Peru Flood – March 2019

By Ken Swanson, Water/Wastewater Manager, Auburn

Early in the month of March, the Nemaha County Emergency Management (NCEM) put out a notice that due to high Missouri River levels, along with above-normal precipitation and anticipated rapid snow melt, preparations should be made for flooding in the Missouri River Flood Plain. Volunteers helped the City of Peru sand bag around the city’s water treatment plant and two wells. The city officials had been through this several times in the past and after the sandbags were in place, were confident that they had these facilities secured for the worst. On March 16, with the river rapidly rising, there was a report that a levee to the northeast of town had been breached and floodwater was rapidly filling the bottom ground heading for town. It is nearly a mile and a half from the east edge of Peru to the river. Within a matter of hours, floodwater had reached town and was still rising. What in the past had been more than adequate, sandbag protection didn’t come close to containing the floodwaters and both the water treatment plant and wells along with the City’s sewer lagoons were compromised. At the filtering plant, flood water blew the front entrance door in and eight to nine feet of water submerged pumps, electrical panels, SCADA controls and nearly all other components of the plant. One of the wells next to the plant was submerged and the other several blocks away had nearly four feet of water in it, over the top of the pump base and half way up on the electrical and control panels. The Auburn Board of Public Works has an agreement with the City of Peru to furnish water and wastewater operators for the filtering plant and lagoon system. They were called to assist along with city officials, NCEM, law enforcement and NHHS to assess the damage and come up with a plan to secure what water the city had in storage at the tower and avoid contaminating that supply. Fortunately, the tower was near full. At the time, we were unable to reach the filter plant to tell if power was still on and the booster pumps operating, potentially pumping contaminated water to the tower. Valves were shut to isolate the flooded area and OPPD arrived and power was disconnected to the north end of town including the filter plant and well. Damage estimates concluded that the city’s water supply was going to be out of service for the foreseeable future and a backup supply needed to be sought out and activated.

Truck loads of bottled water were brought in and NCEM contacted Schmidt trucking company in Fairbury, which had bulk water trailers to haul water from the nearest chlorinated supply which was Auburn. A portable booster pump also was needed to be able to pump the trucked supply into Peru’s distribution system and be powerful enough to pump to the top of the water tower. Rieschick Drilling Company in Falls City was able to supply the pump that was needed. A boil water and conservation notice were put in place and on March 18, the water supply was being hauled from Auburn, 12 miles away. As a precaution, special samples were taken five days a week from the tower to ensure the safety of the trucked supply. The Nebraska Rural Water generously furnished transportation of the samples to the lab for the whole duration while water was being trucked. Every load of water hauled had the connections disinfected with bleach when loading and unloading and then capped when not in use. Ninety-seven samples were taken during this time and not one single sample failed the bacti tests. After the issue of a temporary supply was taken care of, preparations began to get one of the wells tested and functional so they could possibly supply the town again. The Corp. of Engineers

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Peru Flood March 2019

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came and built levees around the filter plant and well several blocks from the plant to protect them from any possible future flooding. The city hired JEO to coordinate recovery efforts. Sargent came and pulled the pump at the well and rehabilitated it so it was functional again. Electric panels and controls had to be replaced. Since there was so much damage to the existing filter plant, plans were in place to bring in a temporary portable plant and it was set up in a spot out of the potential flood area. Kems Construction from Plattsmouth came and installed the necessary piping needed and HOA came and installed the new controls. WesTech received the contract to supply the temporary plant. On May 13, the plant arrived, was set in place and piping connected. The process of getting the plant dialed in to treat the water to acceptable levels began. Problems arose with the plant’s technology and one issue after another presented itself. The plant had a RO system and when treated, the water’s pH was lowered to the point that it would be too aggressive to put into the system, for fears of descaling the water mains. After many futile attempts to correct this, it was finally determined a plant with different filtering technology had to be brought in. So the plant was removed and on July 14, a different plant arrived on site and the process of getting it dialed in began. It consisted of five greensand pressure units that would produce a 100 gpm supply. After figuring out the chemical doses and the optimum filter run times before backwashing was needed, bacti samples were taken from the plant and after receiving passing results, the plant was put online July 25. Some tweaking still needs to be done on the plant’s processes to gain the most efficiency and improve the finished water quality. From March 18 until the end of July, over 9.4 million gallons of water, approximately 1,345 loads, were trucked to Peru. As for the lagoons, an emergency discharge had to take place. With the river levels remaining high and the broken levee not repaired, it made doing a discharge that was low enough impossible. Until the river goes down, repairs cannot be done. A lot of the riprap around the banks was displaced by the flood water. There have been reports that the Missouri River is trying to revert back to its old channel, which could create major issues of ever getting the lagoons repaired in their current location. This flood is one for the record books and the City of Peru has many hurdles to overcome to get back to any normalcy.

