“Donations and Special Gifts for City Projects”

Renee Halsey wanted a lasting memorial to her parents, Lawrence and Hilda Jochens, that honored their lifetime desire to better the community they lived in. She decided that placing benches that could be used by the citizens of Norfolk in the new green space at 7th and Norfolk Avenue would be an appropriate way to honor them.

“I have always been interested in community beautification projects. I’m so happy that Norfolk is adding more green space,” Halsey said.

A plaque with her parents’ names will be placed by four new park benches purchased by Halsey and set next to the curving sidewalk in the Seventh Street project.

Donating items for the city is not a new concept. A walk around Skyview Lake takes visitors past picnic tables, benches, trees and even flowerbeds that were donated by individuals. There have been benches donated to sit outside the library and next to the flowerbeds on First Street and Norfolk Avenue. A large planter at the entrance of the library has been donated as have two benches at the Veteran’s Memorial Park.

“People like to give something that will be around for awhile. We welcome these donations that add to our parks system,” said Sheila Schukei, City of Norfolk Human Resources Director.

Currently the city is looking for a donor who would like to purchase lamps for the 7th Street Project. These lamps would light up the sidewalk and match the existing lamp globes lining the street downtown.

For more information about the 7th Street project or about other donation opportunities, contact Sheila Schukei at 402-844-2000.