



Just a friendly reminder...

If you have a fire hydrant on your lot, remove leaves and any landscaping that may have grown up around it in the event that the Fire Department needs to find it quickly and easily.



REMINDER

Winterize sprinkler system and backflow preventers

Disconnect garden hoses from faucets!

Change batteries in smoke detectors with the end of Daylight Savings Time!



With your monthly utility bill, you have a free dump pass to the landfill each month!

ATTENTION! IMPORTANT NOTICE

What is Sanitary Sewer?

A sanitary sewer is a pipe located in the city right-of-way or easements that is designed solely to transport wastewater from sanitary fixtures and floor drains inside homes and businesses to the City's wastewater treatment plant. Sanitary sewer mains in the City of Gering are owned, operated, and maintained by the City. The City has approximately 70 miles of sanitary sewer mains.

What is the purpose of manhole covers - Manholes have a circular metal lid and are usually located in an alley, street or in yards and are for access to the sanitary sewer main. Only authorized City personnel can remove manhole covers and enter the manhole.

Please ensure the manhole cover(s) on your property are clearly visible and easily accessible at all times. Please do not bury them or disguise them. Your assistance in keeping these areas clear will save valuable time when crews are repairing, maintaining



or flushing the lines. Please report any missing, damaged, or noisy manhole covers (loose fitting) to the City of Gering at 436-6800.

What causes a sanitary sewer to backup

Most sewer backups occur because the line is plugged with grease, tree roots, or a combination of grease and tree roots. Backups are also caused by paper or small articles of clothing, a sag (or belly) in the line or a sewer lateral. **Never place anything in the system other than bathroom toilet tissue.** *Products like baby wipes, rags and other products labeled "flushable" frequently cause backups because they do not breakdown like bathroom tissue.*

What kinds of problems do fats, oils and grease (FOG) cause

When fats, oils, and grease are introduced into the sewer, they are usually warm and free flowing. However, shortly thereafter, they cool, harden and adhere to the pipe wall. A FOG buildup will eventually cause a backup and cause stoppages.

Building codes require restaurants to have grease traps to intercept, separate and contain their FOG discharges. For the homeowner, there are relatively easy ways to avoid this potential problem. There are simple steps that can eliminate many time-consuming and costly sewer line repairs or

blockages in your private lines:

- Fats, oils and grease should **NEVER** be poured down the sink. Sink drains and garbage disposals are not designed to properly handle these materials.
- Before washing, scrape and dry wipe pots, pans and dishes with paper towels and dispose of materials in the trash.
- Avoid relying on the garbage disposal to get rid of food scraps. The garbage disposal chops up food into small pieces, which can still cause a blockage in the pipe. Use sink strainers to catch food items, and then empty the strainer into the trash.



Unused or expired OTC or prescription medicines

These items should never be introduced to the sanitary sewer system. Wastewater treatment plants are not designed to remove over the counter or prescription medicines during the treatment process and eventually are discharged to the North Platte River. These items are harmful to the environment, downstream water supplies and wildlife.

If you have questions about the City's sanitary sewer system, please call the City of Gering at 436-6800.

Gering Public



Kids enjoying Lego Club after school at the Gering Public Library

Library Foundation Red Tag Sale Successful

October 2 marked the 101st anniversary of the Gering Library becoming public. To celebrate, the Gering Public Library Foundation held a red tag fundraiser, reminiscent of the red tag sale

held 101 years ago. Back then, "young bandits" held up citizens until they purchased a red tag supporting the library. This year, we invited library users to make a donation and we put a red tag in the window with their name on it. Gering's



three grade schools participated as well. The foundation raised over \$1500 through the fundraiser. The Gering Library Foundation supports the library in strategic partnerships that advance literacy, lifelong learning and community activity.

Fall programs are in full swing at the Gering Public Library!



The Young and the Restless Storytime and Playtime: Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m.

Lego Club: Wednesdays at 3:00 p.m.

