

Utilities Section Newsletter

League of Nebraska Municipalities

July 2017

Legislature affects municipal utility, public works departments

*By Lash Chaffin,
Utilities Section Director*

On May 23, the 86th day of a 90-day session, the Nebraska Legislature adjourned sine die five days early. The 2018 session is scheduled to begin Jan. 3, 2018. The 2018 session will be a continuation of the 2017 session and will be scheduled for 60 working days.

Lawmakers addressed a \$900 million budget shortfall in the 2017 session by making significant cuts and passing an \$8.9 billion, two-year budget that doesn't raise taxes based on current revenue stream projections.

During the 2017 session, 667 bills were introduced. An additional 27 "A" bills (appropriations bills) were introduced. There also were five constitutional amendments introduced. One hundred seventy-three bills were enacted into law in 2017. The Governor vetoed one bill and the veto was not overridden by the Legislature.

Legislation enacted in 2017 becomes effective three calendar months after the end of the legislative session, unless the bill has an emergency clause or a different operative date. Unless otherwise noted, bills enacted in the 2017 legislative session take effect Aug. 24, 2017.

Some of the bills that might affect your utility and public works

operations are outlined below:

LB 339 merges the Nebraska Dept. of Roads and the Nebraska Dept. of Aeronautics under a newly named Nebraska Dept. of Transportation (NDOT). The head of the newly formed NDOT will be the Director of what was formerly the Nebraska Dept. of Roads.

LB 72 changes provisions relating to cities and villages with defined benefit retirement plans filing for bankruptcy. The bill also authorizes municipalities without defined benefit plans to adopt an ordinance giving bondholders first priority liens on ad valorem taxes and purchases made with ad valorem taxes.

LB 113 changes population threshold provisions relating to municipalities and eliminates obsolete provisions. The bill provides that population thresholds in state law will be determined by the "most recent federal decennial census or the most recent revised certified count by the U.S. Bureau of the Census."

LB 133 changes and eliminates provisions regarding cities of the second class and villages. This is the omnibus "clean-up" bill for

2017 LEGISLATIVE SESSION



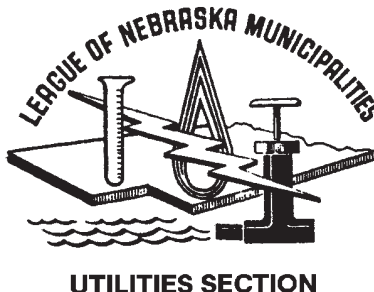
cities of the second class and villages. **LB 133** clarifies references to cities' and villages' extraterritorial zoning jurisdiction, clarifies notices in legal newspapers, corrects gender references to include both masculine and feminine pronouns, corrects internal references and eliminates antiquated and obsolete language. The bill adds a specific reference to village engineers, which is lacking in current law.

LB 271 authorizes the Nebraska Dept. of Transportation to assume certain responsibilities under federal environmental laws and to take a larger role in the approval process of transportation projects funded through some federal sources. The bill also provides for a limited waiver of the state's sovereign immunity.

LB 315 changes provisions relating to the sale of real property by a city of the second class or village to make it consistent with cities of the first class. With **LB 315**, cities of the second class and villages have the power to convey real property by resolution direct-

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Lash Chaffin
Utilities Section Director
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Utilities Field Representative

Legislature affects municipal utility, public works departments

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ing the sale of such property. This language mirrors the language for cities of the first class.

LB 317 provides for a relevy or reassessment of a special assessment for cities of the second class or villages. LB 317 adds language to mirror the authority given to cities of the first class in this area.

LB 578 changes Medicaid reimbursement provisions relating to ground emergency medical transportation. Nebraska's current State Plan does not recognize first responder services as part of the higher reimbursement allowable under the regulations administered by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid. A minor change to the language in the State Plan allows reimbursement at a higher rate. LB 578 requires that the Nebraska Department of Health

and Human Services submit an amendment to the State Plan to allow for increased reimbursement for ground emergency medical transport.

Important bills that were debated, but remain at various stages of consideration, include **LB 44**, that requires online retailers to collect and remit state and local sales tax if their gross revenue in Nebraska

exceeds \$100,000 or their sales in Nebraska consist of 200 or more separate transactions. A comprehensive tax package in **LB 461**, which on the floor, but may be discussed next session.

It also is likely that there will be another bill that would strip municipalities of their authority to regulate small cell wireless facilities.

