

NEBRASKA MUNICIPAL REVIEW

■ Hastings receives 2017 Showcase
Community Award during Community
Development celebration

■ West Point receives Community of the
Year Award and Economic Development
Certified Community designation

■ Rebuilding Beaver Crossing

May 2017

Downtown Broken Bow project is community effort



Renovated Broken Bow Bandstand. Courtesy Mona Weatherly, Managing Editor, Custer County Chief.

Contents

May 2017

No. 1,105
ISSN 0028-1906

About the Cover: Broken Bow Bandstand.

In October 2016, citizens gathered to listen to Dave Landis speak as George Norris from the fully renovated bandstand in celebration of the structure's 100th year. It was renovated by a local construction company, Custer County Construction, for under \$32,000. The bid was \$31,442. Photo and information from Mona Weatherly, Managing Editor, Custer County Chief. Reprinted by permission.

4	The Director's Message by L. Lynn Rex, LNM Executive Director – Upcoming Municipal Accounting & Finance Conference: Learn about new legislation affecting the issuance of municipal bonds; federal and state laws, rules and regulations relating to personnel management; and a variety of other important budget, accounting and finance issues
6	The Legal Corner – Tips for municipalities on background checks
7	Partnership offers free visit to zoo
8	Governor announces approval of more than 1,000 stormwater construction permits
9	Community development organization receives sustainability grant
10	West Point receives Economic Development Certified Community designation, Community of the Year Award
12	Downtown Broken Bow and Square is community effort
14	City of Hickman holds ribbon-cutting, open house for new Hickman Community Center
16	Rebuilding Beaver Crossing
18	Hastings receives 2017 Showcase Community Award during Community Development Week celebrations
20	NLC: Cities cannot afford health care bill, urge U.S. Senate to vote no
21	Classifieds
22	Professional Directory

Larger Cities Legislative Committee

Alliance
Stan Wirth, Mayor, Beatrice
Tobias Tempelmeyer, City Administrator, Beatrice
Rita Sanders, Mayor, Bellevue
Joe Mangiamelli, City Administrator, Bellevue
Jim Realph, Mayor, Blair
Rod Storm, City Administrator, Blair
 Chadron
John F. Lohr, Council Member, Columbus
Roger Foster, Mayor, Crete
Jerry Wilcox, Clerk/Treasurer, Crete
Scott Getzschman, Mayor, Fremont
Brian Newton, Interim City Administrator/Utility General Manager, Fremont
Tony Kaufman, Mayor, Gering
Lane Danielzuk, City Administrator, Gering
Chuck Haase, Council Member, Grand Island
Marlan Ferguson, City Administrator, Grand Island
Joe Patterson, City Administrator, Hastings
Bob Rager, City Administrator, Holdrege

Stan Clouse, Mayor, Kearney
Paul Briseno, Assistant City Manager, Kearney
Doug Kindig, Mayor, La Vista
Pam Buethe, Clerk, La Vista
Joe Peplitsch, City Manager, Lexington
Margaret Blatchford, Assistant City Attorney, Lincoln
Denise Pearce, Mayoral Aide, Lincoln
Nate Schneider, City Manager, McCook
Bryan Bequette, Mayor, Nebraska City
Grayson Path, City Administrator, Nebraska City
Shane Weidner, City Administrator, Norfolk
Dwight Livingston, Mayor, North Platte
Jim Hawks, City Administrator, North Platte
Pete Peterson, Council President, Ogallala
Jane Skinner, Clerk/Treasurer, Ogallala
Rich Pahls, Council Member, Omaha
Paul Kratz, City Attorney, Omaha
Tom Mumgaard, Deputy City Attorney, Omaha
Jack Cheloha, City Lobbyist, Omaha
David Black, Mayor, Papillion

Dan Hoins, City Administrator, Papillion
R. Paul Lambert, Mayor, Plattsmouth
Ervin Portis, City Administrator, Plattsmouth
Don Groesser, Mayor, Ralston
Dolores Costanzo, Clerk/Treasurer, Ralston
 Schuyler
Randy Meininger, Mayor, Scottsbluff
Nathan Johnson, City Manager, Scottsbluff
Joshua Eickmeier, Mayor, Seward
Wendall Gaston, Council Member, Sidney
Ed Sadler, City Manager, Sidney
Rod Koch, Mayor, South Sioux City
Lance Hedquist, City Administrator, South Sioux City
Ken Chamberlain, Mayor, Wayne
Lowell Johnson, City Administrator, Wayne
 York

Smaller Cities Legislative Committee

Lanette Doane, Clerk/Treasurer, Ansley
Scott Kudrna, Mayor, Auburn
Sherry Heskett, Clerk, Auburn
Brent Clark, City Administrator, Broken Bow
Chris Anderson, City Administrator, Central City
Alan Michl, Chairperson, Exeter
Becky Erdkamp, Clerk/Treasurer, Exeter
Jim Vossler, Mayor, Friend
Deb VanMatre, Mayor, Gibbon
Jacob Sheridan, City Manager, Gordon

Bruce Clymer, City Administrator, Gothenburg
Jeff Kooistra, City Administrator, Gretna
Doug Hanson, Mayor, Hickman
Silas Clarke, City Administrator/Director of Economic Development, Hickman
Chris Dibbern, NMPP Energy
Roger Goldfish, Mayor, Ord
Denise Peterson, Admin./Clerk/Treasurer, Ponca
Gerald Solko, Council Member, St. Paul

Nancy Bryan, Clerk/Treasurer, Stromsburg
Sandra Foote, Council Member, Superior
Larry Brittenham, Utility Superintendent, Superior
Jeff Hofaker, City Administrator, Sutton
Joan Suhr, Admin./Clerk/Treasurer, Valley
Melissa Harrell, Admin./Clerk/Treasurer, Wahoo
Jim Litchfield, City Administrator, Wakefield
Marlene Johnson, Mayor, West Point
Al Vacanti, City Administrator, Wisner

Executive Board 2016-2017

President	Alan Michl Chairperson, Exeter
President-Elect	Wendall Gaston Council Member, Sidney
Vice President	Dwight Livingston Mayor, North Platte
Past President	Marlene Johnson Mayor, West Point

Directors

Jean Stothert	Mayor, Omaha
Chris Beutler	Mayor, Lincoln
Gerald Solko	Council Member, St. Paul
Paul Lambert	Mayor, Plattsmouth
Tony Kaufman	Mayor, Gering
Sandra Foote	Council Member, Superior
John F. Lohr	Council Member, Columbus
Rod Storm	City Administrator, Blair
Susan Kloepping	Clerk/Treasurer, Cozad
Tobias	
Tempelmeyer	City Administrator/General Manager, Board of Public Works, Beatrice

Affiliated Sections

City Managers	Shane Weidner Norfolk
Clerks	Lea Ann Doak McCook
Municipal Accounting & Finance	Barb Hodges Lexington
Fire Chiefs	Bill Bowes Papillion
Utilities	Tony Jelinek Kearney

League Staff

L. Lynn Rex	Executive Director
Christy Abraham	Legal Counsel
Brett Benson	Information Technology Manager
Lash Chaffin	Utilities Section Director
Brenda Henning	Membership Services Assistant
Lynn Marienau	Communications Director
Rob Pierce	Utilities Field Representative
Shirley Riley	Membership Services Director
Julia Wessel	Receptionist/Membership Services Assistant

CALENDAR

Annual ConferenceSept. 20-22, 2017, Cornhusker Marriott Hotel, Lincoln
Utilities/Public Works Section Annual ConferenceJan. 17-19, 2018, Cornhusker Marriott Hotel, Lincoln
Midwinter Conference.....Feb. 26-27, 2018, Cornhusker Marriott Hotel, Lincoln