LEAP - a preschool readiness program by registration only (fall and spring sessions)



ALL for Fun

If the City Council Chambers seems noisy from time to time, it's because the library is using it for a program. Our new program, Adult Learners at the Library or "ALL for Fun" is geared towards adults with developmental disabilities. The goal is to provide monthly programs that are both educational and entertaining for this community. "I based the program on storytime,



with books, learning activities, crafts and games, but all on an adult level. Our last program was on apples, and the next one will be on spiders," said Sherry Preston. If you are wondering why we are using the council chambers, a lot of these folks have a difficult time with stairs, and the chambers are more accessible than the Library Community Room. Are you interested in attending this program? Please contact Sherry at the Gering Library for more information at 436-7433.

Omaha World Herald is available online

Do you miss reading the *Omaha World Herald*? With your Gering Library card, you can access the OWH and many other newspapers online from home through the Newsbank database. Stop in the library if you have questions, or if you need help learning how to do this.



Omaha World-Herald

Congratulations to Robert Thomason, Golf Pro at Monument Shadows Golf Course

Robert recently received the Kiwanis Youth Service Award for his many years of service impacting the youth of Scottsbluff/Gering and represents the Kiwanis motto of "Serving the youth of the World". Robert has been instrumental in developing or assisting with programs that allow children the opportunity to learn the game.

The following are just some of the ways that Robert has worked with youth in the area:

- Junior Golf at Monument Shadows
- Junior Golf Camps in the summer
- Assisting with Panhandle Junior Golf
- Serving as volunteer coach and sometimes paid coach for the Gering High School Boys and Girls Golf Teams
- Introduced the SNAG (Start New Golf) Program to Gering Elementary Schools giving youth the opportunity to try out the game of golf in a fun, no pressure environment
- Hiring youth for the Monument Shadows Pro Shop and mentoring youth in business and public relation skills

"Robert is an asset to our community and particularly to the golf community at Monument Shadows. His positive attitude and genuine spirit of service impacts the lives of the people of Gering and the surrounding area. He is well deserving of the Kiwanis Youth Service Award. Robert has spent countless hours working with kids not only to teach them the great sport of golf but also sees the additional benefits kids can learn from the game of golf. Through Robert's instruction he is able to instill character and integrity into the lives of the youth he coaches and mentors." Stated Amy Seiler, Director of Parks and Recreation for the City of Gering.

Thank you Kiwanis for recognizing Robert and his Service to the community!



Thanks to the Free Trees for Fall Planting Program, an effort of the Nebraska Forest Service and the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum, The City of Gering received 20 trees to plant at the new Dome Rock Diamonds and other parks across the city.

Nine Trees were planted at Dome Rock Diamonds and City staff from various departments were on hand to learn the proper way to plant trees. 11 additional trees will be planted throughout the parks system to continue to restore canopy that has been affected by severe weather events and losing trees due to over maturity.

Despite providing a wide range of social, economic and environmental benefits, most Nebraska community forests have been in steady and sometimes dramatic decline. Many challenges contribute, including extreme weather, insects, disease and lack of diversity. The Emer-

ald Ash borer is the latest major challenge added to the list.

In an effort to stop this decline and increase community forest resilience, the Free Trees Program grants up to 10 high quality trees per planting project for tree-related educational events and community celebrations promoting trees and fall planting.

In addition to simply planting more trees, the program goals include increasing appreciation and awareness of the value of community forests in Nebraska. Special emphasis is placed on species diversity and higher impact projects, especially street tree planting and projects in neighborhoods of highest need.

Free Trees for Fall Planting is supported by the Nebraska Statewide Arboretum's Trees for Nebraska Towns Initiative funded by the Nebraska Environmental Trust.

City of Gering Environmental Services

(308) 436-7568



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.

PLEASE do not put plastic bags or glass in the recyclable containers at Northfield Church and the south side of H&R Block (south of Fresh Foods).

THANK YOU!



How can I protect my family from cross connections?