Water and Wastewater Operator Workshops

Be sure to check when and where Water and Wastewater Operator Training Workshops are in your area.

These training sites can be found on the respective websites of the training providers: www.lonm.org, www.awwaneb.org and www.nerwa.org.

The complete coalition training calendar, in the format you have been accustomed to over the years, is posted on the Public Water Supply Program website: <http://dhhs.ne.gov/publichealth/Documents/TrainingSchedule.pdf> and the League website at www.lonm.org.

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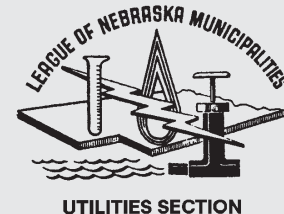
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Eye safety

*By Rob Pierce, LNM Field Rep./
Training Coordinator*

According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), about 2,000 workers each day experience a job-related eye injury, which requires medical attention. About one third were treated in hospitals and more than 100 resulted in one or more days away from work. These injuries incur more than \$924 million annually in workers' compensation, and nearly \$4 billion in wage and productivity losses, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The type of job tasks being performed can have a higher eye injury risk. According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission in 2002, welding equipment contributed to more than 11,000 eye injuries treated in the United States. Many tools, if used improperly, can contribute to eye injuries, especially if improper personal protective equipment (PPE) is not worn, such as face shields and safety glasses. Steps

can be taken to protect one's eyes from injury in the workplace. For example, assess the work areas for potential accidents that can be caused by impact, heat, chemicals, dust, glare and optical radiation. Second, workers should have their eyes tested, as uncorrected vision problems may cause accidents. Make sure PPE is provided, fitted, inspected and worn.

The CDC reported that more than 40 percent of injuries studied occurred among craft workers, like mechanics, repairers, carpenters and plumbers. Over a third of the injured workers were operators, such as assemblers, sanders and grinding machine operators. Make sure to have a good written safety program in place and ensure everyone follows the safety rules, including visitors and contractors at the worksite.

Plan for first-aid emergencies and have first-aid kits, eyewash stations available and educate/train workers in basic first-aid. As with any successful safety program, management support is

a must. The program needs to be regularly reviewed and updated as needed. The goal should be NO eye injuries or accidents!

Remember, eye injuries occur from small particles or objects striking or scraping the eye, such as dust, cement chips, metal slivers and wood chips. Often these materials are from tools, wind or falls from above. Large objects also may strike the eye or face, or a worker may run into an object causing blunt-force trauma to the eyeball or eye socket. Penetration of the eye may occur from objects like nails, staples or slivers of wood or metal, which can result in a permanent loss of vision. And don't forget, chemical and thermal burns which may be caused from disinfectant chemicals or cleaning products such as chlorine. Thermal burns to the eye also occur, often among welders. Several sources noted that 90 percent of on-the-job eye injuries are preventable with the appropriate eye protection.

Be sure to practice eye safety as we were only issued two!

MONGAN

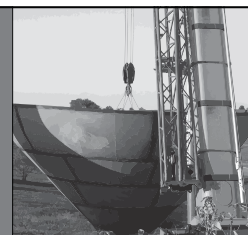
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Falls in construction on the rise

According to a report by the Center for Construction Research and Training, falls have increased by 16 percent. Fifty-five percent of fatal falls were from heights of 20 feet or less and 24 percent involved ladders and scaffolds. Workers who have an increased risk of fatal falls include those workers who are 55 and older. More information on this report can

be down loaded from <http://sh-m.ag/2sfLiLF>.

The National Safety Council just put out some safety tips for eliminating tripping hazards which include: secure electrical and telephone cords from walkways, hallways and in front of your desk. Use non-skid rugs or tape them down to prevent sliding. Keep drawers and cabinets closed when not in use. Wear proper footwear

and pay attention to outdoor conditions. Clean up spills immediately and post signage as needed. Refrain from walking while distracted and stay focused on your surroundings. Ensure there is adequate lighting at the workplace and don't carry more than you can handle.

Safety Workshops held

Operators from Falls City, Franklin, Hartington, Hildreth, Minden, Nebraska City, Newcastle, Pender, Ponca and Stanton attended the three Safety Workshops. The topics covered were safety committee requirements, GHS update, confined space, trenching shoring, workzone safety and a roundtable discus-

sion on safety issues.

