

Norfolk City Outlook

MAY, JUNE &
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Safeguarding Against Identity Theft

By Diane Becker
City of Norfolk Staff Writer

Although City of Norfolk Police Chief Bill Mizner says it isn't a rampant problem in Norfolk, identity theft is still an issue that people need to be made aware of.

"There is always the danger of someone obtaining and using your social security number or credit card information for illegal means. If you take certain precautions, however, the risk of someone obtaining and misusing that information is minimal," Mizner said.

Identity theft is the term used when a person uses your personal identifying information without your permission to commit fraud or other crimes. According to the Federal Trade Commission, over nine million Americans have their identity stolen each year. A person may have been a victim of identity theft and not know it until they review their credit report or find mysterious charges on their credit card statement. Without you knowing it, someone might have used your phone number when they rented an apartment. They may have used your name when attempting to open a bank account.

Some cases of identity theft may only take a phone call to clear up. Other instances may take legal fees and months or years to recover from.

There are many steps you can take to minimize the danger of identity theft. First of all, invest in a paper shredder. Just because you place a document in the trash doesn't mean someone else won't have access to it. There are people who go

through dumpsters looking for mailings, bank letters, credit card statements, anything with your name and address on them.



Never give your social security number, bank account number, mother's maiden name or other personal information to someone on the phone or from a party asking you to email it to them. If an official at your bank needs that information, you can go to the bank and give it to them. People may say they are from the IRS or social security office and may even have your name and birth date but are

"phishing" for more information from you.

If your purse or wallet is stolen, contact authorities immediately. This can help minimize the danger from someone using your name or information for illegal purposes. Cancel any stolen credit cards as soon as possible. Don't keep particularly sensitive information like ATM passwords or social security numbers in your purse or billfold.

Carefully watch all transactions on your credit card. Call your credit card company immediately if there are transactions listed that aren't yours. Go through your checking account statement each month to make sure some of your checks have not been taken and used fraudulently. Make sure you are receiving your monthly bank and credit card statements. Call the credit card company or bank immediately if you suspect you did not receive their monthly statement.

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Don't have personal information like your social security number, home phone number or drivers' license number printed on your checks.

Be aware of your surroundings. Make sure that people around you are not able to see what numbers you are entering at an ATM machine. Don't give your credit card number over the phone while other people are listening.

If you are traveling, have your postal carrier or trusted neighbor hold your mail while you are gone. Keep your passport on you at all times when you are out of the country. Anyone wanting to steal your personal information can get that easily from scanning the passport left in your motel room.

Regularly review your credit rating to make sure there aren't debts that have been applied to you that should not be. To order a copy of your credit report (\$8 in most states), write to P.O. Box 740241, Atlanta, GA 30374-0241, or call (800) 685-1111.

Watch what sensitive information you have stored on your cellphone or PDA. If stolen, all of that information could be harvested from the devices and used for setting up an alias identity.

Also, you may not want to put your child's name and phone number on his or her jacket. If it gets into the wrong hands, it's better that someone just have your child's jacket and not their personal information.

Last, make sure the organizations you belong to and schools and clubs your child attends understand how to safely store the personal information that you provide to them. Confirm that they know that none of that information can be made public without your permission.

There are many opportunities for people to use your personal information for illegal means. Taking the above precautions minimizes those chances and keeps your credit rating intact and your identity your own.

Available sources: <http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/edu/microsites/idtheft/consumers/about-identity-theft.html>, <http://www.usdoj.gov/criminal/fraud/websites/idtheft.html> and http://foia.fbi.gov/ncic_identity_theft.htm

Hazmat Training

Recently, 14 members of the Norfolk Fire Division's Regional Hazardous Materials response team participated in a hazardous chemical classification training session. The 8-hour course included both classroom and hands-on experience in identifying chemicals by their hazard class.

The class taught Haz-Mat Technicians how to use qualitative test tube analysis to identify a chemical hazard for liquids, solids, sludges and mixtures. The following chemical hazards can be determined: acids, acid oxidizers, bases, base oxidizers, flammables, chlorinated hydrocarbons, cyanides, sulfides and toxics.



The attendees practiced with sample chemicals using techniques to determine what hazard class to put the chemical in. The importance of this analysis is:

1. Determination of DOT hazard class for placarding and labeling for transport.
2. Rapid assessment of onsite chemical hazards.
3. Selection of immediate mitigation measures, such as segregation of incompatible materials.
4. Bulking material to consolidate waste for disposal.
5. Reduction of the number of samples necessary for laboratory analysis.

Haz-Mat Technicians learned a systematic approach to using their sample kit, use of proper personal protective equipment and utilizing the flow chart to achieve the best productivity during chemical classification. The Norfolk Fire Division Hazardous Material Technicians continually train to better serve the region.

Comments from the Mayor



Mayor
Sue Fuchtmann

A little more than one hundred days has gone by since I've taken on my new role as the Mayor of Norfolk. It has definitely been a rewarding experience as I continue to learn the workings of city government and the needs of City of Norfolk citizens.