Municipal Legal Calendar

(All statute citations to Revised Statutes of Nebraska)

MAY 2017

CITIES OF THE FIRST CLASS

Within 10 days following
meeting or before next meeting
(whichever is sooner)Clerk to have minutes available for public inspection. (84-1413)
Within 15 days of Passage.....Clerk publishes ordinances passed. (16-405)
Within 30 days following
Council meetingClerk publishes official proceedings of meeting, including claims.
(19-1102)
First DayAutomatic renewal of beer and liquor licenses (except Class C).
(53-124, 53-135)
Within 20 days after end of month ..Treasurer files monthly financial report. (16-318)
* *Clerk must prepare agenda prior to next Council meeting. (84-1411)

CITIES OF THE SECOND CLASS

Within 10 days following
meeting or before next meeting
(whichever is sooner)Clerk to have minutes available for public inspection. (84-1413)
Within 15 days of PassageClerk publishes or posts ordinances passed. (17-613)
Within 30 days following
Council meetingClerk publishes official proceedings of meeting, including claims.
(19-1102)
First DayAutomatic renewal of beer and liquor licenses (except Class C).
(53-124, 53-135)
Within 20 days after end of month....Treasurer files monthly financial report. (17-606)
* *Clerk must prepare agenda prior to next Council meeting. (84-1411)

VILLAGES

Within 10 days following
meeting or before next meeting
(whichever is sooner)Clerk to have minutes available for public inspection. (84-1413)
Within 15 days of PassageClerk publishes or posts ordinances passed. (17-613)
Within 30 days following
Board meeting.....Clerk publishes official proceedings of meeting, including claims
(19-1102)
First DayAutomatic renewal of beer and liquor licenses (except Class C).
(53-124, 53-135)
Within 20 days after end of month....Treasurer files monthly financial report. (17-606)
* *Clerk must prepare agenda prior to next Board meeting. (84-1411)

Nebraska Municipal Review Editor and Advertising Sales: Lynn Marienau, 402-476-2829 or lynn@lonm.org

The **NEBRASKA MUNICIPAL REVIEW** is the official publication of the League of Nebraska Municipalities, an association of the cities and villages of Nebraska, published at 1335 L St., Lincoln, Nebraska 68508 — Telephone 402-476-2829; FAX 402-476-7052; Website: www.lonm.org. Periodicals postage paid at Lincoln, Nebraska. Views of contributors, solicited or unsolicited, are their own and not to be construed as having the endorsement of the League unless specifically and explicitly stated by the publisher.

The **NEBRASKA MUNICIPAL REVIEW** is a nonprofit publication administered and supervised by the League of Nebraska Municipalities. All revenue derived from the publication is used by the association to defray publication costs.

The **NEBRASKA MUNICIPAL REVIEW** is published monthly. Subscription rates are \$5 per single copy — \$50 plus tax for 12 issues.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to **NEBRASKA MUNICIPAL REVIEW**, 1335 L Street, Lincoln, Nebraska 68508.



Upcoming Municipal Accounting & Finance Conference:
Learn about new legislation affecting the issuance of municipal bonds; federal and state laws, rules and regulations relating to personnel management; and a variety of other important budget, accounting and finance issues

BY L. LYNN REX, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, LNM

Don't miss the **League Municipal Accounting & Finance Conference (MAFC)** scheduled for **June 14-16** at the Kearney Holiday Inn! **Barb Hodges**, Treasurer of Lexington, is the Chair of the 2017 MAFC Committee, which selects conference topics to afford municipal officials an opportunity to become better informed on the most current information available on a wide variety of critically important issues. Some of the many topics presented at the conference will include: budget preparation, tax increment financing (TIF) audits, personnel management (human resources), loss control strategies, disaster management assistance, LB 840 programs, records retention requirements and several utility-related topics. **Cities and villages should invest a relatively small dollar amount in training their employees to: 1) learn about available grants and funding options, 2) avoid costly mistakes, and 3) save thousands or millions of dollars to limit their liability by complying with federal and state laws, rules and regulations.**

Learn About LB 72: Especially Provisions to Avoid Having Bondholder Liens on Ad Valorem Taxes and Purchases Funded by Ad Valorem Taxes!

The Legislature adjourned sine die May 23, a few days earlier than originally announced by Norfolk Sen. Jim Scheer, Speaker of the Legislature. Thankfully, during this legislative session, many bills passed that were introduced by Senators on behalf of the League or supported by the League. **Unfortunately, the Legislature passed LB 72, introduced by Sen. Paul Schumacher of Columbus**, which originally provided a first-priority lien to bondholders in bankruptcies of a "governmental unit," including municipalities and ALL other political subdivisions. On May 15, on Select File, Sen. Schumacher withdrew an amendment

applying the bill **ONLY** to municipalities (AM1360) and successfully filed and passed another amendment to LB 72 (AM1404), which also applies **ONLY** to municipalities, but with additional language that is even more problematic! It is extremely important that municipal officials understand the serious implications of this bill, which separates municipalities into two categories: 1) those municipalities **WITH a defined benefit retirement plan**, and 2) those cities and villages **WITHOUT a defined benefit retirement plan, i.e., a defined contribution plan!** Provisions applying to cities and villages **WITHOUT** a defined benefit retirement plan will likely be encouraged by investment bankers, bond counsel or others to pass an ordinance granting a first-priority lien to bondholders **"...on any ad valorem taxes (property taxes) or proceeds derived therefrom in favor of any general obligation bonds."** These ordinances, if passed by a city or village, would apply even though there is no filing for municipal bankruptcy! **Mike Rogers** of Gilmore & Bell, Bond Counsel for the League, warns that LB 72 has serious implications that may have unintended consequences because of the different treatment of municipalities; **in addition, Rogers states that LB 72, as amended and passed with AM1404, would allow bondholders a first-priority lien on any equipment or purchases paid with property tax dollars, IF a municipality unwisely passes such an ordinance!**

LB 72 will be discussed in more detail during the MAFC along with many other bills of interest. Upcoming issues of the *Nebraska Municipal Review* will focus on the problems and unintended consequences of LB 72.

Personnel Management -- Limit Your Municipal and Personal Liability

At the request of many delegates attending last year's con-

Continued on page 5

Continued from page 4

ference, **Jerry Pigsley**, an Attorney with Woods & Aitken LLP and LNM Labor and Employment Law Counsel, has agreed to present another Preconference Seminar on timely employment law questions and the latest developments, including: **1) Can municipal employees take a “mental health day” off from work?; 2) Laws and regulations governing seasonal workers, child labor laws, etc.; 3) Effective strategies for managing poor performers: Documentation, discipline and discharge; 4) Personnel files: What to keep and not keep; 5) Employment law update and priorities for the Trump Administration; and, 6) FLSA update: Do you need to increase salaries to avoid an overtime pay claim?** **Angela Forss Schmit**, an Attorney with Woods & Aitken LLP, will join Jerry for this informative seminar.

In addition, there will be two concurrent sessions providing important information on **What Your Municipality and HR Need to Plan for Tomorrow**. Panel members from the City of Norfolk will include: **Sheila Schukei**, Human Resources Director; **Lyle Lutt**, Operations Manager; and, **Clint Schukei**, City Attorney.

