

NEBRASKA MUNICIPAL REVIEW

■ Lincoln public safety sales tax
to end Oct. 1

■ City Administrator aims
to revitalize Mitchell

■ League President Wendall Gaston
visits Bayard, Crawford, Hemingford,
Terrytown, Minatare and Dalton

FEBRUARY 2018



***League President Gaston advocates for cities,
villages in Washington, D.C. during NLC fly-in***

Feb. 6-7, 2018



Contents

February 2018

No. 1,114

ISSN 0028-1906

About the Cover:

Top left from left: U.S. Sen. Ben Sasse of Nebraska and League President Wendall Gaston, Sidney Council Member.

Top right from left: League President Wendall Gaston, Sidney Council Member, and U.S. Sen. Deb Fischer of Nebraska.

Bottom: League President Wendall Gaston, Sidney Council Member, among visitors in Washington, D.C. for National League of Cities (NLC) fly-in.

Photos courtesy of NLC.

4	The Director's Message by L. Lynn Rex, LNM Executive Director – Ukrainian municipal visitors share stories, common themes while visiting Nebraska
5	The Commentary by Gov. Pete Ricketts – Defining corrections reform
6	The Legal Corner – Sheriff could not fire his deputy sheriff / opponent for statements made during campaign
8	League President Gaston advocates for local government in Washington, D.C. during NLC fly-in event
10	Lincoln public safety sales tax to end Oct. 1
12	New sewer system installed to serve south Gretna
14	St. Paul earns status as Nebraska's 22nd Leadership Certified Community
15	League President Wendall Gaston visits Bayard, Crawford and Hemingford
17	Grand Island to address problems with starling population
18	Chadron earns continued recognition for industry growth, workforce recruitment
20	League President Wendall Gaston visits Dalton, Minatare and Terrytown
21	Classifieds
22	Professional Directory

Larger Cities Legislative Committee

Ralph Yeager, Mayor, Alliance
 Stan Wirth, Mayor, Beatrice
 Tobias Tempelmeyer, City Administrator/General Manager, Beatrice
 Rita Sanders, Mayor, Bellevue
 Joe Mangiamelli, City Administrator, Bellevue
 Jim Realph, Mayor, Blair
 Rod Storm, City Administrator, Blair
 John Coates, Mayor, Chadron
 John F. Lohr, Council Member, Columbus
 Tara Vasecek, City Administrator, Columbus
 Tom Ourada, City Administrator, Crete
 Jerry Wilcox, Clerk/Treasurer, Crete
 Scott Getzschman, Mayor, Fremont
 Brian Newton, City Administrator/Utility General Manager, Fremont
 Tony Kaufman, Mayor, Gering
 Lane Danielzuk, City Administrator, Gering
 Marlan Ferguson, City Administrator, Grand Island
 Corey Stutte, Mayor, Hastings

Joe Patterson, City Administrator, Hastings
 Bob Rager, City Administrator, Holdrege
 Stan Clouse, Mayor, Kearney
 Paul Briseno, Assistant City Manager, Kearney
 Doug Kindig, Mayor, La Vista
 Pam Buethe, Clerk, La Vista
 Joe Peplitsch, City Manager, Lexington
 Margaret Blatchford, Assistant City Attorney, Lincoln
 Molly Burton, Mayoral Aide, Lincoln
 Nate Schneider, City Manager, McCook
 Bryan Bequette, Mayor, Nebraska City
 Grayson Path, City Administrator, Nebraska City
 Josh Moenning, Mayor, Norfolk
 Andrew Colvin, City Administrator, Norfolk
 Dwight Livingston, Mayor, North Platte
 Jim Hawks, City Administrator, North Platte
 Buck Bassett, Council President, Ogallala
 Bruce Smith, City Manager, Ogallala
 Rich Pahls, Council Member, Omaha
 Paul Kratz, City Attorney, Omaha

Jack Cheloha, Deputy City Attorney/City Lobbyist, Omaha
 David Black, Mayor, Papillion
 Christine Meyers, City Administrator, Papillion
 R. Paul Lambert, Mayor, Plattsmouth
 Ervin Portis, City Administrator, Plattsmouth
 Don Groesser, Mayor, Ralston
 Dave Forrest, City Administrator, Ralston
 Jon Knutson, Council President, Schuyler
 Randy Meininger, Mayor, Scottsbluff
 Nathan Johnson, City Manager, Scottsbluff
 Joshua Eickmeier, Mayor, Seward
 Greg Butcher, City Administrator, Seward
 Wendall Gaston, Council Member, Sidney
 Ed Sadler, City Manager, Sidney
 Carol Schuldt, Council Member, South Sioux City
 Lance Hedquist, City Administrator, South Sioux City
 Ken Chamberlain, Mayor, Wayne
 Wes Blecke, City Administrator, Wayne
 Orval Stahr, Mayor, York
 Joe Frei, City Administrator, York

Smaller Cities Legislative Committee

Lanette Doane, Clerk/Treasurer, Ansley
 Scott Kudrna, Mayor, Auburn
 Sherry Heskett, Clerk, Auburn
 Brent Clark, City Administrator, Broken Bow
 Chris Anderson, City Administrator, Central City
 Alan Michl, Chairperson, Exeter
 Becky Erdkamp, Clerk/Treasurer, Exeter
 Jim Vossler, Mayor, Friend
 Deb VanMatre, Mayor, Gibbon
 Bruce Clymer, City Administrator, Gothenburg

Jeff Kooistra, City Administrator, Gretna
 Doug Hanson, Mayor, Hickman
 Silas Clarke, City Administrator/Director of Economic Development, Hickman
 Dan Dean, City Administrator, Kimball
 John Wyant, Mayor, Newman Grove
 Chris Dibbern, NMPP Energy
 Roger Goldfish, Mayor, Ord
 Denise Peterson, Admin./Clerk/Treasurer, Ponca
 Nancy Bryan, Clerk/Treasurer, Stromsburg

Sandra Foote, Council Member, Superior
 Larry Brittenham, Utility Superintendent, Superior
 Jeff Hofaker, City Administrator, Sutton
 Joan Suhr, Admin./Clerk/Treasurer, Valley
 Melissa Harrell, Admin./Clerk/Treasurer, Wahoo
 Jim Litchfield, City Administrator, Wakefield
 Marlene Johnson, Mayor, West Point
 Al Vacanti, City Administrator, Wisner

Executive Board 2017-2018

President	Wendall Gaston Council Member, Sidney
President-Elect	Dwight Livingston Mayor, North Platte
Vice President	Paul Lambert Mayor, Plattsmouth
Past President	Alan Michl Chairperson, Exeter

Directors

Jean Stothert	Mayor, Omaha
Chris Beutler	Mayor, Lincoln
Tony Kaufman	Mayor, Gering
Sandra Foote	Council Member, Superior
John F. Lohr	Council Member, Columbus
Deb VanMatre	Mayor, Gibbon
John Wyant	Mayor, Newman Grove
Rod Storm	City Administrator, Blair
Nancy Bryan	Clerk/Treasurer, Stromsburg
Tobias	City Administrator/General
Tempelmeyer	Manager, Board of Public Works, Beatrice

Affiliated Sections

City Managers	Brent Clark Broken Bow
Clerks	RaNae Edwards Grand Island
Municipal Accounting & Finance	Kelly Oelke Hickman
Fire Chiefs	Bill Bowes Papillion
Utilities	Paul Markowski Ord

League Staff

L. Lynn Rex	Executive Director
Christy Abraham	Legal Counsel
Brett Benson	Information Technology Manager
Lash Chaffin	Utilities Section Director
Brenda Henning	Membership Services Assistant
Lynn Marienau	Communications Director
Rob Pierce	Utilities Field Representative
Shirley Riley	Membership Services Director
Julia Wessel	Receptionist/Membership Services Assistant



CALENDAR

Municipal Accounting and Finance Conference June 20-22, 2018, Graduate, Lincoln
Annual Conference Sept. 19-21, 2018, Holiday Inn, Kearney