2019-2020 Executive Board

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Utilities Section Newsletter, page 2
Nebraska Breaktime Trivia “Just For Fun”

Q-1. How many incorporated villages/cities start with the letter “K?”
Q-2. The Pioneer Village Museum is located in what city in Nebraska?
Q-3. Where is the Bess Streeter Aldrich Home and Museum located?
Q-4. Do you know in which city this mural is located?

Answers on page 12.

Electric “Rubber Gloving” School held

The Western Nebraska Electric Rubber Gloving School was held Sept. 12-14, 2019, at the Don Winkelman Training Field (Wheatbelt Public Power District), north of Sidney. Forty-three linemen were in attendance with 13 from municipalities and 30 from rural electric systems. Eight municipal systems participated with linemen from Alliance, Callaway, Kimball, Lyman, Morrill, Mullen, North Platte and Stuart. The workshop started with vendor introductions, which included brief discussions on the various equipment, vehicles and other related electrical material that was provided for use and display by the various companies. The participants then were divided into hands-on work groups or stations.

On the second day, Ed Salazar with 18 utility line students from Western Community College toured the field and observed the various workstations. Also in attendance were: Larry Oetken, of the Nebraska Rural Electric Association; Rob Pierce of the League of Nebraska Municipalities; and Joel Duffeld of Northeast Community College. Joel is the Western Region Job Safety and Safety Trainer for Northeast Community College and coordinated the instructors and trucks. Fifteen bucket and digger trucks were scheduled for use at this school. A special thanks to the instructors and their respective companies for their time and expertise; the City of Sidney for use of the digger and bucket truck; and the Village of Stuart for providing an instructor and bringing a bucket truck. Thanks also to Altec and ETI for providing five trucks for use at the school.

On behalf of the Utilities Section and the Rural Electric Association, a special thanks to the following companies who provided trucks, demo trailers, material and their input of knowledge when performing rubber gloving techniques (listed alphabetically by company name): Bruce Bower, Rick Little, Mike Blackman, of Altec; Chad Hiatt of Altec Supply; Bud “Buddy” Cadwell of Bashlin Industries; Bill Edelman of Dutton-Lainson Company; Johns Marsaglia of Evans Lipka & Associates; Bill Larson of Energy Solutions Inc.; Chad Duke of ETI; Brian Winfield of Moehn Electric Sales; Rich Weekly of Pro-Tech Power Sales; and Paul Fregoso of Salisbury.

The next Rubber Gloving School is scheduled for 2020 at Northeast Community College in Norfolk.
Kimball. A railroad underpass project in Kimball is getting a face lift with structural modification for better drainage, along with beautification landscaping. Engineering and agency sign-offs over the last 15 years have doubled the cost of the project to $2.4 million. Kimball’s share of the expenses increased from $250,000 to $480,000 and the completion date is estimated for the fall of 2019. Work began in late April 2018 on removal of the old facilities and pouring retaining walls. The curb line was removed on the southeast portion of the project and connected existing storm sewer lines. Project improvements include the reconstruction of the sidewalk, partial reconstruction of the rock slopes, grading, landscaping and lighting improvements. The Old Highway 71 project between 1st Street and Main Street in Kimball is a partnership with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), City of Kimball, the Nebraska Department of Transportation and the Paul Reed Construction.

Exeter. An improvement project to the Village of Exeter’s business district included upgrades such as ADA compliant walkways, new light poles and LED lights, new water main curb stops and railing along the sidewalks. The outer edge of the sidewalks was lined with decorative veneer bricks. About $847,000 in bonded funding was spent on the upgrades.

