NEBRASKA MUNICIPAL REVIEW

- What constitutes a 'meeting' —— subject to the Open Meetings Act?
- 6 steps to stronger computer security ——

Official Publication of the League of Nebraska Municipalities

— AUGUST 2018

Nebraska municipal officials attend White House leadership conference







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August 2018

No. 1,120 ISSN 0028-1906

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Left from left: Nebraska City Mayor Bryan Bequette; Scottsbluff Mayor Randy Meininger; Gering Mayor Tony Kaufman; Lexington Mayor John Fagot; Sidney City Council Member Wendall Gaston (League of Nebraska Municipalities President); Grand Island Mayor Jeremy Jensen; and, Norfolk Mayor Josh Moenning. Mayor Fagot's guide dog, Izzy, is in front.

Right top: Nebraska municipal officials standing in front of the U.S. President's office. From left: Grand Island Mayor Jeremy Jensen; Gering Mayor Tony Kaufman; Scottsbluff Mayor Randy Meininger; Sidney City Council Member Wendall Gaston (League of Nebraska Municipalities President); Nebraska City Mayor Bryan Bequette; and, Norfolk Mayor Josh Moenning. Standing in front: Bellevue Mayor Rita Sanders.

Right bottom from left: Sidney City Council Member Wendall Gaston (League of Nebraska Municipalities President) and Bellevue Mayor Rita Sanders. Photos by L. Lynn Rex, League Executive Director

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- CALENDAR 🛭

.Nov. 7-10, 2018, Los Angeles, Calif. NLC City Summit. Utilities/Public Works Section Annual ConferenceJan. 16-18, 2019, Embassy Suites, Lincoln

Municipal Legal Calendar

(All statute citations to Revised Statutes of Nebraska)

AUGUST 2018 CITIES OF THE FIRSTCLASS

Within 10 days following meeting or before next meeting
(whichever is sooner)
Within 15 days of Passage
Within 30 days of Council
meeting
August I
Prior to Notice of Budget Hearing Proposed annual or biennial budget statement available to public. (13-504) *
Before August 15
On or before August 20Should have received the current taxable value of all property subject to levy from the County Assessor. (13-509)
On or before September I
On or before September 20File adopted budget statement with County and State Auditor's Office (13-508)*
On or before September 20File information on tradenames and interlocal agreements with State Auditor's Office Within 20 days after end of month Treasurer files monthly financial report. (16-318)
**

CITIES OF THE SECOND CLASS

Within 10 days following meeting
or before next meeting
(whichever is sooner)
Within 15 days of Passage Clerk publishes ordinances passed. (17-613)
Within 30 days of Council meeting Clerk publishes official proceedings of meeting, including claims. (19-1102)
August I
Prior to Notice of Budget Hearing Proposed annual or biennial budget statement available to public. (13-504) *
Before August 15
On or before August 20Should have received the current taxable value of all property
subject to levy from the County Assessor. (13-509)
On or before September 1
On or before September 20File adopted annual or biennial budget statement with County and State Auditor's Office (13-508) *
On or before September 20File information on tradenames and interlocal agreements with State Auditor's Office 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)
Within 15 days of Passage Clerk publishes ordinances passed. (17-613)
Within 30 days of Board of Trustees'
meeting
August I
Prior to Notice of Budget Hearing Proposed annual or biennial budget statement available to public. (13-504) *
Before August 15
On or before August 20Should have received the current taxable value of all property subject to levy from the County Assessor. (13-509)
On or before September I Village Board determines the final allocation of levy authority for its subdivisions (77-3443)
On or before September 20File adopted annual or biennial budget statement with County and State Auditor's Office. (13-508) *
On or before September 20File information on tradenames and interlocal agreements with State Auditor's Office Within 20 days after end of month Treasurer files monthly financial report. (17-606)
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^{*} Does not apply to cities with a biennial budget that are in the second year of the biennial budget period.

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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

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



Thanks to Nebraska municipal officials who attended White House leadership conference

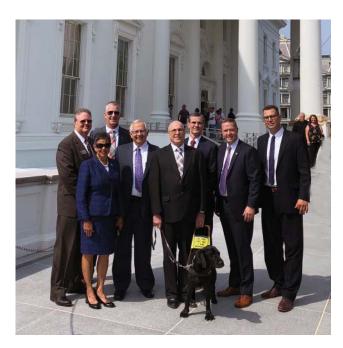
BY L. LYNN REX, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, LNM

Eight municipal officials from across Nebraska experienced a remarkable opportunity Aug. 16 when they attended a special leadership conference hosted by the White House.

Those attending the event were Bellevue Mayor Rita Sanders; Gering Mayor Tony Kaufman; Grand Island Mayor Jeremy Jensen; Norfolk Mayor Josh Moenning; Nebraska City Mayor **Bryan Bequette**; Scottsbluff Mayor Randy Meininger; Lexington Mayor John Fagot; and, Sidney City Council Member **Wendall Gaston**, who is the League of Nebraska Municipalities President. (Mayor Fagot attended the conference with his sister, Theresa Puls, who is a Phelps County Commissioner, and his guide dog, Izzy.) Other officials also were invited but were unable to attend. The conference featured a tour of the White House and afternoon briefing from federal officials in the Eisenhower Executive Office Building. Nebraska county officials and local officials from Kansas also were included in the event. The Nebraska delegation represented our state well and asked great questions during the conference.

Vice President Mike Pence, who was a surprise speaker at the conference, thanked those attending the conference for the work they do and emphasized the Trump administration's support for local control.

Other speakers included Doug Hoelscher, Deputy Assistant to the President and Director of Intergovernmental Affairs, Frank Brogan, Assistant Secretary of the U.S. Department of Education and Preston Cory, Director of Intergovernmental Relations for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Kellyanne Conway, Assistant to the President and Senior Counselor, discussed the impact of the opioid pain medication crisis on society. She spoke of a program encouraging physicians to prescribe no more than seven days of painkillers at a time so that fewer opioids end up on the streets.