Municipal Legal Calendar

(All statute citations to Revised Statutes of Nebraska)

FEBRUARY 2018

CITIES OF THE FIRST CLASS

Within 15 days of Passage..... Clerk publishes ordinances passed. (16-405)
Within 10 days from meeting or before
next meeting (whichever is sooner)..... Clerk to have minutes available for public inspection. (84-1413)
On or before second Monday Annual Library Board report due. (51-213)
Within 30 days from Council meeting..... Clerk publishes official proceedings of meeting. (19-1102)
Within 20 days after end of month Treasurer files monthly financial report. (16-318)
On or before March 1 One and six year plans are due at the Nebraska Department of
Roads, Board of Public Roads, Classification and Standards,
March 1, 2018. Legal notice is required 10 days before the
hearing. (39-2115 through 39-2117)
* * Clerk must prepare agenda prior to next Board meeting. (84-1411)

CITIES OF THE SECOND CLASS

Within 15 days of Passage..... Clerk publishes ordinances passed. (17-613)
Within 10 days from meeting
or before next meeting
(whichever is sooner)..... Clerk to have minutes available for public inspection. (84-1413)
On or before second Monday Annual Library Board report due. (51-213)
Within 30 days from
Council meeting..... Clerk publishes official proceedings of meeting. (19-1102)
Within 20 days after end of month Treasurer files monthly financial report. (17-606)
On or before March 1 One and six year plans are due at the Nebraska Department of
Roads, Board of Public Roads, Classification and Standards,
March 1, 2018. Legal notice is required 10 days before the hearing.
(39-2115 through 39-2117)
* * Clerk must prepare agenda prior to next Council meeting. (84-1411)

VILLAGES

Within 15 days of Passage..... Clerk publishes ordinances passed. (17-613)
Within 10 days from meeting or before
next meeting
(whichever is sooner)..... Clerk to have minutes available for public inspection. (84-1413)
On or before second Monday Annual Library Board report due. (51-213)
Within 30 days from
Trustees' meeting..... Clerk publishes official proceedings of meeting. (19-1102)
Within 20 days after end of month Treasurer files monthly financial report. (17-606)
On or before March 1 One and six year plans are due at the Nebraska Department of
Roads, Board of Public Roads, Classification and Standards, March 1,
2018. Legal notice is required 10 days before the hearing. (39-2115
through 39-2117)
* * Clerk must prepare agenda prior to next Board meeting. (84-1411)

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

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

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

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



Ukrainian municipal visitors share stories, common themes while visiting Nebraska

BY L. LYNN REX, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, LNM

On Feb. 15, the League of Nebraska Municipalities had the pleasure of hosting several Ukrainian municipal officials, who were visiting Nebraska and other states through the Open World program, a U.S. exchange program for countries of the post-Soviet era.

More than 3,300 Ukrainians have participated in the Open World program and its network of rising star alumni in key government agencies and throughout the private sector, according to Ambassador Maria Yovanovitch, U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine, 2016-Present.

Thanks to **Plattsmouth Mayor Paul Lambert** and **Plattsmouth City Administrator Erv Portis** for meeting and visiting with Ukrainian municipal officials to explain the different roles of the mayor and city administrator under Nebraska law. Host Maxine Moul said that visiting with a “real” mayor and administrator was one of the highlights of their trip to the United States.

“Hearing about their challenges, building a municipal government from the ground up, helped remind me how blessed we are,” Portis said. “Yet, they have some of the same chal-

lenges we do: paying for all the services the public expects; prioritizing which services the city should provide; and, productively engaging the public.”

It also was great that **Immediate Past League President Alan Michl**, Village Board Chair of Exeter, stopped by the League office for another matter and was able to help educate our visitors about the similarities and differences between a “mayor-council form of government” and a “village form of government” in Nebraska.

I personally was privileged to speak to this group of impressive officials about the League’s mission to preserve local control and the amazing sacrifices and job that our municipal officials do in Nebraska every day to improve the quality of life of our citizens. As Erv Portis stated, we are truly blessed. ■



From left: Olga Tykhonova, facilitator, Open World; Oleksandr Melnyk, Council Member, Bobuslav, Kiev region; Sergii Savvitskyi, Entrepreneur, Kharkiv; Plattsmouth Mayor Paul Lambert; Olha Korneiua, Associate Professor, Dnipro National University; Roman Kaznovetsky, Mayor of Laniivtsi, Ternopil region; Erv Portis, Plattsmouth City Administrator; Oksana Zahorska, Deputy Mayor, Baranivka City Council; Olga Shostachuk, interpreter.



From left: Plattsmouth Mayor Paul Lambert, holding the flag of the Ukraine, and Roman Kaznovetsky, Mayor of Laniivtsi, Ternopil region.

Defining corrections reform

BY GOV. PETE RICKETTS



Public safety and protecting Nebraska's families and communities are key to the quality of life that makes Nebraska the best place in the world to live, work and raise a family. According to *U.S. News and World Report*, Nebraska has the 15th lowest violent crime rate in the nation. This is part of the reason Nebraska has the 13th lowest incarceration rate in the country and the lowest among surrounding states.

While Nebraska has a low violent crime rate, there has been a lot of opportunity to ensure that our prisons and criminal justice system help bring that rate down. Over the past three years, state officials have been working to invest in our criminal justice system. This will help bring down the rate of re-offending and give our corrections officers a better work environment. This work has been a three-branch, bipartisan effort focused on five major areas: sentencing reform, funding operations, building prison capacity, improving facility staffing and expanding programming.

Over the past few years, all three branches of state government have worked on a series of justice reinvestment initiatives, which have been successfully implemented. A key piece of this process was a comprehensive look at the state's sentencing laws.

Working together, state government implemented a series of reforms to make better use of supervised release and parole for non-violent offenders. Over 90 percent of the inmates in our system complete their sentences and return to our communities. Better use of programming and supervised release support smooth transitions out of our facilities and ultimately can help reduce the rate of re-offending.

Successful outcomes for the Nebraska Department of Correctional Services (NDCS) also require proper funding for operations and facilities so we can deliver programming and give our corrections officers a secure work environment. Over the past three years, the Legislature and I have made investments in corrections. In 2015, we dedicated an additional \$37 million over two years to improve operations in the corrections system. In 2016, the Legislature and I agreed upon an additional \$26 million to expand our current prison facilities. In 2017, we worked together again to provide another \$75 million in housing investments to appropriately house and care for the needs of elderly inmates and to deliver better programming for those with behavioral health needs.

Staffing is another key focus. Corrections officers work on the front lines, and are key to protecting public safety

and ensuring that inmates receive programming. Working with Senators, we have made investments in facility security upgrades, purchased new equipment and given corrections officers pay raises.

The final area of focus is programming, which is key to preparing inmates to return to our communities after completing their sentences. We're keeping the focus on moving NDCS forward this year. In my budget, I'm recommending building 100 new beds at the Nebraska State Penitentiary, so we can further expand our system capacity. My budget also includes a request to expand the number of authorized corrections officers, so we can hire more personnel in key facilities.

It's important to keep these areas of focus in mind. All of these initiatives are crafted with the aim of protecting the safety of Nebraska's families and communities.

While my team continues to work with Senators to make new investments in corrections, we will strongly oppose any efforts to weaken laws that protect Nebraska's families. If you feel strongly, I hope that you'll take the time to contact your State Senator and urge them to maintain our great public safety laws that are protecting our communities. ■



Sheriff could not fire his deputy sheriff / opponent for statements made during campaign

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

On Feb. 2, 2018, the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals held a “public employee cannot be terminated for making protected statements during a campaign for public office where that speech has no demonstrated impact on the efficiency of office operations.” *Morgan v. Robinson*, Case No. 17-1002 (8th Cir. 2018).

BACKGROUND

Plaintiff Donald Morgan, a Deputy in the Washington County, Neb., Sheriff’s Department, ran against his boss, Michael Robinson, the incumbent Sheriff, and lost in the 2014 primary election and was then terminated six days later. Morgan was terminated by Robinson for public statements Morgan made during the campaign concerning the operations of the Sheriff’s Department and his plans to improve them.

