

NEBRASKA MUNICIPAL REVIEW

■ Gothenburg welcomes \$750M plant —■

■ LARM: Focus on - Current risk management & insurance costs —■

■ Fremont Southeast Beltway opens —■

Official Publication of the League of Nebraska Municipalities

AUGUST 2023



**Aiming
to GROW**

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Looking for the recent Directory updates?

Good news! A list of changes can now be found on the League website! Visit: LONM.org/news

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Fred Wiebelhaus	Loss Control/Claims Manager

CALENDAR

LONM Annual Conference.....	Sept. 27-29, 2023, Cornhusker Marriot Hotel, Lincoln
ICMA Annual Conference.....	Oct. 1-4, 2023, Austin/Travis County, Texas
NLC City Summit.....	Nov. 15-18, 2023, Atlanta, Georgia

Municipal Legal Calendar

(All statute citations to Revised Statutes of Nebraska)

OCTOBER 2023

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 of Council meeting.....	Clerk publishes official proceedings of meeting including claims. (19-1102)
First Day.....	Fiscal year begins. (16-701)
After start of fiscal year.....	Treasurer makes annual report to Mayor and Council. (16-720)
Oct. 9.....	A vote to exceed levy limits must be approved by this date (77-3444)
Oct. 15.....	Final Property Tax Request Certified and forwarded to County Clerk. (77-1632)
Oct. 31.....	Annual Certification of Program Compliance filed with the Board of Public Roads Classifications and Standards (39-2121)
Within 20 days after end of month.....	Treasurer files monthly financial report. (16-318)
Within 60 days after close of fiscal year.....	Treasurer publishes Statement of Receipts and Disbursements. /Semi-annual financial statement published. (16-318) (16-722) (19-1101)
**.....	Clerk must prepare agenda prior to next Council meeting. (84-1411)
Within six months after close of fiscal year.....	Audit of city's accounts completed. (19-2903)

CITIES OF THE SECOND CLASS

Within 10 days following meeting or before next meeting (whichever is sooner).....	Clerk to have minutes available for public inspections. (84-1413)
Within 15 days of Passage.....	Clerk publishes ordinances passed. (17-613)
Within 30 days of Council meeting.....	Clerk publishes official proceedings of meeting including claims. (19-1102)
First Day.....	Fiscal year begins. (17-701)
Oct. 9.....	A vote to exceed levy limits must be approved by this date (77-3444)
Oct. 15.....	Final Property Tax Request Certified and forwarded to County Clerk. (77-1632)
Oct. 31.....	Annual Certification of Program Compliance filed with the Board of Public Roads and Classification and Standards (39-2121)
Within 20 days after end of month.....	Treasurer files monthly financial report. (17-606)
Within 60 days after close of Fiscal Year.....	Treasurer publishes Statement of Receipts and Disbursements. (17-606) (19-1101)
**.....	Clerk must prepare agenda prior to next Council meeting. (84-1411)
Within six months after close of fiscal year.....	Audit of city's accounts completed. (19-2903)

VILLAGES

Within 10 days following meeting or before next meeting (whichever is sooner).....	Clerk to have minutes available for public inspections. (84-1413)
Within 15 days of Passage.....	Clerk publishes ordinances passed. (17-613)
Within 30 days of Board of Trustees' meeting.....	Clerk publishes official proceedings of meeting including claims. (19-1102)
First day.....	Fiscal year commences. (17-701)
Oct. 9.....	A vote to exceed levy limits by election or by townhall meeting must be approved by this date (77-3444)
Oct. 15.....	Final Property Tax Request Certified and forwarded to County Clerk. (77-1632)
Oct. 31.....	Annual Certification of Program Compliance filed with the Board of Public Roads and Classification and Standards (39-2121)
Within 20 days after end of month.....	Treasurer files monthly financial report. (17-606)
Within 60 days after close of Fiscal Year.....	Treasurer publishes Statement of Receipts and Disbursements. (17-606) (19-1101)
**.....	Clerk must prepare agenda prior to next Board meeting. (84-1411)
Within six months after close of fiscal year.....	Audit of Village's accounts completed unless audit requirement waived by State Auditor: (19-2903) (84-304)

ALL MUNICIPALITIES

On or before November 1.....	Each municipality which offers a defined benefit plan pursuant to section 401(a) of the Internal Revenue Code which was open to new members on January 1, 2004, shall submit written notification to the Nebraska Retirement Systems Committee of the Legislature that it offers such a plan. (13-2402)
October 15.....	Each municipality that offers such a defined benefit retirement plan shall file with the committee a copy of the most recent annual actuarial valuation of the retirement plan. The valuation report shall be filed electronically. (13-2402)
October 15.....	Each municipality that offers such a defined benefit retirement plan shall file a report with the committee if either of the following conditions exists as of the latest annual actuarial valuation of the retirement plan: (i) The contributions do not equal the actuarial requirement for funding; or (ii) the funded ratio is less than eighty percent. (13-2402)
October 15.....	Each municipality which offers such a defined benefit plan shall conduct an experience study at least once every four years to review the actuarial assumptions used to determine funding needs for its defined benefit plan. Each such political subdivision shall electronically file a copy of the most recent actuarial experience study with the committee by October 15, 2016, and shall electronically file a copy of each study completed pursuant to this subsection by the next October 15 after completion of the study (13-2402)

Nebraska Municipal Review Editor and Advertising Sales: Ashley Wolfe, 402-476-2829 or ashleyw@lonm.org

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Plan now to attend the League Annual Conference – highlighting important municipal issues and developments to help us govern

BY DEB VANMATRE, MAYOR OF GIBBON,
LEAGUE PRESIDENT

I am looking forward to visiting and learning from other municipal officials at our **2023 League Annual Conference scheduled for Sept. 27-29 at the Cornhusker Marriott**. As League President, I am privileged to welcome **Nebraska Secretary of State Bob Evnen** to give our keynote address during Thursday's luncheon on Sept. 28. Secretary of State Evnen will be educating us on the new voter ID law and other election-related issues. It will be a great opportunity to hear from Secretary of State Evnen about new laws and initiatives under his jurisdiction!

Invaluable Preconference Seminar and training sessions

Don't miss the Preconference Seminar on **Workforce Housing/Affordable Housing**. **Shannon Harner**, Executive Director of the Nebraska Investment Finance Authority (NIFA), will outline how NIFA is working with the League and other organizations to develop a toolkit and proposals to incentivize workforce housing and affordable housing. North Platte Area Chamber and Development Corporation President and CEO **Gary Person**; Sidney City Manager **David Scott**; and Sidney Finance Director **Lane Kizzire** will share how North Platte, Sidney, and other municipalities are using incentives

and their voter-approved LB 840 Plans to address their housing shortage. Norfolk City Attorney **Danielle Myers-Noelle** will explain how the City of Norfolk is establishing a regional landbank to create more housing stock; this will be the first regional landbank in Nebraska. The City of Omaha's landbank currently is not a regional landbank.