Operators in attendance received five hours for water and wastewater licenses and 1.5 hours for grade six water operators. Electric line workers and natural gas operators could get five hours safety training depending on how their apprentice and OQ programs were set up.

Water Operator Training Workshops held

The Winter/Spring AWWA/League Water Operator Training Workshops are completed with approximately 286 water/wastewater operators in attendance. Workshops were held in South Sioux City, Norfolk, Kearney, Schuyler, Blair, Beatrice, Chadron, Gering, Tecumseh, Ravenna, Grand Island, Lawrence, Omaha and Ogallala.

Operators who attended the December through July workshops received five hours toward both water and wastewater licenses.

Operators who attended the Kearney workshop (Jan. 24) received five hours grades 1-4, 1 hour grade six and two hours wastewater toward license renewal.

Operators who attended the February through July workshops received five hours toward both water and wastewater licenses. The League and AWWA Fall/Winter Water Operator Training Workshops will begin in August. See the training calendar for the workshop dates.

15th Edition APPA Manual available

The American Public Power Association's latest edition of the safety manual is available with new sections on energized substation work guidelines and bucket/truck aerial lift rescue. Also, sections on lockout/tagout, wireless electronic devices, first aid/CPR/AED, pole-top rescue, security (NERC/FERC), personal protective equipment and use and care of rubber gloves were revised.

If your electric department refers to the APPA manual and has an old version, I would recommend updating your safety manual. To order the APPA Safety Manual, visit the APPA Product Store at www.publicpower.org, mail or fax the order form or email to Products@Publicpower.org or call 202-467-2926. Members receive a substantial discount, which is about half price.

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APPA Safety Award of Excellence Winners

Congratulations to the following electric systems for safety recognition by APPA in their respective divisions for the 2016 work year.

Group B – for systems with 15,000-29,000 worker-hours of exposure

Tied for first place – **City of Crete** with an incidence rate of 0 with 24,271 worker hours. (Crete was one of 24 other electric systems nationwide that recorded a zero incidents rating).

Group G – for systems with 1,000,000 worker-hours of exposure

Second place – **Nebraska Public Power District** with an incidence rate of 1.47 with 3,941,137 work hours.

Group H – for systems with more than 3,999,999 worker-hours of exposure

Third place – **Omaha Public Power District** with a 1.16 with 4,133,297 worker hours.

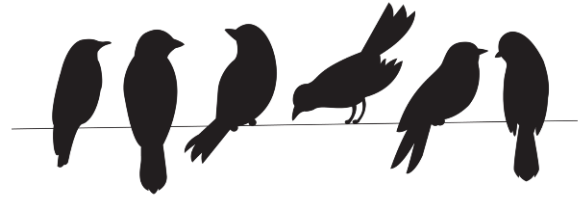
Again, congratulations to these electric systems for their outstanding efforts toward work-

place safety.

Congratulations to the **City of Grand Island Utilities Department** for receiving the Reliable Public Power Provider designation from the American Public Power Association (APPA).

2017 National Public Power Lineworkers Rodeo

Seventy-three teams and 158 apprentices from not-for-profit, community-owned electric utilities across the nation participated in the 17th Annual Public Power Lineworkers Rodeo, held May 5-6, 2017, in San Antonio, Texas. There are two levels of competition, journeyman and apprentice. A qualified journeyman has more than four years of experience within the electric utility trade. An apprentice lineworker has four or fewer years of experience. Congratulations to **Andrew Urkoski of Lincoln Electric System**, as he placed second in the “apprentice written test” and second overall in the apprentice



division. Congratulations Andrew!

Do you, your department or facility have something to crow about? Received an award, had an article written highlighting an event or person? Have a project worthy of acknowledgement in the *Utilities Section Newsletter*?

If so, please send your information to any of the League/Utilities staff so we can share your excitement or pride of an award, noted article or project with other members. Too often we read about negative news in our local newspaper, but the positive should be celebrated, embraced and shared. Optimism can be contagious and others may find positive ways to use your success to enhance a project or event in their municipality, department or facility.

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**More information on
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at www.lonm.org.**

Classifieds

Job Openings

Electric Journey Line Worker.

The City of Alliance, Nebraska (8,500), is accepting applications for the position of full-time Electric Journey Line Worker with a pay range of \$25.40-\$28.97 per hour DOQ.

This individual will perform skilled line work in the operation, construction, maintenance and repair of overhead and underground electric distribution and transmission systems.

Applications with resumes will be accepted until the position is filled. A complete job description and application is available at www.cityofalliance.net.

