

# Utilities Section Newsletter

League of Nebraska Municipalities

July 2019

## York Wastewater Treatment Facility tours highlighted at conference

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

Tours were offered at the 2019 Heartland Wastewater Conference held in York July 18-19, 2019. The Heartland Conference was moved to York because of flooding at the Younes Center after Kearney received nine inches of rain July 9. The conference schedule was kept intact and had good attendance, which was held at the Holthus Convention Center in York.

One change in the schedule included opportunities for tours of the new \$25 million York Wastewater Treatment Facility, which began operation in October 2018.

### York Plant History

A wastewater treatment system was constructed in the 1930s with a \$22,000 PWA storm sewer project in 1934, following a correction of bond election technicalities. In

1956, the facility increased in size and efficiency at the sewer disposal plant (\$88,000) and new sewer mains were installed at the plant (\$17,000). In 1962, another sewage disposal project for \$240,000 was completed and in 1977, the system again was upgraded with an increased design for an average flow design. In 1996, a new laboratory, grit removal facility and structural changes to the digester and trickling filter domes were added along with new motors and raw wastewater pumps (\$520,000). In 1999, the sludge storage facility was completed, which included a 67-foot diameter sludge holding tank, blowers, aerators and a building. The rotating bio-contactors system designed was for 2.3 million gallons per day with chlorine gas disinfection, with an anaerobic digester sludge treatment. By 2005, improvements were discussed and expected costs were about \$2 million. That is when planning for a new plant was in the works. The previous plant consisted of a headworks, solids settling, film-film process (rough filters and rotating biological contactors (RBCs) and



*Disinfection Basin.*

chemical disinfection. The biosolids were processed with a gravity thickener followed by anaerobic digestion then storage before land application. Many of the major components were 35 years or older and well past their 20-year design life. The old plant equipment will be recycled and the old site will be used as a pumping station only with the other structures dismantled. Projections made were that the population would increase by 4 percent in the next 20 years from 7,768 to about 8,080 by 2036.

### New Plant

The new facility is on a 35-acre  
*Continued on page 2*



*Operations Office/Lab Building.*



UTILITIES SECTION

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Lash Chaffin  
Utilities Section Director  
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Utilities Field Representative

## York Wastewater Treatment Facility tours highlighted at conference

*Continued from page 1*

site located southeast of York and was designed for a 5.3 million gpd capacity. The facility has an aeration building (156 ft x 108 ft x 17 ft deep) a headworks, operations building, secondary treatment building, two circular secondary clarifiers (335,600 gallons each),



*Headworks Facility.*

a disinfection contact basin, a biosolids holding tank and a reed bed solids drying are consisting of 2.6 acres of surface area. The reed beds are located on the western portion of the facility acreage, which consists of five reed bed areas established to specifically catch any possible leeching (from sludge) so the material can be taken back to the disinfection basin. The reeds will naturally consume the sludge biologically.

Some three miles of transmission mains were installed and in constructing the new treatment facility, 7,100 cubic yards of concrete, 1,000 tons of steel and 1,667 tons of fill sand were used. The project engineer was HDR, which estimated a 50-year life-



*Aerated Settling Basins.*

cycle could be extended to 100-years with extensions and upgrades. Other companies involved in the construction included Overland Ready Mix of York, Hawkins Construction Company, Van Kirk Bros Contracting, Capital City Electric and MMC Contractors.

The new York Water Reclamation Facility went on-line in October 2018.

## 2019-2020 Executive Board

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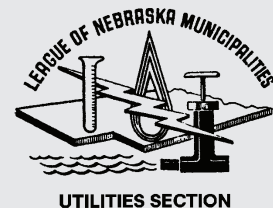
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# Nebraska Breaktime Trivia “Just For Fun”

- Q-1.** What village/city has the following street names: Idaho, Kansas, Wyoming, Nebraska, Nevada (north/south) and Larch, Spruce and Pine (east/west)?
- Q-2.** What municipality in Nebraska boasts the “Largest Kolache Festival in the World?”
- Q-3.** What city is named after a noted pathfinder?
- Q-4.** Do you know where this village hall (former pump station) is located?
- Answers on page 8.**



## Please mark your calendars!

**2019 Backflow Workshops scheduled:** Four Backflow Workshops are scheduled for 2019 to be held in Ogallala (Aug. 20), Grand Island (Aug. 21), Beatrice (Aug. 27), and Wayne (Aug. 29).

Watch for workshop brochures in the mail or check on the League or AWWA websites for registration information and agenda.