Co-Founder of Social Prosperity Partners, **Matt Lehrman**, is a nationally recognized speaker on civility in local government. He was highly recommended by numerous state municipal leagues and other organizations across the country! The May 2023 issue of the *Nebraska Municipal Review* published his excellent article entitled, "Taking the lead: How city officials can promote civility." In addition to delivering the opening keynote address **From Conflict to Conversation** at the Annual Conference on Sept. 28, he will be leading candid discussions in the afternoon, inviting conference delegates to seek insight and advice from colleagues.

One of the most important sessions during the conference will be presented by representatives of state and local law enforcement on **Recognizing and Preventing Human Trafficking in Your City or Village**; unfortunately, human

trafficking is occurring throughout our state in municipalities large and small!

Some of the concurrent sessions offered during the conference include: cybersecurity and infrastructure security; how to leverage social media to better communicate and engage with citizens; an update on broadband; empowering rural communities through UNL's Rural Fellows Programs; how to bridge our rural-urban cultural divides; an update on tax increment financing; how to expedite your funds from FEMA; and the process for establishing Creative Districts to be eligible for additional grants.

Deputy Auditor from the Office of the Nebraska Auditor of Public Accounts **Craig Kubicek**, will update us on recent cases and developments to help us better understand our fiduciary duties and how to implement the internal controls necessary to protect municipal assets and resources. There are important protocols to follow to help us meet our responsibilities and avoid liability.

As League President, I will be presenting the "League Distinguished Service Award" to Buffalo County Sheriff **Neil Miller**. Sheriff Miller will be recognized for his extraordinary leadership, dedication, and exceptional advocacy resulting in then-Governor

Continued on page 5 / See Conference

Planning & strategizing FOR THE future

The League of Nebraska Municipalities Executive Board met on July 28 to approve the budget and begin planning for the upcoming year and beyond.

Their dedication to the League and municipalities across the state can not be overstated. Thank you!



Top left image: (From left to right): North Platte City Administrator & Utilities Manager Layne Groseth; St. Paul Mayor Joel Bergman; Papillion Mayor David Black; and Fremont Mayor Joey Spellerberg. **Top right image:** (From left to right): Board President-Elect & Aurora Mayor Marlin Seeman and his wife, Nancy; Board Vice President & Nebraska City Mayor Bryan Bequette; Sutton City Administrator Jeff Hofaker; and Deshler Mayor Julie A. Deepe. **Middle image:** League President & Gibbon Mayor Deb VanMatre and Ansley Village Chair Catherine-Jo Mills.

Conference

Continued from page 4

Pete Ricketts including \$47.7 million in his American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act Budget in 2022 for transformational COVID-related infrastructure improvements at the Nebraska Law Enforcement Training Center in Grand Island and other legislation which will benefit law enforcement officers and our communities for decades to come. Scottsbluff Chief of Police and City Manager **Kevin Spencer**, worked closely with Sheriff Miller and was presented this prestigious award at the 2023 League Midwinter Conference which Sheriff Miller was unable to attend.

We appreciate the numerous speakers who have committed their valuable time and expertise to present needed

information on new laws, topics, and issues of significance to help us govern more effectively. Don't miss this opportunity to attend the League

Annual Conference to network and share ideas with colleagues from across the state. See you there! ■

MEMO

TO: Members of the League of Nebraska Municipalities
FROM: L. Lynn Rex, Executive Director
DATE: August 2023
RE: Annual Business Meeting



The Annual Business Meeting of the League of Nebraska Municipalities will be held Sept. 29 at 10:30 a.m. at the Cornhusker Marriott Hotel. Agendas will be available at the conference registration desk.



Aiming to GROW

West Point amplifies partnerships in community improvement efforts

Above: An all-inclusive playground at Neligh Park in West Point was made possible by Franciscan Healthcare Physical Therapy Department and by the support of local donors. The park grand opening was held in the fall of 2022. **Below:** Funding from Nebraska's Local Option Municipal Economic Development Act (LB840), which allows for a portion of local tax dollars to be utilized for economic development, has been integral in the construction of new housing. West Point's voter-approved LB840 program contributed to the creation of a duplex project, which was completed in December 2022. Photos provided courtesy of the City of West Point

The Nebraska Department of Economic Development (DED) has recognized the City of West Point (pop. 3,473) for continued efforts to encourage local and regional growth. The city's partnerships to foster business, housing, and recreational opportunities solidified West Point's recertification in Nebraska's Economic Development Certified Community Program (EDCC). Christine Rasmussen, DED's Northeast Housing Program Representative, honored local leaders during a special presentation to the West Point City Council on July 5.

West Point is one of 40 Nebraska communities to earn EDCC status in the program, which is sponsored by the Nebraska Diplomats and administered by DED. State officials established the EDCC program in 2005 to recognize communities for preparedness to attract new industries and grow existing businesses. A qualifying city or village must identify well-defined programming, specific to the community's local and regional economic needs, to create a welcoming environment for new development. This includes documenting available sites and buildings, establishing local financing and incentive programs, and implementing strategic planning for economic growth. West Point



became Nebraska's 39th EDCC community in 2017 and earned recertification in early 2023.

Over the past several years, the city has developed partnerships with community investors, the Nebraska Investment Finance Authority (NIFA), and DED to create regional housing opportunities. Funding from Nebraska's Local Option Municipal

Continued on page 7



Crews pour concrete for the lower walls of the equipment and chemical feed building for the new pool in West Point. The adjacent building is the original bathhouse that is being remodeled and restrooms are being added to the west end of the bathhouse that will be available year-round to accommodate all the activity in Neligh Park. Photo shared courtesy of the City of West Point

DOING MORE with LESS

"We had an opportunity in our village. We needed some new planters on Main Street. As I went around and priced, they can be quite expensive, even on clearance. I found an idea and ran with it.

I talked to our Maintenance/Street Supervisor to see if the Village had any old culverts that he didn't need. He directed me to a pile under some trees! I found some old rusty ones that worked perfect for what I had in mind. I got with my husband that works at Hoskins Manufacturing (local business) and he cut and welded them together!

They looked better than I had expected. We have gotten many compliments on them and thought we would share this idea with others to help make use of what otherwise was just setting around."

- Diane Doffin
Village Clerk, Hoskins

Economic Development Act (LB840), which allows for a portion of local tax dollars to be utilized for economic development, has been integral in the construction of new housing. West Point's voter-approved LB840 program contributed to the creation of a duplex project, which was completed in December 2022. The community has also renovated a former nursing home to create 22 housing units known as the Prospect Ridge Apartments. DED and NIFA supported the project through the HOME Investment Partnerships Program Fund and with Low Income Housing Tax Credits. Local leaders cut ribbon on the new apartments in October 2022.

Community leaders continue to focus on recreational development opportunities to retain and attract families to Cuming County. Voters passed a half-cent sales tax for construction of a \$7 million pool renovation project, which began last fall. The pool project is scheduled for completion by the end of 2023.

An all-inclusive playground at Neligh Park in West Point was made possible by Franciscan Healthcare Physical Therapy Department and by the support of local donors. Community leaders held a ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate the park's grand opening in the fall of 2022.

West Point City Administrator Tom Goulette said the park has been a vital resource for local families. He said new recreational and housing projects will play important roles in youth retention and attraction efforts.