For Sale

Tennant 830-II Street Sweeper. The City of South Sioux City is currently selling a 2004 Tennant 830-II street sweeper with 1,185 hours and 1,792 miles. The engine is a turbo diesel and a manual is included. Innovative dry-dust control improves

ambient air quality by sucking up the dust and dirt stirred up by the brushes. This sweeper is powerful, easy to use and compact.

The sweeping ability begins with a self-adjusting center point suspended main brush that efficiently picks up sand, dirt, rocks, broken glass and bulky light debris. Main brush dust is pulled by twin, high-volume vacuum fans into a long lasting, high capacity filter to remove dust particles and exhaust clean air. One button sweeping makes operation easy and requires less training time; an unobstructed view ensures a clear view of the sweeping area and bystander safety; four-wheel steering allows the machine to maneuver easily around obstacles, corners and heavy traffic. Productivity Enhancing Options: waterless side brush dust control for area incompatible with water. Vario sweeping brush moves in and out, up and down to reach hard to access areas on the either side of the machine. A 9½ feet



high dump allows discharge into large roll off bins and dump trucks. Centrally suspended brush penetrates contours of any surface for thorough cleaning.

Accepting offers. Contact Joyce Wilson, South Sioux City Purchasing Agent, at 1615 1st Avenue, South Sioux City, NE 68776; call 402-494-7548; or email jwilson@southsiouxcity.org.

1984 Hahn Cab and Chassis Diesel (Red) 1500 Gallon Fire Truck. The City of Seward is selling a 1984 Hahn Cab and Chassis Diesel (Red) 1500 Gallon Fire Truck. Needs work – out of service for three years. Accepting offers. City of Seward, City Clerk's Office, PO Box 38, 537 Main Street, Seward, NE 68434. Call 402-643-2928.

Nebraska Breaktime Trivia “Just For Fun”

- Q-1.** The Zorn Theater is located in what municipality in Nebraska?
- Q-2.** What is the Nebraska state insect?
- Q-3.** What municipality in Nebraska has “Smile City” on its welcome signs?
- Q-4.** Do you know where this city/village hall is located?

Answers found on page 11.



Nebraska utilities history

The Utilities Section Newsletter will continue to feature histories of both utilities and associate members. Any historical data and/or photos of your utilities, a specific facility, or articles already written are welcome, along with permission to print. If you have questions, contact Rob at 402-476-2829 or robp@lonm.org.

*By Rob Pierce, LNM Field Rep./
Training Coordinator*

Mason City, located in Custer County, had settlers in the area by the early 1880s. In April 1886, 160 acres were platted into lots by the Lincoln Land Company. A store soon opened and in June 1886, the *Mason City Transcript* newspaper was established. In late July, the first Burlington & Missouri Railroad train arrived in the settlement. That year, a two-story Opera House and a Baptist Church were built and the People's Bank was organized. The *Champion* newspaper was established in Algernon (1886), later moved to Mason City and was called the *Mason City Advocate*. On Aug. 27, 1886, a post office was established with George Runyan as the first postmaster. By late December 1886 or early 1887, Mason City filed to incorporate as a village. The Coffman Cemetery, located two miles north of Mason City, was established in 1887. On April

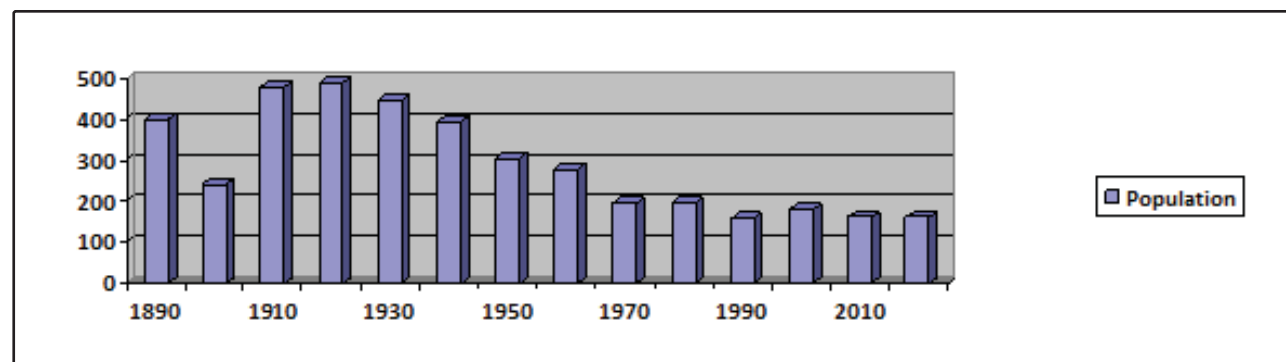
6, 1887, the first board election was held. School District #169 was organized in 1887 and in the summer of 1888, a two-room red brick school building with a bell tower was built. About 1889, Lincoln Land Company initially owned the cemetery, which was deeded over to the Baptist Church and they deeded it to the Algernon Township. The Weaver Cemetery, or Round Grove Cemetery, was established May 20, 1889, with the first lots sold May 27 for \$5. The first burial in the Mason City cemetery was in June 1889. By 1890, the population was 400 and the Gates Hall, the Mason House Hotel, a drug store, general mercantile and a coal elevator were in operation. A tornado in 1892 damaged several buildings, including the hotel and school. The first high school classes were taught in 1894 and the first telephone lines were installed in 1896.