**Electric Rubber Gloving Workshop scheduled:** An Electric

Rubber Gloving Workshop is scheduled for Sept. 10-12, 2019, at the Wheatbelt Training Field in Sidney.

**Wastewater Operator Certification Training:** The Nebraska Water Environment Association (NWEA) has certification training workshops in Lincoln Aug. 19-21 and in Norfolk Oct. 14-16. Contact Ryan Hurst, NWEA Training Chairman, at [rhurst@mindennebras-](mailto:rhurst@mindennebras-ka.org)

[ka.org](http://ka.org) or call 308-830-3824. Information also can be found on NWEA's website: [www.ne-wea.org](http://www.ne-wea.org) website.

**2019 NDEQ Test Dates for Wastewater Treatment Operator Certification:** Aug. 22, 2019 – Lincoln, Atrium Building, 1200 N Street; Oct. 17, 2019 – Norfolk, Northeast Community College; Nov. 14, 2019 – Lincoln, Atrium Building, 1200 N Street; and Dec. 5, 2019 – Lincoln, Atrium Building, 1200 N Street. Be sure to check deadlines for applications. More information can be found at [www.deq.ne.gov](http://www.deq.ne.gov).

**League Annual Conference:** The League Annual Conference is scheduled for Sept. 18-20 at the Cornhusker Marriott Hotel. The Annual Business Meeting will be held Sept. 20.

Plan now to attend!

*Checkout the League's Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/leaguene](http://www.facebook.com/leaguene). Be sure to “Like” us.*

## 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](mailto:brendah@lonm.org).

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## SAFETY/HEALTH CORNER

### Steps to safe lifting

By Rob Pierce, LNM Field Rep./  
Training Coordinator

Always assess the load (estimate the weight) and plan the lift. You may need to get help lifting or get some type of mechanical lifting device. Avoid lifting from the floor, if possible. Keep close to the load using a wide stance for balance and support. With your back straight, lower your body, relax and bend your knees while tightening your stomach muscles. With a firm grip on the load (gloves may improve grip), raise your head, straightening and gradually using your legs to lift. Keep the load close to the body. Remember not to turn your body while lifting. Once the load is secure and you are upright, turn using your feet (avoid twisting) before walking. You should

have made sure you have a clear pathway and a good field of vision to avoid a slip, trip or fall. For heavier loads, use an aid such as a two-wheeler to move the load and employ similar techniques when setting an item down.

Some back injury statistics are:

- About 80 percent of adults experience a back injury in their lifetime.
- More than one million back injuries are sustained every work year.
- Back injuries account for 1 in 5 injuries and illnesses in the workplace (80 percent of these are due to material handling tasks).
- Back injuries are the second most common reason for nonattendance in the general workforce after the common cold.
- Back injuries make up 41 per-



cent of ergonomic injury cases and one-third could be prevented through a better designed job workspace.

- Lower back pain is the single leading cause of disability worldwide.

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

**125, 130, 135, 140 Year Incorporation Anniversaries.** Congratulations to those Nebraska municipalities celebrating village incorporation anniversaries in 2019 (Utilities members in bold): *110 years* – Dalton; *125 years* – **Upland**; *130 years* – **Gretna**; *135 years* – Barneston; and *140 Years* – **Geneva**.

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. Items 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.

## **Winter/Spring Water Workshops held**

From January through July 12, the League of Nebraska Municipalities Utilities Section and the Nebraska Section of the American Water Works Association (NS-AWWA) sponsored 15 one-day workshops with 212 operators in attendance. The first two January workshops covered well rehabilitation, lining, pump O & M, siting a new well, source water protection and regulatory/industry updates. Operators attending these workshops received five hours toward grades 1-4 water operator licenses and two hours toward wastewater licenses.

The Kearney workshop held Jan. 23 covered asset management presented by Michele Pugh from the Wichita State University Environmental Finance Center. Operators in attendance at the Kearney work-

shop received five hours toward grades 1-4 water operator licenses and five hours toward wastewater licenses.

The February through July workshop topics included water quality troubleshooting tips, distribution maintenance, safety programs, infrastructure sustainability, and regulatory/industry updates. Operators attending these workshops received five hours toward grades 1-4 water operator licenses and five hours toward wastewater licenses.

License renewal will be in December 2019, so be sure to have your required 10 hours needed to renew your water license (grades 1-4, 6) and 20 hours for wastewater. If you still need hours, check the upcoming schedule of workshops in this newsletter or the coalition training calendar (insert) for upcoming 2019-2020 workshops.