MORGAN’S STATEMENTS WERE MADE AS A CITIZEN ON MATTERS OF PUBLIC CONCERN

The first question in the court’s analysis was whether the employee’s speech was made as a citizen on a matter of public concern. “If the employee was not speaking as a citizen on a matter of public concern, he or she ‘has no

However, the court found a “stronger showing may be necessary if the employee’s speech more substantially involved matters of public concern.”

First Amendment cause of action based on his or her employer’s reaction to the speech.” However, the court found the content, form and context of the given statements made during a campaign for political office were matters of public concern. The court did not find Morgan’s comments involved a “personal conflict,” nor were they the result of “an already strained relationship” with Robinson. Statements that criticize a public employer in his capacity as a public official are considered matters of public concern. Finally, none of the statements was found to have been communicated to a closed audience or reported as part of Morgan’s official job duties.

ROBINSON FAILED TO SHOW JUSTIFICATION FOR MORGAN’S TERMINATION

The court recognized Robinson has an interest in maintaining the efficient operation of the Sheriff’s office and there is no “necessity for an

employer to allow events to unfold to the extent that the destruction of the office and the destruction of working relationships is manifest before taking action.” However, the court found a “stronger showing may be necessary if the employee’s speech more substantially involved matters of public concern.” The court found absent from the evidence any “concrete showing of the actual impact of Morgan’s speech on the efficiency of the Sheriff’s office.” Accordingly, the court found Morgan’s speech is protected by the First Amendment.

NO QUALIFIED IMMUNITY FOR ROBINSON

On the question of whether Robinson is entitled to qualified immunity, the court answered an unequivocal “no” to the following question: “Could [Robinson] reasonably have believed at the time he fired [Morgan] that a government employer could

Continued on page 7

Continued from page 6

fire an employee on account of the employee exercising his First Amendment right to free speech during a run for political office, where that speech had no disruptive impact on office functioning?”

CONCLUSION

This decision governing Nebraska municipalities provides guidance to elected municipal officials that if there was still any ambiguity on the matter, “a public employee cannot be terminated for making protected statements during a campaign for public office where that speech has no demonstrated impact on the efficiency of office operation.” “Turmoil” and

“difference[s] of opinion on how business should run” will not be deemed as “adequate justification for treating the employee differently from any other member of the general public,” but will be expected any time an employee runs against his or her employer in an election. ■

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.

Norfolk to lower its local sales tax

Effective April 1, 2018, the City of Norfolk will decrease its local sales and use tax rate from 2 percent to 1.5 percent.

This city has complied with the notification requirements under the

Local Option Sales and Use Tax Regulations. The department sent written acknowledgments to the city clerk acknowledging compliance with these requirements and the effective date. ■

Source – Nebraska Revenue Department

League magazine available on website

The League of Nebraska Municipalities is pleased to announce that the *Nebraska Municipal Review* is available on the League's website at <http://www.lonm.org/> under the “Publications” tab. As always, we encourage you to share the news from your city or village with fel-

low municipal officials across the state by sending information for the *Nebraska Municipal Review* to the League of Nebraska Municipalities, Attn: Lynn Marienau at 1335 L Street, Lincoln, NE 68508, 402-476-2829 by phone or lynnm@lonm.org by e-mail. ■

Building a better future in NEBRASKA with a strong Public Finance Partner

D.A. Davidson & Co. is committed to strengthening the infrastructure and enriching the lives of people in our communities throughout Nebraska and across the nation.

Our bankers specialize in:

- Bond Anticipation Notes
- Paving Bonds
- Water and Sewer Bonds
- General Obligation Bonds
- Utility System Revenue Bonds
- Lease-Purchase Financing

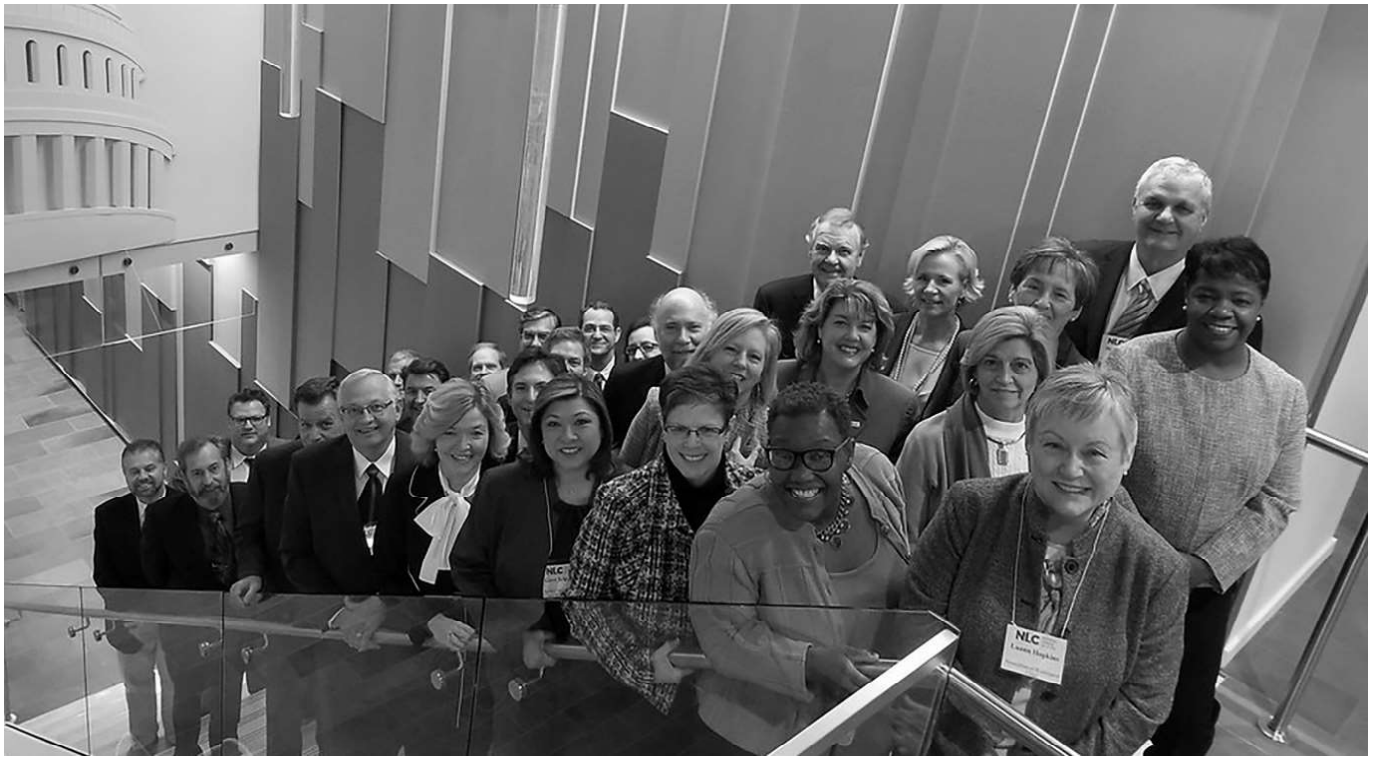
Call:

(800) 528-5145 | **Paul Grieger**
(866) 809-5596 | **Cody Wickham**
(866) 809-5443 | **Andy Forney**
(800) 617-2864 | **Phil Lorenzen**
(866) 466-9368 | **Jerry Spethman**



D|A|DAVIDSON

450 Regency Parkway, Suite 400
Omaha, NE 68114 | (800) 206-7523
D.A. Davidson & Co. member FINRA and SIPC
dadavidson.com



League President Wendall Gaston, Sidney Council Member, stands along handrail among other representatives from state leagues at NLC fly-in. Photo courtesy NLC.