1. Check your water softener or other in-home treatment device to ensure that any drain lines have a proper air gap prior to entering the sewer line. The floor drain is considered a sewer line and there should be an air gap if the drain line runs into the floor drain.
2. Check all faucets where a hose might be connected and install a hose bib vacuum breaker to protect these connections.
3. Install a Pressure Vacuum Breaker on your underground sprinklers and have it tested annually when the sprinklers are turned on for the season.
4. If you have a boiler for home heating, make sure the fill line is protected with an approved backflow prevention assembly.
5. If you have old-style sinks or bathtubs, be sure to never fill them so the water level is higher than the fill spout.

BACKFLOW PREVENTION

What you can do to prevent cross connections and keep your drinking water safe.

1. **Check your faucets** to be sure that all faucet endpoints are above the flood level of the sink, tub, basin, or other apparatus they supply.
2. **Protect faucet extensions** by installing proper backflow prevention devices (i.e. hose bib vacuum breakers) on all faucets capable of having a hose or other extension attached.
3. **Check drain lines** (refrigerator drink dispensers, water softeners, heat exchangers, etc.) to be sure there is an adequate air gap between the drain line and the floor drain or sewer line into which they discharge.
4. **Never use unprotected faucets** to fill non-drinking water containers (i.e. water beds, wading pools, stock tanks, hot tubs, etc. Following these guidelines and using common sense will help to eliminate the possibility of contaminating your drinking water, your neighbor's drinking water and your community's drinking water. This not only affects the residents of your community, but their visitors and those people who are passing through.



Common Backflow Preventers and Their Uses

REDUCED PRESSURE PRINCIPLE BACKFLOW PREVENTER

These assemblies are used in situations where a high hazard exists, and an air gap cannot be used. This can occur when water pressure is required beyond the point of protection. In this case, an air gap would not likely work well as water pressure can only occur beyond the air gap if a pump is installed to place the water back under pressure. These assemblies are not common in homes; although homes that are heated with boilers connected to the public water supply system will likely need one of these installed on the boiler feed line. As with the other assemblies, a reduced pressure principal backflow preventer will have to be tested on an annual basis by a licensed backflow tester to ensure it is operating properly.



SURVEY YOUR RESIDENCE

Homeowners should inspect their plumbing to determine if they have any of these devices or assemblies installed. If you do not have hose bibs with built-in protection or hose bib vacuum breakers installed, you can purchase these from your local hardware store or plumber and install them yourself. If you find one of the testable backflow preventers on your property, you should check with your water provider to determine if you need to have it tested on a routine basis, or if there is any regular maintenance that needs to be performed. Preventing backflow is the responsibility of all customers of the water system, and the safe water that results from installing proper protection benefits everyone.

HOW TO PREVENT ENTRY CONTAMINATION

When the hazard of contamination exists, effective steps should be taken to correct the condition. *If the condition cannot be corrected, then an appropriate backflow prevention device must be installed on the internal plumbing system.* This is generally the responsibility of the water user.

Everyone should want to eliminate possible cross connections. Those who drink water on your premises will likely be the first to be injured if water becomes contaminated in your system. An awareness of how contamination can enter a system is important. We must work together to keep everyone's

water safe. The people who are in charge of your public water supply system are aware of the dangers of cross connections. Your public water supply system has adopted a policy on cross connection control to comply with Nebraska regulations. One of the most effective and the most inexpensive controls is to always keep an air gap between any potential contaminant and the water system. Don't allow garden hoses or other hoses connected to the water system to drop into sources of contamination. Hydrants drain back even when shut off and contaminants can be siphoned into the hose or hydrant. If you need further information or need assistance in determining what devices are appropriate, contact your public water supply system.

PROTECTING OUR WATER IS A JOB FOR EVERYONE

EMERGENCY

THANK YOU for your cooperation!

Emergency Snow Routes

Please clear public walks within 12 hours after the cessation of a storm.