Since 1992 almost 11,000 opera-

tors have attended water workshops sponsored by the Utilities Section of the League and the Nebraska section of AWWA. The League and AWWA have partnered on these water/backflow training workshops since the early 1970s. The Utilities Section has been offering water workshops for over 77 years (one water workshop was held April 17, 1941 in Alliance). The Utilities Section's oldest documented training workshop found was in 1931.

The remaining spring workshops are scheduled for Oct. 1 in Fremont, Oct. 2 in Plattsmouth, Oct. 3 in Seward, Oct. 24 in Tecumseh, Dec. 10 in Grand Island and Dec. 11 in Lincoln. Operators in attendance will receive five (grades 1-4) water, one-half hour (grade 6) and four wastewater toward renewing their license. Brochures for registration can be found on the League website at [www.lonm.org](http://www.lonm.org).

## **License Renewals**

Just a reminder that 2019 is the due date for renewal of water and wastewater licenses. Information on test applications, test dates and recertification contact hours credited for 2018 (up to Jan. 17, 2019) along with remaining application deadlines can be found at the NDEQ website at <http://deq.ne.gov/NDEQ>. To check your 2018 hours, go to <http://deq.ne.gov/NDEQProg.nsf/OnWeb/OCPCEH> and for test dates go to <http://deq.ne.gov/NDEQProg.nsf/OnWeb/Train05>. If you still need contact hours for this renewal period, refer to your training calendar or go on the providers' websites.

## **Solid Waste Screening Workshops scheduled**

Two Solid Waste Screening Workshops are scheduled for 2019: Aug. 29 in Wayne and Sept. 6 in Gering. These workshops meet the state of Nebraska requirements covering hazardous waste screening for employees of transfer stations and landfills.

Other topics will include:

safety operations at transfer stations and landfills, a confined space refresher and an industry and regulatory update. Participants will receive certificates of attendance.

A brochure for these workshops can be found on the League website at [www.lonm.org](http://www.lonm.org).

## Nebraska utilities history

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

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

**C**lay Center, located in Clay County, had a post office established as Marshall on March 17, 1873 at the home of Postmaster James Cruickshank, located two miles east of the present Clay Center townsite. In May, a small two-story frame building was erected to be used as a temporary courthouse. A blacksmith shop also was built and by summer, a townsite was surveyed and laid out. In June, a restaurant business was built and in July, the Marshall post office was relocated to the new town site. On July 21, 1879, the post office name changed from Marshall to Clay Center, apparently in honor of Henry Clay, a statesman from Kentucky. A shoe store and hotel soon were erected and by fall, 600 lots were laid out. On Nov. 4, 1879, Clay Center won the election as county seat over Sutton and Harvard. By 1880, with a population of 68, school

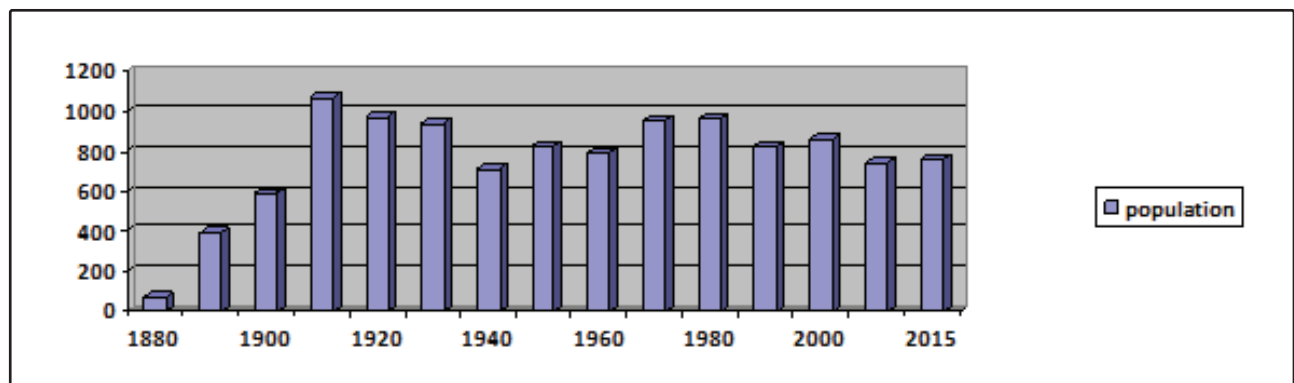
sessions were being held and a brick courthouse was completed in the middle of town. In April 1881, a School District #70 meeting was held and later an 18 foot x 28 foot frame school was built, located at South Clay Avenue with bonds of \$280. A general store was operating and the Clay County Abstract and Loan Company was incorporated in August 1881. In 1884, an addition was built to the public school building and by December 1886, the first passenger train arrived in town. The Commercial State Bank was established Feb. 11, 1887, and on Feb. 19, 1887, Clay Center was incorporated as a village. On March 1, the railroad depot was open for business. On April 30, 1887, the installment of telephone lines from Clay Center to Fairfield was completed and wooden crosswalks were installed on the business streets. A new elementary/secondary education (District #70) school building was built (1887-88); a four-room, two-story frame school for \$3,000.



