# Utilities Section Newsletter

League of Nebraska Municipalities

May 2019


## Lineworkers Appreciation Day in Nebraska

*Gov. Pete Ricketts holding proclamation with Nebraska lineworkers at a ceremony proclaiming April 8 at Lineworkers Appreciation Day in Nebraska. Staff photo taken at Capitol.*

Gov. Pete Ricketts was joined by the Nebraska Power Association and Nebraska lineworkers from throughout the state to proclaim April 8, 2019 as Lineworkers Appreciation Day in Nebraska.

In Nebraska, more than 1,800 lineworkers help maintain Nebraska's power grid across the state. Nebraska has more than 6,000 miles of transmission and 100,000 miles of subtransmission and distribution lines. Most of the state's lineworkers grew up in Nebraska and trained in highly acclaimed lineworker degree programs at the community colleges across the state.

When the lights go out, these men and women are the selfless workers that go out on weekends and holidays, in rainstorms and blizzards, during the day and in the dead of night, to restore power to Nebraska's homes and businesses.

During the recent flooding that has impacted much of Nebraska, lineworkers worked overtime to restore service as quickly as possible. At the ceremony, the governor thanked lineworkers throughout Nebraska for the great work they do to keep the lights on and help power Nebraska through the flood and severe weather recovery.

***Checkout the League's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/leaguene. Be sure to* "Like" *us.***


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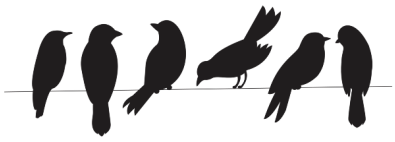
UTILITIES SECTION


Lash Chaffin
Utilities Section Director
Rob Pierce
Utilities Field Representative

## *Crow Line: A line of positive communication that all can share*

**Recognized with 2019 "Annual Best Places to Work" Awards was Olsson!** Olsson placed second in the large business category. **Schemmer** placed second in the small business category. Both Olsson and Schemmer are engineering firms and Utilities Associate Members. More information about these members can be found at their respective websites: www.olsson.com and at www.schemmer.com. *Reference: May 5, 2019 Lincoln Journal Star.*

**120, 125, 135, 140 Year Incorporation Anniversaries!** Congratulations to those Nebraska municipalities celebrating village incorporation anniversaries in 2019 (Utilities members are in bold): *75 years* – Arthur; *120 years* – **Glenvil**; *125 years* – North Loup, **Pleasanton**, **Plymouth**,



and **Union**; *130 Years* – Ashton, **Byron**, **Elgin**, **Marquette**, Randolph, Rockville, Roseland and Verdigre; *135 years* – **Atkinson**, Avoca, **Bancroft**, **Broken Bow**, **Burchard**, Cedar Rapids, Crab Orchard, **Doniphan**, Ewing, **Fairmont**, **Hartington**, **Holdrege**, **Kenesaw**, **Lyons**, **Springfield**, **Stuart**, Swanton, Tobias, **Wayne** and Yutan; *140 years* – Bloomington, **Firth**, Steele City and **Wilber**; *155 years* – **Valley**. Please also note that the City of **Tilden** has been a city of second class for *100 years*.

It has been *75 years* that the City of **Sidney** has owned its municipal electric system. Although the City of Sidney has had its electric service since 1905 (114 years), in May 1944, the City of Sidney purchased the electric system from Consumers Public Power District.

**80 Years of Service!** The **Auburn** Board of Public Works celebrated 80 years since being organized. Congratulations to the Auburn Board of Public Works employees for 80 years of service to the City of Auburn!

**Airports of the Year!** Congratulations to Millard for being selected as Airport of the Year for the second year in a row for its public promotions on general aviation as well as educational

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# 2019-2020 Executive Board

*President*
**Bob Lockmon**
Utilities Superintendent
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*1st Vice President*
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*2nd Vice President*
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UTILITIES SECTION

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Utility Superintendent
Wauneta

*Ex Officio Member*
**Tobias Tempelmeyer**
City Administrator and
BPW General Manager
Beatrice

# Nebraska Breaktime Trivia "Just For Fun"

**Q-1.** How many villages/cities in Nebraska contain the word "water" in its name?

**Q-2.** The Cross Creek Golf Course is located in what Nebraska village/city?

**Q-3.** Which of the statements below are not true statements?

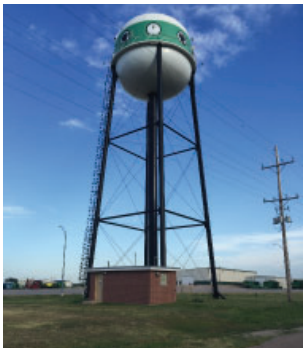
**1)** Davey, Nebraska was named after the frontiersman Davy Crockett.