Chappell. The City of Chappell is getting about a four to five-block face-lift in the main business areas, which consists of new sidewalks, curbing/guttering, rails, tiered landscaping and ADA entrances to the businesses. On the utilities side, 22 new LED streetlights, poles and wiring will be installed along with 29 new water (smart) meters and meter pits. Initially, the Department of Transportation (formerly Dept. of Roads) was working on updating (ADA ramping) along Highway 30 (2nd Street in town). Discussions in 2016 included adding new sidewalk, curb and guttering along with ADA updates at the same time. Funding for Chappell’s $1.2 million downtown project came from several grants and the City of Chappell through LB 840 Funds. Community development funding grants were provided by the Department of Transportation (DOT), Nebraska Department of Economic Development (CDBG), the Buckley Trust, Deuel County Tourism, Virginia Smith Trust, Panhandle Partnership, Nebraska Department of Transportation (NDOT), Civic and Community Center Financing Fund (CCCF) and a Union Pacific Railroad Safety Grant. Completion of the project is to be in the fall of 2019.

Like many downtown reconstruction projects some of the old history gets dug up. Chappell found an original township marker, former reservoir pits and coal chutes (three metal doors) to coal rooms or pits. Foundations to old storage areas or rooms, a stairway and, of course, concrete/metal fill along with old sidewalks structures paved over. Some of the sidewalks being replaced were stamp dated 1974-1977.

Columbus. Construction on a new Columbus Fire Hall building and a 45th Street paving project is underway.

Fremont. A street and storm drainage project and Broad Street, south of the overpass, is underway in Fremont. Also, the Fremont “New Deal” Auditorium, which was built in 1936, is being remodeled, a $3.5 million project.

Beaver City. The City of Beaver City is in the early stages of a $2.8 million water project with new wells, main installation and a new water storage tower.

On Interstate 80, the on/off ramps to Kearney and Grand Island are under construction and Highway 385 on the east side of Sidney is being resurfaced.
SAFETY/HEALTH CORNER

Office safety tips

By Rob Pierce, LNM Field Rep./Training Coordinator

Does your office or shop have a shortage of electrical outlets. Many of our municipal buildings were constructed before computers, iPads, cellphones and a multitude of other office equipment that require being plugged in. This also pertains to all portable equipment such as two-way radios, cell phones, laptops, along with meter readers and locating equipment with global positioning systems (GPS).

It seems almost everything else these days is wireless, but we still need one if not multiple chargers plugged in. Once again technology is out pacing the updating of electrical wiring in most of our facilities causing us to cut corners with multiple extension cords and surge strips. Often it can be found where surge strips are plugged into each other with all ports in use. Amperage ratings can be easily overcome tripping a breaker or overheating a cord or equipment creating a potential fire hazard. If the surge strip has a breaker built in it might need reset or possibly the entire unit may need to be replaced. The surge strip might become a multi-port unit with little to no protection if it cannot be reset.

Another item is extension cord abuse around the office or shop. Extension cords are to be used as temporary devices, not in place of permanent wiring. Often these cords are not rated for high amperage equipment that is plugged into them such as space heaters. A good measure of how heavy duty is your extension cord, what did you pay for it and is the cord fairly thick in diameter.

Trip hazards also can be a problem associated with extension cord use. When stepped on they can roll, causing a fall or you can trip on them if they are not secured/taped to the floor. Also, stepping on or running over cords with a vehicle, a heavy cart or just walking on them can put pressure on internal wires causing them to fray or break. Another electrical issue of concern is when the electrical outlets are not grounded or cords with two-prongs (no ground prong) are used. Sometimes we get too creative by removing or cutting off the ground prong on the plug. I have even seen the ground prong bent backwards out of the way, so the equipment could be plugged into a two slot socket. An adapter is usually not recommended as you may not be able to properly ground it. Removing a ground eliminates protection and often the outlet screw connecting an adapter may not provide an adequate ground. Using an adapter often can add enough weight to cause the cord to sag, pulling the prongs partially out of the outlet. This may cause sparking and a fire could result.

Next time you walk through your office take time to observe and evaluate the electrical outlets and the equipment plugged into them to prevent a potential fire. During the holidays we tend to find a lot of decorative lights and decorations that can overload an outlet. Many offices and shops tend to use shop heaters and those heaters that are located under the office desks. If we must use then, try to purchase heaters with a safety shut off in case they are tipped over. This may prevent a potential fire. Also the updating of electrical wiring within our buildings may cost thousands but a fire can cost a lot more.