*Clay Center water tower. 2004  
Photo.*

Early water was provided by windmills pumping into cisterns, some located beneath the houses, then pumped by hand into the houses. The village board voted to construct two cisterns, one located at the northeast corner of the

*Continued on page 7*





## Nebraska utilities history

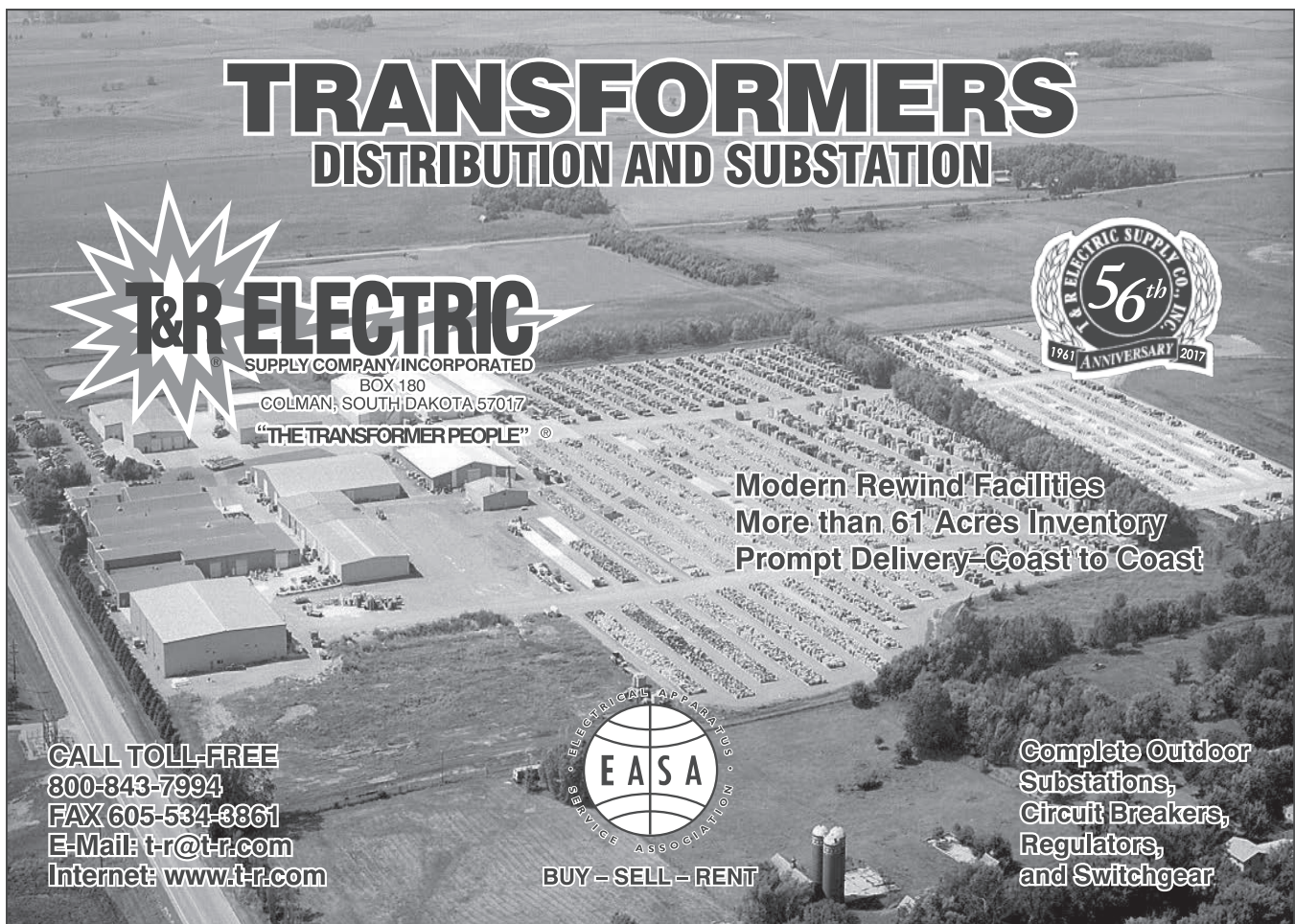
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courthouse and one at the north-west corner of the courthouse. By April 3, 1888, the county windmill on the west side of the square was to fill the two cisterns and was the only fire protection besides random rain barrels around town. Also in 1888, the Cemetery Association was organized.