Sessions on Budgeting and Finance

Deann Haeffner, Assistant Deputy State Auditor, will present a budget update with **Christy Abraham**, LNM's Legal Counsel, on budget forms, lid laws and related issues to consider when preparing your budget for FY 17-18. In addition to this general assembly session, there will be two concurrent sessions relating to budget preparation. Thanks to the municipal officials who will participate on one of the following two panels: **1) Budget 101: Definitions, Forms Review and Practical Advice for “New” Clerks and Treasurers and, 2) Roundtable Discussion on How to Prepare Budgets and Related Issues for “Experienced” Clerks, Treasurers and Utility Finance Officers**. These will not be “highly structured” presentations; panelists will present remarks and respond to questions submitted by conference delegates in advance and from the floor.

In addition to several other sessions on finance, **Molly Bargmann** of the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) will discuss with conference delegates the importance of **“Disaster Management and Financial Assistance to Mitigate Future Risks.”** Molly will focus on the roles and responsibilities of municipal clerks, treasurers and finance officers during and after an event. She will outline the financial assistance available from the “Hazard Mitigation Grant Program” and the “FEMA Public Assis-

tance Program.” It is critically important that municipal officials learn how to better track funds to maximize their reimbursement on FEMA/NEMA Programs.

Other Relevant Topics of Municipal Concern

Leslie Donley, Nebraska Assistant Attorney General, will present a session on the **Open Meetings Act** and another session on **Laws Governing Public Records**. There will be many other informative sessions as well. **Austin Rhodes** from the Nebraska Secretary of State's Office will present two sessions on **Records Retention**; he will outline which records to save and how long to save them. One of the most important sessions of the conference will be presented by representatives of the **State Auditor's Office** summarizing their **recent report on tax increment financing (TIF)**.

Dave Bos, Loss Control Manager of the League Association of Risk Management (LARM), will present **Loss Control by Leadership**; Dave presented this session at the Midwinter Conference, which was one of the top-rated presentations by conference delegates. **Lash Chaffin**, LNM's Utilities Section Director, will present sessions on **Bringing Solar Power to Your Municipality** and another session on **Municipal Bidding Laws**. Lash also will identify how to best **regulate small cell wireless providers**, process applications to use municipal right-of-way and poles to protect taxpayer/ratepayer assets.

Evaluations of conference delegates always request more information and updates on **LB 840 Programs and the Civic and Community Center Financing Fund (CCCFF)**. Municipal officials need to know the latest developments about LB 840 programs and grants from the CCCFF. The CCCFF is one of the few remaining grant programs available to cities and villages across the state. **Don't miss this opportunity to learn how to obtain funding for your important projects! ■**



Tips for municipalities on background checks

BY JERRY L. PIGSLEY, WOODS & AITKEN LLP,
LONM LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT LAW COUNSEL

The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) have provided a joint publication setting forth tips for municipalities who use background checks in making personnel decisions. Municipalities in hiring, retention, promotion and reassignment may want to consider the backgrounds of applicants and employees. However, a municipality in using an applicant's or employee's background information to make an employment decision must ensure it complies with the laws prohibiting discrimination against applicants and employees. If the municipality runs a background check through a company in the business of compiling background information, the municipality must comply with the Federal Fair Credit Reporting Act (FCRA).

DISCRIMINATION PROHIBITED

Federal and state laws prohibit checking the backgrounds of applicants and employees based on the person's race, national origin, color, sex, religion, disability, genetic information (including family medical history) or age (40 or older). Asking only people of a certain national origin about

their financial history is evidence of discrimination. Don't ask any medical questions before a conditional job offer has been made. Don't ask medical questions after the person has already started the job, unless you have objective evidence that he or she is unable to do the job or poses a safety risk because of a medical condition.

STEPS BEFORE OBTAINING CREDIT OR CRIMINAL BACKGROUND REPORTS

If the municipality seeks to obtain a credit or criminal background report from a company in the business of compiling such information, there are procedures required to be followed by the FCRA:

Tell the applicant or employee you must use the information for decisions about his or her employment. The notice must be in writing and in a standalone format. The notice cannot be in an employment application.

If you are asking a company to provide an investigative report (a report based on personal interviews concerning the person's character, reputation, and lifestyle), you must tell the applicant or employee of his or her right to a description of the nature and scope of the investigation.

Get the applicant's or employee's

written permission to do the background check.

Certify to the company from which you are getting the report that you: (a) notified the applicant or employee and got their permission to get a background report; (b) complied with all the FCRA requirements; and (c) will not discriminate against the applicant or employee, or otherwise misuse the information in violation of federal or state laws or regulations.

EEOC GUIDANCE IN CONSIDERING BACKGROUND INFORMATION

To avoid discriminating, the municipality should apply the same standards to everyone. For example, if the municipality will not reject applicants of one race with certain financial histories or criminal records, it should not reject applicants of other races because they have the same or similar financial histories or criminal records.

The EEOC expects municipalities to take special care when basing employment decisions on background problems that may be more common among people of a certain race, color, national origin, sex, religion, disability or age. In other words, avoid a policy or practice that excludes people with

Continued on page 7

Continued from page 8

certain financial histories if the policy or practice significantly disadvantages people of a particular class and does not accurately predict who will be a responsible employee. Finally, the EEOC expects municipalities to make exceptions for problems revealed during a background check that were caused by a disability. The municipality, in such a case, should allow the person to demonstrate his or her ability to do the job, unless doing so will be an undue hardship on the municipality.

FCRA – ADVERSE ACTION STEPS

When taking an adverse action (for example, not hiring an applicant or firing an employee) based on background information obtained through a company in the business of compiling background information, the FCRA has additional requirements:

- Before you take an adverse employment action, you must give the applicant or employee:
 - a notice that includes a copy of the consumer report you relied on to make your decision; and
 - a copy of “A Summary of Your Rights Under the Fair Credit Reporting Act,” which you should have received from the company that sold you the report.
- By giving the person the notice in advance, the person has an opportunity to review the report and explain any negative information.
- After you take an adverse employment action, you must tell the applicant or employee (orally, in writing or electronically):
 - that he or she was rejected because of information in the report;
 - the name, address, and phone number of the company that sold

the report;

- that the company selling the report didn’t make the hiring decision and can’t give specific reasons for it; and
- that he or she has a right to dispute the accuracy or completeness of the report and to get an additional free report from the reporting company within 60 days.

NEBRASKA STATE LAW ON CRIMINAL RECORD INQUIRY

It is good to review your background check procedures to ensure you are in compliance with state and federal nondiscrimination laws and FCRA. In addition, municipalities in Nebraska may not ask an applicant for employment to disclose orally, or in writing, information concerning the applicant’s criminal record or history, including any inquiry on any employment application, until the municipality has determined the applicant meets the minimum employment qualifications. This prohibition does

not apply to your police department, to any position for which the municipality is required by federal or state law to conduct a criminal history record information check or to any position for which federal or state laws specifically disqualify an applicant with a criminal background. Finally, the municipality’s employment application may conspicuously state that a criminal history check is required by federal law, state law or the municipality’s policy. ■

Editor’s Note: This article is not intended to provide legal advice to our readers. Rather, this article is intended to alert our readers to new and developing issues and to provide some common sense answers to complex legal questions. Readers are urged to consult their own legal counsel or the author of this article if the reader wishes to obtain a specific legal opinion regarding how these legal standards may apply to their particular circumstances. The author of this article, Jerry L. Pigsley, can be contacted at (402) 437-8500, jpigsley@woodsaitken.com, or at Woods & Aitken LLP, 301 S. 13th Street, Suite 500, Lincoln, NE 68508-2578.