What goes on within our various city departments is an incredible process. In an effort to stay connected with the various city departments, I am meeting each Monday morning with department managers. At these meetings the managers keep me current with what is going on in their areas and I have the opportunity to ask them what it takes to keep Norfolk operating efficiently and effectively. We have great discussions that are beneficial as we work together as a team for the benefit of the city. One thing that has been eye opening for me is how much city government is regulated by state and federal law. I understand that this is necessary to bring cities into compliance with state and federal regulations; however, it seems to me that the city has to spend an inordinate amount of time not only abiding by those regulations but with keeping up with which new laws are applicable to our city.

Since taking office I have attended a conference for newly elected officials as well as a conference for elected officials of cities belonging to the League of Municipalities. Those conferences have allowed me to make connections with other city officials in the state and learn various aspects of being a city leader.

As mayor, I have been invited and was honored to read to students at several different schools. During this time I've had a chance to visit with these young people about our commu-

nity and hear their ideas for Norfolk. I've played bingo with them and just walked their halls. It has reminded me what a terrific learning climate we have in Norfolk.

I have also talked with different civic groups about issues affecting Norfolk. I've spent time with the residents in a few nursing homes and attended innumerable early morning meetings and late afternoon meetings on city matters.

In the last few months I've gone to Lincoln to meet with State Senators about the needs of Norfolk citizens. I've gotten together with officials in organizations and state government who can help us with economic development. These last few weeks I met with the mayors in several neighboring communities to discuss how we can continue joint efforts to benefit each of our towns. We've had some very engaging conversations and I hope to continue this effort as we recognize that we need each other to grow and prosper.

In addition to being the Mayor of Norfolk, my day begins as President of The Day Companies with the busy daily activities of the company. I am very fortunate to be part of a company that is giving me as much time as I need to better position myself for my new responsibilities as Mayor. I am open to citizens calling me at The Day Companies to visit or make an appointment regarding an idea, concern or information. Amy, an Executive Assistant with The Day Companies, has access to my calendar and can schedule appointments for me. She can be reached at 379-1440 extension 137.

It's been an exciting, learning, "getting-to-know-you" one hundred days and, as Mayor of Norfolk, I look forward to many more opportunities to find out how best to serve this great community.

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Elected Officials: Mayor Sue Fuchtmann, Councilpersons Karl Reeder, Ivan Van Dyke, David Fauss, Dale Coy, Vicki Saunders, Jim Lange, Jim Brenneman and Erik Wilson

City Administrator: Al Roder

Production: Pat von Glan

Contributing Writers: Diane Becker

Fishing in Norfolk

By Diane Becker
City of Norfolk Staff Writer

Gone fishing lately? Have you introduced your son, daughter, grandson, granddaughter, niece or nephew to the fine art of getting a fish? It isn't necessary to buy a boat and drive to Yankton in order to give them (or you) some fishing time. There are plenty of fish to be caught right here in Norfolk.

Both Ta-Ha-Zouka Park and Skyview Park in Norfolk provide the public with opportunities to fish.

Ta-Ha-Zouka Park is located at 2201 South 13th Street. People can fish in the lagoon that is fed by three wells. On the lagoon is a handicapped accessible dock making it easy for people in wheelchairs to fish. The grassy banks are also wide enough to fish from. A small outcropping under the walk bridge enables fishermen to get closer to the water to cast their lines.

A \$191,000 lagoon renovation project was completed at Ta-Ha-Zouka in 2005. Over 19,000 cubic yards of sediment was removed to deepen the lagoon. Two 20' x 32' jetties were built to give fishermen easier access to the center of the lagoon. Two underwater aerators and four fountain aerators were added to the lagoon to benefit the fish population. The lagoon was then restocked with fish including large mouth bass and blue gill.

Skyview Lake, located at 1900 West Maple Avenue, has about 50 surface area acres of water. Fishing from the bank and from non-motorized boats are allowed. Fisherman can walk out onto 20 by 150 foot rock jetties or there is also a handicapped accessible 100 foot T-head fishing pier available for use. The lake underwent a \$200,000 renovation in 2004 and 2005 with new depths constructed at different parts of the lake. At that time there were 42,000 cubic yards of sediment removed from the lake. Fish habitat structures were placed in the lake. The City of Norfolk



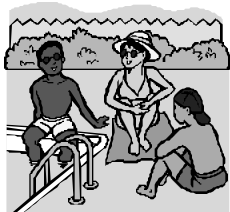
website has a map showing these areas at <http://www.ci.norfolk.ne.us/parks/2005SkyviewAsBuilt.pdf>. Go to the aerial view of the lake at http://www.ci.norfolk.ne.us/mapsaerials/2007_Aerial_Photo_Color/2007AerialPhoto.htm to see where the fishing piers are located.

According to fish stocking data, there were over 20,000 bluegills, 7,500 large mouthed bass and 2,000 walleye introduced into the Skyview Lake. There were also a few channel catfish introduced.