Nebraska officials outside White House. From left (in back): Scottsbluff Mayor Randy Meininger; Grand Island Mayor Jeremy Jensen; Sidney City Council Member Wendall Gaston, who is the League of Nebraska Municipalities President; Nebraska City Mayor Bryan Bequette; Gering Mayor Tony Kaufman; Norfolk Mayor Josh Moenning. From left (in front) Bellevue Mayor Rita Sanders; Lexington Mayor John Fagot and his guide dog, Izzy. Photo by Lynn Rex, Executive Director, LNM

Also speaking at the conference were Under Secretary Gil Kaplan of the International Trade Administration; **U.S. Sen. Deb Fischer**; U.S. Department of Agriculture Chris Mitton, Government Affairs Officer, U.S. Department of Transportation; Dudley Hoskins, Chief of Staff for U.S. Department of Agriculture Under Secretary Gregory Ibach; and, William Crozer, Special Assistant to the President and Deputy Director of Intergovernmental Affairs.

Those in attendance were given a list of contacts for departments, phone numbers and email addresses.

Biofuels grow Nebraska

BY GOV. PETE RICKETTS

In our ag economy, biofuels are Iplaying an increasingly important role in growing more opportunity for the next generation of farm families. With economic uncertainty and low commodity prices, ethanol not only helps build reliable demand for our corn, but it also helps our country achieve greater energy independence. Nebraska now has the capacity to produce over 2.5 billion gallons of ethanol. The ethanol industry directly employs over 1,300 Nebraskans and indirectly supports many more jobs. Because of this, we have been spurring investment in ethanol by increasing flex fuel infrastructure, expanding trade opportunities and advocating for biofuels at the federal level.

Over the summer, I have been traveling the state to highlight the availability of new flex fuel infrastructure. In the past couple of years, my team and the Nebraska Energy Office has been working with the Nebraska Corn Board and Nebraska Ethanol Board to install more flex fuel pumps in communities across the state. Recently, I visited Grant where Aurora Cooperative has launched a new flex fuel pump. In May, I attended a ribbon-cutting event for new flex fuel pumps at the Bosselman Travel Center in Grand Island. As new fuel choices are offered at more retail locations, consumers become better acquainted with these options and the lower prices. These new pumps will distribute thousands of gallons of biofuels to the many travelers crossing our state.

International trade is another important key to growing biofuels. Last September, Todd Sneller of the Nebraska Ethanol Board and Duane Kristensen of Chief Ethanol in Grand Island joined my trade mission to Japan. There they visited with the U.S. Grains Council about the Japanese market, which has since opened to American ethanol. The U.S. Grains Council, of which the Nebraska Department of Agriculture and Nebraska Corn Board are members, has been undertaking a major effort to expand exports to Japan. In 2015, I led another trade delegation to Denmark to visit the headquarters of Novozymes, a company that produces enzymes used in ethanol production. During the visit, we urged the company to continue to expand their investment in Nebraska. Since that visit, Novozymes has invested about \$50 million more into Nebraska. These stories illustrate why it is important that our global partners hear directly from Nebraskans on trade missions, so we can continue to open up more markets and attract new investments. We also have been advocating with

the federal government in Washington, D.C. to cut red tape and allow more freedom to market and use higher ethanol blends. Higher ethanol blends create more demand for our fuels and commodity inputs. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is the key regulator of biofuels at the federal level. Over the last year, we have been one of the voices calling for year-round sales of E-15. Right now, E-15 cannot be sold during the summer months, limiting our ability to market more of our ethanol product. I recently met with acting EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler to underscore the urgency behind approving E-15 sales all year long. I also have a request into the EPA for a pilot program to test high ethanol blends like E-25 and E-30 in the Nebraska state government fleet. This month, I submitted testimony on the latest round of biofuels production levels being set by the EPA. My administration will continue to urge the EPA to maintain a robust commitment to biofuels, so the next generation of farm families has the predictability they need to grow agriculture and grow Nebraska.

■ AUGUST 2018



What constitutes a 'meeting' subject to the Open Meetings Act?

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

The Nebraska Attorney General (AG) issues disposition letters pursuant to the AG's express enforcement authority over the Nebraska Public Records Statutes, Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 84 712 - 84 712.09 and the Open Meetings Act, Neb. Rev. Stat. §§ 84 1407 - 84 1414. The letters are written in response to requests that the AG's Office investigate alleged violations of these state laws.

On July 16, 2018, the AG issued a disposition letter concluding that the Geneva City Council (City Council) did not violate the Open Meetings Act by an event hosted by the city's engineering firm at the city library. See AG File No. 18 M 1118; Geneva City Council; Judy Glassburner, Complainant.

The AG's Office received a complaint that the city council violated the Open Meetings Act by holding a meeting on April 25, 2018, that was not noticed to the public. The event consisted of a presentation by the city's engineering firm, followed by breakout sessions in which the public participated. The city council did not consider this event to be a "meeting" under the Act because (1) there never was a quorum of council members present, and (2) there was no discussion of policy mak-

ing at the event. City council members arrived and departed at various times so at no one point in time was there a quorum of city council members present at the event.

The AG's Office did not find a "meeting" within the definition of the Open Meetings Act occurred, which would require a notice to be published by the city. The AG's Office stated that "two things must be present for a meeting to occur under the Act":

- First, a quorum of a public body must be present.
- Second, the public body must engage in at least one of the activities included in the definition of a "meeting" set out in *Neb. Rev. Stat.* § 84 1409(2) [briefing, discussion of public business, formation of tentative policy, or the taking of any action of the public body].

The AG's Office found there never was a quorum present at the event. For the quorum to exist, a majority of members of the public body must be present. Geneva's City Council consists of six members. Accordingly, four members must be present for a quorum to exist. At no time were there more than three city council

members present at the event. Because a quorum was not present, a meeting within the definition of the Act did not occur. As such, the city council was not required to provide notice to the public.

Meetings of governing bodies of municipalities must be open to the public pursuant to the Open Meetings Act. The AG's disposition letter concerning a complaint regarding an event hosted by the City of Geneva's engineering firm gives municipalities guidance of what constitutes a "meeting" under the Open Meetings Act.

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.

National Housing Trust Funds available; applications due in October

The application period remains open for the National Housing Trust Fund (HTF) program, the Nebraska Department of Economic Development (DED) announces.

Operated by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and administered by DED on behalf of Nebraska, HTF is a federal program designed to help communities provide quality, affordable rental housing for extremely low-income and very-low income households, including homeless families.

HTF grants are eligible to non-profit 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(4) organizations and public housing authorities. Applications are due Oct. 31, 2018.