"As a partner to the State of Nebraska, the City of West Point is dedicated to promoting and attracting economic opportunities to thrive in the EDCC program," Goulette said. "Our community also values its existing businesses, which makes recruiting talent to our workforce a top priority. By doing so, we will continue to help attract youth back to West Point to work and raise their families."

In February 2023, Cuming County Economic Development (CCED) opened an Innovation Station, located in a vacant former jewelry business. The Innovation Station includes a co-working/incubator space with five offices, four open workspaces, and a conference room. It is open for residents who need a quiet place to work. Additionally, CCED has just finished working with community leaders in Bancroft, Beemer, Wisner, and West Point on a regional entrepreneurial analysis.

"Creating new spaces to foster our entrepreneurs will provide new tools to help West Point thrive in Nebraska's EDCC program, which promotes creativity in talent retention and attraction," Goulette said. "As interest in entrepreneurship, business and housing projects continues to gain momentum, it's important to provide new ways to encourage growth in our community." ■

Source – Nebraska Department of Economic Development

1.



2.



3.





SAMHSA BLOG

DIGITAL ACCESS: A SUPER DETERMINANT OF HEALTH

Internet access plays a role in numerous health care outcomes—but what does that mean and can it be improved?

—BY **YOSSELIN TURCIOS, M.P.H.**,
OFFICE OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH EQUITY FELLOW, SAMHSA —

Internet access is increasingly recognized as a “super determinant” of health. It plays a role in health care outcomes and influences more traditionally recognized social determinants of health, such as education, employment, and healthcare access.^{1,2} The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) estimates that 19 million people in the United States lack access to reliable broadband service, also known as reliable high-speed internet.³ This phenomenon is known as the digital divide and has focused on rural areas and “pockets of segregated urban areas [that] are also disconnected.”¹

How the Digital Divide Intersects with Equity and Behavioral Health

The nation’s digital divide reflects inequities in who can and cannot access high speed internet.⁴ The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) reports that in 2021, wired high-speed internet use rates were lower in “households where the main renter or owner was 65 years or older, had a disability, or was a

Hispanic, African American, American Indian, or Alaska Native individual”.⁴ Households in rural areas were less likely to use high-speed internet services and costs can make internet access unaffordable for individuals with lower household incomes.⁴ The American Health Information Management Association Foundation found that “while over 8 in 10 households with incomes above \$100,000 used wired high-speed internet service at home, only about five in 10 households with incomes below \$25,000 did in 2021.”⁴

Internet access has become an essential component of daily life and the digital divide has contributed to the time and distance gap between doctors and patients, also known as the broadband health gap.⁵ The Connect2Health FCC Task Force’s (C2H Task Force) Advancing Broadband Connectivity as a Social Determinant of Health Initiative aims to deepen understanding of the relationship

Continued on page 9

At a glance

19 MILLION

The number of people in the United States who lack access to reliable broadband services, according to the FCC.

8 IN 10

households with incomes above **\$100K** used wired, high-speed internet at home.*

5 IN 10

households with incomes below **\$25K** did in 2021.*

STUDIES SHOW

There may be a relationship between broadband connectivity and **diabetes, obesity, cancer, drug mortality, and opioid prescription rates.**

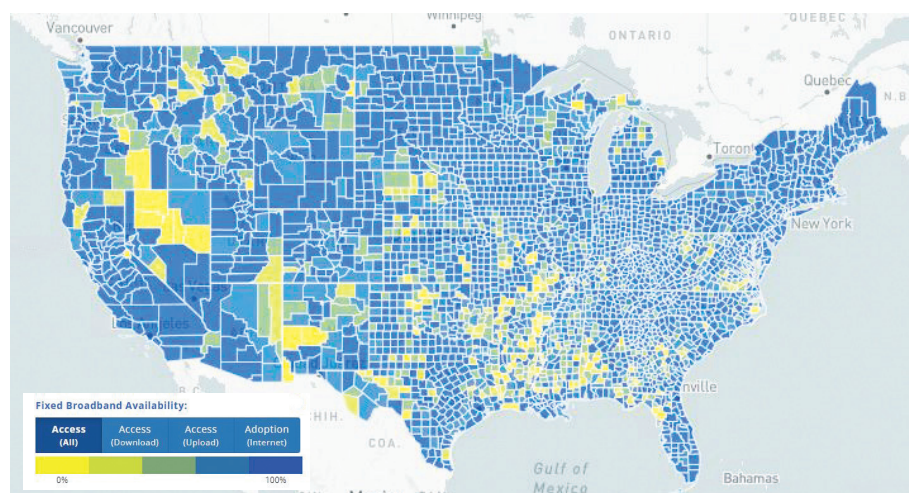
(*According to the American Health Information Management Association Foundation)

between broadband access and health outcomes.⁵ The C2H Task Force created the Mapping Broadband Health in America platform which allows users to visualize, overlay, and analyze broadband and health data at the national, state, and county levels.⁵ Ongoing research from this platform shows that “internet adoption appears to have an even stronger correlation to health outcomes, even after controlling statistically for other potentially confounding factors, such as education, income, and rurality.”⁵ Studies also have shown strong associations between excessive internet use and increased risk of depression.⁶ The C2H Task Force currently is researching the relationship between broadband connectivity and diabetes, obesity, cancer, and drug mortality/opioid prescription rates.⁵

The pandemic prompted the increased use of telehealth for both behavioral health and physical health services⁷ which has led to conversations around digital exclusion and the equitable implementation of telehealth services.⁸ Flexibilities around payment and licensing of telehealth were essential in responding to the surging need for mental health and substance use services during the pandemic.⁷ Rural residents and non-elderly adults are more likely to use telehealth for mental health and substance use disorder visits, especially in areas with fewer providers.⁷ Additionally, clinicians also need reliable and affordable internet access to provide telehealth services. Telehealth has the potential to address gaps in mental health and substance use treatment, make treatment services more accessible and convenient, improve health outcomes, and reduce health disparities.⁹ But this is all dependent on broadband access.

Telehealth as a Tool to Bridge Racial/Ethnic Health Disparities

A systematic review of telehealth



This baseline map visualizes fixed broadband access at the county level and identifies connectivity gaps—the lighter the color, the lower the percentage of households with broadband access. Screenshot from the FCC Connect2Health application.

consultation among racial/ethnic populations found that telehealth-delivered care was effective for treating and managing health conditions including depression, diabetes, and hypertension and received an overall high patient satisfaction rating.¹⁰ Major benefits included financial- and time-savings; barriers were cost and limited health and digital literacy.¹⁰ Telehealth-delivered care can be an innovative tool to bridge racial/ethnic health disparities if delivered in the patient’s preferred language and level of digital competency.

Efforts to Reduce the Digital Divide

A Community Level Example

To optimize the expansion of telehealth services, communities must have reliable and affordable internet access. Wimauma Connects is a free internet Wi-Fi network community initiative that brings internet services to low-income, high-density residential communities in Wimauma Village, Florida.¹¹ This initiative has partnered with local businesses to provide their customers with free Wi-Fi access while also promoting their services. Community-based initiatives like Wimauma Connects are essential to promoting digital

equity and, ultimately, access to telehealth services.