By 1890, the population increased to 390 (one source listed about 500) and the school boasted 145 pupils. By this time, the Clay

Center Telephone Company, a dray service, two hotels (Park Hotel, Commercial Hotel) and the *Sun* newspaper was operating. In 1893, a fire destroyed most of the buildings on the north side of the business square. A used fire engine was purchased in Hastings for \$150. Brick buildings were rebuilt on the north side of the square in 1893 and in 1894, a flour mill & grain elevator was built. By 1895, the State Bank of Clay Center was established


and a wood fence was installed at the cemetery. The first graduating class from the four-year high school was in 1896. Trees were planted at the cemetery (1896-97) and a flour mill was built by Orr Brothers. The school graduated 15 seniors in 1899 and by 1900, the village population increased to 590. A brick community hall/post office was in use and by July, the water system amounted to water wells. A windmill and well were

*Continued on page 8*




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## Nebraska utilities history

*Continued from page 7*

located next to the livery on Alexander Street, a half block north of Fairfield Street. The Orr Brothers' flour mill was using a steam engine (coal fuel) in its engine shop (1900). The New Davis Hotel was built in 1902 and in 1903, a factory was built to manufacture poultry incubators and brooders. That year, bonds of \$7,000 were issued to construct a new brick two-story school building. In 1904, the wooden boardwalks were removed on Main Street and replaced with concrete sidewalks.

In 1906, a vote was approved

to construct a water works system using an \$18,000 bond issue. The water system was built (1906-09) consisting of a pressure tank, a (10 foot (ft) x 100 ft) standpipe costing \$5,200, and cast iron pipe mains (\$2,873.10) in five-foot-deep trenches at \$0.085 per foot. Valves and hydrants that cost \$1,099.79 also were installed along with a (10 ft x 160 ft) well for \$780. The 56,000-gallon water storage standpipe was completed in 1908 with water mains still being laid. In 1908, the village purchased 1,000 feet of 2 1/5-inch hose (\$831) and two number two hose carts (\$127). On March 11, 1909, Ordinance #60 was approved to form a volunteer fire department to consist of not more than 30 firefighters. On July 6, 1909, the water works system project was completed. The Orr Brothers' flour mill and elevator was using a 60 horsepower (HP) engine, a 50 HP engine and a coal boiler. That year, due to increasing population, an \$18,000 bond issue was passed to enlarge the school.

By 1910, the census had the population at 1,065 (another source noted about 1,150) and in January,

the Woman's Christian Temperance Union (WCTU) formed a Clay Center Library Association (had a traveling library in 1903). In 1910, Mott M. Johnson built a factory, in which he was going to mass produce automobiles. He built a prototype automobile, which would have been named the "Blackhawk" if not for his death in 1912. The M. M. Johnson & Company, managed by Harry Mott, installed the first lighting plant in Clay Center and began providing electricity for the town in 1910. At first, the plant did not have enough power to supply all the businesses, the factory and houses at the same time. Residences were provided power after 6 p.m., after the factory closed for the day. The brick exterior power plant had two engines and each evening at 10 p.m., would switch from one engine to the next. The streetlights were turned off at 11 p.m. The M. M. Factory had a boiler and 150 HP engine, which was located west of the railroad tracks and south of new power plant building. The water system consisted of a 165 ft deep x 10-

*Continued on page 9*

## "Just For Fun" Answers

A-1. South Bend.

A-2. Prague.

A-3. Fremont – named after General John C. Fremont (1813-1890) explorer. *Reference: Perkey's Nebraska Place Names, 1995*

A-4. Hershey.



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## **Nebraska utilities history**

*Continued from page 8*

inch diameter well using a Otto 15 HP gas engine to pump water into the standpipe. One 21-HP Otto gas engine was used for fire purposes at 140 psi direct from the well into the mains. The gas engine in the pump house ran two Deane (1908) pumps with 130,000 and 175,000 gallons capacity per 24 hours. The system had two-and-a-half miles of four, six and eight-inch mains with 24 double hydrants and a daily consumption of 40,000 gallons. By August 1910, the volunteer fire department consisted of two hose companies with two hand hose carts, 600 feet of two-and-a-half-inch hose and an alarm bell. The waterworks and fire department building was located on the corner of Alexander Avenue and Edgar Street.