**2)** Harvard, Princeton, Lamar, Leshara and Lebanon are all incorporated villages in Nebraska.

**3)** Stratton, Trenton, Max, Culbertson are all located in Hitchcock County.

**4)** York is the 20th largest city in Nebraska by population.

**5)** George Harrison was the Seward Water Commissioner in 1956.



**Q-4.** Do you know where the water tower pictured above is located?

**Answers on page 8.**

## *Crow Line: A line of positive communication that all can share*

*Continued from page 2*

programs. The Nebraska Department of Transportation Division of Aeronautics named the **McCook** Airport as Part 139 Airport of the Year. Congratulations to Millard and McCook!

**2019 Project of the Year Recognition!** Three communities received recognition by ACE (Public Alliance for Community Energy) as "Project of the Year" in their respective population categories. **Long Pine** (under 700), **Franklin** (700-1,000) and **Ravenna** (above 1,000) all were awarded plaques and $200 for future community betterment projects.

Congratulations to all **communities for their achievements and recognition!**

Do you, your department or facility have something to crow about? Received an award, had an article written highlighting an event or person? Do you have a project worthy of acknowledgement in the *Utilities Section Newsletter*? If so, please send your information to any of the League/Utilities staff so we can share your excitement with other members.



## Utilities Section members only

Do you have equipment to sell or a position to fill? Place your ad in the Classifieds section of the *Utilities Section Newsletter* free. This service is a membership benefit.

Contact Brenda Henning at the League office at 402-476-2829, fax to 402-476-7052 or email your ad to brendah@lonm.org.

# SAFETY/HEALTH CORNER

# *Hand protection safety*

## Personal Protection Equipment (PPE)

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

***Part 1 of 2 (reprinted from March 2002 Utilities Section Newsletter with updates.***

What's your hand worth to you, $100, $1,000 or $10,000? In 1999, according the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the average hand injury claims ranged from $3,500-$6,300. Did you ever consider what life would be like with partial use or a loss of one or both hands? As we work every day using our hands, often they are taken for granted. The loss of a limb or the use of one can greatly impact the way we handle daily tasks. It's not that uncommon for OSHA to have over 600,000 hand/arm injuries reported in a year. OSHA also has determined that 40 percent of workers are at risk for serious hand injuries and that hand injuries account for a large percentage of injuries classified as preventable.

Why do we have accidents involving hands? Probably because an individual's hands are the first to come into contact with a variety of conditions as we grip, hold, push or pull while performing tasks in the workplace. Hands allow us to do work. They are injured for a variety of reasons, which will be discussed in this article along with how to prevent injuries from occurring. The leading causes of hand injuries are contact with objects and equipment, struck against or by an object by falling, swinging or slipping, slammed in a swinging door or gate, caught in or compressed by equipment or an object, rubbed or abraded by friction/pressure. Other areas include: harmful substances, chemical hazards such as caustic materials, solvents or cutting oils, cuts or lacerations, severe abrasions, punctures, chemical burns, harmful temperature extremes, bacteriological, blood or other infectious materials and muscular skeletal disorders.

Injuries can be avoided by either engineering the problem out, changing the work process or by wearing the proper personal protective equipment (PPE). This article will focus on the latter alternative, which usually results in the wearing of gloves.

**Workplace Hazards.** Who needs to wear gloves to protect his or her hands? Obviously, the individual who is performing a task where a hazard or potential hazard is known to exist needs to wear protection. The next question is where do these hazards exist? This may be a question that an individual at your facility has asked a supervisor or safety committee. Often a safety committee will perform what is called a workplace task analysis, where they walk through steps in the work process and conditions under which they are performed. This task evaluation tries to identify any hazards or potential hazards and how they can be managed. These identified hazard areas need to be eliminated, if possible and/or practical. Specific training may need to be administered along with the decision to PPE to minimize the hazard potential.

Hazards that may be identified through this analysis include: chemical exposures, biological contaminants, hot/cold temperatures, vibration, electrical conductivity, rough, abrasive or sharp surfaces and physical pinning or pinching areas. Hazard determinations should involve not only the safety committee, but also management and the employees, especially those who perform the task being evaluated. Reviewing the documented accident and near miss reports also may identify hazards and how often they occur. These documents may include OSHA 200 logs, Department of Labor reports, incident reports or safety suggestions submitted by employees. These records also will provide information on the severity and type of injuries incurred.