Years of Service Awards

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 a certificate by emailing brendah@lonm.org at the League office.
Nebraska utilities history – Edison

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

Edison, located in Furnas County, had a post office established Feb. 27, 1880. The original post office in the area was in section 26 in the log house of Mr. White. Before the railroad came through, the mail was delivered from Plum Creek via stagecoach. By 1874, School District #15 was organized and the first school was a log cabin where the Edison Packing Plant was later located. In 1882, a one-room school was built for $900. The townsite was platted in August 1885 as Edison. There are different claims on how the town was named. One claim was that it was named after the first postmaster’s son Edward “Eddie” Rohr. By 1889, another school was built for $2,000. By 1890, the population was approximately 125 and the community had a flour mill, two general stores, a milliner, a drug store, blacksmith shop and a hardware/implement dealer. In 1896, School District #10, located south of Edison, was built (14 ft. x 16 ft.). On Oct. 19, 1903, the Bank of Edison was established and on Jan. 3, 1907, Edison was incorporated as a village.

The population was 334 by 1910 and a new brick high school was built in 1911 costing $15,000 with the first 12th grade graduates in 1912. In August 1915, the Edison News building was destroyed by fire. The streets had gas lamps by 1915 and in 1917, the Farmers & Merchants Bank was established (opened Sept. 1). The population in 1920 was 315 and in 1926, the Edison Farmers and Merchant Bank was organized with a merger of the Bank of Edison and Farmers & Merchants Bank. On Oct. 21, 1929, the Farmers & Merchant Bank again was reorganized. By 1930, the population was 329 and a school bond ($40,000) was voted on and a new brick building was completed that year. In September, the Midwest Construction Company of Hastings installed a waterworks system. In November 1930, the new auditorium was opened, School District #10 closed and the flooding of the Republican River occurred in 1935.

By 1936, the natural gas system was operated by Aksarben Natural Gas Company. By the 1940s, the population continued on page 7.
Nebraska utilities history – Edison

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was 321, the water system boasted a water storage tower and the village purchased a 1930 LaFrance chemical fire truck from Arapahoe. The population decreased to 302 by 1950 and the Edison CO-OP elevator was established in 1955. In 1956, the cost of street lighting amounted to $25 per month and in 1958-62, the electric system was owned by Consumers Public Power District. In 1958, the water plant and 115 meters in service were owned by the village with a meter deposit of $3. The natural gas system was operated and supplied by Kansas-Nebraska Natural Gas Company with the following rates: first 1,000 cubic feet (cuft) at $0.20 per 100 cubic feet (ccf), next 1,000 cuft at $0.15 per ccf, next 1,000 cuft at $0.10 ccf, next 7,000 cuft at $0.06 per ccf, excess of 100,000 cuft at $0.04 per ccf and a minimum monthly charge of $2 per meter installed.

By 1960, the population was 249 and the fire department had 22 volunteer firefighters. The electric distribution system was operated/supplied by Consumers Public Power District and the natural gas system by the Kansas-Nebraska Natural Gas Company. In 1967, the Farmers & Merchants Bank moved into a remodeled brick building and the last Edison high school class of three graduated.

By 1970, the population was 199 and a sewer project included a mechanical lift station being installed. In 1971, sewer bonds were $100,000 to mature May 15, 1986. The village operated an activated sludge extended aeration

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Nebraska utilities history – Edison