Partnership offers free visit to zoo

A new partnership between Omaha’s Henry Doorly Zoo and Aquarium and Omaha Public Libraries will offer library members free passes to the zoo.

“We are happy to partner with the libraries to add value to their membership and ensure that our entire community has access to the zoo,” said Zoo Director and CEO Dennis Pate.

Each library branch will have tickets to be issued to library members for a one-time visit. Details about distrib-

uting the tickets will be announced soon. The program will potentially benefit up to 29,000 Omaha Public Library members.

A similar program will be offered through the Council Bluffs Public Libraries. The zoo offers other community admission programs through the United Way, Title 1, donation requests and special pass memberships for organizations with special needs. ■

Source – City of Omaha

Governor announces approval of more than 1,000 stormwater construction permits

Gov. Pete Ricketts and the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality (NDEQ) May 9 announced the approval of over 1,000 online applications for coverage under the stormwater construction

general permit. The online process has been in effect since November 2016.

"This new milestone shows that this online system continues to facilitate faster application processing, while ensuring that the state fulfills its duty to protect Nebraska's clean water," Gov. Ricketts said. "Director Jim Macy's leadership has been vital in bringing this application process online and making it more efficient for Nebraska businesses to move forward on construction projects."

NDEQ Director Jim Macy said that the agency has achieved ambitious efficiency goals in the new online process. Previously, it would take two weeks or more for an applicant to receive coverage. Through the new process, the time frame has been reduced to about one day for most applications.

This new application process involves those who are planning construction projects of an acre or larger. To be covered under the stormwater construction general permit from NDEQ, applicants need to verify that they have a stormwater pollution prevention plan.


The Nebraska Department of Roads (NDOR) has benefited from the new application process because of the numerous roads projects that require the stormwater construction permit.

"The new online application process has helped NDOR improve its own processes and be more responsive to our customers," said NDOR Director Kyle Schneeweis.

To apply online for coverage under the general stormwater construction permit, visit NDEQ's web site at <http://deq.ne.gov> and select "Permits and Authorizations." ■

Source – Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality

Power Plant Problem Solvers



Leader in RICE NESHAP Compliance & Testing

Stationary Diesel & Engine Mechanics

Multi-point Engine Inspection Service

**Complete Engine Sales,
Installation and Removal**

**Power Plant Design,
Construction & Automation**

**Large/Heavy Equipment
& Machinery Transportation**

**Parts & Service for: Alco, Caterpillar,
Colt-Pielstick, Cummins, Cooper-Bessemer,
DeLaval, EMD, Enterprise, Nordberg, Waukesha,
Fairbanks Morse, Ingersoll-Rand, Worthington,
White Superior, and others**

FMI

Farabee Mechanical, Inc.
Hickman, NE 68372 • (402) 792-2612
farabee@inebraska.com
www.farabeemechanical.com

Community development organization receives sustainability grant

*\$150,000 available
for Lincoln neighborhoods*

Lincoln Mayor Chris Beutler and the Lincoln Community Foundation (LCF) in May announced that \$150,000 is available to enhance sustainability in Lincoln neighborhoods south of the downtown area. Partners for Places has awarded a \$75,000 community improvement grant to LCF, and LCF has committed matching funds of \$75,000 for the project. The Lincoln South of Downtown Community Development Organization (LSDCDO) will use the funds to install energy-efficient street lighting, mark bike lanes, remove and replace ash trees destroyed by the Emerald Ash Borer and expand community gardens.

"This is an exciting opportunity to work with various community partners and residents to help make important sustainable investments in the Everett and Near South neighborhoods," said Shawn Ryba, LSDCDO Executive Director.

Lincoln one of 15 cities

Lincoln is one of 15 U.S. cities to share in \$1.7 million in funding from the Partners for Places matching grant program. The program pairs cities with philanthropy to support sustainability projects that promote a healthy environment, a strong economy and citizens' well-being.

"The project presents a perfect opportunity to advance elements of Mayor Beutler's Cleaner Greener Lincoln initiative on a neighborhood scale," said Frank Uhlarik, the city's Sustainability and Compliance Administrator. "Improving safety and energy efficiency with LED street lighting, expanding the community garden initiative and

enhancing biking and walkability are all core elements of the proposed citywide plan."

"The foundation is pleased to provide matching funds for this project," said LCF President Barbara Bartle. "We know that public, private and philanthropic partnerships are key to helping our city to have the walkability, sustainability and safety necessary for vibrant neighborhoods."

Community gardens

A partnership with Community CROPS will allow the neighborhood to increase the number and size of community gardens and to make more fresh produce available at the "F" Street Community Farmers Market. Additional partners on the project include City of Lincoln Stronger Safer Neighborhoods initiative and the University of Nebraska Public Policy Center.

The Lincoln Community Foundation, established in 1955, strives to



Lincoln Mayor Chris Beutler

continually enrich the community by promoting and achieving philanthropic support. The foundation has distributed more than \$90 million in grants to local nonprofit organizations that have improved our community and the lives of our residents. More information is available at lcf.org. ■

Source – City of Lincoln




**Not in
it for the
money**

Nebraska's locally owned public power districts and municipalities are not-for-profit, thus no profit motive. We work hard to provide reliable electric power at the lowest cost-of-service price.

Nebraska Public Power District
Always there when you need us

Together with your local public power utility.

  
nppd.com
877-275-6773 (ASK-NPPD)



West Point City Council Member Tom Black; City Treasurer Ralph Luebbert; Mayor Marlene Johnson; Lt. Governor Mike Foley; City Administrator Tom Goulette; and Council Members: Bruce Schlecht; Jerry Hugo; Debra Ell; Roger Paus; and, City Clerk Mary Kempf. Photo courtesy Willis Mahannah, West Point News.

West Point receives Economic Development Certified Community designation, Community of the Year Award

Lt. Gov. Mike Foley has recognized the City of West Point for certification in the State of Nebraska's Economic Development Certified Community (EDCC) program. Lt. Gov. Foley presented the certification to local leaders during the Cuming County Economic Development organization's annual dinner on April 30. West Point also received the Community of the Year Award.

One of 39 communities

West Point is one of 39 communities to earn EDCC distinction in the economic development program, which is sponsored by the Nebraska Diplomats and administered by DED. State officials established the program in 2005 to recognize communities for their preparedness to at-

tract new industries and grow existing businesses. As part of the certification process, qualifying communities must identify a well-defined program that actively engages with their existing business community and offers a supportive environment for welcoming new economic development projects. This includes documenting available sites and buildings, local financing and incentive programs and a strategic plan for economic development, such as implementing a progressive strategy to grow the community's labor market. West Point earned EDCC status in January 2017.

Recognizes preparedness

"Nebraska's EDCC program is one of only a few in the nation that recognizes communities for preparedness

in economic development," said Lt. Gov. Foley. "By earning this certification, West Point leaders have shown that they have the ability to compete for new jobs and investments in today's competitive market. This official certification has the potential to provide the community with another tool for economic growth, which has already had tremendous success in the recruitment and expansion of local businesses."

Successful efforts

Successful efforts in business, housing and workforce development have contributed to recent community growth. In 2016, collaboration between state and local leaders resulted in the recruitment of a pet treat manufacturer,

Continued on page 11

Continued from page 10

which now occupies the once-vacant Land O’Frost Building. This project was a result of cooperation between the City of West Point, Cuming County Economic Development (CCED), the State of Nebraska and DED, Northeast Nebraska Development District and F&M Bank.

“Successful leaders in communities like West Point understand that business recruitment plays a key role in Nebraska’s overall economic growth,” Nebraska Diplomats President Jane McDaniel said. “Growing partnerships between the city, county and state have increased businesses and jobs, and also built great momentum for future development in West Point.”