**Hand Injury Types.** Injuries related to the hands are most often burns (chemical-electrical-heat), cuts, amputation, crushed or fractures bones, absorption of chemicals, vibration damage and repetitive motion injuries. These injuries may be grouped as traumatic, contact, absorption, vibration or repetitive motion related.

1) Traumatic injuries are those that include cuts from sharp

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# Hand protection safety

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objects or tools such as knives, saws or mower blades. Traumatic injuries also include punctures or gouges from awls, screwdrivers may impale into the hand and also bone fractures would be included in this group.

2) Contact injuries may include chemical, electrical or heat burns along with smashing, pinching and even dog bites.

3) Chemical exposure to the skin can cause conditions such as dermatitis or be absorbed into the body, which may do damage to internal organs. Symptoms of dermatitis includes itching, dryness, cracking, boils, blisters, bumps, redness, rashes and de-pigmentation. Chemicals such as solvents called "defatting agents" remove the skin oils causing dry cracked skin.

4) Other injuries becoming more prevalent are repetitive motion and vibration-related injuries. Repetitive motion injuries to prolonged repetitive work may result in carpal tunnel syndrome. Long-term effects from constant use of pneumatic or other vibrating hand tools such as grinders, pneumatic hammers and rivet guns can cause concern. Common symptoms may be pain or numbness or maybe a tingling sensation in the fingers. Left untreated, this may lead to nerve damage know as Hand-Arm Vibration Syndrome (HAVS).

Once workplace hazards have been identified, injury severity and frequency have been evaluated, a course of action needs to be taken. First, engineering design and process changes need to be evaluated to eliminate hazards. If the hazard cannot be eliminated, then advance to plan B, minimizing the hazard so workers can safely perform required tasks in the workplace. Once the determination is made to purchase PPE, the following areas need to be addressed.

1) When is PPE needed?

2) What type of PPE is needed?

3) How to properly wear.

4) Limitations of PPE.

5) Proper Care of PPE.

Hand Protection Safety (Part 2 of 2) will be continued in the *June Utilities Section Newsletter* Safety Corner, which will be reprinted from the May 2002 *Utilities Section Newsletter* with updates.

## Veterans Memorials Visited on Memorial Day

The past few years, many Veterans Memorials have been built across the state, often located in municipal parks, courthouse lawns and cemeteries.

These memorial locations are often the site of Memorial Day events, which may include parades, 5K runs and speeches honoring those who gave their lives in service of our country. Many of our municipal employees/officials themselves are veterans. Utility departments generally have a role in the many celebrations, such as traffic control, moving bleachers, hanging flags and banners and basic cleanup operations.

*Overton Veterans Memorial built in 2012. 2015 Photo.*

A heartfelt thank you to all those who served and sacrificed in service to our county.

# Nebraska utilities history

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

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

**La Vista**, located in Sarpy County, was first started by a property developer in 1959. Meeting a need for affordable housing, Omaha developer Don Decker built 335 homes on 80 acres near Big Papillion Creek. The name La Vista (meaning "the view") was selected as its name because of the beautiful scenic view of the Big Papio Creek basin southeast of the development.

The first residents moved into the new subdivision in January 1960 and on Feb. 23, 1960, La Vista was incorporated as a village. In 1960, with a population over 2,500, a proposal to incorporate as a city of the second class was rejected. By 1962, with a population at 2,600, the residents approved the idea and La Vista became a city of the second class. The population by 1964 was 3,375, a city hall was built and employees were hired. About 1964, as the city was trucking in water, the privately owned water system responsible for the muddy water was sold to the Metropolitan Utility District.

An article printed in the May/ June 2012 issue of *Nebraska Life Magazine*, noted that the price for each of the original homes was $9,999, which garnered them the nickname, "House of Nines." For just $200 down, and $99 a month, residents financed their own chunk of the city, which at the time was the fastest-growing community in Nebraska. By 1965, one-third of the homes were in foreclosure, and the community was millions of dollars in debt. Intermittent flooding of the Papio Creek was a problem as was the water. The population by 1965 was 3,500 and by 1968, a water storage tower was erected along with four wells drilled. The electrical system was owned by Omaha Public Power District and the population was 4,858 by 1970.

In 1971, the council was approached about constructing a library and La Vista became a city of the first class in 1971 with a population of 6,388. In the fall, the Papillion-La Vista High School (District #27) was opened. The natural gas system was operated by Peoples Natural Gas, a Division of Utilicorp United Inc., and supplied by Internorth.