Funding through HTF can be applied to projects that impact households at or below 30 percent of the area median income. Eligible activities include housing acquisition and rehabilitation to create rental housing for persons with extremely low incomes; rehabilitation or new construction of rental housing; adaptive re-use of buildings for rental housing; and, operating cost assistance and reserves.

More information about the HTF program, including grant requirements and instructions on how to apply for funding, can be found on

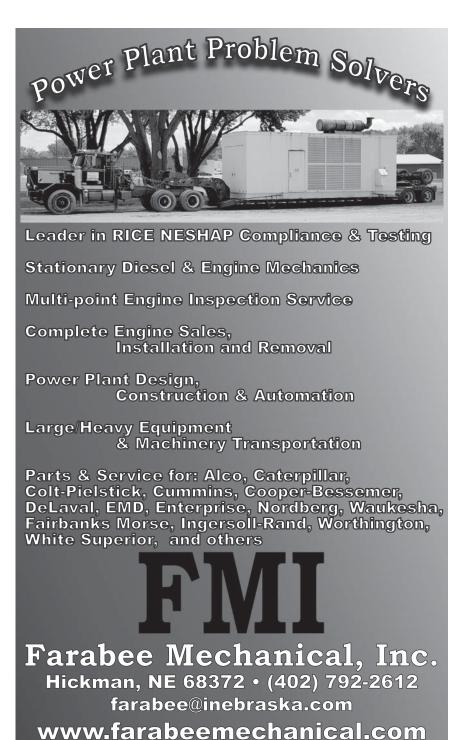
Civil Environmental Transportation

OLMSTED & PERRY CONSULTING ENGINEERS, INC.

10730 Pacific Street, Suite 232
Omaha, NE 68114
402-399-8552

the DED website at: https://opportunity.nebraska.gov/program/nationalhousing-trust-fund-htf/. Or, contact Pam Otto, DED Housing Coordinator, at 402-471-4388 or pam.otto@ nebraska.gov. ■

Source – Nebraska Dept. of Econmic Development





From left: Nebraska City Mayor Bryan Bequette; Scottsbluff Mayor Randy Meininger; Gering Mayor Tony Kaufman; Lexington Mayor John Fagot; Sidney City Council Member Wendall Gaston (League of Nebraska Municipalities President); Grand Island Mayor Jeremy Jensen; and, Norfolk Mayor Josh Moenning. Mayor Fagot's guide dog, Izzy, is in front. Photo by L. Lynn Rex, League Executive Director.

Vice President Mike Pence meets with Nebraska municipal officials during White House leadership conference

By special invitation, eight city officials from across Nebraska attended a White House tour and conference Aug. 16 designed to develop a working relationship between White House and local and county leaders. Kansas local officials also were part of the event.

Support for local control

In his remarks, Vice President Pence emphasized the Trump administration's strong support for local control. The following Nebraska municipal officials attended the event: Bellevue Mayor Rita Sanders; Gering Mayor Tony Kaufman; Grand Island Mayor Jeremy Jensen; Norfolk Mayor Josh Moenning; Nebraska City Mayor Bryan Bequette; Scottsbluff Mayor Randy Meininger; Lexington Mayor John Fagot; and, Sidney City Council Member Wendall Gaston, who is the League of Nebraska Municipalities President. (Mayor Fagot attended the conference with his sister, Theresa Puls, who is a Phelps

County Commissioner.) Other Nebraska mayors were invited but were unable to attend.

Federal officials' remarks

The following federal officials underscored numerous federal programs of interest to local officials. Remarks were delivered by Douglas Hoelscher, Deputy Assistant to the President and Director of Intergovernmental Affairs; Assistant Secretary Frank Brogan, U.S. Department of Continued on page 9

Education; Preston Cory, Director of Intergovernmental Relations, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; Kellyanne Conway, Assistant to the President and Senior Counselor; Secretary Ben Carson, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development; Under Secretary Gil Kaplan, International Trade Administration; U.S. Sen. Deb Fischer; U.S. Department of Agriculture Chris Mitton, Government Affairs Officer, U.S. Department of Transportation; Dudley Hoskins, Chief of Staff for U.S. Department of Agriculture Under Secretary Gregory Ibach; and, William Crozer, Special Assistant to the President and Deputy Director of Intergovernmental Affairs. ■



Nebraska municipal officials standing in front of the U.S. President's office. From left: Grand Island Mayor Jeremy Jensen; Gering Mayor Tony Kaufman; Scottsbluff Mayor Randy Meininger; Sidney City Council Member Wendall Gaston (League of Nebraska Municipalities President); Nebraska City Mayor Bryan Bequette; and, Norfolk Mayor Josh Moenning. Standing in front: Bellevue Mayor Rita Sanders. Photo by L. Lynn Rex, League Executive Director.



From left: Sidney City Council Member Wendall Gaston (League of Nebraska Municipalities President) and Bellevue Mayor Rita Sanders. Photo by L. Lynn Rex, League Executive Director.

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Why downtown development is crucial for American cities

BY GIDEON BERGER, NATIONAL LEAGUE OF CITIES

Every year, mayors from cities of all sizes share their Evisions for the upcoming year in their state of the city speeches. NLC has analyzed trends in these speeches for the last five years and it should surprise no one that economic development has remained the most popular topic.

But this year, the subtopic of downtown development edged out all other economic development issues for the top spot, coming up in more than a third of the 160 speeches NLC analyzed. This makes it the seventh most frequently mentioned subtopic overall.

Clear goals

A number of mayors articulated clear goals for downtown development. Some examples include:

- Clarksville, Tenn.: Mayor Kim McMillan championed a downtown performing arts center to enhance the entertainment scene as well as provide meeting space for conferences and other events.
- Cohoes, N.Y.: Mayor Shawn Morse noted the expansion of a park that would both serve as a modern gathering and event space, and broaden programming to spur additional visitation, recreation and investment in the downtown area.
- Tonawanda, N.Y.: Mayor Rick Davis mentioned plans to add mixed-use buildings to the city's commercial downtown area.
- Durham, N.C.: Noting the importance of using public land downtown to leverage affordable housing, Mayor Steve Schewel praised a recent city council vote to provide two acres of land next to the Durham Station development and up to \$3.8 million, to support the construction of 80 affordable units.