Expanding relationships

Expanding relationships with local educational leaders continue to create opportunities in workforce recruitment. Through a partnership with CCED, Northeast Community College created a “Manufacturing Bootcamp,” which provides basic workforce readiness skills for locals entering the workforce. The program builds on tools and techniques related to quality production, customer service and safety in manufacturing facilities. Graduates of the program also have the ability to connect with area business leaders through interviews and skills training, which is designed to add to the community’s talented labor pool.

“As our local leaders continue to grow this community’s business and industry sectors, we look forward to building new success stories by being a newly-certified EDCC,” said West Point Mayor Marlene Johnson. “The

City of West Point is proud to join a distinguished group of EDCC’s in Nebraska.”

Thanked Lt. Gov. Foley

Mayor Johnon thanked Lt. Gov. Foley for going to West Point to present the award to the city and the Nebraska Diplomats for sponsoring this program and DED for its help.

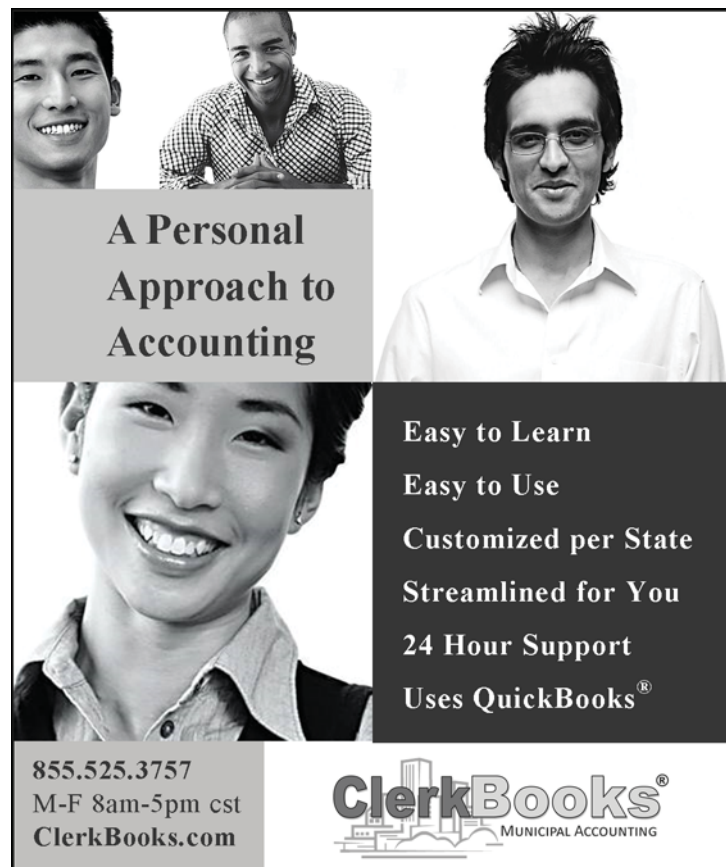
“Being selected as a Certified City lets our community business and industry, as well as all of our residents, know that they have worked hard to make West Point a great city,” she said. “This gives everyone the incentive to continue to support and create new ideas for our future.”

Community leaders continue to explore programs to improve commercial and residential areas through housing and business improvement efforts.

Working with developers

West Point City Administrator Tom Goulette is working with housing developers to grow potential buyers’ interest in 66 available lots within city limits. Last year, the Nielsen Foundation awarded CCED with a \$75,000 Existing Business Improvement Grant, which provided façade improvements in 22 West Point businesses. In addition, CCED collabo-

Continued on page 13



A Personal Approach to Accounting

- Easy to Learn
- Easy to Use
- Customized per State
- Streamlined for You
- 24 Hour Support
- Uses QuickBooks®

855.525.3757
M-F 8am-5pm cst
ClerkBooks.com

ClerkBooks®
MUNICIPAL ACCOUNTING



In October 2016, citizens gathered to listen to Dave Landis speak as George Norris from the fully renovated bandstand in celebration of the structure's 100th year. It was renovated by a local construction company, Custer County Construction, for under \$32,000. The bid was \$31,442. Photo and information from Mona Weatherly, Managing Editor, Custer County Chief. Reprinted by permission.

Downtown Broken Bow and Square is community effort

■ **BY MONA WEATHERLY,**
MANAGING EDITOR, CUSTER
COUNTY CHIEF ■

Reprinted by permission.

BROKEN BOW – In March 2016, it began. The bricks started to come up on the north side of the Square. Street by street, sidewalk by sidewalk, the Broken Bow Downtown Project progressed.

A year

It's now almost a year to the day since those first bricks came up. New streets and sidewalks are smooth above new water mains and sewer lines. The Bandstand in the Square has been

renovated and new and bright lights grace the Square and Downtown streets. A new phase of the project, South B Street from 10th Avenue to Tomahawk Park, is set to begin.

Planned for 10 years

The improvements have been a long time in coming.

"The downtown project has been planned for at least 10 years," Broken Bow Mayor Cecil Burt said. "It was in the works before I became Mayor."

It wasn't always easy. The city and the contractor didn't always know what to expect.

"Parts of the infrastructure date

back to the 1930s, we're guessing," Mayor Burt said. Through the project, however, Myers Construction, Inc. of Broken Bow worked with the city and businesses to make the process as smooth as possible.

Appreciate assistance

"I appreciate all the assistance and the cooperation of downtown businesses, citizens, Myers Construction, city crew – everybody really worked together," City Administrator Brent Clark said. "Myers Construction really accommodated the businesses."

The project wasn't done overnight

Continued on page 13

Continued from page 12

and it came with a hefty price tag, \$4,462,352.50 to date the week of March 20, according to Clark.

When the Mayor is asked when real estate taxes will increase because of the project, he has a ready answer.

"They won't. It's all out of sales tax. Real estate taxes will not increase a penny because of it," Burt said. One percent of sales tax is collecting revenue for it. "That one percent is totally for infrastructure, water, sewer, streets and lighting," he said.

Square is at the center

The Square is at the center of it all with the renovated bandstand and new playground equipment.

"The Square has been our focal point. The Square is now a showpiece," Burt said. "If it's half warm at all, there are a large number of children and their parents at the new playground."

Word has gotten around about the downtown success story. Clark said people from other cities are coming to Broken Bow to see what can be done. "It's been very well received," he said.

Looking at the finished streets and walks, it may be difficult to recall last year when things were torn up and customers used back doors and alleys to get to businesses.

Community effort

Together, businesses, the city, citizens and the contractor made it work.

"It's truly a community effort," Clark said. "Words can't describe how well it turned out."

Looking long term, it should be a very long time before such a massive project is needed again downtown.

"Now downtown has all new water mains and sewer," Burt said. "It won't have to be addressed again for another 50 years." ■

West Point receives Economic Development designation, Community of the Year Award

Continued from page 11

-rated with Burt County Economic Development to assist in West Point's demolition program, which resulted in a \$150,000 residential demolition grant and a \$255,000 commercial demolition grant.

Mayor Johnson appreciates West Point's continued potential for community growth and improvement through the EDCC program.