League President Gaston advocates for local government in Washington, D.C. during NLC fly-in event

■ **BY LYNN MARIENAU,**
COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR,
LNM ■

League of Nebraska Municipalities President Wendall Gaston arrived in Washington, D.C., Feb. 5, for a two-day fly-in event, joining League Presidents and Executive Directors from more than 20 state municipal leagues to advocate on Capitol Hill for important municipal priorities. The National League of Cities (NLC) coordinated the event.

Gaston, a Sidney Council Member, said the group was given a summary of major issues developing in Washington, including significant cases under consideration in the U.S. Supreme Court such as *South Dakota vs. Way-*

fair, a billion-dollar sales tax case, and a partisan gerrymandering case, which he said could change the way election boundaries are drawn throughout the country.

Rebuilding infrastructure

Gaston said that rebuilding the nation's infrastructure was the main topic of discussion in the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives. The Trump administration introduced an infrastructure bill Feb. 12, but Gaston said that Senators and Representatives had one major concern – funding. The proposal would cost an estimated \$200-\$250 billion and there was no clear funding source. In addition, matching funds were required at the local level for infrastructure projects. (*Rebuilding America's infrastructure is*

NLC's 2018 federal advocacy priority.)

"I had nine meetings on Wednesday with Senators from Tennessee, Florida and Sens. Ben Sasse and Deb Fischer of Nebraska and (Nebraska) Rep. Adrian Smith's staff," he said, adding that he and other local government representatives asked that they not defund or underfund current programs, such as the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) and the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) programs.

"We wanted to make sure that any infrastructure program would not be replacing those programs, but instead, supplementing those programs," he said. He also asked representatives to

Continued on page 9



From left: U.S. Sen. Ben Sasse of Nebraska shakes hands with League President Wendall Gaston, Sidney Council Member. Photo courtesy of NLC.



In center: League President Wendall Gaston, Sidney Council Member, listens to U.S. Sen. Deb Fischer of Nebraska in foreground. Photo courtesy of NLC.

Continued from page 8

remember rural communities because smaller communities probably would be unable to afford a 50-75 percent match for a project.

Projected workdays

He said he found it interesting that the Senate is expected to work 175 days this year while the House is expected to work 121 days.

“And, that’s the fewest they’ve worked in a long time,” he said.

Other major issues included broadband telecommunications networks throughout the United States, Gaston said. The President placed broadband network development in the infrastructure bill, he said.

The safety of bridges and water quality were two additional subjects discussed, he said, adding that there was more emphasis on clean water and protecting water sources than he expected.

Gaston said they learned about the effect of government shutdowns on

state and local governments. If federal employees are told to stay home during a shutdown, they don’t get paid and if the shutdown lasts longer than two weeks, those federal employees are required to send in a check to pay for their benefits. Anyone who is classified as “essential personnel” works without pay, he said.

Valuable experience

“It was valuable to meet with the representatives from Nebraska. I think they appreciate seeing someone from home,” he said. “It is a lot of work. Luckily, NLC has people who know how to get you around quickly through the tunnels. We were on a dead run from the 8:30 a.m. meeting all the way up to 4 p.m. and then I had to leave for the airport by 6 p.m. They keep you on a tight schedule.”

Gaston said that the fly-in event was a precursor to create momentum leading to the Congressional City Conference in March.

As an aside, Gaston noted that he



League President Wendall Gaston, Sidney Council Member, walks down Capitol corridor. Photo courtesy of NLC.

has been to Washington, D.C. several times and that there have always been protests outside the White House, but this time there were protests everywhere, even in the House and Senate.

“It’s a different feel than I’ve had in the past,” he said. ■

Lincoln public safety sales tax to end Oct. 1

Mayor says effort is an example of Lincoln's successful way of doing business

Lincoln Mayor Chris Beutler in February said a City Council resolution ending the public safety sales tax is “a cause for congratulations and celebration of what is working in Lincoln.” Voters approved the three-year, quarter-cent sales tax by a 20-point margin in April 2015. A resolution instructing the city to notify the state that collection of the tax should end Oct. 1 was introduced to the City Council Feb. 5.

The quarter-cent sales tax is expected to bring in about \$37.8 million. The cost of the public safety projects is estimated at \$36.4 million. Mayor Beutler said replacing the emergency radio system and building four new fire stations, one a joint police and fire station, will pay dividends in the future.

Given choice

“Lincoln residents were given the opportunity to choose how to spend their hard earned dollars, evaluating the community need against the cost,” Mayor Beutler said. “They saw the value of the proposal and gave their

consent to self-impose the quarter-cent sales tax. The project has been a remarkable success. The fire stations will soon be under construction, pending City Council approval of a contract. The radio system replacement is in full swing. The total cost of the projects will come in under the amount of revenue collected. It is an investment of which we can all take pride.”

Since Lincoln last added a fire station in 1997, the city has grown by more than 26 square miles and 47,000 people – about the population of Grand Island. City Public Safety Director Tom Casady said that because of the growth, about 10,000 addresses are outside of the four-minute travel time area. Four minutes is the national standard for travel time from a fire station to a life threatening emergency. Casady said the relocation of two stations and the building of two new ones, one a joint police-fire facility, will bring about 6,500 of the 10,000 addresses within the four-minute range.

Casady said about 2,300 radios operate on the city system, which was acquired in 1987. He said many components for the system were no longer available and vendor support ended last year.

Review committee appointed

Mayor Beutler appointed a public safety finance review committee in October 2014 to make a recommendation on funding the improvements. The public was invited to share their views through a *Taking Charge* online survey and a website. The committee’s



Lincoln Mayor Chris Beutler

recommendation was to put a three-year, quarter-cent sales tax increase on the ballot in April 2015.

“We identified a problem and community input through our *Taking Charge* process helped shape the proposal,” Mayor Beutler said. “We held a nearly unprecedented number of community meetings to determine what community needs could potentially be addressed by additional sales tax dollars. We set aside partisanship and a unanimous City Council vote put the issue in front of the voters. Nearly 60 percent of those voters endorsed the plan. It was a great example of how we do business in Lincoln and why this community continues our long run of unprecedented success.”

Facing another decision

Mayor Beutler said the community now faces another decision on funding Lincoln’s streets. The Lincoln Citizens’ Transportation Coalition has recommended that residents consider a new sales tax proposal for roads after the current quarter-cent sales tax expires.

“The same growth that created our need for new fire stations has created

Continued on page 11



Continued from page 10

the need for more street repair and new streets,” Mayor Beutler said. “That is a possibility that Lincoln residents will be evaluating in the coming months. I’m hopeful that new police officers and new fire-fighters also might be part of that conversation. As we consider a new community decision, it is worth a review of our last community decision. As the resolution being introduced indicates, we set priorities, we executed, we kept the costs under available revenues and now city hall is doing exactly as the voters instructed by ending the tax.”

Bipartisan Cooperation

“I am pleased with the bipartisan cooperation that has resulted in a successful public safety sales tax effort,” said City Council Chair Roy Christensen. “I look forward to working in a similar cooperative manner as we look at our future transportation and public safety needs.”

Information on the public safety sales tax, including revenues and expenses, has been available since the beginning of the project at lincoln.gov (keyword: public safety). The website also includes the minutes of meetings of the citizen oversight committee, which has been monitoring the projects.

Radio System

The radio system is nearing completion and an agreement is in place with the Statewide Radio System to share core components. Motorola has built the system and installation of most of the site equipment has taken place. The exception is tower-mounted equipment, which cannot be installed until reinforcement and electrical work takes place on two of

the three towers. This work is out for bid and should be completed in the spring.

The radios have been delivered and are in the process of being programmed. The rebuilding of the 911 Center is essentially done and the staff will be moving back from the back-up 911 Center within the next several weeks.

The next steps will be the completion of tower work, the scheduling of installation of mobile radios in vehicles and staff training. We expect to be live on the new radio system in the late spring or early summer.

New Facilities

Fire Station 10 will move from 1440 Adams Street to 4421 N. 24th Street.

Fire Station 12 will move from 2201 S. 84th Street to 4405 S. 84th Street.

