look for services and products you need for your home and/or business **visit our web site: www.ralstonareachamber.org**

Chamber Members support our community, please shop and use the services & products of Ralston Area Chamber Members first! *Thank you!* Marlene Hansen, Chamber President 339-7737





Ralston

Ralston City Hall
5500 S. 77th St.
Ralston NE 68127

Phone: 402-331-6677
Fax: 402-331-4553

Independence City



Christmas Tree Recycling,
December 26- January 11
Orval-Smith Parking Lot



**To receive
Independence
Connection via
email, contact Donna at
Ralston City Hall,
droberts@cityofralston.com**



Yard Waste Collection

- ✓ Grass Clippings & Leaves Only
- ✓ Mark cans YW, No Barrels
- ✓ Bundles less than 4' in length and 2' in diameter
- ✓ Place items in normal pick-up location by 6:00 am

Yard Waste will be picked up through November.



Mailing Address Line 1
Mailing Address Line 2
Mailing Address Line 3
Mailing Address Line 4
Mailing Address Line 5

Ralston City Ordinance Reminder

Sidewalks; Kept Clean *Municipal Code Chapter 8, Article 201*

It is unlawful to allow snow, sleet, mud, or ice to remain on sidewalk. Sidewalks need to be cleaned within five hours after a storm, or before 8:30 A.M.

This is a condensed version the ordinance. Its entirety is available at Ralston City Hall.

Eye on the City Calendar

October 2008

- 17 Deadline to register to vote by mail
- 18 Chili Contest, Independence Square
- 19 Archive Museum Open House, 2 - 4pm
- 21 Ralston City Council Meeting, 7:00pm
- 24 Deadline to register to vote in person
- 26 Daylight Savings, fall behind
- 30 Annual Flu Clinic, Chamber noon- 2pm

November

- 4 Election Day
- 5 Chamber Seminar, Sales Success
- 4 Ralston City Council Meeting, 7:00pm
- 10 Planning Commission Meeting, 5:30pm
- 11 Veteran's Day Ceremony, 11am
- 18 Ralston City Council Meeting, 7:00pm
- 19 Lunch & Learn, Library
- 26 Library Closes at 5pm
- 27 & 28 Holiday, City Offices Closed
- 30 Archive House Open 1:00-3:00
- 30 Face Painting at Library 1:30 - 4:00p
- 30 Holiday Magic, Outside Independence Square 4:00pm - 6:00pm
- 28 & 29 Last day for Yard Waste Pick-Up
- 29 & 30 Book Fair, Library

December

- 2 Ralston City Council Meeting, 7:00pm
- 4 RACC Awards Banquet & Auction
- 6 & 7 Book Fair, Library
- 8 Planning Commission Meeting, 5:30pm

December, continued

- 13 Make Gingerbread House, Library
- 17 Lunch & Learn, Library
- 16 Ralston City Council Meeting, 7:00pm
- 24 Recognition of Holiday, Library Closed
- 25 Holiday, City Offices Closed
- 26-Jan 11 Christmas Tree Recycling, Orval-Smith
- 31 Recognition of Holiday, Library Closed

January 2009

- 1 Holiday, City Offices Closed
- 6 Ralston City Council Meeting, 7:00pm
- 12 Planning Commission Meeting, 5:30pm
- 20 Ralston City Council Meeting, 7:00pm
- 21 Lunch & Learn, Library
- 22 Chamber Seminar, Financing/Insurance

February

- 3 Ralston City Council Meeting, 7:00pm
- 9 Planning Commission Meeting, 5:30pm
- 18 Lunch & Learn, Library
- 18 Chamber Seminar, Human Resources
- 17 Ralston City Council Meeting, 7:00pm

March

- 3 Ralston City Council Meeting, 7:00pm
- 9 Planning Commission Meeting, 5:30pm
- 17 Ralston City Council Meeting, 7:00pm
- 18 Lunch & Learn, Library
- 25 Chamber Seminar, Technology

Tunes in Independence Square begin June 4, 2009