"The EDCC certification process provided our leaders with new opportunities to create strategic plans

for development and recruitment, which will now serve as an additional tool to attract new businesses, job seekers and West Point alumni to northeast Nebraska," Mayor Johnson said. "This designation showcases West Point as a welcoming community to businesses and industries and as a city that works together to continually improve our way of life." ■

Source – City of West Point, West Point News, Dept. of Economic Development



RICE SIGNS

Your Leader In Transportation Safety

Free Traffic Sign Catalog:

Call 888-728-7665

- or -

Visit www.RiceSigns.com

- Traffic Signs
- Roll-Up Construction Signs
- Sign Stands
- Traffic Cones & Barricades
- Custom Street Name Signs
- Sign Posts & Hardware

Contact Us / Bids / Quotes:

Toll-Free: 888-728-7665

Fax: 877-546-6165

Email: sales@RiceSigns.com

Web: www.RiceSigns.com



City of Hickman holds ribbon-cutting, open house for new Hickman Community Center

■ **BY LYNN MARIENAU**
COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR
LNM ■

More than 500 people attended a ribbon-cutting and open house May 6 for the Hickman Community Center in downtown Hickman that city officials say will be a catalyst for downtown revitalization.

The community center includes public meeting rooms, a Reading Centre, city office, kitchen, full beverage service area, outdoor patio and multi-purpose area for large receptions, youth activities and sporting events. There are 16,940 square feet on the main level and 2,294 square feet on the mezzanine level. The multi-purpose room will hold 680 people and the outdoor patio will hold up to 150 people.

Mayor Doug Hanson said: "I am

very pleased to be a part of making the residents' top infrastructure request a realization."

Mayor Hanson was referring to a strategic plan conducted in 2011, for which residents and stakeholder groups gave their opinions on priority

projects for the community through meetings and surveys. A new multi-purpose community center was the top priority.

In March 2014, Hickman residents adopted a 1.5 percent local option sales tax for public infrastructure, including the new community center construction and maintenance. The sales tax generates an average of \$240,000 annually, according to Kelly Oelke, Assistant City Administrator/City Clerk/Finance Director. A groundbreaking ceremony was held October 2015 and it took about two years to raise \$4.36 million in revenue from multiple sources to build the facility, although a final total for the building's costs isn't available yet. Aside from revenue generated by the local sales tax, funding for the project included a \$375,000 State of Nebraska Civic and Community Center Financing grant; \$45,178 from the Hickman Community Foundation via fund-raising efforts; \$24,380 from First State Bank Nebraska; \$10,000 from Black Hills



On right, Janice Stopak, USDA-RD, presenting U.S. Flag to Mayor Doug Hanson on left. Photo courtesy of the City of Hickman.



Presentation of building dedication plaque. From left to right: Randy Rogge of Rogge General Contractors, Owner; Pat Groeling of Rogge General Contractors, Construction Project Manager; Mayor Doug Hanson; Hickman Building Foundation members: Kelly Oelke, Assistant City Administrator/City Clerk/Finance Director; Silas Clarke, City Administrator/Economic Development Director; Jeff Butterfield, Foundation Treasurer. Photo provided courtesy of the City of Hickman.

Continued on page 15

Continued from page 14

Energy Foundation; \$24,983 in keno revenue; and, \$3,623,400 in a USDA Rural Development loan.

Oelke, who also is the Hickman Building Foundation President, said: "The city is grateful for the support it has received for this project and we look forward to using the space to continue to serve our growing community long into the future."

The center will be open for hosting events soon. City Administrator/Economic Development Director Silas Clarke is developing policies and a fee schedule to be reviewed by city council members at a future city council meeting.

"We're working on it," Oelke said. "I

have so much interest in it. I have a folder filled with requests filed in the last 19-24 months from people wanting to use the building."

She also said that the city currently has open a part-time position for an activities and community center coordinator.

Oelke is pleased that the center will offer public meeting spaces that are smaller and carpeted that could accommodate a group of 25 or possibly a group of 80 for educational seminars or business conferences.

The Reading Centre is a volunteer-based organization, which has served Hickman for several years, Oelke said. The organization purchases books or takes donations of books. It receives donations throughout the year from several different events, including some book sales. The centre is open two days a week and any citizen can borrow books or use a computer that is available to the public. The Reading Centre also offers story times for preschoolers and they serve as a repository for many historical documents from the Hickman area.

The new city offices have windows and a general conference room for smaller conferences and technology in the room to allow videoconferencing. There are eight offices, whereas before, there were only three offices.

"Currently, we are using four of the offices and three are for expansion," Oelke said. "A fifth is for use by the Lancaster County Sheriff's office, which provides law enforcement services for the city."

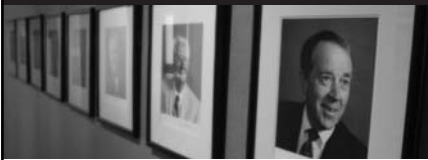
She said the youth activities might include basketball and volleyball leagues, open gym times and summer programs.

"We're hoping to do some coed adult leagues, as well," she said.

Another benefit in the new city offices is the significant amount of storage room for city records that previously were stored in three different places. ■

Providing legal services in Nebraska for over 90 years.

Labor and Employment Law
Counsel to the League of
Nebraska Municipalities



WOODS & AITKEN
L • L • P

Lincoln, NE | Omaha, NE
402.437.8500 | 402.898.7400

www.woodsaitken.com

Building a better future with **NEBRASKA'S** Public Finance Partner

D.A. Davidson & Co. is committed to strengthening the infrastructure and enriching the lives of people in our communities throughout Nebraska and across the nation.

Our Bankers specialize in:

- Bond Anticipation Notes
- Paving Bonds
- Water and Sewer Bonds
- General Obligation Bonds
- Utility System Revenue Bonds
- Lease-Purchase Financing

Call:

800.617.2864 | **Phil Lorenzen**
800.528.5145 | **Paul Grieger**
866.466.9368 | **Jerry Spethman**
866.809.5596 | **Cody Wickham**
866.809.5443 | **Andy Forney**
855.694.5552 | **Andy Snyder**



D|A|DAVIDSON

1111 North 102nd Court, Suite 300
Omaha, NE 68114 • 800.206.7523
www.davidsoncompanies.com/ficm

Rebuilding Beaver Crossing

■ **BY DIANE BECKER**
COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR
LARM ■

On Mother's Day, May 11, 2014, the community of Beaver Crossing was hit by an EF-3 tornado that damaged nearly every structure in the village of 403 residents, including much of the village-owned facilities and the community's trees.

"For years, a forest of trees hid Beaver Crossing. Now, when you come into town from the south, you can see everything. The tornado tore through the trees along the river around the town," said Jill Sharkey, Beaver Crossing Village Clerk/Treasurer. In the last three years, Sharkey has seen the community come together to move forward and rebuild.

Ballfield ready to go

"Our ballfields are ready to go this summer. Our pool was opened last year. There is still work to be done, but with the help of many volunteers, the town has rebuilt and come a long way since the tornado," Sharkey said.

It could have been worse. No one was hurt and when the tornado struck Beaver Crossing, the Village Board didn't have to worry about whether their insurance proceeds were enough to cover losses. Beaver Crossing had recently become part of the League Association of Risk Management (LARM) insurance pool. In the fall of 2013, a LARM property valuation specialist had re-evaluated the village's assets and increased the values that

Continued on page 17



May 11, 2014 tornado damage in Beaver Crossing. Photo provided courtesy of Jill Sharkey, Beaver Crossing Village Clerk/Treasurer.



May 11, 2014 tornado damage in Beaver Crossing. Photo provided courtesy of Jill Sharkey, Beaver Crossing Village Clerk/Treasurer.

Continued from page 16

were listed on the previous insurance policy – in some cases by thousands of dollars. The village buildings alone were undervalued by \$1.7 million.