On March 7, 1911, Clay Center became a city of second class and in November 1913, a new 55,000-gallon water reservoir was completed. In 1912, the brick "Holcomb" building was erected and in April 1913, the Clay Center Library Association applied for a Carnegie Library grant, which was rejected. In 1915, Clay Center was to have a Carnegie Library for \$12,000. In May, the Clay Center

Library Board replaced the Clay Center Library Association with a new Carnegie Library opening Nov. 3, 1916. The water system in 1915 consisted of six-and-a-half miles of two to eight-inch cast iron pipes, 28 Clow fire hydrants (3-inch hose connection), 30 Clow valves (right hand turning), 167 Worth meters and an average daily consumption of 10,000 gallons, serving 167 connections (ordinary pressure 43 psi). Water rates were a minimum charge of \$3 every six months and for the first 15,000 gallons at \$0.20 per 1,000 gallons maximum (\$0.05 minimum). By 1915, the private M.M. Johnson electric light and power plant had a 300 HP boiler, a 285 HP steam engine with a generator rating of 225 kilovolt amps (kVA) and a lighting rate of \$0.08 per kVA. With the streets nearly level by 1910, paving began in the business district in 1916 and bids were let for a new courthouse in 1917. In 1918, a street graveling project was underway along with a discussion of having a sewer and drainage system installed.

By 1920, the population increased to 965 and a 12-block brick paving project was underway. The street paving consisted

of a sand base with four inches of concrete, another inch of sand topped with three-inch pavement bricks. In 1922, the city council discussed a vote for a solution to the sewerage problems. Approved by a vote of the people, the city purchased land running east from Highway #14 and was the first town in Clay County to install a sewer system. In the 1920s, the fire department had a chemical cart, which had two soda-type tanks mounted on a truck. By 1925, another truck was purchased for \$1,047.50 with a city/fire hall building on Edgar Street (1927). By October, the fire department had 39 volunteer members, one Ford truck with chemical tank 100 feet chemical hose, three hand extinguishers, one International truck, one booster pump, a 40-gallon chemical tank with 100 feet hose, 64 ladders, 1,300 feet of two-and-a-quarter inch hose. The streets were level with about one mile of brick pavement. The brick library was located on the south side of the square by the city pump station. The pump station had three wells (one 16 inch, 164 feet deep; another 10-inch, 164 feet deep) on the south side of the square with a 55,000-gallon reservoir and an elevated standpipe (10 feet x 110 feet) with a capacity of 62,000 gallons. The city had one Layne and Bowler centrifugal electric driven capacity 600 gallons per minute (gpm), one Luitweiler duplex (8 x 24) electric driven capacity 225 gpm and one Luitweiler duplex (8 x 10) electric driven capacity 325 gpm, along with one two HP gas engine for emergency purposes.

*Continued on page 10*

### **Future Meter Conferences**

The dates for future Meter Conferences have been scheduled and contracts signed with the **Kearney Holiday Inn**. Please mark your calendar with

the Meter Conferences:  
Feb. 11-12, 2020  
Feb. 9-10, 2021  
Feb. 8-9, 2022  
Feb. 7-8, 2023

## Nebraska utilities history

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The average daily water consumption was 65,000 gallons with domestic water pressure at 46 psi and fire pressure at 65 psi. By 1927, the M. M. Johnson steam power plant located between the railroad tracks and Campbell Street was operating in the winter only with electric rates of \$0.15 per kWh in 1928. Since the M. M. Johnson and Company's electric venture was proving unprofitable, the system was put up for sale. A battle developed between the Orr brothers, Lee & Burgess and the Southern Nebraska Power District, which eventually got the franchise. Increased population (one source noted a population of about 1,200 by 1927) prompted a two-story brick school building addition in 1929, which included a gymnasium for \$75,000.

The population by 1930 was 933. By 1932, the city had natural gas service available and in 1934, the city was a member of the League of Nebraska Municipalities. The electric system (1936) was operated by Southern Public Power District, which had a substation, a brick power building with an oil engine, condenser

(operated in daytime only) located north of Fairfield, east of S. Marten and west of S. Clay and N. Alexander, south of Sutton Street. The municipal water plant had two deep wells with one Layne Western turbine electric pump driven capacity 500 gpm, one Luitwieler double action electric/oil engine driven pump (8 x 24) capacity 300 gpm pumping into a reservoir. One Deane triplex pump electric/oil engine driven pump 8 x 10 capacity 260 gpm from reservoir into mains. There were four-and-a-half miles of three to eight-inch mains with one single and 31 double fire hydrants with an average daily consumption of 65,000 gallons. Domestic pressure ranged from 40-50 psi with a fire pressure of 100 psi. In the early 1930s, a Model-A Ford was purchased for use as a chemical truck. The fire department in 1936 had 24 volunteer members, one International chemical hose truck, 1,200 ft of two-and-a-half-inch hose, a 70-gallon chemical tank with 300 ft hose, a Ford chemical truck with a 40-gallon tank and 200 ft of two-and-a-half-inch hose.