The population increased from 8,394 in 1979 to 9,588 in 1980. By 1984, the city encompassed approximately one and one-half square miles, which included 28.5 miles of paved streets and over 100 acres of parkland. By the later part of the 1980s, the population increased to 10,148.

By 1990, the population was listed at 9,840, the “La Vista Plaza” shopping center was erected and the 30th year of incorporation was celebrated during the annual "La Vista Days." In 1990, the La Vista Falls Municipal Golf Course was built and in 1991, a $1.1 million Public Works Facility was built. In

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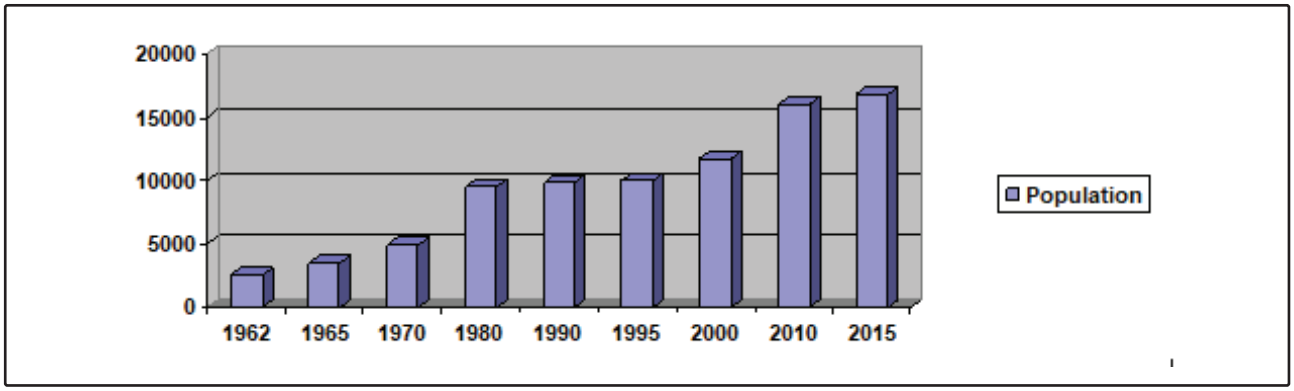

# Nebraska utilities history

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October 1995, an open house was held for the new 39,000-square-feet) City Hall/Community Center ($4.1 million). On Dec. 1, 1999, the new library was opened.

By 1995, the population was estimated to be 10,008 and by 2000, was 11,699. In 2003, the city had 10 parks, a nine-hole golf course and a 60-acre sports complex. The natural gas system by 2004 was operated by Aquila and the population increased to 13,895.

In 2006, a second new fire station was started and was completed in April 2007. The city purchased two ambulances, a second aerial truck, a second pumper truck. The department has 50 volunteer firemen and hired its first paid fire chief. The population by 2012 was 15,993 and the city consisted of five and one-half square miles and is still growing. In 2014, the City of Papillion began providing fire protection to the City of La Vista. By 2015, the city had 12 parks (Val Verde, Jaycee, Camenzind, Hollis, City, Central, Children's, La Vista Sports Complex, Ardmore, Mayors, Champion and Apollo).

By 2018, the city had a swimming pool and four K-6 elementary schools (Portal, Parkview Heights, La Vista West, G. Stanley Hall); a middle school (Grades 7-8); a junior high school and the Papillion-La Vista Senior High School (Grades 9-12). Today, La

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# Nebraska utilities history

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Vista has a population of 16,638 and has been incorporated for 58 years. La Vista has been a League of Nebraska Municipalities member for over 40 years and a Utilities Section member for over 20 years. The electrical system is operated/supplied by Omaha Public Power District. The natural gas system is operated by Black Hills Energy.

*References: Nebraska Directory of Municipal Officials, 1956, 1958, 1960, 1962, 1964-75, 1977-87, 1990-2018; Nebraska Municipal Review Magazine, 1982, 1995, 2007; Nebraska Traveler Magazine, 2003; Nebraska Our Towns…Central Northeast, 1990; Abie to Yutan Nebraska Pictorial History, 1994; Wikipedia website, 2018; LaVista website, 2017-2018; Pages of History, Nebraska High Schools, Past & Present, Public & Private, 1854-1994; Maps Tell A Story, 1991; and NEDED Website, 2005.*

# "Just For Fun" Answers

**A-1.** Five – Broadwater, Clearwater, Waterbury, Waterloo, Weeping Water. *Reference: Nebraska Directory of Municipal Officials, 2018.*

**A-2.** Cambridge.

**A-3.** Answers:

**1)** False – was named after Michael Davy, an early area settler.

**2)** True – all are incorporated and listed in the *2018 Nebraska Directory of Municipalities Officials.*

**3)** False – the community of Max is located in Dundy County and the other three in Hitchcock County.

**4)** True – according to the population given in the *2018 Nebraska Directory of Municipalities Officials.*

**5)** True – but not George Harrison of the Beatles.

**A-4.** Ogallala.

# Milestone celebration recognition

Is your municipality or utility celebrating a historic milestone? We are encouraging members to provide any information on milestones being celebrated such as 75 years of operating the electric system. About 1942, private electric systems were phased out in Nebraska and several municipalities took over the systems in the 1940s.

