

NEBRASKA MUNICIPAL REVIEW

■ Ground broken on career educational facility in West Point

■ Cultural, community development support Seward's economic growth

■ Broken Bow residents enjoying library expansion, renovations

Official Publication of the League of Nebraska Municipalities

MAY 2018

Bills of interest to municipalities enacted during 2018 session



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May 2018

No. 1,117

ISSN 0028-1906

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Photo by Lynn Marienau.

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CALENDAR

Municipal Accounting and Finance Conference June 20-22, 2018, Graduate, Lincoln
Annual Conference Sept. 19-21, 2018, Holiday Inn, Kearney
ICMA Annual Conference Sept. 23-26, 2018, Baltimore, Maryland
NLC City Summit Nov. 7-10, 2018, Los Angeles, Calif.

Municipal Legal Calendar

(All statute citations to Revised Statutes of Nebraska)

MAY 2018

CITIES OF THE FIRST CLASS

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

CITIES OF THE SECOND CLASS

Within 10 days following
meeting or before next meeting
(whichever is sooner) Clerk to have minutes available for public inspection. (84-1413)
Within 15 days of 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)
First Day Automatic renewal of beer and liquor licenses (except Class C).
(53-124, 53-135)
Within 20 days after end of month.... Treasurer files monthly financial report. (17-606)
* * Clerk must prepare agenda prior to next Council meeting. (84-1411)

VILLAGES

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

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

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

The **NEBRASKA MUNICIPAL REVIEW** is a nonprofit publication administered and supervised by the League of Nebraska Municipalities. All revenue derived from the publication is used by the association to defray publication costs. The **NEBRASKA MUNICIPAL REVIEW** is published monthly. Subscription rates are \$5 per single copy — \$50 plus tax for 12 issues.

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



LB 874: Thanks again to Sen. Justin Wayne for his tremendous leadership in negotiating and passing landmark TIF legislation!

BY L. LYNN REX, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, LNM

*Note by L. Lynn Rex, League Executive Director: The Urban Affairs Committee introduced and prioritized LB 874 to amend provisions in the “Community Development Law” relating to tax-increment financing (TIF). **Omaha Sen. Justin Wayne**, Chair of the Urban Affairs Committee, did an outstanding job of explaining the negotiated agreement, which resulted in passage of this landmark legislation on March 15, 2018, on a vote of 47-0-2! Excerpts, some of which were edited, from his opening statement on General File were in the March 2018 issue of the Nebraska Municipal Review. Thanks to **Committee Counsel Trevor Fitzgerald** for this excellent outline of the provisions of LB 874 as it passed on Final Reading. The Governor signed LB 874 on March 21, 2018; LB 874 will take effect July 19, 2018.*

*Thanks to the many municipal officials, development attorneys and others who spent countless hours working with **Christy Abraham, League Legal Counsel**, to draft workable amendments to LB 874 (as originally introduced) to present to Sen. Wayne and the Urban Affairs Committee for their consideration. Thanks to Sen. Wayne and the committee for accepting most of the League amendments for inclusion in the bill.*

Bullet Point Summary of LB 874, as passed on Final Reading

ISSUES IN THE AUDITOR'S REPORT

• Recordkeeping

- Requires that each municipality which utilizes TIF retain copies of all redevelopment plans, substandard and blighted studies or analyses, cost-benefit analyses, and supporting documents associated with the redevelopment plan or any related substandard and blighted declaration that are received or generated by the municipality

(Section 18)

- Requires that redevelopment contracts for TIF projects include a provision requiring that developers retain copies of all supporting documents associated with the redevelopment plan that are received or generated by the developer and provide copies of such documents to the municipality as needed to comply with the municipality's retention requirements (Section 19)

• Annual Department of Revenue Report

- Clarifies that the annual report on TIF projects by municipalities to the Property Tax Administrator should be filed each year (Section 15)

• Cost Reimbursement

- Prohibits reimbursement of costs incurred prior to the approval of the redevelopment project, except for the following:
 - The preparation of materials and applications related to the redevelopment project;
 - The preparation of the required cost-benefit analysis;
 - The preparation of a redevelopment contract;
 - The preparation of bond and other financing instruments;
 - Land acquisition and related due diligence activities; and
 - Site demolition and preparation (Section 17)

• Substandard & Blighted Designations

- Codifies the requirement that municipalities conduct a study or analysis on whether the redevelopment project area meets the definition of “substandard and blighted” (Section 10)
- Requires that substandard and blighted study or analysis information be included in public notices

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for substandard and blighted designation hearings (Section 10)