Continued from page 7

wastewater treatment plant designed for 0.04 million gallons per day (mgd) to be discharged to surface water. The electric distribution system owned by the village was leased (1970) to be operated/supplied by the Nebraska Public Power District. The population in 1980 was 210, the electrical system was operated/supplied by Nebraska Public Power District and the natural gas system operated/supplied by KN Energy (1983). The elementary school was still operating in 1987 and by 1989, Edison was a Utilities Section member. By 1990, the population was 148 and the water tapping fee was $100 in 1996. By 2000, the population was 154 and the natural gas system was operated by KN Energy Inc., and supplied by ACE. By 2007, the water system had two municipal water wells (avg. depth of 55 ft.) with a pumping capacity of 430 gallons per minute (gpm), overhead storage tank with a capacity of 40,000 gallons and a maximum daily capacity of 659,200 gallons. The system had 14 fire hydrants and a new connection fee was $100. Solid waste removal rates in 2007 were $11 for residential and commercial ranged between $24-$35. Solid waste was hauled to the Holdrege landfill. By 2008, the natural gas system was operated by SourceGas and the village maintained 2.41 miles of streets (one mile hard surfaced with asphalt and gravel, 20 percent curbed and 80 percent with sidewalks). The Holbrook-Edison-Arapahoe (HEA) fire department, housed in Arapahoe, consisted of a 1993 Freightliner/Pierson 1,250 pumper, 1983 Chevy rural pumper, 1989 Kodiak 3,350 gal. tanker, 1992 and 1994 Ford 250 gal. grass rigs, two medic units (1990, 1991) and two ambulances (1990, 1991). The village municipal sanitary sewer system and a storm sewer system consisted

Edison Water Rates:

- 1958-62 – $1 per month for 6,666 gallons and then $0.15 per 1,000 gallons in excess.
- 2006 – $11 per month flat rate.
- 2007 – Residential/Commercial/Industrial $11 per month then $0.50 per 1,000 gallons with a minimum of $11.
- 2007 – Residential $8 per month and commercial $15 per month.
- 2010-11 – $11 per month for 8,000 gallons (base) then $0.50 per 1,000.
- 2016-2017 – $40 per month base rates then $3 per 1,000.

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Nebraska utilities history – Edison

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of a mechanical lift station and an average daily flow of 20,000 gallons in 2007. Wastewater rates in 2008 were: residential – $8 per month and commercial – $15 per month with a new tap connection fee of $100. In 2010, the water deposit fee was $100 with a $100 tapping fee and a $25 reconnect fee. In November 2015, the water system pumped 602,500 gallons of water, with 79 customers; that is roughly 254 gallons per customer. The wastewater system had 1,001,300 gallons run through the plant. In 2015-2016, a new wastewater treatment plant was being discussed as the daily average flow was estimated at a low flow of 23,500 gallons with summer ranging from 20,000-25,000 gallons. The sewer rate was a flat fee of $20 for both residential and commercial customers. The water system had two active municipal wells with a water tapping fee of $500, a disconnect fee of $25 with a reconnect fee of $24 (2016).

By December 2019, the village received a $100,000 loan fund cost overrun from USDA to replace the lift station along with an additional USDA direct loan of $206,000. A lift station project was recently completed with plans to install a lagoon treatment facility. A new Community Hall/ City Hall office was erected with a stone “Community Center” sign installed about 2018.

Today, Edison has a population of 133, has been incorporated for 112 years and is a member of the League of Nebraska Municipalities and the Utilities Section. The village maintains a water system, Continued on page 12
Nebraska utilities history – Duncan

By Rob Pierce, LNM Field Rep./Training Coordinator

Duncan, located in Platte County, had settlers in the area and a post office was established June 17, 1869, known as Cherry Hill. The Union Pacific Railroad, which arrived in 1866, established a flag station then called Jackson. On Oct. 24, 1871, a townsite was platted by the railroad. By 1879, the site was chosen as the southern terminus for the Omaha, Niobrara and Black Hills Railroad, a subsidiary of the Union Pacific. The town name was changed to Duncan, due to another site with the name Jackson. On Jan. 2, 1880, the post office officially changed its name from Cherry Hill to Duncan. In 1882, the population was 50 and by 1882, the community included a grain elevator, two hotels, two churches, a school and a store. In 1885, a grain elevator was erected and the population by 1895 was about 85. In 1909, a bridge was built across the Platte River. On March 4, 1913, a petition was filed and on March 7, 1913, Duncan was incorporated as a village with a population of about 200. In the spring of 1915, a two-story brick (50ft x 100ft) parochial school was planned, which cost $25,000. Sometime between 1910-1920, a city hall was built at 906 8th Street (Main Street). A maintenance shop was located in the back half of the building. The population in 1910 was 182 and electric current was provided via transmission lines (likely from Columbus) with an electric rate of $0.14 per kilowatt hour (kWh). The population in 1930 was 241 and in 1933, the Loup Public Power District was established. In 1939, a water system was constructed with cast iron mains installed.