Station 15, a joint Police-Fire facility, will be located at 6601 Pine Lake Road.

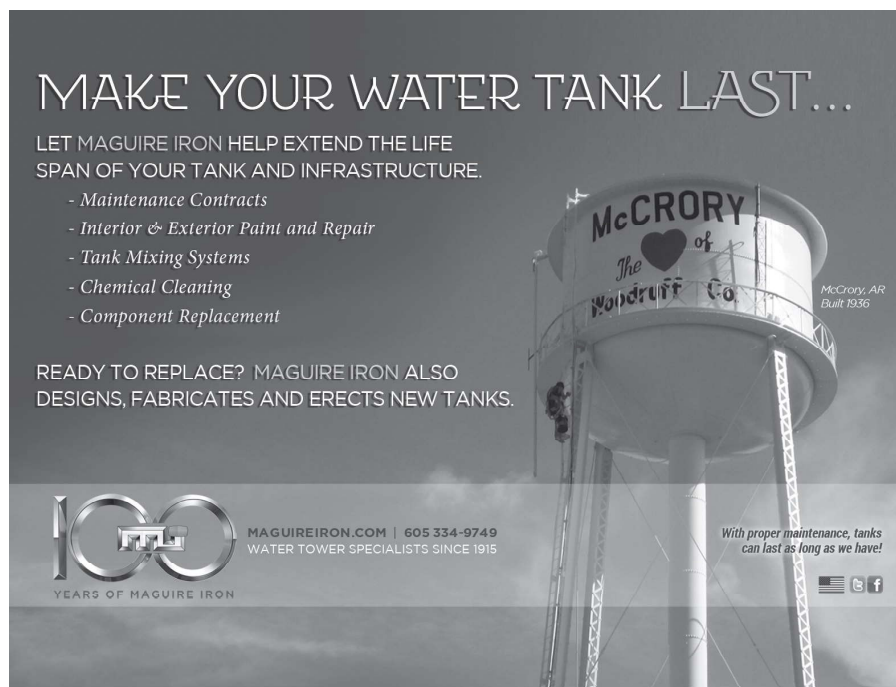
Station 16 will be near 98th and East “O” Street. Land has not yet been acquired.

Design work on the stations has been completed and the construction-manager-at-risk has delivered the guaranteed maximum price.

In preparation for construction, site work took place at two of the station locations. That includes earth moving, tree removal and demolition of existing structures. Construction will begin in March and various phases of construction at the stations will overlap during the next two construction seasons, with staggered openings in 2019. ■

Source – City of Lincoln

**Check out the
League’s website
at www.lonm.org**



MAKE YOUR WATER TANK LAST...

LET MAGUIRE IRON HELP EXTEND THE LIFE SPAN OF YOUR TANK AND INFRASTRUCTURE.

- Maintenance Contracts
- Interior & Exterior Paint and Repair
- Tank Mixing Systems
- Chemical Cleaning
- Component Replacement

READY TO REPLACE? MAGUIRE IRON ALSO DESIGNS, FABRICATES AND ERECTS NEW TANKS.

100 YEARS OF MAGUIRE IRON

MAGUIREIRON.COM | 605 334-9749
WATER TOWER SPECIALISTS SINCE 1915

McCrory, AR
Built 1936

With proper maintenance, tanks can last as long as we have!

US, Twitter, Facebook icons

City administrator aims to revitalize Mitchell

Mitchell City Administrator Jeff Sprock remembers when his city had a lot more business activity – and he wants to bring it back

BY JERRY PURVIS, STAFF REPORTER,
SCOTTSBLUFF STAR-HERALD

Reprinted by permission

It's quite a change going from biology to public sector management, but Mitchell City Administrator Jeff Sprock is enjoying his new career path.

Since November 2015, he's been working toward his city's revitalization and continued growth – but his path to city administration included a number of turns.

Growing up in Casper, Wyo., Jeff graduated from Kelly Walsh High School. With both sets of grandparents living in the Chadron and Crawford area, he spent a lot of time in the Panhandle.

Majors in biology, political science

His diverse interests came from majors in both biology and political science at Ottawa University, a small liberal arts school in Kansas.

"I had a bachelor's degree but didn't know what to do with my life," Sprock said. "I worked at a couple of grocery stores in Chadron. It was a real change when I ended up on a fishing boat in the Bering Sea off Alaska."

His job was observer biologist for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. One of their programs monitors fishing to assure that fishermen stay within their catch limits.

"That was a short-term job, as I get seasick easily," Sprock said. "It did give me a foothold into the biology world and I later became a biologist for the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission in the Ponderosa Wildlife Area at Crawford."

He also became involved with GIS, geographic information systems. After taking some classes, he realized he had a passion for mapping.

GIS coordinator

When a GIS position opened at the North Platte Natural Resources District, he moved to Gering to become its GIS Coordinator for nine years.

After getting married, the family eventually moved to Mitchell. Still, Sprock wanted to pursue more advancement. It came when he was accepted into the Master of Public Administration program through the University of Nebraska-Omaha.



Mitchell City Administrator Jeff Sprock brought his interest in mapping with him from earlier jobs. New image maps have been prepared to assure all addresses in the city are correct as the county prepares for an upgrade of its emergency communications system. Photo by Jerry Purvis, Scottsbluff Star-Herald. Reprinted by permission.

When Ty Abernethy, Mitchell's longtime city administrator, retired, he applied for the position. Nov. 1, 2015, became his first day on the job.

Community development

"I'm trying to work with the council on the community development process," he said. "We're working toward our certified leadership credentials for the Department of Economic Development. We also plan to do blighted studies of the community to see what areas might be redeveloped."

As city administrator, Sprock is responsible for public works, street department, parks department and the golf course. As a result, he attends numerous meetings, from

Continued on page 13

New sewer system installed to serve south Gretna

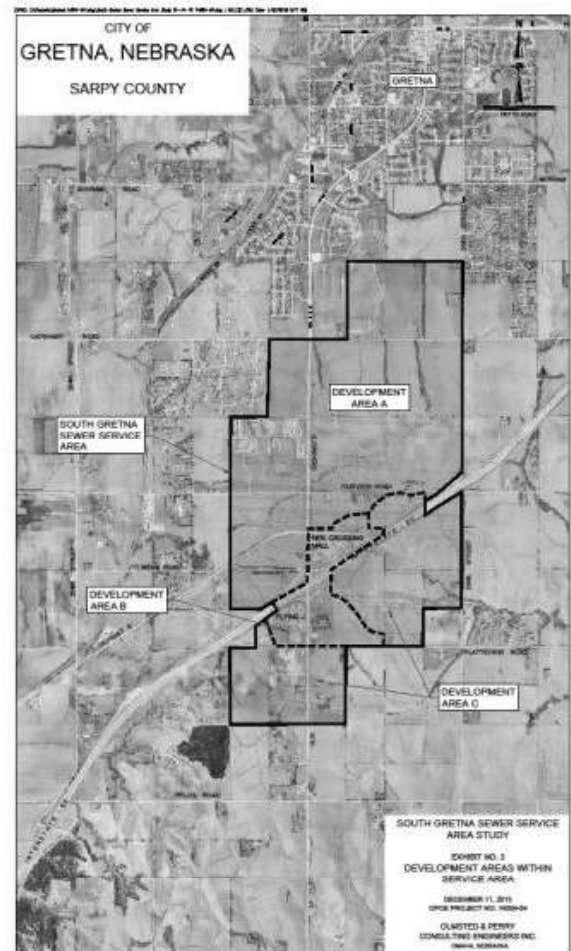
Sarpy County development occurs where there is a sanitary sewer service available. It doesn't sound exciting, but development projects of any size require a sanitary sewer system. Sanitary sewer systems are dependent upon gravity systems, which make it much more difficult to deliver compared to water supply systems, which are under pressure and can be delivered without the need for gravity.

