

NEBRASKA MUNICIPAL REVIEW

Official Publication of the League of Nebraska Municipalities

MAY 2022

■ Google data center under construction
in northwest Omaha

■ City of Plainview receives 2022
Governor's Showcase Community Award

■ Bills enacted during 2022 session
of interest to municipalities



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MAY 2022

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*Nebraska State Capitol.
Nebraska art teacher Reinhold Marx-
hausen represents the technologies and
techniques used to build Nebraska's
third state Capitol in this large public
mural on the second floor of the Cap-
itol. © iStock.com.*

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Larger Cities Legislative Committee

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Jeff Hofaker, City Administrator, Sutton
Jessica Meyer, City Administrator, Syracuse
Kyle Arganbright, Mayor, Valentine
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Drew Cook	Customer Service Specialist
Elizabeth Becker	Executive Administrative Assistant/ Customer Representative

CALENDAR

Annual Conference..... Sept. 14-16, 2022, Cornhusker Marriott Hotel, Lincoln
NLC City Summit..... Nov. 16-19, 2022, Kansas City, Mo.

Municipal Legal Calendar

(All statute citations to Revised Statutes of Nebraska)

JULY 2022

CITIES OF THE FIRST CLASS

July 1	Chair of the Park and Recreation Commissioners must file with City Clerk an itemized statement of all expenditures of the Park and Recreation Board. (16-697)
Between July 10 and July 30	Advertise for Class C Liquor License renewals. (53-135.01)
Between July 15 and August 15	Job titles and salaries of employees shall be published. (19-1102)
Prior to publication of notice of budget hearing	Council prepares proposed budget statement and makes it available to the public. (13-504) *Does not apply to cities with a biennial budget that are in the second year of the biennial budget period.
On or before August 20	County Assessor certifies to each governing body the current valuation of all property subject to the applicable levy. (13-509)
On or before September 30	Budget Statement filed with County Clerk and State Auditor (13-508) *Does not apply to cities with a biennial budget that are in the second year of the biennial budget period.
Within 10 working days following meeting or before next meeting (whichever is sooner)	Clerk to have minutes available for public inspection. (84-1413)
Within 15 days of passage	Clerk publishes ordinances passed. (16-405)
Within 30 days following Council meeting	Clerk publishes official proceedings of meetings, including claims. (19-1102)
Within 20 days after end of month	Treasurer files monthly financial report. (16-318)
*	Clerk must prepare agenda prior to next Council meeting. (84-1411)
End of Each Quarter	Report from Depository Banks due. (16-714)
By July 31	Clerk files Lane Mile Report with Nebraska Department of Transportation (39-2517 and 39-2518)

VILLAGES AND CITIES OF THE SECOND CLASS

Between July 10 and July 30	Advertise for Class C Liquor License renewals. (53-135.01)
Between July 15 and August 15	Job titles and salaries of employees shall be published. (19-1102)
Prior to publication of notice of budget hearing	Governing body prepares proposed budget statement and makes it available to the public. (13-504) *Does not apply to cities with a biennial budget that are in the second year of the biennial budget period.
On or before August 20	County Assessor certifies to each governing body the current valuation of all property subject to the applicable levy. (13-509)
On or before September 30	Budget statement filed with County Clerk and State Auditor. (13-508) *Does not apply to cities with a biennial budget that are in the second year of the biennial budget period.
Within 10 working 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 or posts ordinances passed. (17-613)
Within 30 days following Council meeting	Clerk publishes official proceedings of meeting including claims. (19-1102)
Within 20 days after end of month	Treasurer files monthly financial report. (17-606)
*	Clerk must prepare agenda prior to next Council or Board meeting. (84-1411)
By July 31	Clerk files Lane Mile Report with Nebraska Department of Transportation (39-2517 and 39-2518)

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

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Thirteen State Senators will not return to the Legislature in 2023, including 7 Chairs and several Vice Chairs of key legislative committees

BY L. LYNN REX, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, LNM

While certainly it is an honor to be elected to serve in the Legislature, there are significant personal sacrifices made by Senators and their families, not the least of which is a substantial time and financial commitment. Senators only are paid \$12,000 a year plus a per diem when the Legislature is in session and mileage when traveling to Lincoln during the interim. In addition to long hours during the legislative session, State Senators and their staff members work throughout the year responding to constituents, attending interim study hearings and participating in endless meetings throughout their districts.

Eleven of the 13 Senators not returning to the Legislature in 2023 will have served two consecutive four-year terms and will be term limited out of office. **Sens. Tim Gragert and Steve Lathrop** decided against running again. **Thanks to all these Senators and their respective staff members for their years of dedication and support of legislation introduced on behalf of the League benefitting cities and villages across the state.** Many of these Senators also consistently collaborated with the League to provide critically important leadership to successfully oppose bills detrimental to the interests of municipalities.

Sens. Curt Friesen, Robert Hilkemann, Dan Hughes, Mark Kolterman, Steve Lathrop, John Stinner and Matt Williams were elected by their colleagues to chair key legislative committees as noted on page 5. In addition, the following Senators serve as Vice Chair of important committees: **Sen. Matt Hansen** – Government, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee; **Sen. John McCollister** – Legislative Performance Audit Committee; **Sen. Adam Morfeld** – Education Committee; and **Sen. Patty Pansing Brooks** – Judiciary Committee. **Sen. Matt Williams** is Chair of the Banking, Commerce and Insurance Committee and also serves as Vice Chair of the Health and Human Services Committee. **Sen. Brett Lindstrom** is Vice Chair

of the following three committees: Retirement Committee; Revenue Committee; and Banking, Commerce and Insurance Committee. **These Senators are some of the best and brightest serving in the Nebraska Legislature.** Although their departure from the Legislature will be a tremendous loss of years of leadership and experience, it will be an opportunity for other Senators to step into leadership roles.

Obviously, there is not enough space to identify all the significant legislation of importance to municipalities introduced and/or passed due to the leadership of these Senators. **Here are just a few of the League's highest priorities and the Senators who successfully collaborated with the League and others to enact the legislation.** Thanks to **Sen. Lathrop** for his longstanding support of legislation benefitting municipalities! Although Sen. Lathrop decided against seeking another four-year term, he served eight years before being term limited out in 2015. The League has had the privilege of working with him during his 12 years of service on several of the League's most important priorities. In 2010, he introduced and advocated successfully for passage of **LB 779 to adopt the Sports Arena Facility Financing Assistance Act, the enabling legislation for the Ralston Arena.** (The arenas in Ralston, Lincoln and Omaha provide 30 percent of their respective turnback state sales tax to the Civic and Community Center Financing Fund (CCCCFF).) In 2011, Sen. Lathrop introduced and led the negotiations and floor debate with former **Sen. Brad Ashford** on **LB 397 relating to the Commission of Industrial Relations (CIR) reform with significant amendments to the Industrial Relations Act which governs comparability requirements for same or similar work.** In 2012, Sen. Lathrop played a critical role in passing **LB 357, introduced by**

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13 Senators leaving the Legislature



Sen. Curt Friesen



Sen. Tim Gragert

Departing Senators with chairmanships:

Sen. Curt Friesen, Transportation Committee Chair

Sen. Robert Hilkeman, Committee on Committee Chair

Sen. Dan Hughes, Executive Board Chair

Sen. Mark Kolterman, Nebraska Retirement Systems Chair

Sen. Steve Lathrop, Judiciary Committee Chair

Sen. John Stinner, Appropriations Committee Chair

Sen. Matt Williams, Banking, Commerce and Insurance Committee Chair



Sen. Matt Hansen



Sen. Robert Hilkeman



Sen. Dan Hughes



Sen. Mark Kolterman



Sen. Steve Lathrop



Sen. Brett Lindstrom



Sen. John McCollister



Sen. Adam Morfeld



Sen. Patty Pansing Brooks



Sen. John Stinner



Sen. Matt Williams

11 leave because of term limits; Sens. Gragert and Lathrop decide against seeking reelection



Sixty-day session makes history

BY GOV. PETE RICKETTS

The 2022 legislative session will go down in history as one of the Nebraska Unicameral Legislature's finest. In just 60 days, lawmakers passed record tax relief, made critical public safety enhancements and invested in generational water resource projects. As if this weren't enough, Senators also allocated \$1.04 billion of federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding.