- Requires that copies of substandard and blighted studies or analyses be posted on the municipal website or made available for public inspection at a designated location (Section 10)

• Cost-Benefit Analyses

- Requires that copies of cost-benefit analyses be posted on the municipality's website or made available for public inspection at a designated location (Section 11)
- Requires that cost-benefit analysis information be included in public notices for redevelopment plan hearings (Section 12)

• Other

- Redefines “redevelopment project” by striking the catch-all provision and also adding enhancements to structures in the redevelopment plan area which exceed minimum building and design standards in the community and prevent the recurrence of substandard and blighted conditions (Section 7)
- Provides that proceeds from indebtedness incurred for TIF projects cannot be used to establish a revolving loan fund (Section 9)
- Provides that redevelopment contracts may include a provision that requires all property taxes levied on a redevelopment project be paid before such taxes become delinquent in order for the redevelopment project to be eligible to receive TIF funds (Section 19)
- Requires that if a redevelopment plan authorizes the division of taxes on only a portion of the real property included in such plan, any improvements funded by such division of taxes shall be related to the redevelopment plan (Section 34)

ISSUES OUTSIDE OF THE AUDITOR'S REPORT

• Auditing

- Reiterates the authority of the State Auditor to audit community redevelopment authorities or specific redevelopment plans of such authorities at the expense of the authorities (Section 6)



From left: Trevor Fitzgerald, Urban Affairs Committee Legal Counsel; Lincoln Sen. Matt Hansen; Omaha Sen. Justin Wayne, Urban Affairs Committee Chair; Grand Island Sen. Dan Quick; Bellevue Sen. Sue Crawford. Photo taken Aug. 24, 2017 at an interim study hearing on TIF in North Platte.

• Public Notices/Public Hearings

- Changes the currently optional planning commission hearing on the redevelopment plan to a mandatory hearing (Section 12)
- Moves all notice requirements into a new section of statute and clarifies that notices shall be deemed given upon the sending of such notices (Section 13)
- Requires that notices of public hearings to political subdivisions be sent by certified mail, return receipt requested (Section 13)

• Other

- Alphabetizes terms in the Community Development Law (Section 7)
- Specifically requires that the cost-benefit analysis consider the impact of a TIF project on school district student population (Section 11)
- Requires that the findings commonly referred to as the “but-for” test be documented in writing (Section 14)
- Requires that the community redevelopment authority or other designated division of each municipality which utilizes TIF compile an annual report on TIF projects within the municipality and submit such report to the municipality's governing body and affected taxing jurisdictions (Section 16)
- Requires that property tax statements issued by the county treasurer include a designation if taxes on the property have been divided as part of a TIF project (Section 36)
- Harmonizes various provisions ■



Sports betting in the workplace

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

Do you have a policy restricting employees from gambling at work? You can bet your employees are gambling at work. With college football and NFL games kicking off soon, you can count on fantasy football being back in your workplace. It has been estimated that each participant in the fantasy football league spends an hour a week on their league for each week of the season. It is estimated that approximately 70 percent of employees participate in some sort of workplace betting pool and an estimated 300,000 Nebraskans participate in fantasy sports team competition.

A legislative bill was introduced in January 2017 to legalize and regulate fantasy sports in Nebraska. That bill was indefinitely postponed by the Legislature last April. The Nebraska Constitution and Nebraska statutes provide for those forms of gambling, which are authorized, to be conducted in our state. In addition to bingo, pickle cards, nonprofit lotteries and raffles and local option keno, Nebraska law also permits horse racing when conducted at licensed racetrack facilities (this also includes intrastate and interstate simulcasting), and a state operated lottery (scratch tickets, Powerball™ and other online games). All other forms of gambling are illegal. Gambling by telephone or over

the internet is a violation of state and federal law and individuals or entities engaging in this illegal activity could be subject to criminal prosecution. Gambling activities consist of three elements: consideration, chance and reward. When a person “wagers” something of value (consideration), for the opportunity to win a prize (reward) and the winner of the prize is determined by some random fact (chance), you have gambling.

Municipalities face many risks in turning a blind eye to gambling in the workplace. An employee who “blows the whistle” on gambling may then claim retaliation for complaining about alleged illegal activity. Employees watching football games during work hours can reduce productivity and streaming games on work computers may significantly slow your network. An employee who objects to gambling on religious grounds may bring a hostile work environment claim if the employee is harassed by his or her coworkers, or worse, by his or her supervisor. You may have an employee who has a gambling addiction. The Americans with Disabilities Act exempts gambling addiction from coverage, but an employee with such an addiction may suffer from another medical condition that may be covered under the ADA, like depression or

other mental illness that may qualify them as “disabled” persons under the ADA.

