

# Norfolk Insider

City of Norfolk, NE

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## “Ted Kooser is coming to the Norfolk Public Library”



Two-time United States Poet Laureate Ted Kooser is coming to Norfolk this summer. Kooser, whose book “Local Wonders: Seasons in the Bohemian Alps” has been chosen as the 2011 One Book One Nebraska selection will be at the Norfolk Public Library June 8 at 7:00 pm. There will be copies of Kooser’s books available for sale at the library. Kooser will sign copies of his books and give a short presentation at that time.

“Local Wonders” (University of Nebraska Press, 2002) was set in southeast Nebraska, and is Kooser’s first book of prose. It won the Nebraska Book Award for Nonfiction in 2003 and place third in the Barnes & Noble Discover Great New Writers Award in Nonfiction in 2002.

Kooser is a native Nebraskan who teaches English at the University of Nebraska at Lincoln. He has written 11 full length books of poetry, one “Delights and Shadows” that won the 2005 Pulitzer Prize.

He has also written plays, fiction, personal essays, literary criticism, and children's books.

Kooser is a native of Ames, Iowa and earned a Bachelor of Science degree at Iowa State University and a Master of Arts Degree at the University of Nebraska. He is a former vice-president of the Lincoln Benefit Life, where he worked as an insurance representative for many years. He lives on an acreage near Garland, Nebraska, with his wife, Kathleen Rutledge. He also has a son, Jeff, and a granddaughter, Margaret.

American Life in Poetry is a free weekly column for newspapers initiated by Kooser with the purpose of promoting the love of poetry. Each column features a poem by a contemporary American poet and a brief introduction to the poem by Kooser.

“We’re thrilled to have a National Poet Laureate come to Norfolk. Ted Kooser is the first poet from the Midwest to be chosen for that honor and we’re proud to support his work,” said Michael Caldararo, director of the Norfolk Public Library.

For more information on Kooser’s visit to Norfolk or about other speakers in the Norfolk Public Library Summer Reading Program, contact the library at 844-2100.

*“Local Wonders” has been chosen as the One Book One Nebraska book for 2011. Nebraskans are encouraged to read the same book and discuss it with fellow Nebraskans. On July 13 at 7:00, there will be a “Local Wonders” discussion group at the Norfolk library.*

*Excerpt from Koosers' "Local Wonders: Seasons in the Bohemian Alps" book:*

*"Fat slides of snow plop from the wet tin roofs of turkey sheds, and it's suddenly spring, the barnyard air in compartments of warm and cold, blue in the shadows and yellow over the pooled wheel ruts in the sunny pig pens. I like to get outside and paint pictures in the early spring. I suppose it's my way of trying to be a tulip, pushing my way out of the tight white bulb of winter and opening a little color against the drabness."*