Here are some highlights of this historic session.

Tax relief

The crowning achievement was tax relief. Heading into this session, we had delivered \$4 billion in direct property tax relief over the past eight years. The tax package I signed into law, **LB 873**, delivers an additional \$3.4 billion of tax reductions to Nebraskans through tax year 2027. When fully implemented, LB 873 will provide 12 times the tax relief of any tax relief bill passed in any prior administration.

LB 873 is meaningful for Nebraska. Our seniors will see an accelerated phaseout of state taxation of Social Security income, which now will be fully exempt in tax year 2025. This keeps more money in our seniors' pockets in the face of rising inflation and encourages them to stay in Nebraska to

see their grandkids grow. Nebraskans now can have certainty that property tax reductions will continue. LB 873 makes permanent the property tax relief passed in 2020. This year, taxpayers received a 25.3 percent rebate from the state on what they paid into their local schools in property taxes. Additionally, the tax package creates a new rebate on property taxes paid to community colleges. The rebate will be \$50 million for the 2022 tax year and grow to \$195 million by tax year 2026.

Our hardworking middle-class families will receive much-needed tax relief through a reduction to their income tax rate. We will reduce the tax rate from 6.84 percent to 5.84 percent by the 2027 tax year. The legislation ensures our businesses also will have a tax rate of 5.84 percent by that same year. These changes will allow Nebraska to be more competitive with surrounding states.

Public safety

This session, Senators embraced Nebraskans' strong support of law enforcement and made strategic enhancements to public safety.

The Legislature followed my recommendation to allocate \$47.7 million to add capacity to the Nebraska Law Enforcement Training Center in Grand

Island. This investment will allow our new recruits to receive training that's second-to-none. Senators also approved my proposal for \$16.9 million to upgrade and expand our State Patrol Crime Lab. This will ensure the State Patrol has the capacity to process evidence efficiently and bring justice for victims of crime.

Additionally, we enacted legislation to strengthen our law enforcement workforce. We established reciprocity for out-of-state law enforcement officers to help them more quickly find jobs after moving to Nebraska. We also helped law enforcement agencies recruit and retain officers by paying for incentives for years of service. We provided tax relief on healthcare premiums for retired law enforcement age 60+ with 20+ years of service. And, the state will provide a 100 percent tuition waiver to law enforcement studying at the university system, state colleges or community colleges.

At a time when others are defunding the police, Nebraska is demonstrating its commitment to the women and men who put on the blue to protect our communities.

Water resources

The Legislature made additional investments for future generations

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of Nebraskans. This spring, I signed landmark legislation to protect and develop our water resources.

We enacted **LB 1015** to authorize construction of the Perkins County Canal, which will protect our water flows stemming from the South Platte River. Nebraskans currently depend on this water for our drinking supply, agricultural irrigation, power generation and the health of our natural environment. Through LB 1015, we will be able to get this vital project moving right away.

The Legislature also gave the green light on other water infrastructure projects through **LB 1023**. Senators approved four major projects put forward by the STAR WARS Committee: construction of a new marina at Lake McConaughy; a major marina expansion at Lewis and Clark Lake; construction of an event center and lodge at Niobrara State Park; and creation of a 3,600-acre reservoir between Lincoln and Omaha. These investments will develop Nebraska's

water resources to generate additional recreation and tourism opportunities.

Senators also passed a \$1.04 billion ARPA budget to address the impacts of the coronavirus pandemic. Among other provisions: it invests \$60 million to create more capacity at our community colleges; it allocates over \$120 million for affordable housing; it devotes \$100 million for shovel-ready projects delayed by the pandemic; it boosts healthcare by investing in behavioral health facilities and a rural health complex in Kearney; and it creates grants to expand meat processing capacity to benefit our ag producers and consumers.

Legislators also passed major legislation to revitalize urban areas adversely impacted by the coronavirus. **LB**

1024 creates economic recovery grants to support job training, small business growth and land development in North Omaha, South Omaha and other qualifying census tracts throughout the state.

On top of these ARPA investments, Senators prioritized growth in rural Nebraska by extending and expanding the Nebraska Rural Development Act. They also created tax credits to encourage fuel retailers to sell E15 and higher blends of ethanol.

In my end-of-session speech to the Legislature, I summed up all of these accomplishments in a single word: Wow! Any one of these would have been considered historic, but all four efforts passed in a short, 60-day session is truly remarkable. ■



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Thirteen State Senators will not return to the Legislature in 2023, including 7 Chairs and several Vice Chairs of key legislative committees

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former **Sen. Brad Ashford**, over **Gov. Heineman's** veto to authorize municipalities to increase their local option sales tax from a maximum 1.5 percent to 2 percent with a local vote of the people. In 2022, **Sen. Lathrop** introduced and successfully advocated for passage of **LB 1241 to expedite the reciprocity process for law enforcement officers certified in another state desiring to work in Nebraska**; the bill also amended the definition of "training academy" operated by multiple agencies and expressly allows any officer to retire in good standing without completing continuing ed requirements for the year. **LB 1241** also adopts the Law Enforcement Attraction and Retention Act to provide incentives for officers. Thanks to **Sen. McCollister** for his years of work with former **Sen. Dan Watermeier** to pass **LB 284 in 2019 to require online sales and use tax provisions for certain out-of-state retailers and multivendor marketplace platforms**. **LB 284** helped equalize the playing field for brick-and-mortar retailers who pay property taxes and contribute to community events, foundations and programs.

Thanks to **Sen. Stinner** for his work during several legislative sessions with former **Sen. Dan Quick** resulting in passage of **LB 424 in 2020 to amend the Nebraska Municipal Land Bank Act to enable any municipality in the state to create a regional land bank**; the City of Lincoln is allowed to establish its own land bank independently. Prior to passage of **LB 424**, only the City of Omaha had the authority to establish a land bank. Although Omaha's land bank is the only one currently in existence, regional land banks are being developed in Gering, McCook, Norfolk and Scottsbluff. Land banks are an important tool to help municipalities confront the problems caused by vacant, abandoned and tax-delinquent properties and convert them into vibrant places within the community. Thanks to **Sen. Stinner** for also providing the leadership on **LB 1014 passed in the 2022 session allocating \$47.7 million of American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act dollars to address needed COVID-related infrastructure improvements at the Nebraska Law Enforcement Training Center (NLETC) in Grand Island**. **Gov. Ricketts** included this \$47.7 million in the ARP Act budget he proposed in **LB 1014** as originally introduced;



2022 Legislature. Staff photo.

Sen. Stinner successfully advocated to keep the \$47.7 million for the NLETC throughout the various stages of consideration. **This historic funding for the NLETC was the League's highest priority for the use of ARP Act funds.**

Thanks to **Sen. Kolterman** for leading a broad-based coalition over two years to pass **LB 1107 in 2020 to adopt the "Imagine Nebraska Act" which replaced the Nebraska Advantage Act to modernize our state's economic development platform with increased transparency and accountability to retain and attract businesses with high-paying jobs.**

Last but not least, thanks to **Sen. Friesen** for his long-standing support of funding and flexibility for constructing state and local transportation infrastructure. In 2015, **Sen. Friesen** worked with former **Sen. Jim Smith** who introduced **LB 610, to successfully override the Governor's veto to increase the fixed motor fuels tax rate by 1.5 cents every year for four years.** He also worked again in 2016 with **Sen. Jim Smith**, who introduced **LB 960 on behalf of the Governor, to adopt the Transportation Innovation Act to establish a Transportation Infrastructure Bank, help expedite the completion of the expressway system and authorize alternative contracting methods for the construction of state transportation projects.** ■

ARPA funds City of Omaha Hotel Stimulus Program

The City of Omaha created a program to help the city's tourism industry that will provide nearly \$5 million to help Omaha hotels recover from pandemic-related losses.