Municipalities are advised not to sponsor fantasy sports leagues. Municipalities should consider adopting a workplace gambling policy that states that the municipality prohibits most forms of gambling in the workplace, including professional or organized gambling activities. The policy also may state that pursuant to federal and state law, a municipality may allow exceptions to this prohibition for municipal-sponsored events supporting a charitable or fundraising cause. The policy should provide that employees must seek the approval of their supervisor before engaging in any gambling activities and failure to comply with the policy may result in disciplinary action, including possible termination of employment. The municipality should include in its technology policy restrictions on the use of municipal-owned computers for gaming activities that are illegal. Internet firewalls can be installed to block access to fantasy sports sites at work. Until such time as fantasy sports gambling is permitted under state gaming laws, municipalities, to reduce their liability risk, should prohibit such activity by their employees

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Compromise reached on Lincoln's Safe and Successful Kids Initiative

Lincoln City Council Members, Lincoln Public Schools (LPS) Board of Education Members and Lincoln Mayor Chris Beutler have reached a compromise on the Safe and Successful Kids initiative to ensure that school safety and student enrichment programs continue to be a funded, long-term priority. The elected officials are proposing an interlocal agreement, with the city and LPS each committing \$1.05 million, to share the costs of providing protective, preventative and proactive services for Lincoln's youth.

Terms of the proposed interlocal include the following:

- A six-member Interlocal Board would include three members of the school board, two members of the city council and the mayor.
- The Interlocal Board would approve annual increases of up to 5 percent on the total \$2.1 million agreement. By comparison, a Joint Public Agency (JPA) would have had a one-cent levy authority, with growth depending on property tax valuation.
- If the Interlocal Board does not pass a budget for the Safe and

Successful Kids Initiative, funding levels would revert to the previous year's budget.

- To accommodate the city's two-year budget cycle, at least 15 months' notice would be required for either LPS or the city to terminate the agreement.
- The Interlocal Board would provide an annual written report to the city council and school board.

In April, the Safe and Successful Kids Community Coalition proposed formation of a JPA to add School Resource Officers and a threat assessment officer and to provide more funding for student behavioral and mental health services and for enhanced programming at the Community Learning Centers (CLCs).

In May, City Council Member Leirion Gaylor Baird and LPS Board Member Lanny Boswell, responding to input from the public and their colleagues, developed an interlocal agreement intended to match the terms of the proposed JPA.

Gaylor Baird, Council Member Roy Christensen and Boswell developed the process that led to the compro-

mise. A joint working committee collaborated on the resolution that will be offered to the city council and school board. ■

Source – City of Lincoln

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Sports betting in the workplace

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during work hours and on municipal-owned property. ■

Author's Postscript: The U.S. Supreme Court May 14, 2018, struck a federal law that prohibits sports gambling. *Murphy v. National Collegiate Athletic Assn.*, Case No. 16 476. The high court struck down the Professional and Amateur Sports Protection Act that barred state authorized sports gambling, except in Nevada where a person could wager on the result of a single game. The

court's decision did not change Nebraska state law, which has not legalized sports gambling. Until such time as our state law is changed, what I have written remains in place.

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



George W. Norris Legislative Chamber, 2018. Photo by Lynn Marienau.

Bills of interest to municipalities enacted during the 2018 session

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

The Nebraska Legislature adjourned sine die April 18, 2018. The 2019 legislative session is scheduled to begin Jan. 9, 2019.

During the 2018 session, 469 bills were introduced. Last year, 667 bills were introduced for a total of 1,136 bills for the 105th Legislature. Fourteen constitutional amendments were introduced during the biennium, but none of them passed the Legislature.

In 2018, 152 bills were approved by the Governor. Five bills were vetoed by the Governor, including **LB 873**, the omnibus Urban Affairs Committee bill that contained the land banking provisions.

This article lists some of the bills enacted by the Legislature that may be of interest to municipal officials.

Hundreds of bills were introduced in the 2018 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 bills that the Board voted to support are marked with a [**League**]. The Executive Board met before the 2018 legislative session to review recommendations of the League Larger and Smaller Cities Legislative Committees. The board also met during the legislative session.

Any bills pending at the end of the 2018 session were indefinitely postponed and will not carry over to the 2019 legislative session.