When was your water, wastewater, electric, power generation system established? When were facilities built, improvements made, etc. If your utility is celebrating a 25, 50, 75, 100-year milestone, let the Utilities Section help you celebrate by recognizing it in the newsletter.

**Remember to recognize your employees' anniversary milestones.** The League provides certificates for 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60 and 65.

You can request them by contacting the League office by email brendah@lonm.org or fax 402-476-7052.

# Nebraska utilities history

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

**Hildreth**, located in Franklin County, had settlers in the area by 1873 and a post office established April 17, 1878, as West Salem. In 1879, 34 students attended the sod school located in the area. The school was reroofed in 1885-86. In 1886, a townsite was surveyed and platted by Lincoln Land Company after the railroad was extended to that point in 1885. The name, Hildreth, was selected for Carson Hildreth, one of the original owners of the town site. A blacksmith shop was established in 1886 and about 25 structures were built. In August, Lincoln Land Company transferred the plat to the community and on Aug. 5, 1886, Hildreth was incorporated as a village (one history book listed incorporation July 11, 1885). Telegraph lines were installed and on Jan. 22, 1887, the post office name was changed from West Salem to Hildreth.

By 1890, the population was between 141-200 with the following businesses in operation: a blacksmith shop, drug store, two grain elevators, an ag implement dealer, a meat market, livery, hardware store, a Hildreth House hotel, general store, saloon, a shoemaker and a *Hildreth Telescope* newspaper. A new frame school building was constructed with 140 pupils enrolled. Many residences had windmills. A well and windmill were located in the center of main street. The dirt streets saw the replacement of boardwalks to cement in the business district by 1896.

The population by 1900 was 249 and hitching posts lined the Main Street. Trenches were hand dug for installing water distribution lines. A 50,000-gallon cone topped water storage tower was installed and the first water was hooked up and supplied in 1908. Hildreth's peak population of 633 was noted at this time (one source listed 603). In 1902, concerns of fire protection were discussed and late in the year, a force pump arrived in town. In 1905, 500 trees were planted in the city park. An Opera House was built in 1909


*Hildreth water tower. 2001 Photo.*

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# Nebraska utilities history

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and by 1910, a fire department was organized and the population increased to 450. In February 1913, a bond issue for an electric light and water works ($6,000) extension were voted on and approved 85-18 and 87-17 respectively. In 1913, a powerhouse was built with a steam engine providing electricity to pump water. The municipal water works (cost was $11,000) in 1915 had rates of $9 per year minimum and $0.30 per 1,000 gallons over 15,000 gallons. A private company provided electric current with rates of $0.13 per kilowatt hour (kWh). In 1916, lines were built from a power plant in Holdrege and was operated by the Intermountain Railway Light and Power Company to furnish light and power to Funk, Wilcox and Hildreth. School bonds were approved in 1915 and a new two-story brick schoolhouse was built in 1918.

The population was 453 in 1920 and the electric distribution system was supplied by the Intermountain Railway Light and Power Company. A (40ft x 90ft) swimming pool was built in 1921 with donated labor and by 1924, the Gilmore Auditorium was open for roller skating. The municipal water system in 1925 had rates of $0.75 per month and electric rates were $0.15-$0.19 per kilowatt. In 1927, the Intermountain Railway Light and Power Company name was changed to Western Public Service Company. In 1928, the school was destroyed by fire and

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# Nebraska utilities history

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a new brick three-story school was built in 1928-29. In 1930, the population decreased slightly to 400 and the fire department in 1934 transitioned from leather buckets and hand-drawn carts to a 1929 Chevrolet truck (with chemical tank, 200 feet of hose and 250 feet extra hose on board). In 1934, Hildreth became a member of the League of Nebraska Municipalities. The electric system was supplied current from Western Public Service by transmission lines from its Holdrege power plant.