Themes and projects

The themes that these plans and projects touch on include:

- Catalyzing private investment in downtown through public infrastructure improvements and development incentives;
- Public acquisition of sites that have been abandoned or neglected;
- The role of public spaces like parks and plazas, as well



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- as cultural facilities to support community needs and tourism;
- The role of new residential development in making downtown vibrant and growing the market for commercial uses; and
- The outsized importance of downtown development projects in enhancing the city's overall fiscal health and tax base due to the higher tax revenues generated.

Strikingly, the themes highlighted above come up frequently among participants in NLC's Daniel Rose Fellowship, which for the past nine years has provided technical assistance to large U.S. cities nationwide who wish to further develop their downtowns.

Rose Fellowship

Over the years, the Rose Fellowship has shared and learned a number of lessons about downtown development, and our Rose Fellow mayors have similar goals to the mayors highlighted in our State of the Cities report:

Former Oakland, Calif., Mayor Jean Quan and current Rochester, New York, Mayor Lovely Warren wanted to bring new retail and shopping destinations to their downtown, which had experienced a renaissance in residential development, to turn it into a true mixed-use neighborhood that

could meet the needs of new residents.

- Omaha, Neb. Mayor Jean Stothert sought to attract infill development to North Downtown which at the time was a mix of large, event-based sports and convention centers and vast surface parking lots to create a unique mixed-use neighborhood that could also support the numerous arts-based enterprises popping up in its abandoned industrial properties.
- Honolulu Mayor Kirk Caldwell sought to refresh the cultural heart of the city, the aging Blaisdell Center, with new culture and arts facilities as well as a supportive new arts district around them.
- Former Birmingham, Ala., Mayor William Bell and current Richmond, Va., Mayor Levar Stoney sought to properly restore their significant historical sites to create a tourism-driven economic development strategy that would help provide sustainable funding for their cities.

It is heartening and encouraging to see smaller cities tackling these same challenges. However, proper downtown development requires a tremendous amount of staff technical capacity, deal-making savvy, community support and political will to execute well. To add an extra layer of difficulty, downtown development is highly visible, which means these projects entail more political risk and require bolder (and more informed) leadership from public officials.

All these examples illuminate how critical downtown remains to the future of our cities. While jobs have clearly been moving further outside metro areas over the years, our downtowns' history, cultural amenities and easy access to transportation make them a special place to live and work. Ultimately, they give our cities a vibrant and relevant identity as they evolve to meet the challenges of the future.

Omaha's wasteline.org provides new services to taxpayers

One of Omaha's most frequently used websites has a new look and more features to improve customer service.

The redesigned site, www.wasteline.org, provides the latest information on the city's solid waste services in a more user-friendly format. It includes tips to reduce waste, increase recycling and stop illegal dumping, all of which have economic and environmental consequences for Omaha.

"In 2017, Omaha citizens recycled more than 17,000 tons of material, but we can and need to do better," said Omaha Mayor Jean Stothert. "Our goal with this relaunch is to encourage everyone to do their part in making Omaha a cleaner, greener city."

The site is organized around the solid waste program's four main service areas: garbage, recycling, yard waste and special waste. More content will be added, including news features and videos designed to encourage residents to adopt new practices that lead to reducing the amount of material that goes to the landfill.

"More than 132,850 tons of waste went into the landfill in 2017, which cost taxpayers more than \$3.4 million," Stothert said. "We need to work

together to decrease this amount and help protect our natural resources."

Residents also can use the site to sign up for free e-updates. www. wasteline.org will be the resource for the latest information on the next solid waste collection contract. The current contract with Waste Management expires in 2020. The Request for Bids is expected to be released in mid-September.

Comments on the site are welcome. Visitors can use an online contact form to submit feedback.

■ Source – City of Omaha

AUGUST 2018 ______ //

6 steps to stronger computer security

Editor's note: Cybercrime is everywhere. More criminals are using the convenience, speed and obscurity of the Internet to perpetrate a wide range of criminal acts, some of which cost even small organizations thousands of dollars. What follows is an edited article from a SANS Faculty Fellow, Eric Cole, PhD., who has served as CTO of McAfee and chief scientist at Lockeed Martin. He is credited on more than 20 patents and sits on several advisory boards.

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Getting Started

Attackers target companies or organizations of all sizes; no matter how obscure you think you may be, you should expect eventually to be attacked. Large organizations devote lots of money and staff to fighting attacks – and even then, breaches still occur far too often. Small to mediumsize businesses or organizations face a tougher challenge. Your security budget is tiny by comparison to larger organizations. As for the security "team" – well, often it's just one or two people on the battle line. Because you must do more with less, it's crucial to be smart about defensive choices and focus on what matters most: Six Steps to Stronger Security. Stakeholders in the security industry provide many resources to solve this challenge. The problem for small organizations is lack of time and resources to sift through and apply all the advice, so the "Six Steps" strategy focuses on the most likely threats and fixing vulnerabilities that will cause the biggest impact to your organization.



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Going for Quick Wins

When your security team and budget is small, you won't be able to do everything the experts tell you to do. Think of your challenge as fighting a guerrilla war. As a guerrilla warrior, you can be highly effective with pinpoint application of security controls that give you quick wins. Always seek quick wins for your efforts. Here are four things you can do right away to shut down a huge percentage of potential attacks:

- Whitelist applications. Use a network application that allows launching only of approved applications. This limits the risk of damage caused by users who click on a Trojan embedded in an email phishing attack or from another attack vector.
- Use standard configurations.
 These ensure secure settings for workstations, laptops and other devices and avoid vulnerabilities created by mistakes in configurations.
- **Patch quickly.** Apply system and application patches within

- 48 hours for critical systems to eliminate potential attacks.
- Control administrative privileges. Make sure administrative privileges are inactive when using email or web browsers.

The Six Steps to Stronger Security can be easier and less expensive to implement than you might think. The rest of this guide will help you identify the highest-risk areas in order to focus your remediation efforts for strong security.

Step one: Keep an accurate hardware inventory

Begin by creating an accurate hardware inventory. It's impossible to protect assets you don't know you have. This hardware inventory – when combined with an associated software inventory and managed configurations – will be the foundation for all your security efforts. Look for cost-effective tools that can easily perform this task. For example, many vulnerability scanners can automati-

cally build and maintain an accurate asset inventory database that covers hardware and software. The hardware inventory is essential to a solid network-based defense.