Legislation enacted in 2018 becomes effective three calendar months after the end of the legislative session unless the bill has an emergency clause or a different operative

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date. **Unless otherwise noted, bills enacted in the 2018 legislative session take effect July 19, 2018.**

Some of the bills included in this article were introduced in the 2017 legislative session and carried over to the 2018 session. Carryover bills are identified with an asterisk (*).

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

LB 130* (*Introduced by the Urban Affairs Committee*) Changes provisions relating to annexation by municipalities of a sanitary and improvement district, road improvement district or fire protection district. [League]

LB 256* (*Introduced by Sen. Tom Bries*) Allows municipalities to adopt a Vacant Property Registration Ordinance which may apply to residential or commercial buildings, or both. [League]

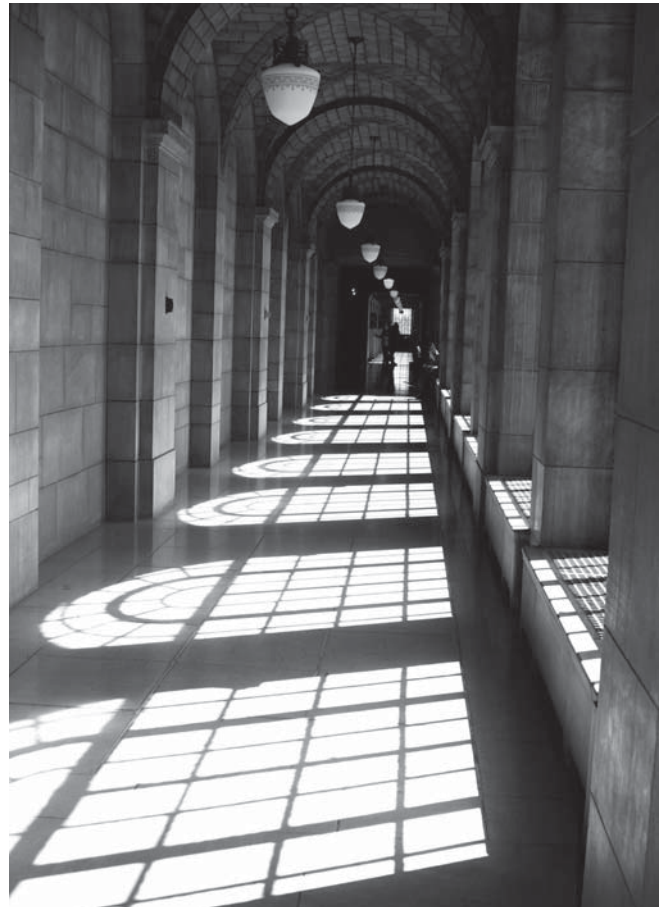
LB 496* (*Introduced by Sen. John Stinner*) Amends the Community Development Law by expanding the definition of redevelopment plan to include construction of workforce housing eligible for tax-increment financing (TIF). The bill limits use of TIF for workforce housing to "any municipality in a county with a population of fewer than 100,000 inhabitants" but allows construction of workforce housing in an extremely blighted area within a municipality, including municipalities in Douglas, Sarpy and Lancaster County. [League]

LB 614* (*Introduced by Sen. Justin Wayne*) Eliminates the cap under the Local Option Municipal Economic Development Act that prohibits a city from appropriating funds in an amount more than four-tenths of one percent of taxable valuation. [League]

LB 745 (*Introduced by Sen. Dan Watermeier*) Provides that if a local option sales tax refund is \$5,000 or greater, the Tax Commissioner notifies the affected municipality of the claim within 20 days after receiving the claim. If the claim is allowed, the Tax Commissioner gives the municipality the option of having the refund deducted from its tax proceeds in one lump sum or in 12 monthly installments. **Effective date: July 1, 2020.** [League]

LB 865 (*Introduced by Sen. Sue Crawford*) Provides that cities and villages cannot suspend the requirement of reading ordinances on three different days when the ordinance deals with annexation of territory or the redrawing of election districts for city council or village board members.

LB 874 (*Introduced by the Urban Affairs Committee*) Makes several changes to the Community Development



State Capitol interior hallway. Photo by Lynn Marienau.

Law including: changing language on use of revolving funds to prohibit the proceeds from indebtedness that includes TIF funds from being used in a revolving fund; changing the requirements of the annual report on TIF projects to the governing body including requiring the annual report also be sent to each affected political subdivision; moving all notice requirements into a new section of statute and clarifying that notices will be deemed given upon the sending of the notices; requiring the "but-for" test to be documented in writing; and clarifying that records retention requirements only apply to those documents generated or received by the city or developer.