By 1900, the population decreased to 241 and water was supplied by individual windmill pumps and wells, the sewer

system amounted to individual outhouses and the dirt streets were lined with boardwalks and crosswalks. The Farmers State Bank was established (1900) and on Oct. 6, 1901, the Baptist Church deeded the cemetery to the Mason City Cemetery Association. By 1901, the village had two banks, a newspaper, two grocery stores, several hardware and machinery stores and the school added the 10th grade. In 1904, the *Star* newspaper was published and, that year, several buildings were destroyed by a fire. In 1905, an arrow-shaped stone school building with a bell tower was constructed. The Mason City exchange was purchased in 1909 by the Nebraska Telephone Company.

The population increased to 480 by 1910 and the Elliott Store and the Melvin Hotel were built. In 1911, hitching posts lined the main street. On May 19, 1912, the Amsberry Mill was destroyed by fire (\$3,000 loss) and the village began construction of a water

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Nebraska utilities history

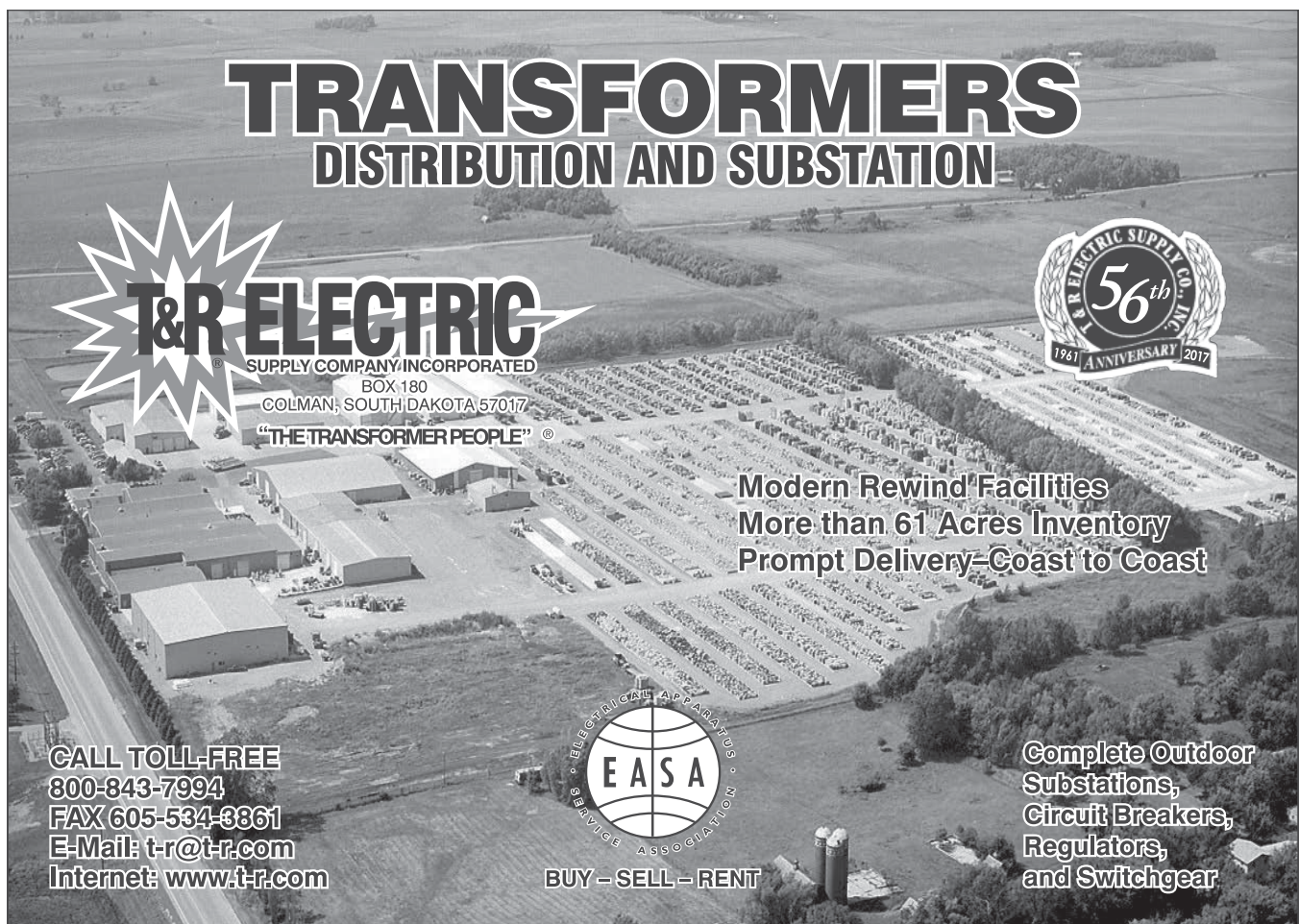
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system with water mains, hydrants and a standpipe. That year, a two-story cement block Opera House was constructed. In 1914, the state issued a permit for the Mason City Mill to generate electricity and provide electric power for the mill. In 1915, the village contracted for a power plant costing \$5,000. By 1916, the school added the 12th grade and was now a four-year high school.