From 1940-1950, the population decreased from 241 to 228. The population remained steady with 294 in 1960 and 298 in 1970.

In 1962, the village-owned water system had a meter deposit of $3 with rates of the first 1,000 gallons at $0.50, next 3,000 gallons at $0.15, and over 4,000 at $0.10. Electric system and 100 meters in service were owned by village and operated by Consumers Public Power. The electric meter deposit was $5 and streetlighting cost about $35 per month. In 1962, the village completed a curb and gutter project to include black-topping main street and others. The village fire department had about 25 volunteer firefighters. The village-owned wastewater disposal plant (evaporating lagoon)

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Nebraska utilities history – Duncan

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system) had a sewer charge of $1 per month and a hookup charge of $75. In 1967, the high school closed with students then attending Columbus High School. In the 1970s, new water mains were installed to serve new housing development on the west end of town. Formerly a wholesale customer, by 1976, Duncan was a retail customer of the Loup Public Power District. The electrical system was owned by the village and leased to Loup Public Power District. In 1978, the elementary school was completed for $410,000 and work began on a new wastewater treatment facility. By 1980, the population was 410 and a new fire hall was built. The electric distribution system was operated/supplied by Loup Public Power District. In 1990, the population decreased slightly to 387 and a private and public dump was utilized. In the 1990s, the village operated a two-cell facultative retention lagoon system designed for 0.035 million gallons per day (mgd), located on the east side of town.

By 2000, the population was 359 and in 2001, the village renewed a retail (25-year) contract with Loup Public Power District. Also in 2001, the village applied for $565,000 in SRF funding for updating the water system. In 2009, the village had two wells and an elevated storage tower (capacity 27,000 gallons), treated with an ion-exchange system. Solid waste collection was provided by private haulers (Big Red Sanitation and U & I Sanitation of Columbus). The waste was hauled to the Columbus Transfer Station, a member of the Northeast Nebraska Solid Waste Coalition. The past 18 years, the population was about 351 and the village operated four municipal wells, a water treatment plant, and storage tower with about 195 residential and six commercial connections. The village had two small parks (Downtown Park and West Park) and a ballfield. The fire department had 25 volunteer firefighters. In 2017, rates were increased to $20 plus $1.50 per 1,000 gallons per month and sewer rates were $40 per month.

Duncan has been an incorporated village for 106 years (1913-2019) and a long-time League member. Duncan has been a member of the Utilities Section since 1993. The village maintains two parks with playground equipment and ball field, a cemetery, and has paved/curbed streets. The village also owns and operates the public water (1939-2019) and wastewater collection and disposal systems (1978-2019). The electric system is owned by the village and operated/supplied by Loup Public Power District. Solid waste is collected by private collectors and hauled to an area landfill. Residents are provided propane gas by private firms as natural gas is not available. Law enforcement is provided by the Platte County Sheriff Department.

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wastewater collection and treatment system, about 2.4 miles of streets and a park. Since 2000, the electrical system has been operated/supplied wholesale by Twin Valley Public Power District. A private company provides solid waste collection and the natural gas system has been supplied by Black Hills Energy since 2015.


“Just For Fun” Answers


A-2. Minden – Pioneer Village was founded in 1953, which has a complex of 28 buildings (20 acres) with a total collection of over 50,000 items, including over 350 antique automobiles on display.

A-3. Elmwood – Bess Streeter, a fiction writer, was born in Cedar Falls, Iowa. A writer since early childhood, she won a writing contest at age 14 and another at age 17. She married and moved to Elmwood in 1907 and in 1911, won a fiction contest in the Ladies’ Home Journal. Prior to 1918, she wrote under the pen name, Margaret Dean Stephens. Her first novel, Mother Mason, was published in 1924. She authored about 200 short stories and 13 novels, including Miss Bishop, which was made into a movie. Cheers for Miss Bishop (1941). Reference: https://nebraskaauthors.org/authors/bess-streeter-aldrich

A-4. Kimball. *Note: Utilities Section Members only are listed in bold.