LB 940 (*Introduced by Sen. Curt Friesen*) Changes the Civic and Community Center Financing Act in several important ways, including: clarifying that any property

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Bills of interest to municipalities enacted during the 2018 session

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that receives grants under the CCCF Act must be owned by the municipality and any property that receives these funds cannot be sold by the municipality for five years; expanding what properties are eligible for these funds to include historic districts; allowing a municipality to be eligible for another grant under CCCF Act within two years of receiving the last grant; increasing the amount of funds eligible to be requested by municipalities by 50 percent; and requiring the Department of Economic Development to give priority to municipalities who have not received grant funds within the last 10 years. **Effective date: April 11, 2018 [League]**

LB 993 (*Introduced by Sen. Curt Friesen*) Amends the 911 Service System Act to move Nebraska forward in its implementation, coordination, operation, management, funding and modernization of Emergency 911 service system. A Service System Advisory Committee is created, with statewide membership that will advise the Nebraska Public Service Commission in carrying out its E-911 responsibilities. **Effective date: April 4, 2018**

LB 994 (*Introduced by Sen. Curt Friesen*) Creates the Rural Broadband Study Task Force and requires a change in contributions methodology to the Nebraska Universal Service Fund. The bill also allows the Public Service Commission to consider a reverse auction program if current providers were not providing appropriate service to customers and to maintain a registry of locations where there was a lack of coverage for wireless communications for use in determining where to award grants for the building of wireless towers. LB 994 also exempts dark fiber from sales and use taxes. **Effective date: April 17, 2018**

LB 1036 (*Introduced by Sen. Rick Kolowski*) Increases the



Capitol rotunda. Staff photo.

expenditure limit for a recognition dinner under the Local Government Miscellaneous Expenditure Act to \$50 per person. The current expenditure limit is \$25 per person.

Although the League's priority is to work with state Senators to represent the interests of cities and villages to pass legislation, a great deal of work done in the Legislature is to "play defense" to ensure legislation that has an adverse effect on municipalities or diminishes local control is not enacted. This year, the greatest example of that work was to ensure **LB 389**, the Adopt the Small Wireless Facilities Act, was not passed by the Legislature.

Before the Legislature reconvenes in January 2019, the League will be working on various interim studies that have been introduced and referred to legislative standing committees. The interim studies range from examining criteria for economic development tools to examining policies and practices designed to assist low-income Nebraskans at risk of utility shutoffs to evaluating the availability of affordable housing in Nebraska municipalities.

The League's most effective and important lobbyists are municipal officials, elected and appointed. Throughout the year, the League asked municipal officials to contact their state Senators on important pieces of legislation and they always came through. It is working in partnership with our municipal officials that legislative victories are won. The League is ever grateful to municipalities for their time and commitment to legislative issues. ■

Check the Legislature's website

Check the Legislature's website for more information about your state Senators and the legislative process. The web site address is <http://nebraskalegislature.gov/web/public/home>.

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League President Wendall Gaston visits Wakefield, Wayne, La Vista, Arlington, Blair, Tekamah and Gretna

In his role as League President, Wendall Gaston, Sidney Council Member, is serving as the League's ambassador and is in the process of visiting several cities and villages this year. Thanks to the many municipal officials who have extended a warm welcome to League President Gaston. These photos also appear on the League's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/leaguene. Be sure to like us.



From left: League President Wendall Gaston, Sidney City Council Member; Wayne City Clerk Betty McGuire and Wayne City Administrator Wes Blecke. Wayne is a member of the League and Utilities Section.



League President Gaston, left, is pictured with Blair City Administrator Rod Storm during a visit to Blair, which is a member of the League and Utilities Section.



League President Wendall Gaston, Sidney City Council Member, visited Arlington City Clerk Shellie Brainard, left, and Tekamah Clerk/Treasurer Karolyn McElroy, right. Arlington and Tekamah are members of the League and Utilities Section.

League President Wendall Gaston, Sidney City Council Member, visited Zach Dolen, City Clerk/Treasurer of Wakefield, pictured here. Wakefield is a member of the League and Utilities Section.





League President Wendall Gaston, Sidney City Council Member, met with the elected officials in this photo. From left: La Vista City Administrator Brenda Gunn; Bellevue City Administrator Joe Mangiamelli; Papillion Mayor David Black; Papillion City Administrator Christine Myers, League President Wendall Gaston; Bellevue Mayor Rita Sanders; Springfield Clerk/Treasurer Kathleen Gottsch; and, Gretna City Administrator Jeff Kooistra. Papillion and Springfield are members of the League and Utilities Section and Bellevue is a member of the League.