The Hotel Stimulus Program is funded with American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA) money.

The city invited 68 eligible hotels to apply for funding and received 46 qualifying applications, totaling \$4,489,600 for expenses, including planned expansions or upgrades delayed during the pandemic or improvements to mitigate or prevent infections.

"We need a healthy hotel industry," said Visit Omaha Executive Director Deborah Ward. "It is fundamental to the success of tourism and tourism is an integral part of our city's economy, (and) important to Omaha's continued recovery."

Ward described the program as a true economic stimulus. Hotels will hire electricians, plumbers and construc-

tion subcontractors to complete work in their facilities.

Visitor spending declined by nearly \$350 million in 2020 as hotels, restaurants and entertainment venues closed or reduced services and conventions and meetings were canceled. Hotel revenue dropped 51 percent, equivalent to \$113 million compared to 2019, wiping out more than a decade of growth. Hotel revenue started to come back in 2021, but is still down \$18 million.

"Tourism is a vital industry in Omaha," Mayor Jean Stothert said. "This is a true stimulus plan to help our hotel industry and our city's economy."

The Omaha City Council approved the Hotel Stimulus Program funding package May 3. Hotels must submit quarterly reports to account for all spending.

The City of Omaha received \$56 million in ARPA funds from the U.S. Treasury and expects to receive another \$56 million at the end of May.



Omaha Mayor Jean Stothert

In addition to the Hotel Stimulus Program, the city has announced a \$15 million program to support non-profit organizations and \$10 million for improvements to public spaces, including city parks. The largest appropriation will be to develop affordable housing. ■

Source – City of Omaha

Directory of Municipal Officials

Position/Information Changes

Municipality	Title	Delete	Add
Columbus	Fire Chief	Daniel Miller	Ryan Gray
Fullerton	City Administrator	James Kramer	Allen Chlopek
McCook	Utilities Director	Jesse Dutcher	Pat Fawver
Prague	Board Member	Greg Ourada	Ed Ourada
Spencer	Board Chairperson	Derek Bentz	Kyle Krotter
	Board President	Kyle Krotter	Georgia Chicoine
	Board Member	Georgia Chicoine	Gary Rikli
Wisner	Email	vowoffice@compoint.com	vowoffice@conpoint.com
	Utility Superintendent	Kevin Cleveland	Zach Morris
	Sewage Plant Operator	Kevin Cleveland	Zach Morris
	Sewer/Water/Refuse Comm.	vacant	Scott Stenwall
	Light Commissioner	vacant	Chris Hansen



Accepting the award from front left is Becky Vogt, University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL); Chris Rasmussen, Nebraska Department of Economic Development; Deb Pahling, Nebraska Department of Economic Development; Dr. Mary Dougherty, Plainview LB 840 Board. In center, holding plaque, Lt. Gov. Mike Foley and Plainview Mayor Brian Schlote. On the right from Mayor Schlote: Susan Norris, Plainview/Pierce County Economic Development; Daniel Janke, USDA Rural Development; Courtney Retzlaff, Plainview City Clerk. Back row from left: Charlotte Narjes, University of Nebraska-Lincoln; Marilyn Schlake, University of Nebraska-Lincoln; Jeremy Tarr, Plainview City Administrator; Tyler Sanne, Plainview City Council Member; and Robert Smith, Plainview City Council Member.

City of Plainview receives 2022 Governor's Showcase Community Award during celebration of Community Development Week

Lt. Gov. Mike Foley visited the City of Plainview in April to present local officials and economic developers with the 2022 Governor's Showcase Community Award. The award is presented to one Nebraska community each year during the annual celebration of Community Development Week, in recognition of outstanding achievements in local and economic development over the previous five years.

Shining example

"Plainview sets a shining example of what can be achieved when a community is able to band together, rally around a clear vision and execute on concrete goals for a brighter future," Lt. Gov. Foley said. "Our congratula-

tions to Plainview's leadership, as well as each and every one of its citizens, for a job well done. The entire community should be proud of what they have built together as a team. We look forward to seeing what else Plainview has in store."

Proclamation signed

Gov. Pete Ricketts signed a proclamation earlier proclaiming April 11-15 as Community Development Week in the State of Nebraska. Coinciding with National Community Development Week, the event is about celebrating the people and projects that make quality of life improvement and economic growth possible across Nebraska.

Specifically, the week-long event

highlights the contribution of the federal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME) programs toward making community betterment projects achievable.

Local leaders on hand

Local leaders were on hand to accept the Governor's Showcase Award on behalf of the City of Plainview.

"We are thrilled to be recognized with this award," said Susan Norris, Director of Economic Development for the City of Plainview & Pierce County Economic Development. "It takes everyone working together toward a common goal and vision to achieve success. Watching Plainview

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transform and grow over the last five years due to strong collaborative partnerships between the city, its local boards and organizations, UNL Rural Prosperity, USDA, PCED and Five Rule Planning has been exciting. The smart growth strategy that was developed as a result of those partnerships helped us achieve our goals for growth, housing, economic development and place-making faster than we thought possible.”

Plainview is a great place to raise a family, our strength is in our citizens,” Plainview City Administrator Jeremy Tarr said. “We have active board members and passionate volunteers who dedicate their time to Plainview. They are the backbone of our community. Working hand-in-hand with the city and the economic development director, they strive to make Plainview a better place for their families and future generations. Bettering a community is an all-in effort, and thanks to our great citizens, that is what pushed Plainview to improve. Our accomplishments have not come without hard work, risk and financial commitments. I believe, as a community, we will continue to improve and grow as we move forward with our goals.”

Strong determination

Plainview’s accomplishments over the past five years are evidence of strong determination by local leaders and residents alike to confront local challenges and pursue opportunities for growth head-on.

Faced with a slowing business and housing climate, city officials in 2017 created the position of Economic Development Director, also partnering with the University of Nebraska-Lincoln’s Rural Prosperity Nebraska

program to create a path for the future based on the concept of Entrepreneurial Community Activation. This meant getting the whole community engaged and involved – through surveys, discussions and outreach – in identifying needs and creating a path forward for Plainview that would achieve positive results.

Blueprint developed

After months of discussion, residents emerged with a blueprint for the future that centered on five key strategies:

1. Plainview would rally around a new vision for growth that embraced the past while pursuing the future; this would be embodied in a new economic development logo and local slogan – “Middle of Everywhere.”
2. The city would execute a well-coordinated economic development plan with a focus on filling vacant storefronts, opening more businesses, revitalizing the downtown, attracting industry and creating jobs.
3. There would be a renewed focus on housing with goals to include neighborhood redevelopment, low-to-moderate income housing development, developing open lots for future homes and building at least 12 new homes per year.
4. There would be a focus on maintaining and developing amenities to retain and attract residents, such as community parks, walking trails, a new community center and local churches.
5. The community would provide leadership and entrepreneurial training to develop, identify and nurture the local leaders of tomorrow.

