“Staff Engineer Joins City of Norfolk Public Works Department”

Whether it’s designing the placement of new water main pipes, drawing up the path of a new trail or configuring street improvements, the City of Norfolk engineers have their hands full. Now a new employee will help with the load. John Heine was recently hired as staff engineer in the City’s Public Works Department.

Heine grew up on a farm north of Bow Valley in Northeast Nebraska. He graduated from Hartington Cedar Catholic High School and then obtained his Bachelors of Science degree in Civil Engineering from the School of Mines in Rapid City, South Dakota. He worked as a staff environmental engineer at Burns and McDonnell in Denver, Colorado before coming to Norfolk in June.

“We were trying to get closer to home. My wife’s family is in Columbus and I have family in Bow Valley. It’s refreshing to see the improvements Norfolk has made over the years,” Heine said.

His wife, Jamie, is completing her pharmacy degree and will join the family business at Tooley’s Drug and Home Care where she will be the fourth generation pharmacist to work there. The couple is expecting their first child the end of October.

Heine said he and his wife will head back to Colorado to ski but he is glad to be back in Nebraska where he can hunt and fish and enjoy the outdoor activities he grew up with.

Heine recently obtained his Professional Engineer certification. To become a licensed engineer, individuals must obtain a four year college degree in engineering, work under a Professional Engineer for at least four years, pass two exams and earn a license from the state licensing board. City of Norfolk Assistant Engineer Mark Dolechek also recently obtained his PE certification. He started working for the City in 2010 working under Public Works Director Dennis J. Smith, a Professional Engineer.