La Vista Mayor Doug Kindig and League President Wendall Gaston, Sidney City Council Member, are pictured here during a visit to La Vista, which is a member of the League and Utilities Section.



League President Wendall Gaston, Sidney City Council Member, and Gretna Mayor Jim Timmerman stand together during a visit to Gretna, which is a member of the League and Utilities Section.



Turning the first shovels of dirt at a ground breaking for the Donald E. Nielsen Career & Technical Education facility were, from left, Clarence Mock, Joe Peitzmeier, Dr. Michael Chipps, West Point Mayor Marlene Johnson, Ed Bracht and Jason Smith. Photo provided courtesy of Willis Mahannah, West Point News Editor. Reprinted with permission.

Ground-breaking ceremony held for career educational facility in West Point

■ **BY WILLIS MAHANNAH**
EDITOR, WEST POINT NEWS ■

Reprinted by permission

Construction equipment working in the background offered proof that the ground breaking for the new Donald E. Nielsen Career and Technical Training Facility was ceremonial.

The occasion was still one to celebrate, evident by the comments shared by six speakers representing the various organizations that pulled together to make the education center a reality.

The 15,000-square-foot facility will provide educational and training opportunities for area high school

students, adult learners and business and industry.

It is being built north of the Shirley & Jake Weber Education Center (Northeast Community College's current West Point extended campus site).

The building will be owned by the City of West Point. Northeast Community College will lease the facility where career and technical education classes will be held. Computer and health sciences classes will be held across the street in the Weber Education Center.

West Point **Mayor Marlene Johnson** said educating a workforce capable of supporting, attracting and sustaining

economic growth is critical for the region and that this new facility will be one of the resources to make that happen.

Individuals representing three West Point area philanthropic organizations that were part of the initiative to help finance the construction of the facility spoke about the value of having a career education center in this part of the state.

Jason Smith, President of the West Point Community Foundation, said the initiative of building a workforce through the collaborative programming of Pathways 2 Tomorrow (P2T),

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Northeast Community College and Wayne State College is what sold the foundation on agreeing to be part of this “first-of-its-kind project.”

“The educational, economic and workforce development from this project and ultimately its programming will have an instrumental role in helping our region thrive for generations to come,” he said.

Educating younger generation

Ed Bracht, President of the Hank and Mona Stalp Foundation, said the board felt strongly that the Stalps would have been in favor of the facility because providing help for the education of the younger generation meant a lot to them.

“This is a great opportunity for the whole area to teach the younger generation and give them an opportunity to get into jobs that will support them and help the much-needed labor force, which we need in this area,” Bracht said.

While the day was designed to celebrate the creation of a building, Clarence Mock, President of the Donald E. Nielsen Foundation, said they also were there to recognize something equally or perhaps of greater importance.

“And that is the creation of a learning environment where individuals will be able to hone in on the necessary skills that will lead them to personal achievement and success, not just in this area, but in a global economy.”

Mock said the value of the partner’s collaboration in this endeavor will be viewed positively by others.

Mock also touched on the importance of area communities and organizations being able to work together for the betterment of the area.

“Sometimes we have to give up our

parochial interests in our respective communities to come together for projects that will promote greater good in which everyone will benefit despite the location,” he said. “This is one of those kinds of projects. It has demonstrated and will demonstrate for others the possibilities we have in this area.

“I look forward to seeing this kind of cooperative venture in other areas. I believe this will be a fitting and strong example of how that can be done.”

Hands-on learning

Dr. Michael Chipps, President of Northeast Community College, said he is pleased the initiative will bring career and technical education and training to high school students, college students and to business and industry in a facility designed for hands-on learning.

Programming in the new facility will focus on building construction, diversified manufacturing and welding.

Dr. Chipps noted that, according to the National Skills Coalition, Nebraska continues to experience a shortage of middle-skill and high-skill workers, which makes career and technical education even more essential.

Middle-skill jobs

“By 2022, 59 percent of all occupations in Nebraska will be middle-skill jobs that will require some form of education beyond high school,” he said. “Additionally, another 22 percent of jobs will be high-skill and require education beyond an associate degree. This is where this new facility plays a vital role.”

Joe Peitzmeier, Executive Director of P2T, said high school students, especially the upper classmen now in the P2T schools, want something more than a typical high school education.

“We truly believe that our model is innovative and will be a model for small rural communities, not only in Nebraska, but nationally,” he said. ■



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Nebraska Department of Economic Development Business Development Consultant Deb Eggleston with Seward Mayor Josh Eickmeier. Photo by Nebraska Department of Economic Development.