By 1940, the population de-

creased to 715, the railroad line was stubbed off and the electric properties of Southern Public Power District was acquired by Consumers Public Power District. New equipment was purchased/installed in the municipal plant from Allis-Chalmers Manufacturing in 1940 for \$57,500. By 1942, a Naval Ammunition Depot was built west of town. The population increased slightly in 1950 to 824 and an area school consolidation in 1954 started buses to transport students. The Central Fire District was formed in 1954 and the rural fire department purchased a 1954 Ford truck with a Howe 500 gallon-per-minute pump for \$14,000. Natural gas service was supplied by the Kansas-Nebraska Natural Gas Company and a \$48,000 bond issue was passed to build a swimming pool. The electric system operated by Consumers Public Power District in 1956 had 300 electric meters in service with street lighting costing \$135 per month and the cost to pump water about \$100 per month. The water plant, owned by the city in 1956, had 325 meters (consumer owned) with rates at \$2.25 per

*Continued on page 11*

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## **Nebraska utilities history**

*Continued from page 10*  
quarter, and \$0.75 per 1,000 cubic feet (cuft) in excess. By 1958, the water plant had 356 water meters owned by the consumers in service and a new municipal well being dug. In 1958, a new sewer lagoon system disposal plant with a capacity of 300,000 gallons per day, replaced the 1922 plant. The collection system also was extended, which was maintained by a one-and-a-half-mill levy. The city operates the auditorium (cost when built was \$50,000) and a new 100 ft x 56 ft x 28 ft

public swimming pool, which was financed by bonds. In 1959, the Navy land was transferred to the Department of Agriculture and in 1964, an animal research station was established (USDA Animal Research Center).

By 1960, the population was 792, a Main Street widening project was underway and the public sewer system/disposal plant was owned and operated by the city. The electric system and meters were owned by Consumers Public Power District with streetlighting costing \$2,182.84

per year and the cost of pumping water at \$1,058.54 per year. The natural gas system was operated by the Kansas-Nebraska Natural Gas Company. The water plant was owned by the city and the 336 meters owned by the consumers with water rates at \$2.25 per quarter. In 1962, a new well was installed in the park, along with a new pump, and the installation of 1,000 ft of eight-inch pipe, supported by a bond issue, the cost estimated at \$25,000. The Kelley Well Company of Grand Island

*Continued on page 12*



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## **Nebraska utilities history**

*Continued from page 11*  
was awarded the contract on a low bid of \$19,476, the test well showed ample supply assured. A paving project was in progress (1965-66) and on July 1, 1966, a school bond issue was approved with a school built and opened in 1967.

The population in 1970 was 952 and the electric system was owned by the Nebraska Public Power District. A new 2,500 kVA substation was energized in 1971. The station consisted of three 833 kVA transformers of 9,600 lbs. each and a capacity of 34,500 volts on the high side and 4,160 Y system, 400 amp capacity regulation with a total cap of the station of 5,000 kVA, twice the present load. Also in 1971, voters approved the construction of a new swimming pool. Paving projects were underway (1973-74) with nearly all streets in town to be paved, curbed and guttered. By 1974, the electric distribution system was owned by the city and leased/operated by the Nebraska Public Power District. New plastic water main piping was installed in the 1970s and a new municipal well was dug in 1975. New high-pressure sodium streetlights were installed in 1977 and in 1977-78, a new city/fire hall was constructed for \$125,000, which was dedicated on July 4, 1978. In 1979-80, the lagoon wastewater treatment system was expanded per EPA recommendations to avoid discharge into Dry Creek.

By 1980, the population was 962 and in 1982, work was progressing on a wastewater system. The electric distribution system, owned by city, was operated/supplied by the Nebraska Public

Power District. By 1990, the population was 825, the fire department had 40 volunteer firefighters and the natural gas system was supplied by the Kansas-Nebraska Natural Gas Company and ACE. The city-owned facultative wastewater treatment lagoon system, which was designed for 0.125 million gallons per day (mgd), had effluent discharged onto cropland by gravity irrigation. By 2000, the population increased to 861 and a new water storage tower was approved in 2001 to replace the 93-year-old standpipe. The city maintained a public swimming pool, parks, a public library and blocks of paved streets (business district streets on square are brick paved). The natural gas system was operated by SourceGas. By 2010, the population increased to 742 and the electric system in 2003 was electrical distribution system owned by the city was operated by South Central Public Power District.