Knowing which devices are authorized and which are not is vital for security because unknown devices are often conduits for an attack. It's important to inventory all devices on your network, whether it is a server, client, printer, switch or other device and without regard to its ownership. This includes smart phones, tablets or notebook computers that employees use to access corporate resources. The inventory also should include pointof-sale terminals if your company is a retailer; this will help you comply with PCI requirements for protecting cardholder data. It's vital that your hardware inventory be continuously updated. Vulnerabilities are constantly changing and your scanner will need an accurate inventory to correctly assess the risks of a breach. Automation will help you achieve an accurate inventory without requiring any manual effort. With automation, your inventory will update when a device appears on the network.

If you can invest in hardware inventory software, look for tools that automate inventory management and asset tagging, while easily identifying, categorizing and managing assets. Such tools should automatically discover unknown devices and enable dynamic selection of assets for scanning or reporting. The main idea of automation is to require your personal engagement only when there is a problem.

Your tool for automating hardware inventory should do the following:

• Identify all unauthorized devices,

Six Steps to Stronger Security

- I. Keep an accurate hardware inventory
- 2. Keep an accurate software inventory
- 3. Actively manage configurations
- 4. Remediate vulnerabilities quickly
- 5. Automate endpoint defenses
- 6. Control administrative access

as well as authorized devices.

- Scan on a regular basis to identify rogue devices.
- Integrate the hardware inventory database with software and configuration records.
- List all networked devices, including routers, switches and firewalls.
- Implement 802.1X (when supported by hardware and where appropriate) to allow only authorized devices on wireless as well as wired networks.

The first four items on this list are imperative for a meaningful hardware inventory.

Step two: Keep an accurate software inventory

Software is as critical to inventory as hardware because it's usually the point of compromise. Attackers exploit vulnerabilities in software that open the door to control of hardware. The goal is to identify the software required on a given system and permit use only of that software. A natural starting point is to scan existing systems to identify what is installed. A good vulnerability scanning tool can do this.

Consider implementing a labeling scheme that includes categories of systems (e.g., infrastructure servers, engineering workstations and business laptops) and creating a list of allowed software for each category. Your tool will automatically trigger an alarm when a user tries to install any software that is not on the approved list. Be sure to keep detailed logs of failed installations because such failures can be early indicators that someone is trying to compromise a system. Most attackers need to install software (usually disguised as a legitimate application or service) to set up launching points on the network for the next phase of an attack to cripple operational systems or breach sensitive data.

Your software inventory tool should do the following:

- Create a list of all authorized software.
- Scan on a regular basis to identify any unauthorized software.
- Integrate the software inventory database with hardware and configuration inventories.
- List software on all devices (e.g.,

6 steps to stronger computer security

Continued from page 14

- network hardware, as well as endpoints).
- Implement application whitelisting to prevent unauthorized software from execution or installation.
- Check logs for failed software installations that could indicate an attack.

As with hardware inventory tools, the first four items are imperative for a useful software inventory.

Step three: Actively manage configurations

Understanding and controlling device configurations is a key component of overall security. Improper configurations – whether deliberate or accidental – can trigger vulnerabilities. That's why developing and actively managing secure configuration baselines for all devices will help create stronger security. A tool

for controlling these will enforce the use of authorized configurations and block unauthorized changes.

All changes to configurations should go through a standard change control process. Although such processes have some manual aspects, you can automate most of this with the help of a comprehensive asset database. Regular scanning will detect all configuration changes. If a change is unauthorized, the tool will generate an alert.

Step four: Remediate vulnerabilities quickly

Vulnerabilities are the gateways for attacks. New vulnerabilities turn up continuously and it is critical that you identify them with scanning and fix them in a timely manner. The main idea about remediation is to reduce your network's attack surface and minimize the points where a criminal might create a breach.

The quickest way to reduce your

attack surface is to close unneeded services and protocol ports. If you don't need them now, shut them down immediately. Remediation also entails fixing bad configurations, including version control of OSes and applications. That process that should occur automatically as described in Step Three. Patching is the other major component of remediation. Patching is an onerous manual process without automation. Because quick patching of vulnerabilities is vital, you should use an automated tool to speed this process. Most OSes have free and automated patching tools, although the manageability of those tools varies. For that reason, look at using a robust tool that will automate all your patching requirements. Note that you should patch all software, even when it is disabled and apply all available patches to any newly installed or reenabled service.

A tool for active management of configurations should do the following:

- Run vulnerability scans on a regular basis to identify any anomalies.
- Categorize known vulnerabilities based on a risk-rating scheme.
- Use threat intelligence services to rate risks against active, realworld attacks.
- Remove any services not needed and close any protocol ports that are not required.
- Patch any services installed on the system, whether enabled or not.

Effective vulnerability remediation requires all of these steps.

A tool for active management of configurations should do the following:

- Create a secure configuration for all devices.
- Scan on a regular basis to identify any unauthorized configuration changes.
- Integrate the configuration database with hardware and software inventories.
- Ensure that configurations are tracked for network hardware, as well as endpoints.
- Implement integrity checks and security templates to alert of and/ or prevent unauthorized configuration changes.
- Implement a robust change control process in which all changes are reviewed before being applied to production systems.

The first five items on this list are must-haves for meaningful configuration monitoring.

Step five: Automate endpoint defenses

Criminals often target endpoints, so protecting your network must include an endpoint security suite. Tools should include antivirus, endpoint protection, intrusion prevention and a personal firewall. In addition, your tool should block incoming executables while controlling and limiting the use of HTML content embedded in email. Email – through attachments and web links embedded in the body of a message – is a common point of compromise.

Here are five configuration tips for automating your endpoint protection:

- Enable OS auto-update features on each device so equipped.
- Turn on Windows AppLocker and give no users admin privileges.
- Consider the use of a managed security service provider (MSSP) to manage and/or monitor nextgeneration firewalls or unified threat management appliances. Either of those can automatically provide network-based anti-malware protection.
- Implement cloud-based web security gateway services to limit inbound web malware and keep users (especially mobile users) away from dangerous websites.
- Take advantage of ISP offerings that block DNS resolution to known bad sites or look at free and/or inexpensive services.