A State Level Example

State broadband expansion programs are key to closing the digital gap because federal broadband funding is primarily awarded to states, localities, and tribal communities.¹² State expansion efforts are being tailored to their needs and proving to be effective. The Pew Charitable Trusts¹³ studied state broadband programs nationwide and found that efforts reflect state political environments, resource levels, geography of areas that are unserved or underserved, and the entities that provide broadband service. For example, states like Colorado, Minnesota, Tennessee, Virginia, and Wisconsin “support broadband deployment in unserved and underserved areas through grant programs that fund a portion of the cost of deployment.”¹⁴ These states also promote “accountability by requiring that grantees demonstrate they are providing the service they were funded to deliver while also providing states with the data needed to evaluate the program and progress toward defined goals.”¹⁴ The report highlights promising broadband expansion

Continued on page 22 / Broadband

USDA makes grants available to help repair community facilities in rural Nebraska damaged by disasters in 2022

Is your community still sorting out repairs on buildings or equipment from disasters last year? Long after storms have quieted and fires are put out, local leaders take responsibility for repairing roofs, equipment, water systems, and other damage that occurs to community facilities. These facilities are essential to community life: providing shelter and services to rural residents.

Now, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development Nebraska can offer grants to help repair essential community facilities that were damaged by disasters in 2022.

“USDA Rural Development Nebraska stands ready to deploy resources to help communities rebuild essential facilities damaged by disasters,” Bolz said.

The facilities must be located in [eligible rural areas](#) with a population of 20,000 or less and must be in [presidentially declared disaster areas](#). These counties include Antelope, Boone, Burt, Cedar, Cuming, Custer, Dixon, Frontier, Furnas, Garfield, Greeley, Holt, Knox, Logan, Pierce, Polk, Red Willow, Sherman, Thurston, Valley, Wayne, Wheeler, and York Counties.

Eligible organizations include public bodies, federally recognized Indian Tribes and community-based nonprofits.

Funds may be used to:

- Repair essential community facilities,
- Replace damaged equipment or vehicles, or
- Purchase new equipment to undertake repairs to damaged facilities.

Disaster-related grants may cover up to 75% of total project cost and the applicant must be unable to finance the proposed project from existing resources or commercial credit. Grant funds may not be used for expenses that have been reimbursed from other sources or that



USDA Rural Development often assists rural communities in their efforts to build, rebuild, and repair essential community facilities. For example, USDA assisted Gosper County in purchasing a new grass fire truck and assisted with repair of the roof of the community center in Steinhauer. Photo provided by USDA Rural Development Nebraska.

other sources (such as insurance) are obligated to reimburse. Funding for the balance of the project may consist of other financial assistance, applicant contributions, or loans and grants from other sources. In-kind contributions are not an acceptable source of cost-sharing funds.

Applications for Community Facilities Disaster Repair Grants will be accepted on a continual basis until all funds are exhausted. There is no minimum or maximum grant limit per project.

USDA Rural Development has extensive experience in working with

rural communities to build, rebuild, and repair essential community facilities. For example, USDA assisted Gosper County in purchasing a new grass fire truck and assisted with repair of the roof of the community center in Steinhauer. USDA Rural Development staff is available to work with you one on one to explore opportunities to repair essential facilities in your community.

For more information on how to apply, contact Kelley Messenger at kelley.messenger@usda.gov or visit rd.usda.gov/ne. ■

Source – USDA Rural Development Nebraska

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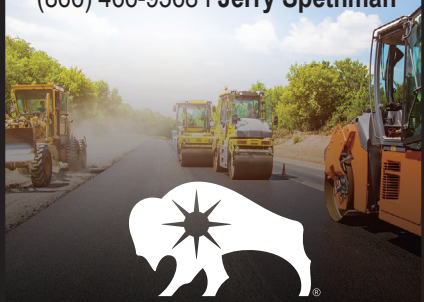
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Gov. Jim Pillen speaks during the announcement celebration for Project Meadowlark in Gothenburg. Pillen commended JWC Gburg LLC for building on the state's tradition of innovation in agriculture. Photos provided courtesy of Gothenburg Improvement Company.

Punching above its weight • GOTHENBURG LANDS \$750M FERTILIZER PLANT

Project Meadowlark, expected to be completed in two years, promises extensive municipal growth

■ BY MIKE KONZ, THE KEARNEY HUB ■

It was more than 20 years ago when farmers around Gothenburg learned to grow food-grade corn. They took the risk, confident that growing the special crop could significantly boost the value of their corn.

Today, every bag of Frito-Lay corn chips sold west of the Mississippi River is made with corn grown in the Gothenburg area and processed at the city's Frito-Lay plant.

Nate Wyatt, president of his community's economic development organization — Gothenburg Improvement Co. — recalled the

Frito-Lay story to illustrate the collaborative, visionary risk-taking attitude that underpins Gothenburg's capacity to punch above its weight.

Wyatt, a financial adviser at Flatwater Bank, said Gothenburg was in the groove last week when JWC Gburg LLC announced plans to build a \$750 million plant to produce liquid fertilizer in Gothenburg.

Wyatt said it's tough to put a number like \$750 million into perspective, but the investment by JWC Gburg LLC nearly equals the \$900 million tax base of Gothenburg Public Schools.

In addition to doubling the school district's tax valuation, the liquid fertilizer plant will boost Gothenburg's rank to the top three electrical consumers among Nebraska Public Power District's heavyweight industrial customers.

Continued on page 18 / See Gothenburg



Above: Gothenburg Mayor, Will Rahjes and Nate Wyatt, President of Gothenburg Improvement Company, address a large crowd at the Project Meadowlark announcement in July.

FOCUS ON:

Current risk management & insurance costs

— **BY DAVE BOS**, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
LEAGUE ASSOCIATION OF RISK MANAGEMENT —



As we look toward 2024, many municipal officials have concerns about rising insurance rates. In this column, Dave Bos, Executive Director of LARM, offers a glimpse into the reasons behind this and what can be done to help ease the burden on municipalities.

The room at the League of Nebraska Municipalities Municipal Accounting and Finance Conference in May was packed when Justin Swarbrick, Senior Vice-President for Alliant Insurance Services, spoke about the rising costs of municipal insurance.

Municipal finance specialists and elected officials from across Nebraska had already been concerned about the rumors of predicted 15-30% increased insurance costs for the next fiscal year. After his presentation, when Swarbrick asked if there were any questions or comments, one participant noted wryly, “You’re not giving us any good news.”

He wasn’t. As a Nebraska-based risk management pool, we at LARM are also seeing the results of billion-dollar disasters, high construction costs, and increased property values. Because of these factors, LARM members also have seen increased contribution rates which is hard to swallow when you’re already putting together tight budgets.

In the past, it might have cost \$50,000 to repair a hail-damaged roof on a maintenance building. Now it might be triple that amount. Severe storms and fires that have destroyed vast amounts of property in the United States over the last three years have been detrimental to the insurance industry. If you add all the other wind, flooding, snowstorm, and fire losses across the country, you can see why insurance companies have to raise their rates to pay for those claims.