Solid Waste Screening Workshops held

Solid Waste Screening Workshops, sponsored by the League of Nebraska Municipalities Utilities Section, were held Jan. 28 in Hastings, Aug. 28 in Wayne, and Sept. 6 in Gering. There were 32 participants from 16 different systems in attendance for the three workshops held in 2019. The workshops covered hazardous waste identification, screening process, recordkeeping and common safety issues while providing collection service at a landfill and transfer station. These workshops meet the state of Nebraska requirements covering hazardous waste screening for employees of transfer stations and landfills. Certificates of attendance were provided to the 42 participants (22 different systems) for their training records.

Waste Screening Workshops are being planned for 2020. If you or your facility is interested in hosting a Solid Waste Screening Workshop in your area, contact Rob at robp@lonm.org or call 402-476-2829.

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.
### Classifieds

**Public Works Director.** The City of York is accepting applications for a Public Works Director. **Department Overview and Responsibilities:** Responsible for directing and managing the Public Works Department, including the divisions of water, wastewater, streets, landfill, airport, parks and code enforcement. This position also administers building and zoning regulations and flood plain management. Reports to the City Administrator; Experience with GIS, GPS, CAD, etc. and/or related software. Previous work in planning and zoning, flood plain management, building codes, public utility systems is desirable. Effectively represent the City in meetings with governmental agencies, community groups, various businesses, professional, and regulatory organizations, and in meetings with individuals. Be adept at combining a hands-on management style with confident professionalism and an ability to work with a variety of stakeholders. **Requirements:** Job requirements include: minimum of a Bachelor’s degree in Civil Engineering from an accredited college, and Licenses as a Professional Engineer (PE) and able to get licensed in Nebraska within one year of hire. Must be a licensed Street Superintendent in the State of Nebraska or have the ability to attain this license within 12 months. Must possess and maintain a valid driver’s license. **Essential Functions:** Assists in the development, implementation, and administration of divisional performance objectives, policies, processes, capital projects, and priorities: identifies resource needs and makes recommendations for improvement. The applicant should also have five to seven years of progressively responsible civil service experience. **Ideal Candidate:** The ideal candidate for the Public Works Director position will be an innovative and creative leader with a high level of integrity, will have a proven record of building and leading teams, and shall possess high expectations for customer service. Send cover letter, resume and completed application to: City Administrator, City of York, PO Box 276, York, NE 68467 or email to jfrei@cityofyork.net. Applications are available on the City’s website www.cityofyork.net. **Utilities Lineman.** The City of Chappell is accepting applications for the position of an additional Utilities Lineman. This position works under the Utilities Foreman and in conjunction with current lineman. Assists in the operation and maintenance of the city owned electric distribution and water system. Applicant must be willing to obtain Grade 4 water operator license. Prefer electrical experience, but will train the right person. Wage is based on qualifications. Quality benefits package. Application can be obtained at PO Box 487, 757 2nd Street, Chappell, NE 69129 or by email to chappellcityhall@hotmail.com. **continued on page 14**
**Classifieds**

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Website is www.chapPELLne.org. Inquiries can be sent to 308-874-2401 or faxed to 308-874-2508. EOE. Position will be open until filled.

**Maintenance Position.** The Village of Cody is accepting applications for a full-time maintenance position to oversee the Village's maintenance needs. Duties include oversight of water and wastewater system, streets, snow removal, equipment care, weekly trash pick-up and disposal, up-keep of village public areas (park, ball field, arena) and some seasonal requirements (Christmas decorating, 4th of July, etc.). The successful applicant must be able to obtain a grade 4 water license (we will provide training to right applicant if not licensed at hiring). A valid Nebraska driver’s license is a must and a CDL will be required if hired. Wage is commensurate with experience. North central Nebraska is a great place to live for the outdoor person. We are a small town of about 150 population located in the Sandhills of Cherry County. The high school and middle school are located in Cody and the grade school is located nearby; together they form the Cody Kilgore Unified Schools. We have a grocery, restaurant, banking, post office, fuel, repair and service shops as well as other services available. We are situated about half-way in-between Valentine and Gordon on Highway 20. Applications are available by calling the clerk at 402-823-4118 or writing to Village of Cody, PO Box 118, Cody, NE 69211. Applications will be accepted until position is filled. EOE.