Getting started with automated protection can be as easy as configuring the anti-malware features in existing antivirus tools. If possible, configure these to send any alerts or events to your log server(s), then carefully

review these logs for signs of system compromise and respond promptly. It's a good idea to review logs from critical assets every day. Also, ensure you configure malware defenses to check for regular updates and push those out to all protected devices.

When considering stand-alone antimalware products or evaluating the anti-malware components within antivirus software, features to look for include the following:

- Ease of management and reporting (to promote visibility into the security landscape).
- Protection against zero-day attacks (to defend against currently undefined threats).
- Low overhead (to preserve application performance).
- Automation features enabled by default to minimize your learning curve.

A typical checklist for automating your defenses includes the following:

- Run an updated endpoint security software suite that automatically scans all critical files.
- Harden a system to turn off autorun and auto-executable content.
- Scan executable attachments, run them in a sandbox and, if malicious, block them.
- Limit embedded HTML email content.

The first two items on this list are imperative for effective automation of defensive efforts.

Step six: Control administrative access

The most damaging component of malicious code is the ability to run as the system administrator. If a sys-



6 steps to stronger computer security

Continued from page 15

tem is infected but the damage can be controlled, the attack's impact is manageable. However, if malicious

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code has full administrative access, the damage can be extreme. Limiting and controlling administrative access is thus critical to security. In many small organizations, several people often have unnecessary administrative access.

That's one of the most risky situations. You must monitor such access and control accounts holding administrative privileges. It is especially important to do the following:

- Inventory every account with elevated access and review whether it is needed.
- Withdraw administrative privileges when someone leaves the organization or a person's job role changes.
- Encourage administrators to use different passwords for different types of systems and enforce requirements that administrators use frequently changed, complex passwords.
- Find and disable default accounts on workstations and servers that attackers can easily penetrate.

A checklist for controlling administrative access includes the following:

- Audit and track anyone who has administrative access.
- Administrators should always log in with the access rights of an ordinary user and use privileged access only when necessary.
- Forbid the use of email or web browsers when logged in as a user with administrative access.
- Use complex and robust passwords.
- Use cloud-based multifactor authentication if possible.
- Beware the challenge that privileged users often are unconvinced they are part of the problem.

They may push back and say these rules shouldn't apply to them. Be firm to ensure controls are applied as appropriate.

Conclusion

Security does not have to be difficult or expensive for organizations using a risk-based approach to security. This article provides actionable controls you can implement to increase security in a cost-effective manner by targeting well-known risk areas from the start. The most important points to consider:

- Automation is critical. Limited resources will always be a problem, so minimize manual efforts and use more automation.
- Prioritize by focusing on the areas that will provide quick wins with the best return.
- Risk-based security will ensure that the highest risk items are addressed first.
- Develop metrics to track compliance and identify gaps in security that need to be addressed.

By performing proper analysis and focusing on high-risk areas, organizations that have limited budgets can still create strong security. Using the "Six Steps" will help you implement effective security that reduces risk.

Check out the League's website at www.lonm.org

1,500 people attend Nebraska State Fly-In event in Chadron

Activities included catered meal, musical entertainment, paper plane flying contest

BY TERRY HANES
FLY-IN CHAIRMAN
AND BARB MCDANIEL
CITY OF CHADRON

The City of Chadron was honored to have been chosen as host for the 2018 Nebraska State Fly-In on June 8-10. There were many activities at the Chadron Municipal Airport, and according to Terri Haynes, Chair of the Fly-In Committee, the weekend event was declared a "huge success."

Haynes said that about 1,500 people and 35 aircraft visited the airport over the weekend. Special events included a catered meal and musical entertainment on June 8. Seating was limited with 280 ticketed individuals attending.

Morning activities June 8 began with a breakfast provided by Trunk Butte Christian School. Various aircraft arrived throughout the morning, including single-engine aircraft, multi-engine aircraft and helicopters.

Visitors could purchase a parachuting experience or a helicopter ride.

The Scottsbluff Experimental Aircraft Association sponsored the Young Eagle Rides and flew 56 young people on a tour over Chadron.

Afternoon events included an air show with a Staudacher flown by Doug Roth, a demonstration of a BT-13 flown by Kurt Muhle and a minijet flown by Tom Larkin. After the air show, these performers answered questions from patrons.

The Chadron Public Library hosted a paper airplane contest later in the day. This was followed by a tribute to 17 World War II veterans. Chadron Mayor John Coates introduced the veterans and noted a military career highlight for each. Re-honored were two members of the Nebraska Aviation Hall of Fame, James Joyce of Sidney and Dick Trail of McCook. The evening concluded with a local talent show. A breakfast June 10 wrapped up the events.

Mike Olson and Diane Bartels of the Nebraska Aviation Council presented an award to the City of Chadron for hosting the 28th Annual Fly-In.

City Manager Greg Yanker and Mayor Coates accepted the award on



Photo submitted by Barb McDaniel, City of Chadron.

behalf of the city.

For those who were unable to attend or missed the opportunity to purchase a commemorative T-shirt or hat, they are still available at Chadron City Hall. Shirts are \$15 each (youth S-XL, and adult S through 2X) and hats \$20, which includes shipping and handling. To order an item, send request with payment and size(s) to PO Box 390, Chadron, NE 69337. Checks or money orders only. Please include phone number and/or email in the event we need to contact you. For more information, call 308/432-0505.

To see a picture gallery of the event, go to 2018 Nebraska State Fly-In on Facebook. ■

Grand Island City Council approves placing sales tax hike before voters

The Grand Island City Council Aug. 14 unanimously approved placing language on the November ballot for a half-cent sales tax increase. If voters approve the proposal, the estimated \$5.5 million

in revenue generated by the sales tax increase would be used for public infrastructure projects, including public safety equipment needed for providing public safety services.

Source - Grand Island Independent

See page 22 for Professional Directory

NDEQ awards \$1.9 million in waste reduction and recycling grants

Money awarded to 32 recipients for variety of projects

Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality Director Jim Macy in July announced the awarding of \$1.9 million in grants to 32 recipients through the Waste Reduction and Recycling Incentive Grant Fund. For 2018, the department received more than \$4.4 million in eligible grant applications.

The Waste Reduction and Recycling Incentive Grant Fund is generated by a fee on solid waste disposed of in landfills, an annual retail business sales fee and a fee assessed on the sale of new tires for motor vehicles. The grants are provided to local integrated waste management projects including: recycling systems, household hazardous waste collection programs, transfer stations and yard waste composting.