By 1920, the population was 487 and the village had two banks,

a hospital, a flour mill, cement plant, and many other businesses. The dirt streets by 1920 had cement sidewalks and crosswalks and the Mason City Banking Company Building that was built in 1920, closed in April 1929. The Nebraska Telephone Company became part of the Northwestern Bell Telephone Company in 1921. In 1925, the municipal power plant had electric rates of \$0.15 per kilowatt (kW). The water system, which included a 30-foot water storage standpipe, had rates


of \$0.50 per 1,000 gallons and a minimum of \$3 per 1,000 gallons. In March 1929, voters defeated a bond for \$11,000 on a 76-94 vote to enlarge and improve the municipal power plant. Outside parties advised that a high-line transmission system was a better option, which aided in the defeat. In June 1929, the bank reopened and by 1930, the population decreased to 447. A new two-story brick public schoolhouse with an auditorium was built in 1934-35,

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Nebraska utilities history

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replacing the 1904 stone school at the same location. The mill was torn down and by 1934, the village was again without a bank. A public library building was located on Main Street and the village became a member of the League of Nebraska Municipalities in 1934. In 1935, the Mason City Cemetery Association deeded the cemetery to the Algernon Township and the post office was moved to the Farmers State Bank building. In 1936, the municipal power plant had 85 kW of capacity by internal combustion power.

From 1940-1950, the population decreased to 305 and in 1946, the village sold a 150 horsepower (HP) Worthington Engine type 36, had a Type Y, 50 HP Fairbanks-Morse generator, D-type 4 KVA, speed 257, 3-phase, 60 cycle, 2300 volts AC type ATI form, AL, 3-phase, 60 cycles, voltage 2300, speed 514, amp 31.3 excitation, kVA 125 voltage 125, amp. 27.6, 100 kW, .8PF cont. 40C General Electric. In 1947, electric lighting was installed at the sports field. By 1950, the population was 305 and in 1951, the Rural Fire De-

partment was organized. By 1954, the surrounding school districts were consolidated and the last "normal training" was taught by the school in 1957. In 1956, the telephone system converted to the dial system and by 1956, the fire department had 31 volunteer firemen. The natural gas system was privately owned (1956) and the electric distribution system was owned by Custer Public Power District in 1958. In 1958, the cost of street lighting amounted to \$915 per year and the cost of pumping water was \$816 per year. The water plant and the 123 meters in service were owned by village. There was a \$5 water meter deposit and rates in 1956-58 were: first 3,000 gallons at \$1, then \$0.20 per 1,000 gallons over 3,000 gallons. By 1959, the population was estimated to be 301 and the 1960 census listed 277. In the 1960s, the natural gas system was operated/supplied by the Kansas-Nebraska Natural Gas Company and the electric system was owned/operated/supplied by Custer Public Power District. A village water project in 1960 amounted to 100 yards