Each of these plans has already begun to bear fruit. For example, before 2017, there were 11 vacant or abandoned buildings in Plain-

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City of Plainview receives 2022 Governor's Showcase Community Award during celebration of Community Development Week

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view's downtown business district. Since November of the same year, 13 downtown buildings have been sold to house new businesses and there are currently zero vacancies. A full 18 new businesses, on top of two expansions, have resulted in the creation or retention of 60 jobs.

Received CDBG

Plainview also successfully received a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) in 2020 for downtown revitalization that will produce new storefronts and a more vibrant atmosphere within the city's bustling commercial district.

In 2019, Black Hills Energy chose Plainview as the location for its new 3,000-square-foot regional service center. This involved the purchase of five acres of land; the facility currently houses four permanent office staff while being used by an average of 20 service technicians from across northeast Nebraska on a weekly basis.

On the housing front, six new homes have been constructed in recent years, with four townhomes currently under development, thanks in part to support from a federal workforce housing grant. The city also is working with developers to purchase land for four multi-unit rental duplexes and 16 single-family homes. Other housing developments include the remodeling of two apartment buildings that transitioned to new ownership in 2021.

Big strides

When it comes to quality of life, Plainview continues to make big strides. For example, Chilvers Park has been refurbished with new playground equipment, picnic shelters, volleyball courts, a new communal fire pit and numerous other amenities. In November 2021, the city embarked on a capital campaign for a new community center, which will not only provide new indoor space for events, sports and fitness, but will enable new options for early childcare education.

In that vein, the city saw the opening of Hayly's Happy Hearts Daycare in 2021 and is now exploring the construction of an early childhood education center for 70 children ages six weeks to 12 years.

Health care programs debuted

Other new developments include new dentistry, medical, mental health, pharmacy and nursing programs that have recently debuted in Plainview.

"On behalf of my department and the entire State of Nebraska, we enthusiastically congratulate Plainview for earning this year's Governor's Showcase Community Award," said DED Director Anthony L. Goins. "We are thrilled to see a community demonstrate such a strong commitment to growth and such a solid determination to create a better quality of life for its citizens, today and in the future. This recognition is rightfully deserved and the people of Plainview should be extremely proud." ■

Source – Department of Economic Development

Minatare City Clerk celebrates 40 years on the job

It was 1982 and Ronald Reagan was president, the new Vietnam Veterans Memorial was dedicated in Washington, D.C. and Carolyn Nelson began working for the City of Minatare. After 40 years, this city clerk has worked with 11 Mayors and the best thing she likes about her job is working with the citizens of Minatare.

"They are a great bunch of people and I consider all of them my

friends and love them all," she said, adding that she has been proud to have been part of building the new water system and the Dollar General Store.

"Minatare is a great small town, everyone is friendly and not afraid to speak to you and converse on the street," she said. "God bless Minatare."

Nelson plans to retire soon, although she has not set a specific date. ■

Source – Celeste Sanchez, Minatare City Council Member.



Carolyn Nelson, Minatare City Clerk

LARM – What do your public image snapshots say about you?

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

Everyone knows that reading one paragraph out of a book doesn't tell a whole story. But, what if one paragraph or even worse – one snapshot – was all you had to show the world about who you are? And, what if that paragraph or snapshot was defined by an outside observer who doesn't know you very well? I think it's fair to say that it most likely wouldn't be the most accurate depiction of who you really are.

As a public employee, you might feel like you're always being observed, analyzed or even recorded, which isn't necessarily a bad thing. After all, you are where you are because public trust has been placed in you.

How could it ever happen that you might negatively be defined by that one paragraph or snapshot? Well, it's not really that hard and although there are countless ways, one example comes from just trying to fit in. Let me try to explain.

Have you ever been in a situation where someone tells an insensitive or crude joke to a group of people you just happen to be standing with when you, to fit in, smile or even laugh because that's what others were doing at that moment although you didn't find

the joke funny or even appropriate? If the answer is yes, you might have created a negative snapshot of yourself in the eyes of a casual observer when the snapshot that observer now holds of you is not truly reflective of who you really are. It is as simple as that.

The accurate and positive image others have of good people can be changed to that of a negative and

inaccurate image in an instant. Public employees will always be under the focus of somebody else's eyes and every public employee should make a point of looking through those eyes, seeing what others see and setting a personal standard where you always consider the long-term cost of a short-term laugh and making your snapshot(s) worth sharing! ■



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Google office building in Ontario. JHVEPhoto. © iStockphoto.com

Google data center under construction in northwest Omaha

Google announced plans to invest more than \$750 million in Nebraska this year, including a new data center in northwest Omaha near State Street and Blair High Road.

National investments

Nationally, Google plans to invest about \$9.5 billion in offices and data centers and create at least 12,000 new full-time Google jobs across the United States this year. Alongside Google's existing data center in Council Bluffs, Iowa, which it is continuing to invest in this year, and its Papillion data center, the company will have three major facilities in the Omaha-Council Bluffs metropolitan area.

"Google's offices and data centers provide vital anchors to our local communities and help us contribute to their economies. As we embrace more flexibility in how we work, we believe it's more important than ever to invest in our campuses and that doing so will make for better products, a greater quality of life for our employees and stronger communities," said Sundar Pichai, CEO of Google and Alphabet.

12,000 jobs created

"That's why we're planning to invest approximately \$9.5 billion in U.S. offices and data centers this year, creating more than 12,000 Google jobs in communities across the country."

Google also intends to contribute \$100,000 to the new Central Public Library project, a transformational addition to the Greater Omaha region.

Mayor says thanks

"Thank you, Google, for recognizing the potential in Omaha and our state with your investment in Nebraska," Mayor Jean Stothert said. "It will join other significant economic investments to enhance our region with opportunities and resources. We are grateful for your investments not just in infrastructure, but also in nonprofit projects, technology and education."

Google creates economic opportu-

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nities across the Cornhusker state. In 2019, Google broke ground on a data center in Papillion where more than 120 people work in a variety of full-time and external supplier roles, including computer technicians, engineers and various food service, maintenance and security roles.

"Thank you to Google for choosing to grow in Nebraska with a \$750 million investment. Added to the \$600 million investment in 2019, Google has put well over a billion dollars into its operations in the Cornhusker state," Gov. Pete Ricketts said.

Low interest loans delivered

With a \$185 million commitment, Google established the Grow with Google Small Business fund and Opportunity Finance Network's (OFN) grant program funded by Google.org. The fund has delivered low interest loans to more than 50 community development financial institutions, including the Citizens Potawatomi Community Development Corporation and Self-Help Credit Union with services in Nebraska, who in turn provided loans to tens of thousands of underserved small businesses.

Google also released its 2021 Economic Impact Report for Nebraska, sharing how Google helped provide

\$40.8 billion of economic activity for tens of thousands of businesses, publishers and nonprofits in Nebraska who used Google products last year to increase their online presence and connect with the people and communities they serve.

Creative ecosystem

YouTube's creative ecosystem supported 394,000 full-time equivalent jobs in the United States in 2020. YouTube's creator ambassadors who reside in Nebraska include EatMoveRest and Furniture Flipping Teacher. eCreamery in Omaha is highlighted in Google's Economic Impact Report for Nebraska in a case study that details how they used digital tools to reach customers. Owners Abby Jordan and Becky App have used Google tools to market their business, eCreamery Gourmet Ice Cream and Gelato, from the start. They run both a retail

website with customizable flavors and labels and two neighborhood storefronts in Omaha.