ORDINANCE 2059 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

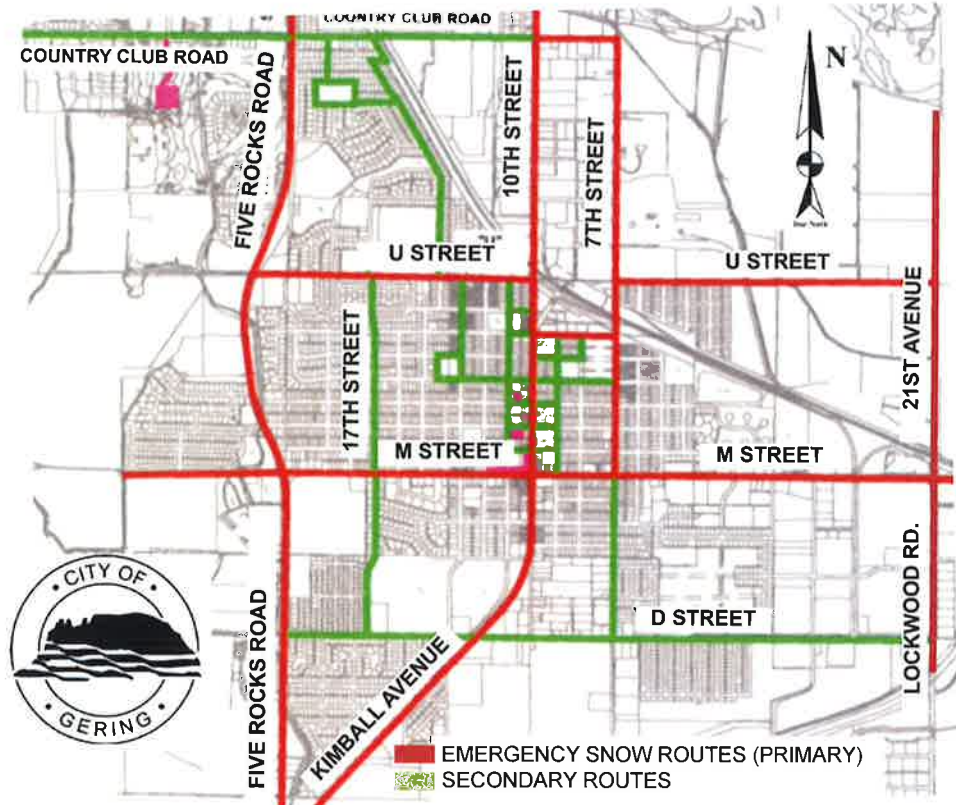
may declare in writing that there exists an emergency requiring that the snow, sleet, ice or mud be removed immediately and order the owner or occupant to remove the snow, sleet, ice or mud from public walkways and sidewalks.



Please do not pile snow on or around fire hydrants!

ORDINANCE No. 2053
AMENDED DECEMBER 11, 2017
§ 76.06 VIOLATION OF VEHICLES PARKING ON EMERGENCY SNOW ROUTES.
A violation of this ordinance shall be punishable by a fine.

When a Snow Emergency is declared, please move vehicles that are parked on Emergency Snow Routes. Vehicles that are not moved may be towed.



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
- 21st Avenue from M Street to the North Platte River bridge

Holiday Fire Safety Tips



To ensure that all residents have a safe and happy holiday season, The Gering Fire Department would like to remind you of the following 10 fire safety tips.

1. Make a fresh cut on your tree and stand it in water.
2. Keep trees away from heaters, fireplaces and doors.
3. Do not overload circuits and do not allow cords to be crimped or bent; do not run cords under carpet, rugs or doors.
4. When needles begin to fall, remove the tree from the home.
5. Check decorative lights for frayed and loose sockets. Use only UL approved lights.
6. Use only fire resistive decorations.
7. Unplug your decorative lights and extinguish all candles when you leave your home or go to bed. Never leave candles unattended!
8. "Standby your Pan" never leave pans on the stove unattended.
9. Check your fire places and chimney, clean if needed.
10. Check your smoke detectors - install new batteries with the start and stop of Daylight Savings Time.