**Wastewater Treatment Plant Supervisor.** The City of Aurora is accepting applications within the Public Works Division for the position of Wastewater Treatment Plant Supervisor. The duties will include but are not limited to performing technical and supervisory work as head operator; participating in the operation and maintenance of the sewage treatment plant; perform all sampling, laboratory testing and reporting of all necessary wastewater tests, including, daily, weekly, and monthly readings; monitor sludge utilization according to EPA regulations and work with Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality to comply with all requirements of NPDES permit. Experience preferred in the field of wastewater treatment, including laboratory analysis and education. Must have a valid Nebraska Driver’s License. Salary is DOQ, with an excellent benefit package. Applications can be obtained at; Aurora City Offices, 905 13th Street, Aurora, Nebraska, 68818; website at www.cityofaurora.org or via email at utlysupt@cityofaurora.org. Position will remain open until filled. The City of Aurora is an EOE.

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**Work Zone Safety Workshops held**

Three “Work Zone” Safety Workshops were held Aug. 22 in Aurora, Sept. 4 in Alliance, and Sept. 5 in Gering with 48 participants from 14 systems in attendance. The workshops were sponsored by the League of Nebraska Municipalities, AWWA Small Systems and Safety Committees and Nebraska Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP). The morning topics included basic work zone setup (temporary vs. long term), the fundamentals of temporary traffic controls, control devices, site evaluation, flagging procedures and general safety. Topics covered in the afternoon included chemical handling (GIS update) and a MUTCD manual update. The League is planning to schedule two or three Work Zone Workshops in 2020. If your municipality would like to host one of these workshops, contact Rob at (402) 476-2829 or email robp@lonm.org to get one scheduled.
Crow Line: A line of positive communication that all can share

Congratulations to the City of Wahoo for celebrating its 145-year incorporation anniversary! Congratulations to Albion! The National Parks Service recognized the Albion Carnegie Library by adding it to the National Register of Historic Places. In Nebraska, the Carnegie Foundation helped fund 69 libraries that were built between 1902-1922. Congratulations Albion Library!

Outstanding Water Operator Award: The Department of Health & Human Services (DHHS) presented Scott Schanaman of Scottsbluff with an “Outstanding Water Operator Award.” The award was presented by Andy Kahle and Doug Woodbeck of DHHS at the Annual Western Rural Water Association banquet held Sept. 25, 2019. Congratulations, Scott!

Congratulations Nebraska for being ranked second in total number of projects (118) in 2018 behind Missouri (125) in the West North Central Region (reference: Conway Projects Database). In the 2018 Top States by projects per capita, Nebraska was ranked first, just ahead of Kentucky. The Conway Analytics, a global database of corporate facility expansion projects formerly called the New Plant Report, has been compiling industry-best data since 1989. Their website is https://www.conway.com/analytics.

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.

Writing an article for the Utilities Section Newsletter

Are you interested in writing an article for the Utilities Section Newsletter? We are interested in articles on the past, present, and future of your municipal utilities. Articles can be written on a specific department or an overview of the history of the entire utilities department. Information of interest may be information on the first well in your community, number of services, service fees, the equipment used, and also the employees that worked in the various utilities departments. Photos would enhance the articles and will be returned unless otherwise instructed.

When writing an article, just answer the simple who, what, when, where, why and how questions. Some examples are:

- When did the utility begin offering service?
- Who were the employees?
- Why was the utility/department started?
- Where is the facility, office, warehouse or utility located?
- What service does the utility offer to the public?
- How does the utility or department operate?

These are just some of the questions to be answered in order to write an article highlighting your utility’s past, present and future.

LTAP Hosting Work Zone Workshops

Nov. 13 – Kearney
Nov. 14 – Geneva

More information on these workshops can be found at www.ltap.unl.edu.
Training calendar

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

December 2019
Dec. 10 .......... Water Operator Training Workshop ......................... Engineering Building, Grand Island
   PLEASE NOTE LOCATION CHANGE – Theresa Street Wastewater Facility, Lincoln

January 2020
Jan. 15-17 ........ Utilities/Public Works Section Annual Conference ...... Embassy Suites, Lincoln
Jan. 21 .......... Water Operator Training Workshop ......................... Holiday Inn, Kearney
Jan. 22-23 ........ Snowball Conference .............................................. Holiday Inn, Kearney

February 2020
Feb. 11-12 ........ Meter Conference .................................................... Holiday Inn, Kearney
Feb. 24-25 ........ Midwinter Conference .............................................. Cornhusker Marriott Hotel, Lincoln