of water main to be installed. The public water system and the 125 meters in service are owned by the village. In 1962, water rates were a flat fee of \$2.50 per month with a \$5 meter deposit and a fire hydrant rental charge of \$2.50. The cost of street lighting and the cost of current for pumping water was \$150 each. In 1965, the village purchased a building to convert into a community building (dedicated on March 11, 1967). In 1966, the high school closed, and with a 1968 vote, the school became a K-8 school.

From 1970-1980, the population held steady at 196. In the fall of 1973, construction of a four-door (40 x 100 ft) fire hall began and was completed in the spring of 1974 (cost \$30,000). A park replaced the vacant Opera House lot on Main & Crawford Streets, which consists of a shelter and playground equipment with sidewalks laid and bushes planted in 1974. By 1976, a band shell, a brick memorial wall, a flagpole and a drinking fountain were completed. In 1977, work began on a new sewer lagoon disposal




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facility designed for 0.014 million gallons per day (mgd). By 2000, the population decreased to 178 and by 2004, the Nebraska Central Telephone Company and Cable USA provided service. On May 19, the school closed with the students choosing to attend either Ansley or Litchfield.

In 2009, the natural gas system was operated SourceGas.

Mason City has been an incorporated village for about 131 years, a Utilities Section Member

for over 40 years and a League Member since 1934. The village operates a water system, which consists of two active wells, a distribution system and a storage stand pipe for 85 residential and five commercial customers. The village also maintains several blocks of hard surfaced (some rock/gravel) streets, along with a facultative retention lagoon wastewater treatment system. The natural gas system is maintained by Black Hills Energy since purchasing SourceGas in 2015.

Some residences have individual propane tanks for gas service. The electrical distribution system is operated/supplied by Custer Public Power District.

References: Nebraska Directory of Municipal Officials, 1956, 1958, 1960, 1962, 1964-75, 1977-87, 1990-95, 1997-2017; Nebraska Municipal Review Magazine, 1925; Mason City 1886-1976, Bicentennial Project, by Loup Valley Queen-Callaway, 1976; History of Custer County, 1919;

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Standard Methods for the Examination of Water, Wastewater

The 1,496-page “Standard Methods for the Examination of Water and Wastewater, 22nd Edition” is available. Standard Methods is a joint publication of the American Public Health Association, the American Water Works Association and the Water Environment Federation.

On June 20, 2012, the EPA approved 115 methods from the 22nd Edition of Standard Methods. For a method that is approved in more than one edition of a compendium, an analyst must, at a minimum, follow the QA/QC in that edition. To improve consistency and ensure reliable results, laboratories are encouraged to phase-in and adopt the QA/QC procedures

specified in the recent, approved editions of that compendium.

Since 1905, analysts, researchers and regulators relied on this peer-reviewed publication. Most labs prefer the hardbound version, but on-line subscriptions also may be available.

State agencies responsible for various water/accreditation programs often adopt the methods used from this manual. Often these are noticed when permits come up for renewal, such as municipal wastewater system permits. If your municipality does lab work where the standard methods are required, be sure to check any updates and incorporate those procedures. Your state field specialist

from NDEQ or DHHS can let you know of any state permit or regulatory changes concerning testing.

All wastewater operators should be aware of what your permit requires. If you use a contract lab, be sure it is using the correct testing method.

Again, it is recommended that those water and wastewater labs that use this EPA-approved methods book need to have the latest version.

Need to get an employee certified in wastewater?

The NWEA has training classes before the state exam Oct. 16-18, 2017, in Norfolk.

More information on registering for the training classes can be found at the Nebraska Water Environment Association website: www.nebwea.org

Note: An application for the exam from NDEQ must be submitted 30 days in advance of the test date.

Parks and recreation insect safety tips

Protect yourself from biting and stinging insects by wearing long pants, socks and long-sleeved shirts. Use insect repellents that contain DEET or Picaridin. Treat bites and stings with over-the-counter products that relieve pain and prevent infection.