Cultural, community development support Seward's economic growth

Ongoing developments in technology, job retention and business growth have earned the City of Seward continued recognition as one of Nebraska's Economic Development Certified Communities (EDCC). The Nebraska Diplomats and the Nebraska Department of Economic Development (DED) recently announced the city's recertification in the program for the second time in five years.

One of 39 communities

Seward is one of 39 communities to earn EDCC certification in the program, sponsored by the Nebraska Diplomats and administered by DED. State officials established the program in 2005 to recognize communities for their preparedness to attract new industries and grow existing businesses. Seward earned original EDCC certification in 2013, and earned recertification in April 2018.

Over the past five years, the city has grown through 29 business recruit-

ment and expansion projects using tax increment financing (TIF) and the city's LB 840 fund. Overall, projects completed since 2013 have created or retained 224 jobs in the community, including a recent \$1 million investment from agriculture manufacturer PolyTech, LLC.

Expansion, renovation

Expansion and renovation projects within Seward's health and childcare service sectors reiterate the community's commitment to economic growth. A \$9 million, 15,000 square-foot expansion of Memorial Health Care System's outpatient services facility added a physicians' specialty clinic and aquatic physical therapy services. Moreover, St. John Lutheran Church and School completed construction on a new Child Development Center (CDC) near the church's campus. Great Plains Communications recently installed a fiber optic network in downtown Seward to build technology infrastructure throughout

the community's business district. In addition, DED awarded \$350,000 to the City of Seward to help revitalize its historic downtown. The funds will support existing building and business owners with renovation efforts through a Commercial Rehabilitation Program.

Housing opportunities

Seward leaders have grown substantial housing opportunities for the area's workforce. Since 2013, the community has built 128 new homes.

Various cultural developments within the city also have been completed since Seward's original certification. The Seward Memorial Library finished a \$1 million privately-funded basement renovation for a new resource and reading room. The Nebraska National Guard Museum recently moved to Seward, made possible by a \$2.1 million federal grant for renovations and landscaping at the former armory building. In addition, the city

Continued on page 17

SkyWest Airlines launching United Express flights from Kearney to Denver in September

SkyWest Airlines and the City of Kearney are excited to bring United Express air service from Denver to Kearney beginning in September. The new United Express flights, operated by SkyWest, will takeoff beginning Sept. 5, 2017.

"Passengers on these new United Express flights to Denver will appreciate the increased number of available seats, full-size cabin and seamless travel process from the minute they check in," said Greg Atkin, SkyWest Airlines Managing Director – Market Development. "It will now be easier than ever to fly from Kearney to Denver and anywhere else in the world you want to go."

"We are pleased to announce the startup of this era in air service for our community and the surrounding area," said Michael Morgan, Kearney City Manager. "SkyWest Airlines and United Express jet service means reli-

able and quality air service as well as convenience for local air travelers."

Each of the daily flights from Kearney to Denver has been timed to provide

maximum connection opportunities for both business and leisure travelers. ■

Source – City of Kearney

Seward's economic growth

Continued from page 16

completed construction of a Kiwanis Parade of Flags near the east entrance of the community.

"In Seward, economic development is community development," said Seward **Mayor Josh Eickmeier**. "As a community, we strive to support existing businesses and industries so they can grow and expand while we attract and welcome new investors to the Seward community. I'm very excited about Seward's future and its continued growth and economic opportunities." ■

Source – Nebraska Dept. of Economic Development

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Broken Bow residents enjoy public library renovations, expansion

■ BY CHRISTY ABRAHAM, LEGAL COUNSEL, LNM ■

The Broken Bow Public Library had its official re-opening on Jan. 29, 2018. The library went through several months of renovation and expansion. The library services include book discussions for adults and teens, makerspace area for children, summer reading programs, free wi-fi, use of scanners and delivery of books to people in their homes.

Besides the books in the children's section, kids can build on a Lego wall, place transparent objects, such as X-rays, on a light table, perform plays in a small puppet theater or watch lightweight objects float in a wind tunnel.

The library was funded by donations from individuals, grants and funding from the City of Broken Bow. A donor plaque, made to look like books on a shelf, adorns the wall in the front entrance of the library.

In addition to expanding space for the library itself, the new expansion includes a multi-purpose room with 2,000 square feet of space that can be used by members of the community. Smart TVs and a sound system are available in the rooms that can be divided by a soundproof and portable wall. There is no charge for non-profit organizations and a \$20 charge for businesses and individuals. The spaces already have been rented for graduation parties in 2019. ■



Broken Bow Library's children's section. Photo by Christy Abraham, League of Nebraska Municipalities Legal Counsel.