In 1940, the population slipped to 361 and about 1942, Consumers Public Power District purchased Western Public Service's Nebraska properties. That same year, the village purchased the former Franklin County Bank building for use as village hall. In 1946, the fire department purchased a pumper truck for $4,446. A mew municipal well also was drilled in 1946 and in the 1950s, the Lions Club donated manpower, time and farm equipment to pave the middle of Main Street. The Lions Club also promoted the extension of the Kansas-Nebraska gas line to Hildreth. The school addition included a gym, kitchen, locker rooms and additional classrooms. In 1956, the electrical system was owned and operated by the village and the 175 meters in service were owned by the consumers. The electric system was supplied by Consumers Public Power District. Cost of street lighting was $20 per month with electric rates: first 10 kWh at $0.075, next 30 kWh at $0.06, next 35 kWh at $0.04, all over at $0.035 and a minimum of $0.75 per month. The sewer system was installed (1957-58) and the jail was moved from the power plant building to the city hall building in 1959.

By 1960, the population decreased to 305 and the sewer system/stabilization lagoon was maintained from an eight mill levy and a sewer charge of $2 per month. The rural fire department was organized and the fire equipment was moved from the power plant building to the county shop. In November 1962, a curb and gutter project, which included oiling and graveling the less-traveled streets was completed. The natural gas system was operated and supplied by Kansas-Nebraska Natural Gas Company. The electrical distribution system was supplied by Consumers Public Power District. By 1970, the population was 352 and the electrical distribution system, owned and operated by village, was supplied by Nebraska Public Power District. In 1973, new sidewalks were installed in front of businesses with the Lions Club furnishing the manpower, time and farm equipment. In 1978, a street paving project was underway and a new swimming pool opened in 1979. By 1980, the school purchased its first computers and the old gym was renovated. In 1981, a bond issue was approved to construct a village hall building. By October 1982, the city hall/fire hall/library was completed and the fire department purchased a first responder truck. A new block restroom facility was constructed (1983) in the park and in May 1982, the old city building was sold at auction.

By 1990, the population was 364 and in 1995, the village received a $137,900 CDBG grant for a street and water distribution project to

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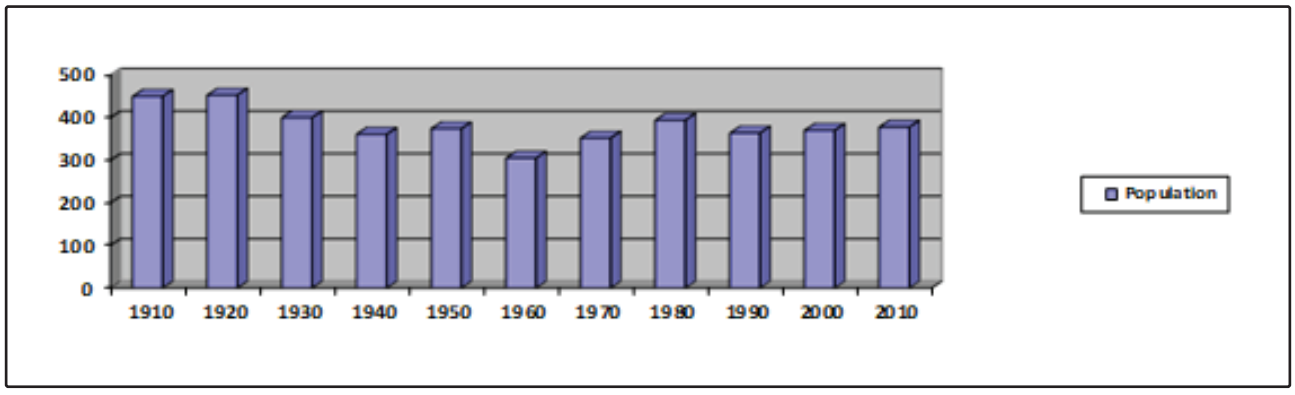

# Nebraska utilities history

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cost $261,200. The natural gas system was operated and supplied by Kansas-Nebraska Natural Gas Company and the electric by Nebraska Public Power District. The village operates a three-cell facultative retention lagoon system designed for 0.04 million gallons per day (mgd).

By 2000, the population was 370 and in 2010, it was 378. The fire department had 35 volunteer members and five EMTs. Sanitation collection was provided by Reed Disposal and the village had 50 blocks of paved/asphalted streets. Natural gas was supplied by SourceGas until 2015 when Black Hills Energy took over. The water system in 2010 had a $200 water and $100 sewer tapping fee with a $5 monthly commercial and residential fee. The village had no water or sewer debt at that time and by 2017, had four active municipal wells with 20 commercial and 256 residential customers, all unmetered.