In the 1980s, public entities faced a similar insurance crisis as

rates increased and some policies were even canceled, which is happening again today to some entities with commercial policies. Because of the crisis in the 1980s, the League of

Nebraska Municipalities helped a group of Nebraska municipalities form their own risk management pool. In 1995, with 13 participating municipalities, the Nebraska Department of Insurance granted the League Association of Risk Management (LARM) its “Certificate of Authority” to operate a risk management pool. I’m proud to say LARM recently added its 208th member.

Municipalities across Nebraska continue to contact LARM for risk management and insurance solutions. Along with top-notch customer service, LARM also provides loss control services to assist members in identifying and analyzing risks with a goal of preventing property, liability and workers’ compensation losses. We are a pool that exclusively covers Nebraska governmental entities. As we

“Insurance rates have gone up, and with the rise in interest rates, property values, and inflation, this may be the story for insurance costs in the foreseeable future.

If you haven’t considered belonging to the LARM risk management pool, now is the time to do so.”

- Dave Bos
Executive Director, LARM

like to say - “We know Nebraska.”

Insurance rates have gone up, and with the rise in interest rates, property values, and inflation, this may be the story for insurance costs in the foreseeable future. If you haven’t considered belonging to the LARM risk management pool, now is the time to do so.

For more information about municipal risk management, go to www.larmpool.org. ■

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'The internet is no longer a luxury'

USDA allocates another \$667 million toward rural broadband

— BY JACOB FISCHLER
THE NEBRASKA EXAMINER —

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) will spend another \$667 million on rural broadband loans and grants, the department said on Aug. 21, marking the fourth round of Biden administration funding under a program that the 2021 infrastructure law invigorated.

Nearly three-quarters of the funding, \$493 million, will go toward grants, Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack said on a press call previewing the announcement. The latest round of funding awards will go to 38 projects in 22 states and the Marshall Islands, according to a release from the USDA.

Nearly \$100 million will go toward grants for three projects in Alaska, which is receiving more than any other state in this round of funding.

Among the states included in this round are: Alaska, Arkansas, Arizona, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nevada, New Mexico, North Carolina, Ohio,

"We're delivering this funding because the internet is no longer a luxury. It's a necessity to fully participate today's society."

- Mitch Landrieu

Oregon, Virginia, Washington and Wisconsin.

Each recipient requires U.S. House and Senate sponsors and, because of the program's rural focus, many of the House sponsors are Republicans. Some of both chambers' most conservative members endorsed projects that are funded.

Most are small telecommunications companies or cooperatives.

The USDA's ReConnect program is responsible for

Continued on page 17 / See Internet

Internet

Continued from page 16

selecting grant and loan recipients, seeking to fill gaps in high-speed internet access. The program was created on a trial basis in 2018, and Congress added billions in new funding for it in the \$1.2 trillion bipartisan infrastructure law.

The grants and loans allow for broadband access in areas that otherwise would not be profitable for the private sector to provide service.

"We're delivering this funding because the internet is no longer a luxury," Mitch Landrieu, the White House coordinator for the infrastructure law, said. "It's a necessity to fully participate today's society."

High-speed internet would allow better access to services including telehealth, remote learning, precision farming and other opportunities in rural areas, Landrieu said.

President Joe Biden believes in building infrastructure in all parts of the country, Vilsack said.

"The reality is that we have faced some challenging times in rural places," the former Iowa governor said. "When we talk about broadband and high-speed internet it really is basically creating the opportunity for people, regardless of their ZIP code, to have a sense of connection, a sense that the federal government cares deeply about their economic opportunity and about their families."

The funding also serves a climate purpose, Vilsack said.

Farmers looking to take advantage of new climate-smart commodities markets, a program that pays agricultural producers to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, would need access to technology that depends on high-speed internet, he said.

High-speed internet also is useful for precision farming, a management practice that requires a large amount of high-resolution data, Landrieu said.

The infrastructure law provided \$65 billion for high-speed broadband deployment. The administration is aiming to spend up to \$90 billion on broadband deployment, Landrieu said.

Vilsack announced \$714 million in ReConnect loans and grants in June and \$500 million in September 2022. More funding announcements should be expected in the coming months, he said. ■

Source - The Nebraska Examiner. Read more from the Examiner at nebraskalexaminer.com



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Gothenburg

Continued from page 13

Delivering all of that energy will require infrastructure improvements of nearly \$100 million, NPPD President and CEO Tom Kent told a standing-room-only crowd at the announcement.

Planning for JWC Gburg LLC's Project Meadowlark — as the fertilizer plant is called — began six years ago, but the announcement last week couldn't have been more timely. There will be many benefits from the new plant. Chief among them, according to Wyatt, will be a reliable, stable and adequate supply of fertilizer for crop production.

Supply chain disruptions and rising costs for natural gas created by Russia's war on Ukraine have driven up fertilizer expenses for crop producers.

In two years when Project Meadowlark is complete, liquid fertilizer made in Gothenburg will serve a market that stretches north to Valentine, south to Hays, Kansas, east to York and west to Yuma, Colorado.

The fertilizer will be manufactured in the heart of the Corn Belt, so shipping costs will be contained, and many of the ingredients will be locally available, such as water from Gothenburg's water treatment plant.

Planners are betting that Project Meadowlark creates supply and price stability for fertilizer users. The project is getting off the ground as pressure increases on U.S. farmers to feed more people around the world.

As Gov. Jim Pillen told the crowd at the announcement, when he was young, farmers were excited with yields of 50 bushels per acre. Wyatt said today, the norm is 220-240 bushels per acre, and that elite producers are bringing in 280-300 bushels. Consistently growing so much corn is going to require more fertilizer, Wyatt said.

According to JWC Gburg LLC, its Project Meadowlark will have a negative carbon footprint. The plant will produce liquid fertilizer through electrolysis technology using carbon dioxide from Gothenburg's wastewater treatment system.

JWC Gburg LLC claims its technology is more efficient and friendlier to the environment than traditional liquid

fertilizer production with natural gas.

Meadowlark Project will use renewable energy provided by Nebraska's public power providers, liquid carbon dioxide from ethanol plant and power plant emissions, and water from Gothenburg's groundwater and wastewater plant.

A carbon-free energy resource will be provided by Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District and Dawson Public Power District. Central and Dawson currently are

in the process of merging to become Platte River Public Power and Irrigation District.

According to JWC Gburg LLC, the plant will manufacture up to 1,000 tons per day of ammonium nitrate, 400 tons per day of ammonium thiosulphate and 20 million gallons per year of diesel exhaust fluid.

The project will receive federal and state help from tax incentives and grant funds from the U.S. Department of Energy as part of a regional "hydrogen hub."

The new plant will need a full-time workforce of 50 people. Indirectly, it's anticipated the plant will help create an additional 246 local and regional jobs.

State Sen. Theresa Ibach said the reliable availability of fertilizer will boost farmers' profitability.

"It's hard to make it (in farming), and this is really going to be a benefit," Ibach said.