Joan Birnie, Broken Bow Library Director, and Christy Abraham, League of Nebraska Municipalities Legal Counsel, stand behind the large circulation desk that greets patrons as they enter the library.



Broken Bow Library offers kids a small puppet theater. Photo by Christy Abraham, League of Nebraska Municipalities Legal Counsel.



A donor plaque, made to look like books on a shelf, adorns the wall in the front entrance of the library. Photo by Christy Abraham, League of Nebraska Municipalities Legal Counsel.



Broken Bow Library renovations include fireplace, arm chairs and books. Photo by Christy Abraham, League of Nebraska Municipalities Legal Counsel.



Broken Bow Library with chairs for teen section. Photo by Christy Abraham, League of Nebraska Municipalities Legal Counsel.



Broken Bow Library's multipurpose room can be used or rented by members of the community. Photo by Christy Abraham, League of Nebraska Municipalities Legal Counsel.

League President Wendall Gaston visits Norfolk, Omaha, South Sioux City and Fremont

In his capacity as League President, Wendall Gaston, Sidney Council Member, is visiting officials in League member cities and villages across the state.



Top left: League President Wendall Gaston, Sidney Council Member, visited Omaha. He is pictured here with Marty Bilek, Omaha Mayor Jean Stothert's Chief of Staff, in the mayor's office. Omaha is a member of the League.

Top right: League President Gaston and Norfolk City Administrator Andy Colvin. Norfolk is a League and Utilities Section member.

Lower left: Fremont City Clerk Tyler Ficken is pictured with League President Wendall Gaston. Fremont is a League and Utilities Section Member.

Lower right: League President Gaston pictured with Lance Hedquist, City Administrator of South Sioux City, which is a member of the League and Utilities Section.

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.lnm.org.

Positions

Senior Energy Supply Coordinator. City of Hastings (pop. 25,000) is seeking experienced, self-starting Senior Energy Supply Coordinator. This position performs and oversees professional work in the energy supply coordination, regulatory reporting and reliability compliance standards areas as they relate to the purchasing and sale of electricity, natural gas and other energy related commodities on both the wholesale and retail levels.

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Salary range for this exempt position is \$6,561 - \$10,196 per month plus excellent benefit package including vacation, medical leave, health insurance, life insurance, paid holidays, and retirement.

Interested candidates must submit a City of Hastings Application including supplemental questions. Position open until filled with 6-11-18 as a 1st review date.

Application, complete job description, and additional information is available online at www.cityofhastings.org/SrEnergySupply. Contact Kim Woolery in Human Resources, 220 N. Hastings Avenue, Hastings, NE

Positions

68901, kwoolery@cityofhastings.org, or 402-461-2313 with questions.

City of Hastings participates in the E-verify system. Position subject to veteran's preference. EOE/M/F/D

City Administrator. Due to retirement, the City of Burwell is accepting applications for the position of City Administrator. The City of Burwell is the county seat of Garfield County and has approximately 1200 residents. Burwell is located seven miles from the Calamus Reservoir in Central Nebraska. The municipality owns, operates and provides electric, water and wastewater services to its residents. Law Enforcement is under the direction of the Mayor. This position requires comprehensive knowledge of municipal finance, expertise in city, state and federal laws, regulations and guidelines, strategic planning, and supervisory skills. Individuals should possess a degree in a related field and/or possess a level of education that together with experience and training gives the required knowledge and experience to perform the duties as City Administrator. This person serves the community at the direction of the Mayor and City Council. Salary is negotiable based on experience and qualifications and includes competitive benefits. Interested candidates should contact the City Office at 404 Grand Avenue (PO Box 604), Burwell, NE 68823 or phone 308-346-4509. The application and job description is also available on the city's website at www.burwellonline.com. Completed

Positions

application along with a cover letter and resume should be mailed or delivered to the city office address above or emailed to cityofburwell@nctc.net and will be accepted until the position is filled. The City of Burwell is an EOE.

Mark your calendar for these League conferences

Municipal Accounting and Finance Conference
June 20-22, 2018
Graduate, Lincoln

Annual Conference
Sept. 19-21, 2018
Holiday Inn, Kearney

Utilities/Public Works Section Annual Conference
Jan. 16-18, 2019
Embassy Suites, Lincoln





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Model Ordinances

Model ordinance packets are published annually and provide an easy way to update your code with state law changes. Packets are available to any municipality regardless of whether it publishes its code through the league, in-house, or by any other method.

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