Hildreth has a population of 378, has been an incorporated village for 133 years, a League of Nebraska Municipalities member since 1934 and a Utilities Section member for more than 42 years (records only to 1977). The village operates both a water and wastewater system whiles maintaining several blocks of streets and a park. The village serves about 225 electric customers and is a wholesale customer of Nebraska Public Power District. Natural gas service is supplied by Black Hills Energy and Reed.

*References: Nebraska Directory of Municipal Officials, 1956, 1958, 1960, 1962, 1964-75, 1977-87. 1990-2019; Nebraska Municipal Review Magazine, 1925, 1962, 1995; Perkey's Nebraska Place Names, 1995; Nebraska Place Names, 1925, 1960; Public Power Magazine, Vol. 51, Number 1, January-February 1993; Maps Tell A Story, 1991; NEDED Website, 2005; Sargent Leader newspaper, 1916; The Auburn Granger newspaper, 1913-15; Hildreth Nebraska 1886-1986, 1986; Nebraska Blue Book, 1928, 1942, 1946, 1978; and Hildreth Website, 2009, 2018-2019.*

# Construction “Cone” Zone

- The north side of the square in David City is getting new sidewalks and curbing (completed on west and south sides of the square).
- Construction on the new Columbus Fire Hall building and a 45th Street paving project is underway.
- This summer, NPPD had wood pole inspections (April-June) in Norfolk, Emmet, Ainsworth, Bristow, Butte, Inman, Lynch, McGrew, Melbeta, Northport, Minatare, Scottsbluff, Terrytown along with transmission lines. For the year 2019, the plan is to have about 10,807 poles inspected. Also, NPPD is scheduling the replacement/installation of electric meters in Chadron, O’Neill, Ainsworth, Pawnee City, and Loup City.
- There is new blacktop on Highway #109 between Cedar Bluffs and Wahoo.
- Highway 34 from Cambridge to Indianola is being paved and is completed through Bartley and Indianola.
- Falls City has some road work underway on Highway 73 along with new sidewalk and curbing on the main business street (Stone Street).

If you have construction projects or new facilities, let us know so we can share your progress with other members who may be looking at similar projects and may want to share experiences or information.

Is your municipality, utility or department celebrating a historic milestone? We are encouraging members to provide any information on major milestones being celebrated such as 75 years of operating the electric system. About 1942, private electric systems were phased out in Nebraska and several municipalities took over the system in the 1940s.

# 80 Years of Service

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

The Auburn Board of Public Works celebrated 80 years of service to the community since being organized.

**History.** In 1901 a movement to organize a local company (sell stock) to construct and operate an electric light plant at Auburn was underway. By 1906, the Auburn Municipal Light & Pump Company located at W 4th (W 16th) & South P (South 7th) Streets on the southeast corner had a 115 Hp engine (steam-coal) and a 75 kW Dynamo with two Fairbanks-Morse pumps. Bonds for $12,000 were voted on in December 1913 for the installation of the municipal light plant and enlarging the present water system. A private company, the Auburn Mutual Lighting and Power Company, operated the system until the Western Public Service Company took over operation of the system. In 1929, the city discussed purchasing the electric system owned by Western Public Service Company. It wasn't until May 1937 that the city filed condemnation to purchase the power plant from Western Public Service Company. In 1938, the city agreed to purchase the electrical system. On Nov. 7, 1938, the citizens by a majority vote (3-1), voted to purchase the electric system and established the Auburn Board of Public Works. On Jan. 3, 1939, the Auburn City Council passed a resolution establishing the Board of Public Works. The city acquired the electric system from Western Public Service Company for $352,000. This included a power plant housing three engine generators with a capacity of 1207 kilowatts. The Auburn Municipal Electric System was established serving approximately 1,600 customers (1939) and by 1997 had 2,792 customers with 308 miles of primary distribution lines. In 2017, the Board of Public Works (BPW) supplied electricity to 2,930 customers in Auburn, Brownville, Johnson, Nemaha and surrounding rural areas. The power plant contains six engine generators with a capacity of 18,860 kilowatts. The power plant is capable of covering the system's peak load, however the board purchases power from Western Area Power Administration and Nebraska Public Power District. BPW has approximately 310 miles of distribution lines with distribution voltages of 4,160 and 12,470, as well as transmission voltage of 69,000. The Board currently employs 26 full-time employees and a board of five. Note: The Auburn Board of Public Works also took over the water system approximately 50 years ago.