Determined referral traffic

"Google Analytics helped us determine referral traffic and optimize our landing pages for organic traffic," Jordan said. They could see which flavors people were searching for, like butter brickle (popular in the Midwest) and green tea (added as a result of that search insight). When both stores temporarily shut down during the COVID-19 pandemic, the team rallied around the e-commerce side of the business. In 2020, they shipped to all 50 states and doubled their year-over-year online revenue. "Google Ads made sure we appeared in the right places, where people were looking for a heartfelt, delicious, personal gift," Jordan said. ■

Source – City of Omaha

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2022 Legislature adjourns sine die



George W. Norris Legislative Chamber. Legislature on last day of 2022 session. Staff photo.

Bills enacted during 2022 session of interest to municipalities

— **BY CHRISTY ABRAHAM**
LEGAL COUNSEL, LNM —

The Nebraska Legislature adjourned sine die April 20, 2022. The 2023 session is scheduled to begin Jan. 4, 2023.

During the 2022 session, 593 bills were introduced. There were 684 bills introduced during the first session for a combined total of 1,277 bills for the 107th legislative biennium. An additional 95 “A” bills (appropriations bills) were introduced this session. One hundred forty-five bills were approved by the Governor in 2022. The

Governor vetoed four bills and the Legislature overrode the gubernatorial vetoes on three of them (**LB 1011e**, **LB 1012e** and **LB 1013e**). There were two resolutions delivered to the Secretary of State’s office: **LR 14**, a resolution to Congress for a convention of the states to propose amendments to the U.S. Constitution; and **LR 263CA**, a constitutional amendment to authorize any city, county or other political subdivision that operates an airport to expend revenue for developing regularly scheduled commercial passenger air service at the airport.

This article lists some bills enacted by

the Legislature that may be of interest to municipal officials.

Hundreds of bills were introduced in the 2022 legislative session that the League of Nebraska Municipalities supported, opposed or monitored, according to prior directives or policies of the League Executive Board. The bills that the League Executive Board directed to be introduced on behalf of the League and the bills that the board voted to support are marked with a **[League]**. The Executive Board met before the 2022 legislative session to review recommendations of

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the League Larger and Smaller Cities Legislative Committees and met during the legislative session.

Legislation enacted in 2022 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 2022 legislative session take effect July 21, 2022.

Copies of the bills can be found on the Legislature's website at <http://nebraskalegislature.gov/>.

LB 742 (Introduced by Bayard Sen. Steve Erdman) Allows for minutes to be kept as an electronic record under the Open Meetings Act. The bill allows all public entities to keep minutes in written form or as an electronic record. **[League]**

LB 800 (Introduced by the Urban Affairs Committee) Cleans-up statutes governing cities of the metropolitan class. The Standing Committee Amendment to LB 800 incorporates the provisions of six other municipal-related bills including: LB 555, LB 724, LB 727, LB 799, LB 842 as amended, and LB 1189, as amended. **LB 555** requires that reports filed under the Municipal Density and Missing Middle Housing Act include the percentage of residential areas in the city which have been declared substandard and blighted or extremely blighted under the Community Development Law. **LB 724** amends the Local Option Municipal Economic Development Act, otherwise known as LB 840, to authorize use of funds for the development and implementation of an affordable housing action plan. It also authorizes cities of the first class, cities of the second class and villages

to include grants, loans and funds for the construction of housing as part of an affordable housing action plan under the Act. **LB 727** eliminates unnecessary and redundant language related to sanitary and improvement district (SID) elections. **LB 799** clarifies reporting requirements under the Municipal Density and Missing Middle Housing Act. **[League]** **LB 842** authorizes tribal governments to apply for and receive grants under the Civic and Community Center Financing Act (CCCFA). **[League]** Finally, **LB 1189** provides that if a sanitary drainage district, which lies solely within the zoning jurisdiction of a city is discontinued, all funds, assessments and property owned by the district will revert to the city or a riverfront development authority created by the city. **Effective Date: April 19, 2022.**

LB 809 (Introduced by Columbus Sen. Mike Moser) Allows the Drinking Water Revolving Fund (Fund) to buy or refinance the debt obligation of a municipality or public water supply system; increases the allowable amount of grant and loan forgiveness from the Fund from 50 to 75 percent of eligible project costs for a municipality or public water supply system serving 10,000 or less; and authorizes agreements from the Fund with all municipalities or public water systems to provide grants and loan forgiveness, for up to 75 percent of eligible project costs, concurrent with loans to public water systems for lead service line replacement projects. The Standing Committee Amendment to LB 809 incorporates provisions of **LB 924** that amends the Waste Reduction and Recycling Incentive Fund to expand an eligible use of the fund to allow grants for reimbursement of

costs to cities of the first class for the deconstruction of abandoned buildings. **[League]**

LB 820 (Introduced by Lincoln Sen. Matt Hansen) changes population thresholds for cities of the metropolitan class and cities of the primary class.

LB 840 (Introduced by Gordon Sen. Tom Brewer) Increases the maximum prices newspapers can charge for providing legal advertising space. It also removes the prohibition of publishing legal notices in Sunday newspapers.

LB 927 (Introduced by Omaha Sen. Rich Pahls) Changes the Convention Center Facility Financing Assistance Act relating to the arenas in Lincoln and Omaha by amending the definition of a convention and meeting center facility to add parking facilities that are nearby, but not connected to the convention and meeting center facility. The bill also provides that state assistance may be used to acquire, construct, improve or equip nearby parking facilities and increases the amount of state assistance from \$75 million to \$150 million for any one project. The Standing Committee Amendments incorporate the provisions of **LB 818**. That bill amends the Sports Arena Facility Financing Assistance Act to allow the Ralston Arena to construct nearby parking structures, increase the limit on the total sales tax turnback from \$50 million to \$100 million, and strike the requirement that the state assistance be paid within 20 years of the issuance of the first bond for the facility. The amendment also provides that from July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024, a municipality is eligible for a grant of assistance under the Civic and Community Center Financing Act only if the municipality partners

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Bills enacted during 2022 session of interest to municipalities

Continued from page 17

with a certified creative district. An additional amendment changes how 10 percent of Omaha's 70 percent throwback sales tax is distributed in areas with a high concentration of poverty in Omaha. Finally, the provisions of **LB 1250** were added to the bill that change provisions of the Property Tax Request Act to make the Act more workable. **[League]**

LB 983 (Introduced by Sen. Moser) Changes provisions of the county industrial tract statutes including: clarifying that storage of personal property is not included in the definition of industry; changing the process when a municipality asks for a review of the uses of a county industrial tract; requiring the owners of property within the tract to prove that the tract is still being used for industry; and providing that if owners in the industrial tract do not appear at the hearing, the county board is required to remove the industrial area designation. **[League]**

LB 984 (Introduced by Sen. Moser) Raises the amount businesses receive for collecting and remitting sales and use taxes to 3 percent of the first \$5,000 in sales and use tax collected.

LB 998 (Introduced by Omaha Sen. Justin Wayne) Changes the Municipal Inland Port Authority Act to allow a non-profit economic development corporation to apply directly to the Department of Economic Development for the designation of an inland port authority if the city or county has not taken steps to create one. With the Standing Committee Amendment, a port authority is not authorized to grant funds to any business located within the boundaries of such authority. **Effective Date: April 19, 2022**

LB 1014 (Introduced by Speaker Mike Hilgers of Lincoln) Appropriates



Capitol rotunda, April 2022. Staff photo.