Wyatt said big undertakings like Project Meadowlark usually bring challenges with them. Among the big challenges will be housing the 50 workers the plant will hire. Gothenburg recently received \$800,000 to help boost housing stocks. Wyatt said the money resulted in 20 new homes, but in two years when JWC Gburg LLC opens its plant, Gothenburg needs to be prepared with additional housing.

Wyatt said Gothenburg's can-do attitude among agricultural and business leaders is a major community asset and that municipal leadership is in capable, experienced hands with City Administrator Gary Greer.

Wyatt said he prefers the challenges brought by growth as opposed to decline.

"Boy, what a great challenge it is to be dealing with growth," he said. ■

Reprinted with permission from the Kearney Hub

"Gothenburg's can-do attitude among agricultural and business leaders is a major community asset and that municipal leadership is in capable, experienced hands with City Administrator Gary Greer."

- Nathan Wyatt

President, Gothenburg Improvement Company

Gov. Pillen joins NDOT and local dignitaries to celebrate Fremont Southeast Beltway opening



On July 18, the Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT), together with Gov. Jim Pillen and other local leaders, gathered to celebrate the opening of the Fremont Southeast Beltway. Through the collaborative efforts of NDOT, City of Fremont, Dodge County, Lincoln Premium Poultry and other community investments, work was completed ahead of schedule on the \$62 million project.

The project was originally scheduled for the 2024 construction season, but due to the growing need to improve mobility and support truck traffic associated with economic growth of the region, the project timeline was accelerated to 2020 thanks to local financial support. Work began in July 2020 with anticipated opening in July 2023.

“The Fremont Southeast Beltway is a perfect example of how Nebraskans work together to get big things accomplished. The City of Fremont and its partners came together with NDOT to accelerate this project because they understood collaboration was

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Interruption to **4** planting seasons

1 project team

0 lost time incidents

Continued on page 24 / See Fremont

Top: Gov. Jim Pillen addresses attendees at the celebration of the Fremont Southeast Beltway on July 18.

Middle: Fremont Mayor Joey Spellerberg touches on the economic impact the beltway will have for Fremont and surrounding areas. **Bottom:** NDOT Director Vicki Kramer talks about the tremendous challenges that were overcome to ensure this project was a success, while Fremont Sen. Lynne Walz looks on. Photos courtesy of NDOT.



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Above and bottom right: The new Columbus Community Building was officially unveiled to the public on July 8. The voter-approved, \$32-million building was completed on time and budget and will be home to many municipal offices in Columbus. Photos shared courtesy of the City of Columbus.

‘Where collaboration lives’

Columbus celebrates grand opening of Community Building

BY MATT LINDBERG PUBLIC COMMUNICATION
MANAGER, CITY OF COLUMBUS

Thunderous applause could be heard early on July 8, 2023, along 14th Street as hundreds of residents packed outside the Columbus Community Building for its grand opening.

“This is such an exciting event for us and all of you. This voter-approved, \$32-million project was completed on time and on budget,” Columbus Mayor Jim Bulkley said to the crowd, moments before cutting the ribbon, to many cheers. “We figured out that working together gets things accomplished. This is a great example of what that means – coming together for the common good, for a common cause, for the betterment of our community.”

The immaculate 75,000-square-foot, 55-feet high building is supported by one million pounds of structural steel and features a new two-level Columbus Public Library (with a quarter-mile of shelving); City Hall; City Council Chamber and community room; as well as the Columbus Arts Council, among other things. The Columbus Area Children’s Museum and a remote location of The Broken Mug are expected to open at a later date.

Far more than 1,000 residents stopped by on July 8th to help celebrate and tour the open spaces within the building. Certain



spots in the building are still being worked on, but it was important to the City of Columbus for residents to be able to see the building as soon as possible as City Hall officially opened for operations to the public on July 5.

Many residents in attendance expressed their excitement as they walked through the facility, which came together thanks to the hard work of BVH Architecture; general contractor Boyd Jones Construction, and its 51 subcontractors and suppliers; as well as the city and its eight additional subcontractors and suppliers. “It was not done overnight,” City Engineer Rick Bogus said.



Columbus Mayor Jim Bulkley, center, prepares to cut the ribbon to open the Columbus Community Building on July 8, 2023, during a ribbon-cutting ceremony. Among those pictured with him include City Administrator Tara Vasicek; City Council President Beth Augustine-Schulte; Council members Rich Jablonski, Ron Schilling, Katherine Lopez, J. Prent Roth, and Charlie Bahr; Sen. Mike Moser; and City Engineer Rick Bogus.

“There were over 150,000 hours of skilled labor put into this project ...”

Although many from the public had been awaiting the building’s opening, the construction came together relatively quickly when considering site clearing occurred in 2020 and an official ground-breaking ceremony occurred in the fall of 2021.

But the concept for the Columbus Community Building was no quick-fire idea. It dates back to 2007-2008, hatched out of the Columbus Area Chamber’s community-wide planning session that inspired the idea to create four new quality-of-life centers in the community.

The first three, a new East-Central District Health Department, the Columbus Wellness Center that features the Columbus Family YMCA, and Columbus High School’s STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) Program, had previously come to fruition. The Columbus Community Building was the last step in that process.

“This building stands as a symbol of the community’s collective vision - a vision that was fueled by the desire to enhance our residents’ quality of life by bringing together amenities in Columbus many enjoy and many have so long desired,” City Administrator Tara Vasicek said. “It’s a testament to what can be achieved when we work together, hand in hand, toward a common goal.”

K.C. Belitz, who was recently appointed as director of the Nebraska Department of Economic Development (DED) by Gov. Jim Pillen, said ahead of the grand opening celebration that the new building will be an anchor for downtown Columbus

and represents what’s great about the local area. He was the local Chamber president and part of the Quality-of-Life initiatives years ago.

“You just have to step back and appreciate what Columbus has done. There’s a reason we say Columbus is a place where collaboration lives. There’s a reason we say Columbus is the ‘City

of Power and Progress.’ This project, this building and the things that are going to happen inside of it are the living embodiment of both of those phrases,” Belitz said, noting the CCB represents the conclusion of the Quality-of-Life Centers project. “It’s an extraordinary step forward ...”

The Columbus Community Building came to be after voters in the November 2020 general election approved the issuance of bonds not to exceed \$10 million to be paid by the half-percent sales tax (approved by voters in 2016).

The City Hall portion is covered using the City’s general fund revenue. Nearly 50% of the Columbus Community Building was paid for with donations and cash in hand

Residents of all ages made their way through the building, stopping for enjoyable programming at the Columbus Public Library, such as face-painting and balloon animals, and the chance to participate in projects with the Columbus Arts Council. There were plenty of smiles, laughs, and well-wishes shared throughout the event. That’s what the building was meant to be – a hub for everyone to enjoy together.

“It’s a place to gather, collaborate, and foster lasting connections,” Vasicek said to the crowd during the grand opening. “To create lasting memories.” ■

“This voter-approved, \$32-million project was completed on time and on budget. We figured out that working together gets things accomplished.”