**Open House.** The Open House event was held April 23 at the Utilities facility with the staff welcoming visitors with historic literature along with coffee, tea, rolls, fruit and other snacks. Tours were available at the various utility facilities such as the power generation plant, water treatment facility and the wastewater treatment facility.

Tours of the water treatment power plant facilities were available. An electric car was provided by Omaha Public Power District (OPPD) for display and rides. An electric demonstration and a safety presentation was provided by some of the electric linemen. The event was well attended, which included a good number of past employees, and lunch was served to the public. Congratulations to the Auburn Board of Public Workers for 80 years of service to the City of Auburn!

# Electric Rubber Gloving School held

The Eastern Nebraska Rubber Gloving School was held April 30-May 2, 2019, at the Utility Line Facility on the Northeast Community College Campus in Norfolk. A total of 51 linemen were in attendance with 14 from municipalities and 37 from rural electric systems. Eight municipal systems participated with linemen from: Auburn BPW, Blue Hill, Grand Island, North Platte, Seward, Superior, Valentine, and Wahoo. The participants were split into hands-on work groups, with two advanced, five intermediate and two beginner or basic stations. The first day was altered due to weather and the following sessions were held indoors with two classroom sessions – regulators with Scott Howells and fault indicators and troubleshooting faults with Garry Poutre. In the truck bay, a session covered switching using the demo truck with Rich Weekly and under the lean-to, Chad Hyatt and Travis Allen covered "Tools of the Trade" and "Truck Operation and Maintenance."

The next day-and-a-half, the participants covered a variety of hands-on work tasks with each beginning with a job safety briefing. Some of the workstations included a bucket rescue with conductors in a tree, a simulated pole change with three-phase tangent pole with the N mounted high, changeout of an arm on T-2 using pole strap layout arms, changeout cutouts on a three-phase bank or on a three-phase riser pole, bell changeout on an OCR three-phase pole. The advanced groups covered a changeout on a C-7/C-7 structure and a changeout on a double circuit pole. The basic group discussed a wide variety of topics from job briefing importance, equipment and coverup, tool selection, equipment inspection, proper grounding use of wrap locks/armor rod/ties and basic line. Tasks included insulator changeout, cross arm changeout, bell changeout, pole changeout and a simulated transformer changeout on an energized pole.

A special thanks to the instructors and their respective companies. Basic instructors were Troy Norman of CPPD, and Ryan Carlson of Polk County. Intermediate instructors were Jim Piper of South Central, Jason McNair of KBR, Keith Hoffman of Perennial, Luke Blanc of Burt County, Brian Small of Butler County, and Terry Tuma of Norris PPD. Advance instructors were Kevin Kuhlman of the City of Auburn and Scott Bauer of the City of Grand Island.

On behalf of the Utilities Section and the Rural Electric Association, a special thanks to the following companies that provided trucks, demo trailers, material and their knowledge when performing rubber gloving techniques (listed alphabetically by company name): Travis Allen of Altec, Chad Hyatt of Altec Direct, Scott Howells and Bill Larson of ESI, ETI (provided a truck), Rich Weekly of Pro-Tech Power Systems, and Garry Poutre and Brian Winfield of Moehn Sales.

The next Rubber Gloving School is scheduled for Sept. 10-12, 2019, in Sidney at the Don Winkelman Training Field, the Wheatbelt Public Power District's training field located on the north edge of Sidney.

# Training calendar

**Visit our website at www.lonm.org**
**for a complete list of workshops and conferences.**

**August**

| | | |
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| Aug. 20 | Backflow Workshop | Fire Hall, Ogallala |
| Aug. 21 | Backflow Workshop | Boarders Cobblestone Hotels, Grand Island |
| Aug. 22 | Safety Workshop | Fire Hall, Aurora |
| Aug. 27 | Backflow Workshop | Valentinos, Beatrice |
| Aug. 29 | Backflow Workshop | Fire Hall, Wayne |

**September**

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| Sept. 10-12 | Rubber Gloving Workshop | Wheatbelt Training Facility, Sidney |
| Sept. 18-20 | League Annual Conference | Cornhusker Marriott Hotel, Lincoln |

**October**

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| Oct. 1 | Water Operator Training Workshop | Christensen Field, Fremont |
| Oct. 2 | Water Operator Training Workshop | TBD, Plattsmouth |
| Oct. 3 | Water Operator Training Workshop | Community Center, Seward |
| Oct. 24 | Water Operator Training Workshop | Fire Hall, Tecumseh |

**December**

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| Dec. 10 | Water Operator Training Workshop | Engineering Building, Grand Island |
| Dec. 11 | Water Operator Training Workshop | Lincoln Water System, Lincoln |