Over the past year, the City of Gretna has contracted to have a sanitary sewer system installed to serve the south part of the Gretna area down to Interstate 80. This system will be fully functional this month. This project has already spurred the development of an industrial park located between Hwy 6 and Fairview Road. It is anticipated that there will be several additional projects occurring in the area now that sewer and water are available.

The city is now planning for the expansion of the sanitary sewer system south of Interstate 80. This system will serve several existing businesses and will open up additional property to development.

Highway 6 and 31 are very important development areas for our community. A couple years ago, the city developed a master plan for this area, which will be the basis for future development. This sanitary sewer system is an important piece to the development puzzle. ■

Source – City of Gretna



Source – City of Gretna

City administrator aims to revitalize Mitchell

Continued from page 12

the Panhandle Area Development District to the League of Nebraska Municipalities.

Sprock said the Mitchell area was thriving about 20 years ago when the sugar factory was still operating and the city's main highway went through downtown.

Now, the factory is closed and the highway has been re-routed to the edge of town, taking a number of businesses with it. But he still has a vision to rebuild the community with guidance from the state to leverage its resources.

"I like being involved in the community and providing the best services that won't be a huge expense for our citizens," he said. "It's not about changing the culture, but about doing things more efficiently." ■

A walk with the Lexington Mayor

While the wintry wind blew outside, more than 24 people came together for a warm lunchtime walk with Mayor John Fagot at the Lexington Fieldhouse Jan. 26.

The event was planned by the community-based Walkable City Steering Committee and promoted by the City of Lexington, Lexington Regional Health Center and Two Rivers Public Health Department.

The committee will be planning more group walking and biking activities throughout the year. ■

Source – Lexington City Happenings



From left: Connie Jo Beck, St. Paul Clerk/Deputy Treasurer; Brenda Klanecky, Council Member; Kaye Tomlinson, Council Member; Tracy Howard, St. Paul Mayor; Mike Feeken, St. Paul Development Corp. Executive; Ralph Kezeor, Council Member; Gerald Solko, Council Member. Photo provided by Nebraska Dept. of Economic Development.

St. Paul earns status as Nebraska's 22nd Leadership Certified Community

The Department of Economic Development (DED) in January honored the City of St. Paul as the agency's newest Leadership Certified Community (LCC). DED Business Development Consultant and LCC Program Director Kelly Gewecke honored local leaders during a special presentation at the city's monthly board meeting.

St. Paul is the 22nd community to qualify for DED's LCC program, created in 2011 to help Nebraska communities adapt to ongoing changes and opportunities in economic development. Qualifying communities must demonstrate an understanding for and preparedness in strategic and community planning, as well as display readiness in technological development to help new and existing businesses grow. Certified communities earn designation in the program for five years and are required to update and maintain information and websites.

Local leaders' efforts to develop business and housing opportunities resulted in successful partnerships within the community. Collaboration between the City of St. Paul, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the state initiated several local economic expansion projects. A USDA Rural Development Grant allowed the community to break ground on an expansion of the Howard County Medical Center in December 2017, which is part of a long-term effort to recruit additional health care professionals. Once complete, the expansion will accommodate two new doctors who have agreed to join the clinic's staff in 2018 and 2019.

In addition, the city committed to new construction for a community civic center; St. Paul received 2017 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding from DED for downtown revitalization planning. In past years, Casey's General Store

and Loup River Distilling opened new businesses in the community. Recent business expansions also were completed at Bosselman's Pump & Pantry, T.O. Haas and Herv's Automotive Transmissions.

Continued work to improve and expand the community played an important role in St. Paul's successful LCC application, which encourages collaboration in economic development efforts.

"Over the past several years, our community has worked together to gather many economic development pieces necessary for growth," St. Paul Development Corporation Executive Mike Feeken said. "Working on DED's LCC process helped bring those pieces together and provide St. Paul with essential tools to move in a positive direction."

Local leaders say community pride inspired several projects, including

Continued on page 15

Omaha program targets sex traffickers

An Omaha program designed to eliminate sex trafficking has reached a milestone.

Omaha Mayor Jean Stothert and members of the Coalition on Human Trafficking announced Jan. 26 that more than 1,200 employees of local hotels and motels have been trained to recognize signs of trafficking and know how to report suspected traffickers. “Our goal is to become a no-trafficking city,” Mayor Stothert said. “This is an alarming crime that needs a comprehensive, community-wide partnership with government, law enforcement and the private sector.”

In 2016, the coalition launched the “Realize, Recognize and Respond” campaign to train hotel and motel workers within a 50-mile radius of Omaha. The initial goal to train employees of 100 businesses has been exceeded. “We need to work together to make a difference,” said Sister Ce-

leste Wobeter, chair of the Coalition’s Hotel/Motel Project. “The credit goes to the many dedicated volunteers.”

The training program has been so successful, other cities want to duplicate it. Sister Wobeter said the Coalition is developing an agreement to share the program.

According to the Creighton University Human Trafficking Initiative, 900 individuals in Nebraska are sold for sex online multiple times each month, 675 in Omaha. “Sex trafficking happens in our community and no zip code is immune,” said Meghan Malik, Trafficking Project Manager for the Women’s Fund of Omaha. “I-80 and I-29 facilitate the movement of traffickers.”

“This is a statewide effort, this crime has a lot of victims that need a lot of help,” said Glen Parks, Nebraska Human Trafficking Task Force Coordinator.

Earlier this month, Nebraska Attorney General Doug Peterson introduced a media campaign, “Demand An End,” which targets the customers of sex traffickers. “We’re pretty confident we will have some prosecutions, people will learn that lesson firsthand,” Peterson said.

For more information about the “Realize, Recognize and Respond” training program, contact the Coalition on Human Trafficking at <http://notrafficking.org>.

If you suspect someone is being trafficked, please call 911. If you are a victim of trafficking, text BE-FREE (233-733) for help. ■

Source – City of Omaha

St. Paul Earns Status as Nebraska’s 22nd Leadership Certified Community

Continued from page 14

the implementation of a Property Improvement Program, commitment to creating a local hike/bike trail and updates to the Elmwood Cemetery and St. Paul’s baseball fields.

“St. Paul is blessed with an abundance of small town leaders who spark the true spirit of volunteerism,” Mayor Tracy Howard said. “Continued teamwork among our residents has led to our many successes.”

The City of St. Paul recently authorized Tax Increment Financing (TIF) for the development of two residential housing subdivisions.

“As we learn more about housing

needs in Nebraska communities, local leaders’ efforts in building these opportunities prove that St. Paul residents are invested in its city’s future,” said LCC Program Director Kelly Gewecke. “The city’s commitment to business expansions, quality health care and additional amenities are great examples of success for other Nebraska communities working to grow. These successes are trademarks of DED’s Leadership Certified Community program.” ■

Source – Dept. of Economic Development

City of Kearney offers new trails guide

The third edition of the *Kearney Trails Guide* is available to the public. The guide includes a map of the trail system, mileage, trail route descriptions, trail amenity locations, as well as safety, etiquette and rule information. Trail Guides are available at the Park & Recreation Office, Kearney Visitor’s Bureau, Peterson Senior Activity Center, City Hall, Meadowlark Hills Golf Course and the Kearney Public Library. The Trail Guide also is available on the City’s website, www.cityofkearney.org. ■

Source – City of Kearney

League President Wendall Gaston visits Bayard, Crawford and Hemingford

In his capacity as League President and as its ambassador of good will, Wendall Gaston, Sidney City Council Member, is visiting various communities. We applaud his efforts.



League President Wendall Gaston visits the City of Hemingford. From left: League President Wendall Gaston, Sidney City Council Member; Barb Straub, City Administrator/Clerk/Treasurer; Board Chair John Annen.

**To see other League photos, look at
our Facebook page at
www.facebook.com/leaguene
Be sure to "Like" us**



League President Wendall Gaston visits the city of Bayard. From left: Clerk Jennifer Tressler and League President Wendall Gaston, Sidney City Council Member.



League President Wendall Gaston (shown in middle) visits city of Crawford. From left: Mayor David Nixon; Clerk/Treasurer Jane Dailey.