- Columbus Mayor Jim Bulkley

Broadband

Continued from page 9

practices such as collaborating with state broadband program representatives, internet service providers, local governments, and broadband coalitions.¹³ Other practices include stakeholder outreach and engagement, policy framework, planning and capacity building, funding and operations, and program evaluation and evolution.¹³ Policymakers and service providers can examine practices in these states and adapt them to fit their needs and contexts to bridge the broadband gap.¹⁴

A Federal Level Example

On a national level, the FCC and NTIA have led the Biden-Harris Administration's national "Internet for All" initiative. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law includes a \$65 billion investment to ensure all Americans can access affordable, reliable, and high-speed internet.¹⁵ The NTIA has been tasked to lead three programs funded by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, working alongside states, localities, the private sector, and nonprofits to build America's high-speed internet infrastructure.¹⁵ The FCC's Affordable Connectivity Program is a benefits program that provides a discount toward internet services for eligible households to ensure they can afford broadband. In addition to providing funds for internet services, the FCC updates its National

Broadband Map to improve specific location-level data about broadband services across the nation. Public users now can view the maps, search for their address, and file a challenge directly with the FCC to correct or add information to the map.¹⁶ States and localities need accurate data and maps to target funding and resources and bring broadband to underserved communities.

A Call to Action

The strong relationship between broadband access and health outcomes has inextricably linked digital equity and health equity.⁵ Broadband access is increasingly viewed as a way to connect providers and patients and reduce the burdens of distance and time.⁵ Moreover, broadband connectivity can impact the social drivers of health.⁵ While there are pockets of the population that "are still falling through the broadband health gap," there are significant efforts to promote digital equity.⁵ Given federal, state, and local investments in broadband expansion, now is the time to bridge the digital divide and gain traction in reducing health disparities. ■

Source - SAMHSA

For source citations visit: <https://www.samhsa.gov/blog/digital-access-super-determinant-health>

RESOURCES

Below are a list of funding opportunities and resources that are actively working to promote broadband access.

EveryoneOn - <https://www.everyoneon.org/lowcost-offers> - EveryoneOn works with a wide range of internet service providers (ISPs) and device providers to feature their low-cost internet service programs and computers on the platform. They help bring low-cost internet service and affordable computers to those who need it.

FCC Affordable Connectivity Plan - <https://www.fcc.gov/acp> - an FCC program that provides a \$30 subsidy on monthly broadband (internet service) bills for qualifying low-income households. It gives up to \$75 per month to households on qualifying tribal lands and can give one-time discounts to buy a laptop, desktop computer, or tablet.

Lifeline - <https://www.lifelinesupport.org/get-started/> - a federal program that gives people from eligible households a monthly discount for phone and internet services. Lifeline benefits can be used separately or together with Affordable Connectivity Program benefits.

Internet for All - <https://www.internetforall.gov/programs> - a federal initiative to provide \$65 billion in funding to states, communities, and internet providers to improve planning, infrastructure, and adoption of high-speed internet.

Capital Projects Fund - <https://www.internetforall.gov/program/capital-projects-fund> - a program that helps state governments fund capital projects and infrastructure. It works to expand high-speed Internet to deliver vital services.

ReConnect Loan and Grant Program - <https://www.internetforall.gov/program/reconnect-loan-and-grant-program> - a program that helps expand high-speed internet access in rural areas and funds support construction, facilities, and equipment.

FCC National Broadband Map - <https://broadbandmap.fcc.gov/home> - a map that displays where internet services are available across the United States, as reported by ISPs to the FCC. The map will be updated continuously to improve its accuracy through a combination of FCC verification efforts, new data from internet providers, updates to the location data, and—importantly—information from the public.

Mapping Broadband Health in America - <https://www.fcc.gov/health/maps> - a platform that allows users to visualize, overlay, and analyze broadband and health data at the national, state, and county levels. The maps are an interactive experience, enabling detailed study of the intersection between connectivity and health for every county in the United States. The resulting maps can be used by public and private sectors and local communities to identify opportunities and gaps in connectivity and care.

DED to offer Community Development Block Grant Administrator Training in October

The Nebraska Department of Economic Development (DED) will host Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Certified Grant Administrator Training on Oct. 3-6, for those wishing to certify initially and those needing to recertify. The training is a requirement for those administering CDBG grants in Nebraska.

DED administers federal CDBG funding on behalf of the State of Nebraska to counties and incorporated municipalities within non-entitlement areas throughout the state.

The CDBG program is designed to develop viable communities by creating a suitable living environment and expanded economic opportunities, with the primary goal of benefiting low- and moderate-income persons.

To become certified, individuals need to attend the four-day course in its entirety and pass an exam.

This year's training will take place Oct. 3-6, in Hearing Room 031A of DED's office, located at 245 Fallbrook Blvd, Suite 002, Lincoln, NE 68521. Check-in will begin at 8:30 a.m., with training starting at 9:00 a.m. To register for this training, visit: <https://opportunity.nebraska.gov/training/>.

The deadline to register is Sept. 5, 2023.

For questions about the course, contact Gina Doose at 402-310-9772 or gina.doose@nebraska.gov. ■

Source – NE Dept of Economic Development

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Fremont

Continued from page 19

key,” said Gov. Pillen. “This beltway is an investment for the future – for families who call Fremont, the county and the region, home. It will serve not only Fremont, but also Nebraska as a whole, as it connects farms to markets and improves the free flow of commerce along the U.S. 275 and U.S. 30 corridor.” The Fremont Southeast Beltway improves traffic flow on U.S. 77 and provides regional connectivity. It is an expressway that includes four travel lanes, bridges over railroad tracks and local roads, and a new U.S. 77/U.S. 275 interchange. The project was completed with state funding provided through the Build Nebraska Act and the Transportation Innovation Act with contributions from the City of Fremont. The consultant for the project

was Schemmer Associates, Inc. out of Omaha. Graham Construction out of Omaha was awarded the construction contract in May of 2020.

Director Vicki Kramer noted, “This project came on the heels of the floods of 2019 and broke ground during the pandemic. Despite these challenges, the project not only stayed on schedule, but through coordination with Graham Construction, was completed early. This project is a great example of how partnership from the community can supplement the Build Nebraska Act and the Transportation Innovation Act to accomplish large capital improvement projects across the state.”

“We are pleased to have played a part in bringing this project to fruition and look forward to the benefits it will bring to

our community,” said Jessica Kolterman, Director of Administration for Lincoln PremiumPoultry. “We also want to thank our neighboring businesses, Dodge County and the City of Fremont for a successful collaboration that will result in future growth and regional connectivity.”

“The Southeast Beltway is vital not only to Fremont, but to the entire region. It will increase the safety of our roads and support the freight needs of businesses like Lincoln Premium Poultry, Wholstone

Farms and Fremont Beef,” said Fremont Mayor Joey Spellerberg. “We are pleased with the partnerships that accelerated progress in the area and to the commitment from the community to safety and to the future for our community and our families.” ■

Source – Nebraska Department of Transportation

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Positions

City Clerk/Treasurer, Benkelman.