Avoid fire ants; their bites are painful and cause blisters. Severe reactions to fire ant bites (chest pain, nausea, sweating, loss of breath, serious swelling or slurred speech) require immediate medical treatment. *Reference: OSHA Quick Card*

Nebraska utilities history

Continued from page 10
Lincoln Journal-Star Newspaper, 2005; North Platte Telegraph Newspaper, 2006; Mason City Transcript, 1929; Sargent Leader Newspaper, 1915-35; Nebraska Our Towns...Central & North Central, 1989; Perkey's Nebraska Place Names, 1995; Nebraska Place-Names, 1925, 1960; Maps

Tell Nebraska's History 1991; Nebraska State Gazetteer & Business Directory, 1890-91; Nebraska Historical Building Survey, Custer County, July 2006; Pioneer History of Custer County and Short Sketches of Early Days in Nebraska, 1901; and the Nebraska Blue Book, 1928, 1946.

“Just For Fun” Answers

- A-1. Benkelman
- A-2. Honey Bee (not mosquito, as some may have guessed)
- A-3. Gibbon
- A-4. Cedar Rapids

Electric ‘Rubber Gloving’ Workshop held

The Norfolk Electric Rubber Gloving Workshop, initially scheduled for May, was postponed to June 20-22, 2017, at the Northeast Community College in Norfolk. About 66 lineworkers were in attendance with 12 from municipalities and about 43 from rural electric systems. Six municipal systems participated at this school with linemen from Auburn, Cozad, Fairbury, Grand Island, Neligh and North Platte.

The workshop started with vendor introductions, which included brief discussions on the various equipment, vehicles and other related electrical material that was provided for use and display by the various companies. A presentation on equipotential grounding was provided by Herman Hardy of the A.B. Chance Company. A.B. Chance, Altec Direct, Energy Solutions, EZ Spot UR Inc., and Moehn Sales had demo trailers with various tools and equipment for display.

The participants were divided into hands-on work groups or stations. The hands-on stations included: Changing out a transformer while keeping the custom-

ers on line, a cross arm change out on a tangent structure, a top phase changeout on a stacked corner pole, a pole change out, and the cutting in/out of bells station. Three basic groups covered a variety of topics starting with the basics of personal protective equipment, coverup material, grounding, truck inspections and setup. Hands-on session started with basic pin top changeout and other maintenance and repair tasks.

The following systems provided the use of bucket trucks for the training: Loup Valley Public Power, Perennial Power District, Norris Public Power District, Elkhorn Public Power District Digger unit, North Central Public Power District (PPD), Stanton County PPD, Truck Equipment, Equipment Technologies Industry (ETI) Equipment LLC and Altec Industries, Inc.

A special thanks to Kevin Kuhlman of Auburn and Scott Bauer of Grand Island who were instructors along with their respective municipalities. Also, thanks to the companies and their representatives who provided trucks, demo



Corner phase change out.

trailers, material and their knowledge when performing rubber gloving techniques (listed alphabetically by company name): Travis Allen of Altec Industries Inc., Bill Larson of Energy Solutions Inc., Cory Megonigle of Truck Equipment, Inc., Brian Winfield of Moehn Sales and Roger Corm of EZ Spot UR Inc.

The Western Rubber Gloving School is scheduled for Sept. 12-14, 2017. Be sure to sign up in advance as we are limited to the first 15 people to register.



Hello Progress

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Training calendar

September

Sept. 6 Backflow Workshop Fire Hall, Ogallala
Sept. 7 Backflow Workshop Boarders Inn & Suites, Grand Island
Sept. 12-14 ... Rubber Gloving Workshop Wheatbelt Training Field, Sidney
Sept. 20-22 ... League Annual Conference Cornhusker Marriott Hotel, Lincoln
Sept. 26 Water Operator Training Workshop Library, Valentine
Sept. 27 Water Operator Training Workshop Village Auditorium, Stuart
Sept. 28 Water Operator Training Workshop Community Center, Sargent

October

Oct. 26 Water Operator Training Workshop City Hall, Auburn

November

Nov. 16 Water Operator Training Workshop MidPlains Community College (North),
North Platte

December

Dec. 6 Water Operator Training Workshop Christensen Field, Fremont
Dec. 7 Water Operator Training Workshop Lincoln Water System, Lincoln

January

Jan. 4 Water Operator Training Workshop Blair
Jan. 11 Water Operator Training Workshop Pawnee City
Jan. 17-19 Utilities/Public Works Section Annual Conference Cornhusker Marriott Hotel, Lincoln
Jan. 24-25 Snowball Conference Holiday Inn, Kearney



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