A fishing permit is required to fish in the Norfolk City parks. According to the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, a Nebraska resident annual fee is \$26. A one day Nebraska resident fishing permit costs \$7.50. There are also lifetime fishing permits available. Contact the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission Fisheries Division at 2200 North 33rd Street Lincoln, NE 68503 or call them at (402) 471-0641 for more information. Their website showing permit fees is at <http://www.ngpc.state.ne.us/fishing/guides/fishguide/fishguide.asp#fees>. Fishing permits can be purchased online or at many Nebraska retail stores that sell fishing equipment.

According to Game and Fishing Magazine, the prime time to catch the bluegills found in Norfolk lakes is in June. Bluegill can be caught fairly easy and aren't picky about the bait they are tempted with. Pieces of hotdog, earthworms or a spinner can be used to catch a bluegill. A simple cane pole with a small hook and bobber can be used to catch a bluegill just as easily as an expensive fly rod. It is always asked that minnow and other aquatic life not be released in Norfolk lakes.

It's summer and time to head to the fishing hole. Fortunately, the City of Norfolk gives anglers a chance to try the waters not far from home.



City Swimming Pools Prepare for Season



Swimming Lessons

Four sessions will be offered this summer at Memorial Pool: **June 1 - June 11** (4:45 pm, 5:20 pm & 6:00 pm); **June 15 - June 25** (4:45 pm, 5:20 pm & 6:00 pm); **July 6 - July 16** (11:00 am, 11:40 am, 4:45 pm, 5:20 pm & 6:00 pm); **July 20 - July 30** (4:45 pm, 5:20 pm & 6:00 pm). Classes are held Monday through Thursday for two weeks with Fridays reserved for make-up days in case of inclement weather.

Registration begins May 19 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the City Auditorium, 127 N 1st Street. Registration moves to Memorial Pool May 22.

You may register for two sessions for each child at this time. Cost is \$20.00 per student and is to be paid when registering. No refund after session begins.

There will be a \$5.00 fee for any refunds prior to the session beginning.

There will be absolutely no early registrations.

Pool Times and Rates

Memorial Pool and Liberty Bell Pool will open approximately May 25 through mid-August. Daily hours for both pools are 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. and 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, 1:00 to 7:00 p.m. on Saturdays and 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. on Sundays.

Season tickets can be purchased at the Recreation Office at 127 N 1st Street after May 20. Prices are as follows: Family Pass - \$80.00 or Single Pass (includes youth, adult and Sr. Citizen) - \$40.00. Daily admission is \$2.00.

Children age 5 and under are free but must be accompanied by someone over 18 years of age.

Other Pool Activities

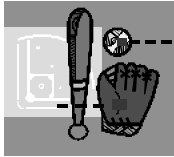
Central Park Wading Pools - Open June 1 through mid-August from 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Children 54" tall or shorter will be admitted if accompanied by an adult. Free to the public.

Family Night Swim - No one under age 18 will be admitted without parent or guardian from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. on Thursday evening at Memorial Pool.

Lap Swim - Lap swimming will be permitted at Memorial Pool from 6:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Private Pool Parties - Parties may be arranged at Liberty Bell from 8:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. only. The fee is \$40 and must be paid when reserving. The party must be booked at least one week in advance.

Sign-up Scheduled for Norfolk Recreation Division 2009 Summer Programs



Girl's Softball & Boy's Baseball

Sign up for City Recreation Girl's Softball and Boy's Baseball ages 7-14, will be held on May 19 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the City Auditorium, 127 N 1st Street. Cost of the program is \$10.00 per child and must be paid at the time of registration.

Please register your child(ren) at this time. Anyone registering after this date will be charged \$12.00. Handouts pertaining to the program will be given out at this time. This year, both the boys and girls will play their games at Ta-Ha-Zouka Park. Game times will be Monday evenings and Wednesday mornings. There will be no refunds.

Kreative Kids

Two sessions of Kreative Kids will be offered through the Norfolk Arts Center this summer.



Session I is June 2 – 26. **Session II** is July 7 – July 31. For each session, ages 7 to 9 will meet Wednesdays and Fridays from 1:00-2:30 p.m. and ages 10 to 14 will meet Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1:00-3:00 p.m. Cost is \$15.00 per participant per session. Each class is limited to 30 children. Registration is May 20 from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Auditorium, 127 N 1st Street until classes are filled. **There will be no early registrations.** You may register for one or both sessions at this time.

Twisting



This program offers instruction of dance routines for young girls. It starts Monday, June 1 through Tuesday, July 14. Classes are held on Tuesdays and Thursdays in the afternoon at Central Park. Registration is Monday, June 1 from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. at the City Auditorium. Ages 6 through 12 are welcome. First practice will be Tuesday, June 2 at Central Park from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. for all participants. Class times will be assigned on this day. This program is free.

Morning Tot-Lot



Starts June 1 and runs through July 2. It is held at Central Park, Monday through Friday from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Children ages 3 through 6 are welcome to attend. Programs consist of arts and crafts, playground games and fun for the lower ages. This program is free. Register your child(ren) the first day of the program.