From all of us at the Gering Volunteer Fire Department, wishing you and your family a Happy and Safe Holiday Season!



WORKING

SMOKE ALARMS SAVE LIVES



Pets and the Winter Season



With winter approaching, please keep in mind that your pet can succumb to frostbite and hypothermia. It's important to provide a warm, dry shelter for your pet to get out of the elements (by law, a domestic animal must be provided with shelter).

Remove snow between your pet's toes to prevent frostbite and make sure they have plenty of fresh drinking water at all times. Keep pets away from hazards such as antifreeze, poinsettias, lit candles and chocolate!



You can purchase dog and cat licenses at your veterinary clinic or the Panhandle Humane Society!

Responsible Pet Ownership begins with YOU

Allowing your cat or dog to run loose causes problems, not only for your pet, but for other pets that are on their owner's property. It increases the risk of exposure to disease and potential harm to animals on City



streets. Keeping your pet on your premises gives you peace of mind that your dog or cat is safe. Pets at large are also a violation of City ordinance. Please be responsible and keep your pet close to home or indoors. When you take your best friend for a walk, please keep him on a leash. Also, spay or neuter your pet to help prevent overpopulation and homelessness.

City of Gering Environmental Services



Yard waste containers are for **GRASS & LEAVES ONLY**.

Please remember that there are to be **NO PLASTIC BAGS, NO GLASS, and NO SHREDDED PAPER** put in **ANY** of the blue recycling containers.

If you are interested in participating in the recycling program, please call the City of Gering Landfill at 436-7568.

REMINDER!

PLEASE do not put plastic bags and glass in the recyclable containers at 9th and N Street and Northfield Church. Please place cans and bottles ONLY at these locations!

Watch for Water Leaks!

City of Gering Public Works Department

The City of Gering has over 70 miles of water mains buried under streets and alleys and in utility easements. Water leaks can and will happen anytime of the year. Over the last couple of years, the City has experienced water leaks where the street, sidewalk and yard have settled causing between \$10,000 and \$20,000 in damages and repairs. The City is asking Customers to help prevent these expensive repairs. If you see any settlement in your lawn, driveway or a street, call the City's Utility Office to report a possible leak - 436-6800. The City does not charge to check for leaks, even after hours.



What to look for to determine if there is a water leak?

Outside the home:

- Check for garden hoses left running
- If an area of your grass is greener and growing substantially faster than the rest of the lawn and the grass is soft and spongy
- Water bubbling up from underground in the lawn, sidewalk or street
- Sudden settlement of curb, sidewalk, driveway, street or lawn
- Slow settlement of curb, sidewalk, driveway, street or lawn
- A sound inside the home of water always running but the water meter is not turning



Water leaks may begin leaking days, weeks or months before the leak will surface. Water leaks should be immediately repaired to prevent damage to structures, lawns and pavement. Water can travel along the pipe and under the home

and cause costly repairs to the home that your insurance company may not cover. Water leaks can be very expensive to repair. The City recommends you check with your insurance company to verify if you have, or can get, coverage for the cost of damages and repairs from water leaks.

Inside the home:

Look for your water meter. Once you've located it, check the low flow indicator to see if it is moving, (low flow indicators are a red triangle, black triangle, red needle, or on digital meters it is a small circle with + flashing inside the circle to indicate flow). If the triangle or needle are moving or the + is flashing in the circle, you have water flowing through the meter. Make sure all faucets and appliances that use water are turned off. Again check the low flow indicator on the water meter - if the indicator is moving, then water is still running through the water meter and you may have a leak.

Common water losses in the home;

- Leaking toilet, (most common)
- Garden hose left running, (set the oven timer to remind you to move the sprinkler or shut off the garden hose)
- Underground sprinkler system valves or pipe leaking
- Leaking faucets
- Leak under a concrete floor