\$779,812,800 of the \$1.04 billion in federal funds allocated to the State of Nebraska pursuant to the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA). Included in the bill is \$47.7 million for COVID-related infrastructure improvements to the Nebraska Law Enforcement Training Center (NLETC) in Grand Island. **[League] Effective Date: April 14, 2022**

LB 1024 (Introduced by Sen. Wayne) Creates the Economic Recovery Act that appropriates \$450 million in federal funds for economic recovery of communities within qualified census tracts located within the boundaries of Omaha that were disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19, with an emphasis on housing needs, job training and business development within such communities. The bill also creates the Coronavirus Capital Projects Fund that appropriates: no more than \$35 million to eligible projects that are located within the 2nd Congressional District and within

Omaha for multipurpose community facilities; no less than \$40 million to eligible projects that are located within the 1st Congressional District which contains a city of the primary class; and no less than \$40 million to eligible projects that are located in cities of the second class and villages within the 3rd Congressional District. Any funding for broadband projects under the Coronavirus Capital Projects Fund will be consistent with the Nebraska Broadband Bridge Act except that the requirements for matching funds are waived. **Effective Date: April 19, 2022**

LB 1065 (Introduced by Sen. Wayne) Changes the Community Development Law relating to redevelopment plans receiving an expedited review (micro-TIF) by changing the dollar amount for projects eligible for expedited review; clarifying that expedited review projects be in the corporate limits of the city; allowing a vacant

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lot to qualify in certain circumstances; changing the length of indebtedness for micro-TIF from 10 to 15 years; and clarifying that a municipality may declare a portion of an area as substandard and blighted following a substandard and blighted study or analysis. **[League]**

LB 1144 (Introduced by HENDERSON Sen. Curt Friesen) Reduces the match required under the Nebraska Broadband Bridge Program from 50 percent to 25 percent. The Standing Committee Amendment includes the provisions of five additional bills: **LB 914** requires the Public Service Commission to create and maintain a Nebraska fabric location broadband access map. **LB 1234** provides for an expedited process for telecommunications companies to obtain a permit to place telecommunications facilities across railroad tracks. **LB 1021** adds affordability to the requirements the Public Service Commission may regulate and provides that the quality-of-service obligations also will apply to broadband service offerings made by recipient companies who receive broadband support from the Broadband Bridge Fund. **LB 761** establishes the Precision Agriculture Infrastructure Act. **LB 1214** allows for slower speed tiers to be funded under the Broadband Bridge Act. **Effective Date: April 20, 2022 for all provisions except the provisions of LB 1234 and LB 761, which become operative on July 21, 2022**

LB 1165 (Introduced by Bellevue Sen. Rita Sanders) Allows a governmental entity which has authority to issue bonds to proceed with imposing a property tax even though funds have not yet been borrowed but are

expected to be borrowed during the fiscal year.

LB 1241 (Introduced by Omaha Sen. Steve Lathrop) Changes provisions relating to law enforcement reciprocity including: revising the definition of training academy to include facilities operated by multiple agencies pursuant to an interlocal agreement; clarifying that an officer can retire in good standing without completing that year's continuing education requirements; and streamlining the reciprocity process for law enforcement officers certified in another state. Amendments were added to the bill that create the Law Enforcement Attraction and Retention Act, which provides incentive payments to law enforcement officers based on years of service. **[League] Effective Date: April 19, 2022 for provisions relating to reciprocity; Operative Date: July 1, 2022 for the Law Enforcement Attraction and Retention Act**

LB 1273 (Introduced by Lincoln Sen. Eliot Bostar) Allows a retired certified law enforcement officer to deduct the cost of health insurance premiums for income tax purposes. The Standing Committee Amendment increases the tuition waiver for law enforcement officers from 30 percent to 100 percent of the resident tuition charges of any state university, state college or community college.

This legislative session was marked by the amount of money available for Senators to allocate. Thanks to Gering Sen. John Stinner and the Appropriations Committee for ushering through the budget as well as the \$1.04 billion in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. ARPA funds were appropriated for a variety of projects, the bulk of which went to capital and infrastruc-

ture projects, housing, health care workforce, behavioral health and education and improvements for the Nebraska Law Enforcement Training Center.

Before the Legislature reconvenes in January 2023, the League will be working on various interim studies that have been introduced and referred to legislative standing committees. Some topics include conditional use permits, how to incorporate new municipalities, administration of the Nebraska Broadband Bridge Act, funding of emergency communications in Nebraska, fulfilling public records requests, among others. Albion Sen. Tom Briese introduced an interim study relating to cemeteries after an issue was raised at the League's Legislative Committees this year.

The League's most effective and important lobbyists are municipal officials, elected and appointed. Thanks once again to all the municipal officials who reached out to their Senators to discuss issues vital to municipalities. It is working in partnership with our municipal officials that legislative victories are won. The League is ever grateful to municipal officials for their time and commitment to these issues. ■

Checkout the League's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/leaguene

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Senators, Governor celebrate bill that provides millions to support growth, recovery in North, South Omaha, other low-income areas

Gov. Pete Ricketts, State Senators and community leaders in April celebrated **LB 1024e**, a bill to support recovery and growth in North Omaha, South Omaha and other qualifying census tracts.

“LB 1024e is landmark legislation to revitalize North and South Omaha,” Gov. Ricketts said. “The economic recovery grants will support job training, spur small business growth and add to affordable housing inventories. This session, the Legislature has demonstrated its full commitment to the growth of our urban communities.”

In his remarks April 28, Gov. Ricketts thanked Senators for enacting the historic investment. In total, the bill commits \$489 million to support communities disproportionately impacted by the pandemic. Of this amount, \$336 million is allocated to metro Omaha – with particular focus on growth in North Omaha and South Omaha.

LB 1024e devotes funds for a variety of purposes, including:

- Multipurpose economic recovery grants to revitalize neighborhoods, support business growth, improve infrastructure, provide job training and strengthen educational opportunities



Gov. Pete Ricketts (at podium) highlights the significance of LB 1024e at a gathering of the bill's supporters at Metropolitan Community College's Fort Omaha Campus. Those standing behind the Governor include Sens. Tony Vargas, Mike McDonnell, Terrell McKinney and Justin Wayne, who is the main sponsor of the bill. Sens. Vargas and McKinney are among the bill's cosponsors. Photo courtesy of the Nebraska Department of Economic Development.

- Land development
- Construction of high-quality, affordable homes
- Financial literacy training
- Crime prevention

LB 1024e was introduced by Omaha Sen. Justin Wayne and prioritized by the Legislature's Urban Affairs Com-

mittee. Cosponsors include Sens. Terrell McKinney of Omaha; Megan Hunt of Omaha; Carol Blood of Bellevue; Tony Vargas of Omaha and Matt Hansen of Lincoln. It passed on a 45-1 vote. ■

Source – Nebraska Department of Economic Development

Economic development department headquarters relocates

The Nebraska Department of Economic Development (DED) has moved from the Nebraska State Office Building at 301 Centennial Mall South, to a new location at 245 Fallbrook Blvd., Suite 002, Lincoln, NE 68521.

“As we continue our work to grow

Nebraska, our personnel and facility needs also have grown. This new location at Fallbrook will allow us to continue providing the best possible service to our citizens and communities,” said DED Director Anthony L. Goins.