The City of Benkelman, is accepting applications/resumes (both required) for the position of Administrative Assistant. The position would become City Clerk/Treasurer upon retirement of current Clerk/Treasurer. Applications/Resumes will be accepted until filled. Description of Work: Under direction, maintains official records of the City. Manages the City's financial accounting, payroll, investments and data processing

operations. Must be able to attend council meetings. The City of Benkelman has great benefits and competitive wages. Send applications/resumes to cityben@bwtelcom.net or City of Benkelman, PO Box 347, Benkelman, Nebraska 69021

Director of Finance, Scottsbluff.

Salary: \$87,425.52 - \$117,158.34

Description of the Job: The Finance Director is an exempt position responsible for the financial operations

of the City of Scottsbluff, and whose primary duty includes the exercise of discretion and independent judgment with respect to the financial oversight of the City. The Finance Director performs all statutory duties assigned to the city treasurer. This position is charged with providing leadership and direction to all employees involved in the handling of city finances. These duties include: overseeing revenues and expenditures, preparing

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Positions

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all financial reports, depositing all funds received by the city, preparing and monitoring the city budget, directing the investment of city funds, preparing documentation for and assisting bond counsel with bond issues, collecting and tracking special assessment districts, maintaining the fixed assets inventory, developing recommendations for policies on purchasing including maintaining adequate cash flow, and assisting with the preparation of the annual audit. This position requires solid written and verbal communication skills, strong organizational and time management skills, a positive and energetic attitude, and a service-oriented disposition. This position reports to the City Manager. Applications available: www.scottsbuff.org.

City Administrator, Alma. The City of Alma, population 1,043, located in south central Nebraska next to the beautiful Harlan County Lake is accepting applications for City Administrator until position is filled. Alma is a progressive City that offers residents a well-balanced mix of commerce, recreation, churches, and residential neighborhoods in a family-like community setting. The City Administrator is responsible for coordinating, overseeing, and managing the operations of all city departments. Bachelor's degree, or equivalent experience, in public administration, business administration or related field preferred. Individual with experience

in personnel management, economic development and budgeting/finance is desired. Ideal candidate will have a strong work ethic, grant writing ability, excellent skills in communications, computer literacy, strategic planning, a participatory leadership style, and a desire for community involvement and building partnerships. Salary scale is \$37-\$84K depending on qualifications. Benefit package is included. More extensive job description is available on our website. Application can be downloaded from our website www.almacity.com and returned with a resume to City Clerk, P.O. Box 468, Alma, NE 68920-0468 or cityclk@almacity.com

City Treasurer/Finance Director, Gering. Salary: \$75,712.00 - \$111,862.40 - The Finance Director plans, supervises and coordinates the

City's fiscal and accounting activities including: financial accounting and reporting; internal controls; internal auditing; management of financial software systems; payroll processing; billing and collection of locally-administered utilities, taxes, and fees. Minimum Qualifications: Bachelor's Degree in Accounting, Finance, or Business, plus experience of progressively responsible financial employment. CPA, CMA, CGFM Certification and Municipal Government experience preferred. An approachable personality, excellent communication skills, a solution-oriented problem solver, willing to take initiative, and ability to interact in a professional and respectful manner with staff and public. A full job description and application can be obtained on the City of Gering website www.gering.org. ■

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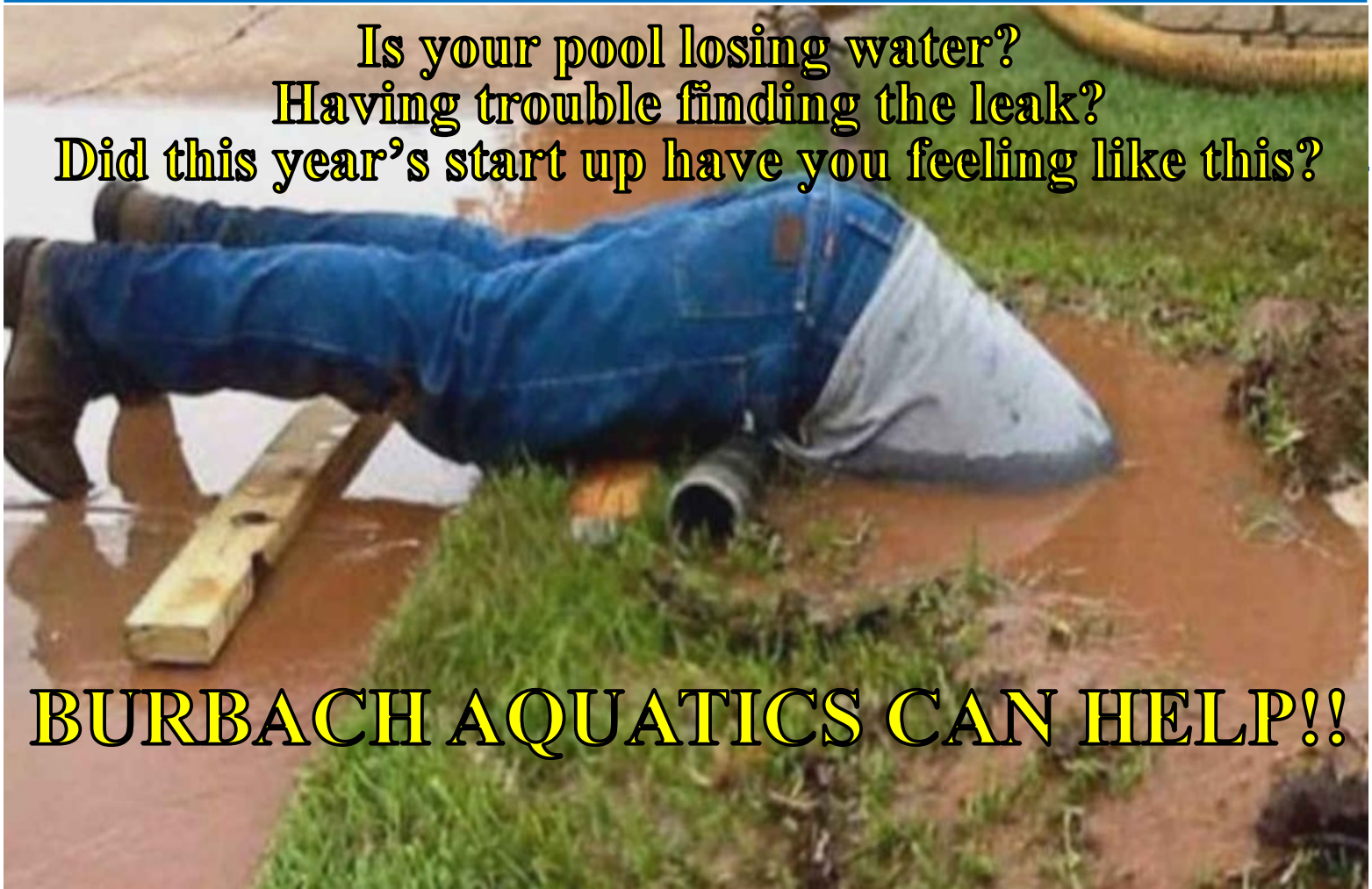


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