Grand Island to address problems with starling population

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Feb. 6 treated the local starling population using DRC-1339, which assists in reduction of the birds. The chemical used is bird specific and harm to any animal other than the target species is not anticipated. The targeted birds will expire 24 to 36 hours after consuming the treated feed and will often be found at the bird's roosting locations.

The use of this chemical is only effective during the fall and winter months when large flocks consistently feed in one location. During the spring and summer months, the birds are less likely to congregate in large numbers as the birds feed in local fields and on grain and insects, making treatment applications nearly impossible.

If residents should find deceased starlings on their private property, it is okay to dispose of the birds in trash containers. The USDA recommends using gloves or a bag when picking the starlings up. Residents who are physically unable to dispose of the birds can call city hall at 308-385-5455 to make arrangements for cleanup. The City of Grand Island will only offer this service if a resident is incapable of collecting and disposing the birds.

Many residents have expressed concerns of noise and filth nuisances related to the starlings, but of most

concern is the health nuisance caused from the droppings of the birds. Starlings can spread Salmonella, E. coli, perpetuate a fungus soil known as Histoplasmosis, as well as West Nile.

The city started addressing this problem with treatments in 2005. This is the only successful known treatment option for this nuisance. ■

Source – City of Grand Island

Power Plant Problem Solvers



Leader in RICE NESHAP Compliance & Testing

Stationary Diesel & Engine Mechanics

Multi-point Engine Inspection Service

**Complete Engine Sales,
Installation and Removal**

**Power Plant Design,
Construction & Automation**

**Large/Heavy Equipment
& Machinery Transportation**

**Parts & Service for: Alco, Caterpillar,
Colt-Pielstick, Cummins, Cooper-Bessemer,
DeLaval, EMD, Enterprise, Nordberg, Waukesha,
Fairbanks Morse, Ingersoll-Rand, Worthington,
White Superior, and others**

FMI

Farabee Mechanical, Inc.

Hickman, NE 68372 • (402) 792-2612

farabee@inebraska.com

www.farabeemechanical.com

**See page 22- 23 for
Professional Directory**

Chadron earns continued recognition for industry growth, workforce recruitment

For the second time in five years, the Nebraska Diplomats and the Department of Economic Development (DED) Jan. 24 recognized the City of Chadron for earning certification as an Economic Development Certified Community (EDCC). DED Business Development Consultant Brittany Hardin honored local economic leaders during the Northwest Nebraska Development Corporation's (NNDC) annual meeting.

Chadron is one of 39 communities to earn EDCC certification in the program, sponsored by the Nebraska Diplomats and administered by DED. State officials established the program in 2005 to recognize communities for preparedness to attract new industries and grow existing businesses. The community earned original certification in December 2012 and earned recertification in December 2017.

Well-defined program

As part of the certification process, a qualifying community must identify

Grant offers city web site with mobile access

The Grant city website continues to evolve and is adaptable for viewing on all mobile devices so that you have a choice on your viewing preference.

In addition, the mobile view offers a calendar, which allows visitors to sign up for monthly or weekly reminders of events or activities in which they are interested. ■

Source – City of Grant



Front row from left: City Clerk Donna Rust; Council Members Keith Crofutt and George Klein; Department of Economic Development Business Development Consultant Brittany Hardin, Northwest Nebraska Development Corporation Director Deb Cottier. Back row: Public Works Director Milo Rust, City Manager Greg Yanker and Council Member Mark Werner. Photo by Nebraska Department of Economic Development.

a well-defined program that actively engages with its existing business community and offers a supportive environment for welcoming new economic development projects. This includes documenting available sites and buildings, local financing and incentive programs and a strategic plan for economic development, such as implementing a progressive strategy to grow the community's labor market.

Since 2013, NNDC has been directly involved in assisting, recruiting or expanding more than 30 different projects in the Chadron community. As the designated development agency for the city, NNDC spearheaded efforts by local railroad NNW in recruiting a car repair company to Chadron.

"Visionary leadership to recruit busi-

nesses that compliment northwest Nebraska's successful industries has been a key in this community's economic growth," Nebraska Diplomats President Jane McDaniel said. "The Nebraska Diplomats are proud to recognize Chadron as a success story for economic development within the EDCC program."

Collaboration

Continuous, extensive collaboration between the City of Chadron and NNDC has resulted in the use of active Revolving Loan Funds for each entity. Over the past five years, the city's fund completed four loans to assist three local businesses. The city's most recent economic development project, which used Chadron's LB 840 and Tax Increment Financing (TIF)

Continued on page 19

Continued from page 18

funds, resulted in the completion of a \$7.3 million project for planning and building a 60-room Holiday Inn Express. The hotel opened in May 2017 and created 30 full-time positions in the community.

Revolving Loan Fund

Since 2012, NNDC's Revolving Loan Fund has created or retained 43 full-time employees through 11 loans totaling \$343,000. Organizational leaders capitalized on funding assistance from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Rural Development (RD) program and Dawes County's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) re-use funds.

"The talented and focused leadership in communities like Chadron drives local economic success," said DED Director Dave Rippe. "Issues such as workforce retention and skills development are the core of Chadron's economic development efforts and run parallel to our work to provide young Nebraskans with the necessary tools and incentives to build their careers here."

In addition to recent developments near Chadron's newest hotel, the city loaned an additional \$250,000 from the community's LB 840 fund and CDBG Revolving Loan Fund to assist in a \$1.4 million project. Construction of a Domino's Pizza began in August 2017 and opened for business last month. With another retail business to open soon, the project will create two additional businesses and more than 20 new full-time positions. Chadron re-authorized its LB 840 program in 2015 for 15 years.

"Chadron has seen unprecedented growth and investment in our community," said Chadron Mayor John Coates. "The 140-plus jobs created or

retained, along with the \$75 million invested the past five years, shows that Chadron is serious about preparing for new businesses."

In 2015, city voters approved an additional one-half cent sales tax to fund a \$4 million renovation of Chadron's existing swimming pool to create the Chadron Aquatics Center. The project resulted in a unique partnership between Chadron Community Hospital and Chadron State College to provide staffing resources in order to operate year-round.

Community leaders have been recognized for several Nebraska awards, such as the State Hospital Association's 'Most Wired' award for Chadron Community Hospital for telemedicine efforts. Chadron City Schools Superintendent Dr. Caroline Winchester was named Nebraska Superintendent of the Year in 2017. NNDC Executive Director Deb Cottier was honored as

the Nebraska Economic Developers Association's (NEDA) Professional of the Year in 2017 for her continued commitment to economic growth.

"The City of Chadron and Northwest Nebraska Development Corporation are proud to receive the Nebraska Diplomats recertification announcement," Cottier said. "We have spent much of the past five years recruiting, growing and expanding businesses in our community. These efforts gave our city the capacity and vision to take business retention and expansion to the next level. Thank you to the Department of Economic Development, Nebraska Public Power District and Black Hills Energy's Economic Development Division for their assistance in this process. We are looking forward to continued growth in the future." ■

Source – Nebraska Dept. of Economic Development



RICE SIGNS

Your Leader In Transportation Safety

Free Traffic Sign Catalog:

Call 888-728-7665

- or -

Visit www.RiceSigns.com

- Traffic Signs
- Roll-Up Construction Signs
- Sign Stands
- Traffic Cones & Barricades
- Custom Street Name Signs
- Sign Posts & Hardware

Contact Us / Bids / Quotes:

Toll-Free: 888-728-7665

Fax: 877-546-6165

Email: sales@RiceSigns.com

Web: www.RiceSigns.com



League President Wendall Gaston visits Dalton, Minatare and Terrytown

In his role as League President, Wendall Gaston, Sidney City Council Member, is visiting several cities and villages this year. Thanks to the many municipal officials who have extended a warm welcome to League President Gaston.



League President Wendall Gaston, Sidney City Council Member, visits the Village of Dalton. From left: Randy Twarling, Weston McConnell, Chairman Earl Reilly, League President Wendall Gaston and Bill Abbott.