What follows is a list, by city, of 2018 grantees. The list includes the amount awarded and a description of the projects receiving grant support.

- Alliance. Keep Alliance Beautiful, \$51,406. Funds to operate Alliance's recycling center and to provide waste reduction and recycling education in Box Butte County.
- **Bristow**. Village of Bristow, \$9,860. Funds to build a concrete pad/bunker and a sign to serve as a collection site for glass for Bristow and Boyd County residents.
- **Chadron**. Keep Chadron Beautiful, \$42,313. Funding to recover cardboard and office paper from Chadron for recycling.
- Chadron. Keep Chadron Beautiful, \$3,250. Host an electronic waste collection for the Chadron area. Funds are in addition to a 2018 litter grant award to hold

- this event. Estimate diverting 15,000 pounds of e-waste.
- **Dodge.** Village of Dodge, \$9,417. Crush 2,000 tons of concrete. Crushed concrete will be used as a base to improve Front Street in Dodge.
- Fremont. Keep Fremont Beautiful, \$32,144. Funds to hold one household hazardous waste event for the City of Fremont and Dodge County residents. In 2017, removed more than 14,000 pounds and 59 gallons of household hazardous waste.
- Fremont. Horizon Biofuels Inc., \$170,000. Fifty percent of the cost of industrial wood shredding equipment to shred mixed wood waste (pallets, crates, construction waste, etc.) that contain metal and other contaminants (which will be removed). The shredded wood will be used to create renewable energy products and divert wood waste from the landfill.
- **Grand Island.** Grand Island Area Clean Community System, \$112,661. Funds to operate the Household Hazardous Waste Collection facility. Anticipate shipping 11 semi-loads of household hazardous waste for proper disposal.
- **Hebron.** Trailblazer Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D), \$16,500. Host electronic waste collection events in seven counties (Clay, Thayer, Nuckolls, Webster, Franklin, Fillmore, and Harlan) and divert approximately 150,000 pounds of e-waste from the landfill.
- **Kearney.** City of Kearney, \$19,376. Funds to purchase a vertical baler for the Kearney Re-



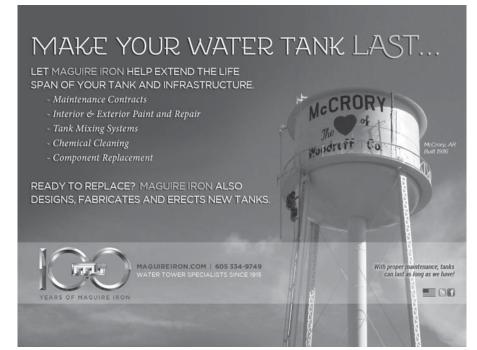
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- cycling Center to bale recyclables as sorted and reduce storage space needed until materials are shipped to market. Kearney ships about 215 semi-loads of baled recyclables to market per year.
- Lexington. Lexington Area Solid Waste Agency, \$24,768. Host three-four household hazardous waste events in central Nebraska. More than 36,000 pounds of household hazardous waste collected in 2017. Will serve Brown, Blaine, Thomas, Hooker, McPherson, Logan, Custer, Dawson, and Gosper Counties.
- Lincoln. Keep Nebraska Beautiful, \$68,461. Funds to operate three statewide programs: Nebraska Materials Exchange Program, Nebraska Food Waste Reduction Program and Nebraska Used Oil Collection Program. More than 13 million pounds recycled last year.
- Lincoln. Lincoln Public Schools, \$24,892. Compost program to divert over 1.1 million pounds of cafeteria waste in one year. Has a goal of 50 percent diversion for schools with recycling and compost programs and 75 percent diversion in cafeteria waste in schools with compost programs
- **Lincoln.** Uribe Refuse Services, \$33,333. Plans to offset up to 20 Continued on page 19

- percent of costs for commercial customers receiving food waste recycling services during their first year of participation. Plan to increase food waste recycling up to 6,500 tons/year and reduce greenhouse gas by an additional 9,750 metric tons/year.
- Lincoln. Nebraska Recycling Council, \$48,728. Funds to expand the Hub and Spoke program to 22 counties in North Central Nebraska and support counties using the program.
- Lincoln. Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department, \$178,202. Household hazardous waste disposal costs, plus branding and marketing services for continued public education for the Household Hazardous Waste center and related toxics reduction programs.
- Lincoln. University of Nebraska-Lincoln, \$69,778. UNL's Partners in Pollution Prevention P3 program to provide waste reduction and recycling solutions to five Nebraska businesses, resulting in cost savings (>\$500,000/year) and solid waste diversion (> 2,000 tons/year).
- Lincoln. Solid Waste Management Division City of Lincoln, \$124,475. Personnel costs and year two of a three-year residential and commercial recycling education campaign; measuring the effectiveness of the cardboard diversion plan.
- Louisville. Keep Cass County Beautiful, \$1,999. Funds to host four electronic waste recycling events in Cass County. Collected over 20,000 pounds from 2017.
- McCook\Red Willow County.

- \$189,833. Hold 49 household hazardous waste collection events and 14 pickups/disposals, serving over 13,000 participants. Plan to collect 250,000 pounds. Will partner with 10 Resource and Conservation Districts, 19 Natural Resources Districts, 14 public health departments, eight Keep America Beautiful affiliates and 40 counties.
- North Platte. Keep North Platte and Lincoln County Beautiful, \$12,336. Work with seven businesses on recycling and waste minimization. Work will include commercial waste audits, designing of in-house programs with employees and a bin loan and purchase program.
- Oakland. Nebraska Loess Hills RC&D Council, \$17,142. Hold three household hazardous waste collections to serve Burt, Cuming, Dakota, Dodge, Thurston and Washington Counties. Plan to properly dispose of 27,500

- pounds of waste that might otherwise go to a landfill.
- Oakland. Nebraska Loess Hills RC&D Council, \$7,662. Host an electronic waste collection in Pender for Burt, Cuming, Dodge, Dakota, Thurston and Washington counties to divert an estimated 16,800 pounds of e-waste from the landfill.
- **Ogallala**. Keep Keith County Beautiful, \$7,280. Host two electronic waste collection events for Keith County residents and the surrounding area. Anticipate collecting 20,000 pounds.
- **Ogallala**. Western Resources Group, \$96,065. Funds toward a roll-off trailer to move recycling roll-off containers to smaller areas of the hub and spoke service area.
- Ogallala. Keep Keith County Beautiful, \$6,455. Host a household hazardous waste collection for Keith County residents. Ex-



Affordable housing project nearing completion in Norfolk

Wishrock and the Norfolk Housing Development Corporation in August announced the renovation of Skyline Apartments.