DED's new mailing address is as

follows:

Nebraska Department of Economic Development
PO Box 94666
245 Fallbrook Blvd, Suite 002
Lincoln, NE 68521 ■

Source – Nebraska Economic Development Department

Senators pay tribute to colleagues who recently passed away

Lawmakers honor former Sens. Ashford, Byars and Sen. Pahls

Before adjourning sine die, Senators paid tribute to two former colleagues who recently passed away – Omaha Sen. Brad Ashford and Beatrice Sen. Dennis Byars.

Former Sen. Ashford, who died April 19, served in the Nebraska Legislature twice – once from 1987-1995 and again from 2007-2015. He also served as a U.S. Congressman for Nebraska's 2nd Congressional District from 2015-2017.

Omaha Sen. Steve Lathrop said that former Sen. Ashford was thoughtful in how he spoke and how he included others in the process.

“Brad spent his adult life in service to the state and to the city he loved,” Lathrop said. “Brad did what he thought was right and trusted his voters.” Ashford was 72.

Former Sen. Byars, who died April 14, was appointed to the Legislature in 1988 and served through 1995. He was elected to serve again from 1999-2007.

Adams Sen. Myron Dorn said that former Sen. Byars found his passion in advocating for people with developmental disabilities and was a dedicated public servant. Byars was 81.

Sen. Rich Pahls of Omaha missed the final weeks of the 2022 legislative session because of illness and died April 27, after the Legislature had adjourned for the year.

Pahls was first elected to the Legislature in 2004, serving District 31 until he left office because of term limits in 2013. He served on the Omaha City Council before returning to the Legislature in 2021. He spent 32 years as a teacher and administrator in the Millard School District.

Speaker Mike Hilgers of Lincoln announced Sen. Pahls death to lawmakers and legislative staff in an email April 27.

Speaker Hilgers said: “He was a champion of Omaha and selfless public servant who was a friend to so many here in the Legislature and he will be greatly missed.”

Gov. Pete Ricketts will appoint a replacement for the late Sen. Pahls. ■

Sources – Area news reports, Unicameral Update



Former Sen. Brad Ashford



Former Sen. Dennis Byars



The late Sen. Rich Pahls

LARM – Protecting your youngest workers

■ **BY DIANE BECKER**
COMMUNICATIONS/MARKETING
DIRECTOR, LARM ■

It's summertime when many municipalities and governmental agencies hire teenagers to do everything from mowing to trimming trees to picking up trash. It's a win/win situation for communities that can acquaint young citizens with the operations of a government entity. It also helps to give area teens a way to earn some money without traveling far from home.

Tracy Juranek, LARM Customer Service Specialist/LARM Assistant Executive Director, cautions municipalities to be careful about which jobs are given to these young workers. Some jobs that a 14, 15, 16 or 17-year-old should not be doing include driving a motor vehicle, using power-driven equipment, excavating and working on roofs.

"You need to follow Nebraska Department of Labor laws when assigning duties to your young workers as they shouldn't be doing jobs that require skills that are too difficult or dangerous," Juranek said.

Jobs that most 14 and 15-year-olds could do would be office and clerical work, clean-up work, kitchen work and cleaning vehicles. Teenagers also should not be doing any job that requires climbing a ladder or working from a scaffold.

"All 14 and 15-year-olds are prohibited from operating power-driven lawnmowers. All 16 and 17-year-olds can operate a power-driven lawnmower, but cannot transport the mower from job site to job site, if it requires the operation of a motor vehicle," Juranek said.

Summer Employment of Minors For Municipalities



Wymore Aquatic Center, Wymore, Neb. Photo by Diane Becker, Communications/Marketing Director, LARM.

Many Nebraska municipalities employ persons under the age of 18, particularly during the summer. These municipalities need to be careful to know the laws affecting workers under age 18. Minors who are age 14 and 15 are treated differently than minors who are 16 or 17. It is important that your municipality understand the rules and regulations involving the employment of minors. Just some of the rules that might affect municipalities are as follows (keep in mind that there might be other restrictions):

Age 14, 15, 16 and 17 Prohibited Activities:

- Manufacturing or storing explosives,
- Driving a motor vehicle and being an outside helper on a motor vehicle,
- Coal mining,
- Logging and sawmilling,
- Power-driven woodworking machines,
- Exposure to radioactive substances and to ionizing radiations,

- Power-driven hoisting equipment,
- Power-driven metal-forming, punching and shearing machines,
- Mining, other than coal mining,
- Meatpacking or processing (including power-driven meat slicing machines),
- Power-driven bakery machines,
- Power-driven paper-products machines,
- Manufacturing brick, tile and related products,
- Power-driven circular saws, band saws and guillotine shears,
- Wrecking, demolition and ship-breaking operations,
- Roofing operations,
- Excavation operations.

Some Age 14 and 15 Permitted Activities:

- Office and clerical work, including the operation of office machines,
- Clean-up work, including the use of vacuum cleaners and

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- floor waxers and maintenance of grounds but not including the use of power-driven mowers or cutters,
- Kitchen work and other work involved in preparing and serving food and beverages, including the operation of machines and devices used in performing such work, including but not limited to dishwashers, toasters, dumbwaiters, popcorn poppers, milkshake blenders and coffee grinders,
- Work in connection with cars and trucks confined to dispensing gasoline and oil; courtesy service; car cleaning, washing, and polishing, but not work involving the use of pits, racks, or lifting apparatus, or involving the inflation of any tire mounted on a rim equipped with a removable retaining ring.

Some Age 14 and 15 Prohibited Activities:

- Operation or tending of any hoisting apparatus or of any power-driven machinery other than office machines,
- Operation of motor vehicles or service as helpers on such vehicles,
- Outside window washing that involves working from window-sills and all work that requires the use of ladders, scaffolds or their substitutes,
- Setting up, adjusting, cleaning, oiling, or repairing power-driven food slicers and grinders, food choppers and cutters and bakery-type mixers,
- Work in freezers and meat coolers.

Hours limitations:

- Youths 18 or older may perform any job, whether hazardous or not, for unlimited hours, in accordance with minimum wage and overtime requirements.
- Youths 16 and 17 years old may perform any nonhazardous job, for unlimited hours.
- Youths 14 and 15 years old may

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LARM – Protecting your youngest workers

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work outside school hours in various nonmanufacturing, non-mining nonhazardous jobs up to:

- 3 hours on a school day;
- 18 hours in a school week;
- 8 hours on a non-school day;
- 40 hours on a non-school week.

Also, work must be performed from 7 a.m.-7 p.m., except from June 1 through Labor Day, when evening hours are extended to 9 p.m.

What this means to your municipality:

Driving – All persons under 18 (including those with a proper driver's license) are prohibited from driving on the job. There are some very limited exceptions, but it is unlikely that they would apply to municipal operations.

Mowing – According to the Department of Labor:

- 14 and 15-year-olds are prohibited from operating a power-driven mower;
- 16 and 17-year-olds can operate the mower but cannot transport the mower from job site to job site if such transport involves the operation of a motor vehicle.

Swimming Pools – Municipalities need to pay attention to the school year to ensure that minors will not work more than the permitted amount of hours.

Excavation – According to U.S. Department of Labor Child Labor Bulletin 101, minors are allowed to do some manual backfilling and digging in trenches that do not exceed four feet in depth at any point.

Vehicle Outside Helper – There is a general prohibition against minors acting as “outside helpers” for motor vehicle operations. U.S. Department

of Labor Child Labor Bulletin 101 defines “outside helper” as “any individual, other than a driver, whose work includes riding on a motor vehicle outside the cab for the purpose of assisting in transporting or delivering goods.” It is permissible to have minors help load motor vehicles.

