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“Councilman Josh Moenning”



If walls could talk, the home of Josh Moenning would be congratulating its owner on his recent swearing in as a Ward 3 Norfolk city councilman. The home would also have its own interesting stories to tell as Moenning's house built in 1884 was once the home of the first mayor of Norfolk- Herman Gerecke.

Valuing Norfolk's past while looking to its future is how Moenning has approached serving as a city council member. "Norfolk has a strong agribusiness/industrial base and a great community college for training our workforce. Now we need to leverage those assets as much as we can to enhance our quality of life," Moenning said.

Moenning grew up on a farm place south of Battle with his veterinarian dad, Larry, his mom, Julie, and two sisters, Mandi and Cassie. The cattle herd his family started years ago is still grazing on the Battle Creek area hills. The Moennings sell the lean Piedmontese-breed natural beef under the label "MyoLean Beef" to farmers' markets and to customers all over the country.

After graduating from Battle Creek High School, Moenning attended the University of Nebraska Journalism College at Lincoln where

he earned a degree in advertising. "I always had a passion for current affairs and enjoyed writing. A journalism course of study teaches you to be inquisitive and to stay curious," Moenning said.

As a writer at the UNL Daily Nebraskan newspaper, Moenning met his wife, Jessica, who also wrote for the paper. She grew up in Ogallala, Nebraska, and both were involved in a campus pro-life group.

After graduating in 2000, Moenning's first job was as the communications director for the Nebraska Republican Party. In 2001 he served as a legislative aid for then State Senator Mike Foley.

When current U.S. House Representative Jeff Fortenberry ran for office in 2004, both Moennings helped him with the communications aspect of his campaign. After Fortenberry was elected, Josh worked for him in the Lincoln congressional office until moving in 2009 to work in the Norfolk field office as district director.

“Our daughter, Molly, was almost one at the time. We always wanted to raise our family near family,” Moenning said. Two-year-old Henry has since been added to the Moenning household.

Besides kids, Congress and cattle Moenning has kept busy taking courses toward a masters’ degree in rural community development. He also enjoys reading classical literature recently completing Leo Tolsoy’s “Anna Karenina” and now he is learning all he can about the City of Norfolk.

“Our challenge is to keep young people and maintain our population. We need good paying jobs that can support a family. We also need to continue to provide optimum public safety and maintain our infrastructure,” Moenning said.

He added that he wants to have a part in drawing up a long term comprehensive plan for the Norfolk area and promote better communication between the council and the citizen.

Mayor Gerecke would approve.