“Thanks to LARM, they had re-appraised everything and we had the true value on things. It made all the difference when we went to rebuild,” said former Beaver Crossing Mayor Dick Pariset.

Appraisers added equipment

LARM property valuation appraisers had added on the ball equipment building and three baseball pavilions that hadn’t been covered in a previous policy. Those facilities and a large grandstand were destroyed in the tornado, but were covered under the new LARM policy.

“A lot of times, LARM will go to write a policy for a new member and find that their buildings and contents have been greatly undervalued. That’s a major problem because, in cases like Beaver Crossing, when you have a loss, you want to be able to have enough funds to replace your losses,” said Fred Wiebelhaus, LARM Field Adjuster Supervisor/Loss Control Assistant.

Missing, damaged trees

As for the missing and damaged trees, LARM paid the village \$10,000 to help with tree replacement. Longtime Beaver Crossing resident Terry Barth has been instrumental in planting 200 new trees in town since the tornado.

“We’ve had a lot of contributions and have had a good tree survival rate. Someone knew we needed trees in Beaver Crossing,” Barth said. “The trees that were downed were planted years ago for us so we have to plant trees for the next generations.”



Terry Barth, longtime Beaver Crossing resident, looks over one of the 200 trees planted in the village since a devastating tornado hit the village in 2014. In the background is the newly constructed baseball field, just a portion of the \$1,000,000 worth of village property that was damaged that day. Photo by Diane Becker, Communications Director, League Association of Risk Management.

Robin Butzke, a member of the Ball Committee that has worked to raise funds to reestablish the baseball program in Beaver Crossing, said there are 43 kids planning to play on the village’s fields this year for the first time since the tornado. For the last three years, they’ve played and practiced on fields in Cordova and Goehner, neighboring villages.

Play on own fields

“Now they’ll be able to play on our own fields. We are over the moon to have gotten to this point,” Butzke said. Beaver Crossing tornado statistics:

- **Three million** estimated pounds of debris hauled away after the tornado;
- **Two-hundred trees** destroyed on village property and 700 trees destroyed on private property –

some estimated to be more than 100 years old;

- The village sustained **\$1,126,000** in damage, including damage to the legion hall, village hall, the pool, park and well buildings;
- **Twenty-eight** buildings had to be taken down;
- **\$1.7 million** is the amount that the buildings were undervalued for coverage before Beaver Crossing became a LARM member;
- **3,000** people volunteered to help with cleanup in the first month; and,
- **Forty-four** organizations from across the United States came to help. ■

Hastings receives 2017 Showcase Community Award during Community Development Week celebrations

Starting in 1974, the federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program provided communities across the state of Nebraska and the country with the necessary resources to address development challenges. Throughout the week of April 17 – April 22, communities all over the country celebrated the accomplishments they have achieved that helped them prosper and grow.

Celebration

At the Capitol April 17, Nebraska celebrated Community Development Week where Gov. Pete Ricketts, officials from the Nebraska Department of Economic Development (DED), and entitlement communities' (Bellevue, Grand Island, Lincoln, and Omaha) representatives met to recognize efforts made in the state.

The Governor shared how the success of the CDBG program has helped the state over the past five years. This



City of Hastings Governor's Showcase Community Award winners. From left: Hastings Business Improvement District/Community Redevelopment Authority Director Randy Chick; Hastings Economic Development Corporation Director Dave Rippe; City Administrator Joe Patterson; Mayor Corey Stutte (holding the award); Gov. Pete Ricketts; DED Director Courtney Dentlinger; Hastings Chamber of Commerce President Tom Hastings. Photo by DED.

included more than 250 projects completed and \$78 million in CDBG funds invested in Nebraska. The funds were awarded to 117 communities

and three counties.

DED administers CDBG funding for all communities outside the entitlement communities of Bellevue, Grand Island, Lincoln and Omaha.

Hastings receives award

Courtney Dentlinger, Director of the Nebraska Department of Economic Development, recognized the City of Hastings with the Governor's Showcase Community Award. This award recognizes outstanding efforts by communities over the past five years who have demonstrated the ability to identify community development goals; combine local, state, and federal resources to achieve those goals; and, successfully execute projects having a positive impact on the community.

Through strong collaborations, Hastings' community organizations,



From left: Gov. Pete Ricketts; Kris and Julie Sonderup; David Landis, City of Lincoln. The Sonderups accept Lincoln's Community Development award for Hartley Flats. Photo by DED.

Continued on page 19

Continued from page 18

leaders, businesses and residents are reviving the downtown and the city overall with building renovations, façade improvements, housing rehabilitation and loans to local businesses to open or expand.

Historic building renovation

The Lark, a premier arts and cultural center, renovated its historic building, providing an event space for concerts, classes, theater productions, comedy shows and film screenings. The renovation of The Lark has brought a new sense of culture to Hastings. The center has superior acoustics and a contemporary design. The overall presence has had a positive effect on the community.

Funding also was provided for the mixed-use redevelopments of Uptown Experience, luxury-style furnished apartments made available for short- or long-term occupancy and for Block 27 Lofts, apartments for young professionals. The ground-level retail space

houses The Odyssey restaurant and microbrewery Steeple Brewing.

In addition, the ongoing Pioneer Spirit Trail provides an intermodal pedestrian transportation network between major recreational centers, such as Lake Hastings, Hastings College and the downtown business district to provide much needed pedestrian, bike and exercise routes.

4 communities

Nebraska has four entitlement communities. These communities are Bellevue, Grand Island, Lincoln and Omaha. Each entitlement community attended Monday's ceremony to recognize completed projects in their respective communities.

Bellevue Mayor Rita Sanders was at the ceremony to recognize Sarpy County Museum for its project of providing safe access to the newly acquired Union Pacific Caboose. This project has allowed visitors a safe pathway to the caboose to learn about history.

Entitlement community

Grand Island became an entitlement community in 2016. Mayor Jeremy Jensen recognized Habitat for Humanity with its first ever "Community Impact Award." Habitat for Humanity consistently has provided affordable quality housing for the residents of Grand Island. This collaboration between Grand Island and Habitat for Humanity has demonstrated the strong commitment to improve the community.

David Landis, the Director of the Urban Development Department for the City of Lincoln, recognized Hartley Flats, a new 13-unit housing development. Kris and Julie Sonderup, developers of Hartley Flats, have helped the



Grand Island Mayor Jeremy Jensen recognized Habitat for Humanity with its first ever Community Impact Award. Gov. Ricketts is in background. Photo by DED.



Gov. Pete Ricketts and Norita Matt, Omaha City Planner, who spoke about the Fair Deal Village Marketplace and Neighborhoods, USA and the benefits they have provided. Photo by DED.

neighborhood, which was struggling with aging housing, by promoting positive growth for the residents and businesses. The new housing has created a place where young professionals can feel at home and have quick access to the entire city.

Fair Deal recognized

The City Planner for Omaha, Norita Matt, recognized the Fair Deal Village Marketplace and Neighborhoods, USA (NUSA). The Fair Deal Village Marketplace, located in the historic North 24th and Lake Street, has created a place where the neighborhood can access valuable amenities. NUSA has provided educational and net-

Continued on page 20

Hastings receives 2017 Showcase Community Award during Community Development Week celebrations

Continued from page 19

working opportunities for diverse people and organizations. Residents are able to share their ideas, values and experiences, which in turn has helped build a stronger community. NUSA hosts workshops and conferences to discuss current issues and offers assistance to those reaching out. ■



Ben Justman (center) accepting award on behalf of Sarpy County Museum with Gov. Pete Ricketts (left) and Bellevue Mayor Rita Sanders (right). Photo by DED

NLC: Cities cannot afford health care bill, urge U.S. Senate to vote no

On May 4, the U.S. House of Representatives passed a repeal and replacement plan for the Affordable Care Act of 2010 (ACA). While the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) has yet to analyze and score it, the bill is expected to increase the number of uninsured Americans, remove key protections and ultimately shift financial burdens of uncompensated care onto states and local governments. In response to this action, National League of Cities President Matt Zone, council member, Cleveland, released the following statement:

“Congress cannot promise to fix the American health care system

and stick the bill on local governments. By threatening Medicaid funding, withdrawing services for drug addiction and mental health during the nation’s deadliest drug epidemic and reducing funding for preventative medicine and wellness programs, today’s health care bill threatens to leave millions of Americans uninsured.