Wishrock, a national developer of affordable housing, purchased the project from the Norfolk Odd Fellows in 2014 with plans to renovate the property and preserve this important affordable housing for Norfolk residents. Wishrock formed a partnership with the Development Division of the Norfolk Housing Agency. The project was financed by 9 percent Low Income

Housing Tax Credits, Tax Increment Financing from the City of Norfolk, HOME funds from the City of Norfolk and the Nebraska Department of Economic Development (DED), National Housing Trust Funds and Affordable Housing Program funds from the Federal Home Loan Bank of Cincinnati, a Construction Loan from JP Morgan Chase and a Permanent Loan from USDA.

The City of Norfolk, Midwest Housing Equity Group, Sugar Creek Realty, Midwest Housing Development Fund and both the Northeast Nebraska DED and Nebraska DED were key partners in making the project a reality.

The \$8 million renovation has transformed the blighted property into modern loft-style living. Improvements include new flooring, appliances, cabinets, bathrooms, AC systems, interior and exterior paint, landscaping and community garden, floor-to-ceiling windows with roller blinds and a sparkling new community space.

The property is affordable with rent starting at \$530 per month. Residents pay only a small portion of this rent with the remaining portion of the rent paid by through the Section 8 Housing Assistance Contract. Studio and one-bedroom apartments are available for residents over 55 and persons with disabilities.

Source - City of Norfolk

NDEQ awards \$1.9 million in waste reduction and recycling grants

Continued from page 19

- pect to collect more than 6,500 pounds of waste.
- Omaha. Keep Omaha Beautiful, \$38,494. Funds for public education for household hazardous waste, yard waste and to promote the Under the Sink program.
- Omaha. City of Omaha Under the Sink HHW Facility, \$337,500. Funds are for the Under the Sink Household Hazardous Waste facility to collect and manage over 1 million pounds each year of household hazardous waste from Douglas and Sarpy Counties.

Interim committee hearings have begin

Interim Legislative Committee Hearings have begun. You will find the schedule for hearings listed at http://nebraskalegislature.gov/session/interim.php.

- Gering Beautiful, \$68,875. Funds to host a household hazardous waste collection and a pharmaceutical take-back event. Estimate collecting over 14,000 pounds of household hazardous waste and over 4,000 pounds of pharmaceutical waste, based on prior events.
- **St. Paul.** City of St. Paul, \$19,000. Funds for educational materials, signs and advertising to educate St. Paul and Howard County residents on proper recycling.
- **Tecumseh.** Five Rivers RC&D. \$51,123. Conduct 10-11 electronic waste collections (including appliances) in eight counties (Cass, Jefferson, Johnson, Nemaha, Otoe, Pawnee, Richardson and Saline).
- **Wayne.** City of Wayne, \$6,672. Funds to hold an electronic waste collection event for the City of Wayne. ■

Source – Nebraska Dept. of Environmental Quality

What is with the flags you see throughout the City of McCook?

In July, the City of McCook Utility Departments began participating in a mapping project that involves painting and flagging curb stops, water valves and sewer manholes. This project is part of a digital upgrade to the city's utility maps and records that will provide accurate locations for McCook's infrastructure.

The McCook City Utility Department asked that customers leave the flags in place until after Sept. 15. ■

Source - City of McCook

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

Maintenance Worker. Village of Shelton is currently accepting applications for the position of a Full-Time Maintenance Worker with the potential of advancement into the Assistant Utility Superintendent Position. Position will include the general maintenance and upkeep of all village properties, including streets, sewer and park systems. Applicant will be responsible for the operation of all village equipment and must be willing and able to obtain and maintain water certification. Supervisory experience helpful but not necessary. Please submit your letter of interest and resume and/or application to the Office of the Village Clerk, Village of Shelton, 219 C Street, PO Box 6, Shelton, Neb. 68876. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. EOE

Electric Journeyman Line Worker.

City of Gering is accepting applications for the position of full-time Electric Journeyman Line Worker. This individual will perform skilled line work in the operation, construction, maintenance and repair of overhead and underground electric distribution and transmission systems. The city will also accept applications for Electric Apprentice Line Worker, utilizing the City of Gering's Apprenticeship Program. Applications with resumes will be accepted until the position is filled. Specific duties, responsibilities, and desired qualifications are available with the application form. Apply at the City of Gering, 1025 "P" Street, Gering, NE 69341 or at www.gering.

Positions

org. Applicants are asked to include any training and/or educational certificates they may have to their application. Application deadline is 4:30 p.m., Sept. 21, 2018. EOE

Utility Worker. Village of Callaway is accepting applications for Utility Worker. This is a full-time position with benefits including health insurance, dental/life, vacation and sick leave. Call 308-836-2262, visit office at 157 E Kimball or villageofcallaway. com.

Journeyman Lineman. City of Yuma, Colo., Electric Department has an immediate opening for an Journeyman Lineman. The City of Yuma (pop. 3.524) is located about 150 miles northeast of the Denver metro area. Under the direction of the Electric Superintendent, the Journeyman lineman is responsible for the operation, maintenance, and construction of a electrical substation and distribution system; including overhead and underground. The successful candidate will have completed an accredited Journeyman lineman apprenticeship program, obtained a Journeyman's License and have at least three years of increasingly responsible experience in an electric utility. Candidates must also possess or be able to obtain Class A CDL license and be insurable under the city's insurance policy. The position will be required to take on-call rotation. Pre-employment requirements will include a written skills test, criminal background check,

Positions

and drug and alcohol screening. City employment application is required. The City of Yuma is an EOE. For more information or to receive an application, contact John Prettyman, Electrical Superintendent at 970-848-3878 x 2112, email at j.prettyman@yumacolo.org, or by U.S. mail at City of Yuma, PO Box 265, 910 South Main Street, Yuma CO 80759. The position will remain open until filled.

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