League President Wendall Gaston, Sidney City Council Member, visits the City of Terrytown. From left: Terrytown City Clerk Tammy Leeling and League President Wendall Gaston, Sidney City Council Member.



League President Wendall Gaston, Sidney Council Member, visits the Village of Minatare. From left: League President Wendall Gaston, Sidney Council Member, and Minatare Clerk/Treasurer Carolyn Nelson.

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

Police Officer. Broken Bow Police Department. The Broken Bow Police Department is accepting applications for a full-time police officer.

Applicants must be a U.S. Citizen, 21 years of age, possess a valid Driver's License, and must be of good moral character with no felonies, domestic assault, or serious misdemeanor convictions. Benefits include a competitive wage, uniform, patrol unit to drive home, vacation, sick time, holiday time, and health insurance. Nebraska Law Enforcement Certification is preferred, but all applicants will be considered.

Application may be requested from the Broken Bow Police Department, 116 South 11th Avenue, Broken Bow, Nebraska 68822, by calling 308-872-6424, or you may visit our website at www.brokenbowpolice.com.

Applications will be taken until position is filled.

City of Broken Bow is an EOE.

Contact Person: Chief Steve Scott

Contact e-mail: policechief@brokenbowpolice.com

Contact Phone: 308-872-6424

Address: 116 South 11th Avenue
Broken Bow, NE 68822

Utilities Assistant. Village of Elwood is accepting applications for a full-time Utilities Assistant. Duties include assisting with maintenance and upgrade of streets, operation of sewer and water systems, park and swimming pool. State certification is required for the operation of the drinking water and waste water systems and must

Positions

be obtained within a timeframe set by the Village Board. Drug testing and a valid Nebraska driver's license are required. Salary is negotiable. A benefit package is offered with the position. Applications may be picked up at 304 Calvert Avenue, Elwood, NE 68937 or call 308-785-2480 for more information. E-mail requests for applications to villelwood@atcjet.net. Include a resume with your application. All applications/resumes are due in the Village Office by 4:00 pm on Tuesday, March 13, 2018. The Village of Elwood is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Electric Superintendent. City of Pierce seeks a full-time Electrical Superintendent. Under administrative direction, the successful applicant will perform a variety of supervisory, administrative, skilled, technical, and maintenance work in the planning, construction, operation, repair, maintenance, and replacement of the City of Pierce electrical system. The City's electrical system consists of the City of Pierce and the rural lines from Pierce to the Village of Foster. This person must be able to work in extreme weather conditions including responding to outages and be on call for after hours and weekend outages and emergencies. This person will be required to work with the other city departments when needed. This individual must have a minimum of 3-5 years of experience of being a certified lineman, and must have completed college level courses in utility line

Positions

work. A CDL license is preferred. The City of Pierce has an excellent benefit package. You can apply at the City Administrator's office, 106 S. 1st Street, Pierce, NE 68767. You can request an application and a job description by e-mailing the City Administrator at cityadm@ptcnet.net. If you have any questions, please call (402) 329-4164. The position is open until filled. EOE

Police Chief. City of Wymore, located in Southeast Nebraska, is seeking applications from experienced law enforcement for Chief of Police. Prior administrative, management, or supervisory experience is preferred. Salary dependent on experience, with benefits. Minimum requirements: current State of Nebraska law enforcement certification, prior law enforcement experience, and an ability to work cooperatively with other agencies and City Personnel. The position will remain open until filled. First review of applicants to occur after Feb. 21, 2018. Please submit cover letter, resume, and City of Wymore application to: City of Wymore, 115 West E St., Wymore, NE 68466. You may pick up an application at the City Office or call (402)-645-3377 to have one mailed to you. AN EOE.

**See page 22- 23 for
Professional Directory**



**MUNICIPAL CODE
SERVICES, INC.**

- **COMPLETE MUNICIPAL CODE REVISION**
- **UPDATING SERVICE FOR YOUR CURRENT CODE**
- **POLICY MANUALS**

Personal Service • Reasonable Rates
Nebraska-Based Company

P.O. Box 164, Neligh, NE 68756
Phone 402.887.5022
leagle@mcnallylaw.net www.mcodeservices.com



The Nebraska Public Agency Investment Trust (NPAIT) is a cash management program operated to maximize the following features:
Secure Investments, Daily Liquidity, and Excellent Interest Income.

PO Box 82529 • Lincoln, NE 68501-2529
 800-890-9757 • 402-323-1278
www.npait.com



**Engineering Solutions for
YOUR COMMUNITY**

9 Nebraska
Locations

www.olssonassociates.com



@olsson_assoc

**REINVENT YOUR
PLAYGROUND!**

Contact Creative Sites
at 800.266.1250 to
get started on your
project today!




www.bciburke.com

**ORDINANCE
CODIFICATION
SERVICES**



For more information,
contact:
Colleen T. Engle, American
Legal Publishing, at
(714)348-9529 or
ccengle@amlegal.com

**Help citizens and business owners understand
what regulations apply to them.**

Custom Codification

Updates and organizes a municipality's ordinances into an easy-to-use Code Of Ordinances. Includes a legal review pointing out inconsistencies, obsolete or repealed references, and other potential legal issues. *

Nebraska Basic Code

The NBC is a comprehensive code of ordinances intended for use by smaller NE municipalities (villages & 2nd class cities) wishing to avoid the cost of a custom code. It is intended as a model code that keeps NE municipalities in compliance with state law.

Model Ordinances

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

MA Miller & Associates
CONSULTING ENGINEERS, P.C.

**ENGINEERING
SURVEYING
ARCHITECTURE
PLANNING
GRANT WRITING**

www.miller-engineers.com

SCHEMMER
Design with Purpose. Build with Confidence.

Engineering
Construction Field Services
Architecture

OMAHA - 402.493.4800 | LINCOLN - 402.488.2500
SCHEMMER.COM

nmpp
ENERGY™

NMPP | MEAN | NPGA | ACE

- Electricity • Natural Gas •
- Utility Related Services •

A non-profit, member owned organization benefiting nearly 200 communities spanning six midwest and mountain states.

8377 Glynoaks Dr. - Lincoln, NE 68516
(800) 234-2595
NMPPEnergy.org

JEO CONSULTING GROUP INC



800.723.8567
jeo.com

Engineering
Architecture
Surveying
Planning

Financial & Single Audits
Budget Consulting & Preparation
Retirement Plans
Benchmarking & Rate Studies

Contact
Terry Galloway, Marcy Luth
Michael Hoback, Joe Stump
or Kyle Overturf

**ALMQUIST
MALTZAHN
GALLOWAY
& LUTH**


CERTIFIED
PUBLIC
ACCOUNTANTS

1203 W. 2nd Street
Grand Island, NE 68801
Ph 308.381.1810
Fax 308.381.4824
www.glcpas.com

YOUNG & WHITE
LAW OFFICES

Omaha
402-393-5600
www.youngandwhite.com
Email: lwoffices@youngandwhite.com

*Providing Exemplary Legal Services for
Nebraska Cities & Villages since 1990!*



**League's Ordinance
Codification Program**

*Serving the League and Nebraska
Municipalities since 1998*

**Code Updates • New Codes
Legal Reviews • Codes on Internet**



AMERICAN LEGAL
ORDINANCE CODIFICATION

Contact Colleen T. Engle
Direct (714) 348-9529
cengle@amlegal.com www.amlegal.com

Burbach Aquatics, Inc.'s newest Family Aquatic Centers

It has been an exciting year!!!

Contact BAI to see how we can help your community!



© 2017 BURBACH AQUATICS, INC —RIGHTS RESERVED, PRINTED IN THE U.S.A.

Burbach Aquatics, Inc.
5974 State Highway 80 South
Platteville, Wisconsin 53818



www.burbachaquatics.com | baae@centurytel.net

Phone: 608-348-3262
Fax: 608-348-4970
E-mail: baae@centurytel.net