“When the federal government pulls back on its commitment to health care, local governments, states and health care providers are left to pay the bills of increasing rates of unreimbursed care.

“Local governments simply cannot afford this health care bill. We urge the Senate to stand with cities and



© Thinkstock.com

American families and scrap this flawed piece of legislation. The National League of Cities calls on Senators to fight for a health care bill that protects and promotes healthy communities without passing the financial burden onto local governments.” ■

Source – NLC

This column is provided, free of charge, for use and reference by Nebraska municipal officials and employees. All others pay 55 cents per word to place ads. Closing date is the first of the month of publication. Ads are subject to editing and will appear once unless otherwise requested. Classified ads also can appear on the League's website at www.lonm.org.

Positions

Gas, Water, and Wastewater Collection Superintendent. Nebraska City Utilities has an opening for the Gas, Water, Wastewater Collection Superintendent. The superintendent performs technical, administrative, and supervisory duties in directing the design, construction and maintenance of the natural gas transmission and distribution system, water distribution system and wastewater collections main system. The position requires knowledge of DOT/PHMSA natural gas regulations and the ability to enforce regulations to assurance compliance with federal, state, and local guidelines associated with natural gas transmission/distribution, "10 State Standards" & NHHS for water distribution, and NDEQ for wastewater collection system. The supervisor must have leadership skills with the ability to establish and attain operation objectives for the employees and communicate effectively with employees, regulatory agencies, and the public. Nebraska City Utilities offers an excellent benefit package. Nebraska City Utilities is an EOE.

For a complete job description or to apply for this position please contact Leroy Frana or Dan Patton at 402-873-3353. Applications and resumes with a written description of your strengths, skills, experience, and education qualifying you for this position must be submitted to Leroy Frana or Dan Patton. Open until filled.

Utility Employee. The City of Randolph is accepting applications for a

Positions

full-time Utility Employee. Individual is to assist in the maintenance and upgrade of all the departments, to include the Pool, Parks, Auditorium, Street, Electric, Water, Sewer, Cemetery and Solid Waste. Duties include but not limited to operating heavy equipment, snow removal, street maintenance, mowing and general upkeep of all city-owned properties, garbage collection. Certification in wastewater and water are desired but the city is willing to train. Must have or be able to obtain a CDL within six months of hire. Wage is based on experience. Please contact City of Randolph, PO Box 457, Randolph, NE 68771; 402-337-0567; citrane@cityofrandolph.net for an application, job description and list of benefits. Resume and references must be attached to the application. Position will be open until filled. EOE.

Assistant City Administrator. City of Papillion is accepting applications for the position of Assistant City Administrator. Responsibilities include assisting with the daily operations of city government, conducting research and special projects. Position supervises department heads and administrative staff. Starting salary is \$86,445. Excellent benefits. Exempt position. Interested applicants should apply online from the posting on the city's website page at www.papillion.org under Human Resources or at Application Link. Position open until filled. EOE.

Mark your calendar for these League conferences

Annual Conference

Sept. 20-22, 2017

Cornhusker Marriott Hotel,
Lincoln

Utilities/Public Works Section Annual Conference

Jan. 17-19, 2018

Cornhusker Marriott Hotel,
Lincoln

League of Nebraska Municipalities

Phone: 402-476-2829

Fax: 402-476-7052

Web site: www.lonm.org





MUNICIPAL CODE SERVICES, INC.

**COMPLETE MUNICIPAL CODE REVISION
UPDATING SERVICE FOR YOUR CURRENT CODE
POLICY MANUALS**

*Personal Service • Reasonable Rates
Nebraska-Based Company*

P.O. Box 164, Neligh, NE 68756
Phone 402.887.5022
leagle@mcnallylaw.net www.mcodeservices.com



League's Ordinance Codification Program

Code Updates • New Codes • Legal Reviews
Model Ordinances • Codes on Internet

Serving more than 2,100 local government clients across the country, ranging in size from Los Angeles and Chicago to villages with populations under 300.



AMERICAN LEGAL
ORDINANCE CODIFICATION

Contact Christi Baunach, Staff Attorney
(800) 445-5588
cbaunach@amlegal.com www.amlegal.com



**Engineering Solutions for
YOUR COMMUNITY**

9 Nebraska Locations  @olsson_assoc

www.olssonassociates.com

REINVENT YOUR PLAYGROUND!

Contact Creative Sites at 800.266.1250 to get started on your project today!



www.bclburke.com Creative Sites

TRANSPORTATION

CIVIL ENGINEERING

ARCHITECTURE

SCHEMMER
ARCHITECTS | ENGINEERS | PLANNERS
OMAHA - 402.493.4800 | SCHEMMER.COM | LINCOLN - 402.488.2500

nmpp
ENERGY™

- Electricity • Natural Gas •
- Utility Related Services •

A non-profit, member owned organization benefiting nearly 200 communities spanning six midwest and mountain states.

8377 Glynoaks Dr.
Lincoln, NE 68516
(800)234-2595
www.nmppenergy.org

JEO CONSULTING GROUP INC



800.723.8567
jeo.com

- Engineering
- Architecture
- Surveying
- Planning

YOUNG & WHITE
LAW OFFICES

Omaha
402-393-5600

www.youngandwhite.com
Email: lawoffices@youngandwhite.com

*Providing Exemplary Legal Services for
Nebraska Cities & Villages since 1990!*

NPAIT

The Nebraska Public Agency Investment Trust (NPAIT) is a cash management program operated to maximize the following features:
Secure Investments, Daily Liquidity, and Excellent Interest Income.

PO Box 82529 • Lincoln, NE 68501-2529
800-890-9757 • 402-323-1278
www.npait.com

Financial & Single Audits
Budget Consulting & Preparation
Retirement Plans
Benchmarking & Rate Studies

Contact
Terry Galloway, Marcy Luth
Michael Hoback, Joe Stump
or Kyle Overturf

**ALMQUIST
MALTZAHN
GALLOWAY
& LUTH**

CERTIFIED
PUBLIC
ACCOUNTANTS

1203 W. 2nd Street
Grand Island, NE 68801
Ph 308.381.1810
Fax 308.381.4824
www.gicpas.com

Check out Burbach Aquatics, Inc.'s latest Aquatic Center



**Veterans Memorial Aquatic Center
Hartford, WI**



© BURBACH AQUATICS, INC 2016 —RIGHTS RESERVED, PRINTED IN THE U.S.A.

Burbach Aquatics, Inc.
5974 State Highway 80 South
Platteville, Wisconsin 53818

BURBACH AQUATICS, INC.
ARCHITECTS & ENGINEERS

Your Quality Choice for Aquatic Design !

Phone: 608-348-3262
Fax: 608-348-4970
E-mail: baae@centurytel.net

www.burbachaquatics.com | baae@centurytel.net