Today, Clay Center has a population of 760 and has been an incorporated village/city for 132 years; 24 years as a village and 108 years as a city of the second class. Clay Center has been a League and Utilities Section member for over 42 years (records only to 1977). The electrical system is owned by the city and operated/supplied by South Central Public Power District. The natural gas system has been operated by Black Hills Energy since 2015.

*References: Nebraska Directory of Municipal Officials, 1956, 1958, 1960, 1962, 1964-75, 1977-87, 1990--2008, 2010-2019; Nebraska Municipal Review Magazine, 1928, 1946, 1962; Perkey's Nebraska Place Names,*

*1995; Nebraska Place Names, 1925, 1960; Pages of History, Nebraska High Schools, Past & Present, 1854-1994, 1994; Train Time in Nebraska: The Post Card Era, 2005; A State of Readers, Nebraska's Carnegie Libraries, 2005; Sargent Leader newspaper, 1913; Nebraska Our Towns... Central Southwest, 1991; Maps Tell a Story, 1991; Clay Center Website, 1997; NEDED Website, 2005; History of Nebraska, Morton, 1906; History of Hamilton and Clay Counties, 1921; Who's Who in Nebraska, 1940; Clay Center Centennial 1879-1979, 1979; Engineering & Contracting, Technology and Engineering, Habert Powers Gillette, 1917; History of Hamilton & Clay Counties, Nebraska, 1921; NPPD Website, 2011; Wikipedia website, 2018; The McGraw Waterworks Directory, 1915; Nebraska Blue Book, 1920, 1928, 1942, 1946, 1978; Nebraska State Gazetteer & Business Directory, 1890-91 and the Sanborn Maps, July 1900, August 1910, October 1927, January 1936.*

## **Remember to recognize your employees' anniversary milestones**

The League provides certificates for 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60 and 65.

You can request them by contacting the League office by email [brendah@lonm.org](mailto:brendah@lonm.org), fax 402-476-7052 or call 402-476-2829.

# 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](mailto:jfrei@cityofyork.net). Applications are available on the City's website [www.cityofyork.net](http://www.cityofyork.net). Position will remain open until filled. First application review will be Sept. 30, 2019.

## Would your utility like to host a workshop?

League staff is beginning to plan for the 2020 workshops and we are looking for sites to hold them. If your municipality would like to

host a workshop for 2020, contact Rob at 402-476-2928, by cell at 402-432-9172 or by email at [robp@lonm.org](mailto:robp@lonm.org).

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## Training calendar

Visit our website at [www.lonm.org](http://www.lonm.org)  
for a complete list of workshops and conferences.

### August

Aug. 20.....	Backflow Workshop.....	Fire Hall, Ogallala
Aug. 21.....	Backflow Workshop.....	Boarders Cobblestone Hotels, Grand Island
Aug. 22.....	Workzone Safety Workshop.....	Fire Hall, Aurora
Aug. 27.....	Backflow Workshop.....	Valentinos, Beatrice
Aug. 28.....	Solid Waste Screening Workshop .....	Cobblestone Hotel, Wayne
Aug. 29.....	Backflow Workshop.....	Fire Hall, Wayne

### September

Sept. 4 .....	Workzone Safety Workshop.....	Alliance
Sept. 5 .....	Workzone Safety Workshop.....	Fire Hall, Gering
Sept. 6 .....	Solid Waste Screening Workshop .....	Landfill, Gering
Sept. 6-12 .....	NSC Congress & Expo .....	San Diego, California
Sept. 10-12 .....	Rubber Gloving Workshop .....	Wheatbelt Training Facility, Sidney
Sept. 18-20 .....	League Annual Conference.....	Cornhusker Marriott Hotel, Lincoln

### October

Oct. 1 .....	Water Operator Training Workshop.....	Christensen Field, Fremont
Oct. 2 .....	Water Operator Training Workshop.....	TBD, Plattsmouth
Oct. 3 .....	Water Operator Training Workshop.....	Community Center, Seward
Oct. 22 .....	Water Operator Training Workshop.....	Engineering Building, Grand Island
Oct. 24 .....	Water Operator Training Workshop.....	Fire Hall, Tecumseh

### December

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