U.S. Department of Labor Child Labor Bulletin 101 can be found at www.dol.gov/esa/regs/compliance/whd/childlabor101.pdf.

The U.S. Department of Labor and the Nebraska Department of Labor have helpful information.

You may call the U.S. Department of Labor at 402-221-4682 and the Nebraska Department of Labor at 402-471-9000.

More information about employing youth can be found at the Nebraska Department of Labor website at www.dol.nebraska.gov. ■

Bellevue Police Department crime statistics show decrease

Recently compiled crime statistics from the Bellevue Police Department for 2021 indicate a 2.3 percent reduction in overall crime throughout the Bellevue Community, as compared to 2020 numbers. This is encouraging considering Bellevue has grown by approximately 15,000 citizens over the past two years because of an aggressive annexation plan.

Bellevue Police Chief Ken Clary stated that, “As Bellevue continues to grow and prosper, the vision and scope of the Bellevue Police Department must grow as well.” Chief Clary has been working with Bellevue Mayor Rusty Hike, City Administrator Jim Ristow and the Bellevue City Council on a plan for growth and communication that has

led to a strong partnership between the city administration and police commanders toward a dedicated pursuit of improving public safety. According to the City of Bellevue's Annual Report, the Bellevue Police Department is expected to expand from 100-111 sworn officers by the end of 2022.

A highlight from the 2021 report is a significant decrease in violent crime, including a combined 25 percent decrease in calls for service for robberies and burglaries.

“Public Safety has been this administration's number one priority since day one,” Bellevue Mayor Rusty Hike said. “Seeing the lower numbers and the significant decrease in violent crimes over the past year is great news

for all the citizens of Bellevue. I will continue to work to ensure that the Bellevue Police Department has the personnel and resources necessary to continue to respond to Bellevue's public safety needs with the goal of getting those numbers even lower.”

Additional findings from the Bellevue Police Department's 2021 crime statistics include:

- Auto thefts and attempted auto thefts fell by 9 percent
- Destruction of property crimes fell by 6 percent
- Shoplifting reports fell by 29 percent
- DUI enforcement rose by 9 percent. ■

Source – Phil Davidson, City of Bellevue

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

Positions

City Administrator. City of Gibbon is seeking qualified candidates for position of city administrator.

Gibbon is a progressive community experiencing steady and sustainable growth. Basic economic activities include manufacturing, retail, agriculture, and transportation. Gibbon is a City of the Second Class with a Mayor-Council form of government. With a population just under 2,000, Gibbon offers an excellent work-force, high quality of life and low cost of living. Friendly citizens, local businesses, parks, ball fields, swimming pool, public library, heritage center, volunteer fire and rescue squad, K-12 public school, churches, and nearby municipal golf course, Windmill State Recreation Area and Rowe Sanctuary all combine to make Gibbon an excellent place to live, work and play.

City administrator directly oversees the following departments: city hall, wastewater, streets, parks & recreation, cemetery, code enforcement, zoning, and finance, with an annual operating budget of \$9 million. Staff consists of 10 full-time employees, supplemented by part-time and seasonal employees, and professional service consultants and providers in the areas of law enforcement, legal, engineering, and economic development.

Qualified candidates should possess a bachelor's degree in Public Administration, or Business Administration, or a closely related field. Candidates should have at least 3 years of progressive municipal management experience and be familiar with all aspects of municipal operations. Ideal candidate will demonstrate excellent organization, project management, and time management skills, with an emphasis on professional team leadership, progressive attitude, effective communication, public relations, financial management and planning/development.

Applications to include resume, work and salary history, experience in municipal administration, and references should be mailed to the Mayor of Gibbon at P.O. Box 130, Gibbon, Nebraska 68840 or emailed to gibboncityhall-mayor@nctc.net. Salary dependent on experience and will be negotiated with successful candidate at the time an offer is made. Applications for Interim City Administrator also will be accepted. Position will remain open until filled. City of Gibbon is an EOE.

Positions

Utilities/Street/Maintenance Operator. Village of Clearwater is accepting applications for a full-time utilities/street/maintenance operator. Grade IV Water, Sewer I, and pesticide certifications preferred but will send the right individual to training. Base wage of \$21 to \$25 an hour, based on qualifications, with substantial increase negotiated with certifications. Benefits included. Responsibilities include water and sewer system operations, maintenance, and testing; water leak repairs and meter installation, street repairs, mowing, snow removal, mosquito spraying, and tree dump maintenance. A comprehensive list of duties is located at the Village office or online. Must have a valid driver's license. Mechanical and large equipment experience a plus. Applications may be found at the Village office, or www.clearwaterne.com, under Village Info, Forms and Applications. For more information, contact the Village Clerk at 402-485-2365 or email clerk@clearwaterne.com. Send applications to 626 Main St., PO Box 116, Clearwater, NE 68726.

Full-Time Utility Employee. City of Cambridge, EOE, is now accepting applications for a full-time utility employee. Successful candidate must possess or be able to obtain, within one year, a grade IV water operator license through the State of Nebraska. General maintenance duties in water, wastewater, parks, streets, and equipment. Will train right person. Must have a valid driver's license. Drug test required. Wage negotiable based on experience.

Applications can be picked up at the Cambridge City Office between the hours of 7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. M-F. For more information, contact David Houghtelling, Utility Supervisor, 308-340-3213.

Benefits include health insurance, vacation, sick leave, holidays, & retirement investment.

Full-Time Maintenance Worker. Village of Davenport is accepting applications for full-time maintenance worker. Grade IV water and pesticide certification preferred, but will send right person for training. Responsibilities include, but not limited to, water, sewer and street maintenance, mowing, spraying etc. Electrical system owned by Village so electrical knowledge a plus. List of duties available at Village Office. Must have valid driver's license. Wage negotiable based on experience. Contact Village Clerk, at 402-364-2292 or davenportvillage@hotmail.com. Applications accepted until position filled. EOE

Positions

Public Works & Utilities Director. Gretna, Nebraska is a booming city of the First Class located in Sarpy County and Omaha Metro. With expansion of city's corporate limits including additional streets, sewer lines, and sewer lift stations, city is seeking highly skilled person to oversee all aspects of Gretna Public Works Departments on a daily basis. Public Works & Utilities Director is directly responsible for supervision of staff, functionality of all aspects of department and performance of senior-level professional work.

This person is accountable for various administrative and managerial duties including evaluating projects to maintain budgetary restrictions, ensuring compliance with city policies, procedures and codes, and reviewing plans and specifications for infrastructure construction.

The following education and experience is preferred:

1. Must possess a valid driver's license.
2. Bachelor degree in Civil Engineering, Project Management, Construction Engineering, or related field.
3. Minimum 7 years' experience in local government, specifically public works, of which 3 years must be in a supervisory role.
4. Class 3 Water Certification
5. Class 2 Street Superintendent License
6. State of Nebraska On-Site Wastewater Treatment Certification, not currently required
7. Must be willing to obtain further education, training and certifications as deemed appropriate and within timeframe as established by employer.

Candidates should have working knowledge of municipal public works and utilities activities including streets, storm sewer, traffic control, water and wastewater operations, building and asset management systems and engineering principles. Please see full job description for information about this position.

This is an exciting time to join the city team to aid in the future of Gretna. Public Works & Utilities Director position range is \$71,281 - \$95,097 with initial starting salary at \$71,281 DOQ, with excellent benefits. Application and Job Description is available from the Gretna City Clerk, 204 N. McKenna Avenue, P. O. Box 69, Gretna, NE. 68028-0069 or at www.gretnane.org. Position remains open until filled.



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