

Utilities Section Newsletter

League of Nebraska Municipalities

September 2018

Decaying Infrastructure – a Concern to Utilities

Editors Note: Rob stumbled into this editorial written by **Utilities Section Coordinator George Wolverton** that appeared in the May 1984 *Nebraska Municipal Review*. Interesting *Nebraska Utilities* trivia is that the Utilities Section Board at the time was **Dave Redding** from the Lincoln Electric System, **Dick Bacon** from Alliance, **Lance Hedquist** from South Sioux City, **Bill Brockley** from Nebraska City Utilities, **Glen Bennet** from Sidney, **Bob Ranard** from Grand Island, and **Lambert Blecha** from the Auburn Board of Public Works.

This editorial seemed very powerful in that every word is still true today. As we talked about the editorial, Rob was readily able to produce a list of well over 100 Nebraska water systems without meters. A lot of issues remain the same today as they existed 35 years ago.

Infrastructure is an awesome word. Today, the decaying infrastructure is a concern of utilities and city governments. Repairing, replacing and maintaining existing streets, bridges, train tracks, sewer, water, natural gas and electric systems has been estimated by some in the industry to cost approximately \$3 trillion for the next 16 years. A staggering and sobering figure to think about. This figure does not include money spent on expanding these

systems.

Although no figures are available, utilities upkeep must account for a large share of the estimated costs. The life expectancy of the wastewater and water system is said to be between 40 and 60 years. Parts of all systems are now at least that old and may need maintenance or replacement.

Checking the condition of a wastewater system while in service can be done by television cameras and monitors. Cameras are moved through pipes on cables and monitored by crews to locate areas needing repairs. A television transmission can give an accurate report of the condition of lines. The crew monitoring the transmission can give exact locations of needed repairs. Still pictures can be made of located problems and repair crews then can go to the site of the repair fully prepared.

It is harder to find areas needing preventative maintenance in a water distribution system. Water leaks cost a utility money. If water is treated, the cost for each gallon sold increases to pay for those unknown leaks in the system. This past summer the Midwest Assistance Program,

Inc. paid for three community water audits with funds from a grant by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Two of these water audits were conducted in villages and one in a city of the second class.

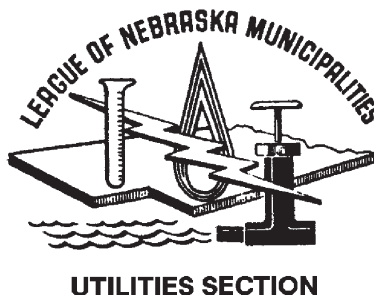
One village had unknown leaks totaling an estimated \$1,860 a year – no small amount of money to a village with a population of 350.

The second village purchased their water for 60 cents per thousand. Leaks were found totaling an estimated 27,000 gpd and when repaired could save the village an estimated \$59,000 per year. This village has a population of 360 so, again, the savings are important.

The second-class city, population 1,700, had leaks totaling an estimated 59,000 gpd. Though the leakage was greater, repairs would save the city only an estimated \$5,300 a year due to the low cost of production.

These leaks were all classed as “infrastructure” as they were found in service taps at the mains, joints where mains were put together and joints where fire hydrants were installed. None of these leaks had surfaced before the water audits. Two of them surfaced during the water audits. A third leak was found to have washed away into a break in a wastewater line. The wastewater

Continued on page 3



1335 L Street, Lincoln, NE 68508
(402) 476-2829
Fax (402) 476-7052

Lash Chaffin
Utilities Section Director
Rob Pierce
Utilities Field Representative

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

Newspapers Digitized. The Nebraska City Library and the Syracuse Library have been sponsoring the digitalization of Otoe County newspapers. Currently, the digitalized papers, in searchable format, date back to the 1857 *Nebraska News*.

The first Syracuse newspaper was the *Syracuse Herald*, printed from 1888-1898. The digitalized Syracuse and Nebraska City newspapers will continue through about 2016. More on the digitalized papers can be found at <http://Otoecountyne.advantage-preservation.com>.

110th Anniversary Celebrated. The Albion Public Library celebrated its 110th anniversary on Sept. 8. Outdoor games, a movie and historical displays were included in the event. Congratulations to the Albion Public Library for its years of service to the community!

Do you, your department or facility have something to crow about? Received an award, had an article written highlighting an event or person?



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 or pride of an award, noted article or project with other members.

JEO CONSULTING GROUP INC



800.723.8567
jeo.com

Engineering



Architecture



Surveying



Planning



2018-2019 Executive Board

President

Paul Markowski
Utility Superintendent
Ord

1st Vice President

Bob Lockmon
Utilities Superintendent
Stuart

2nd Vice President

Larry Brittenham
Utility Superintendent
Superior

Past President

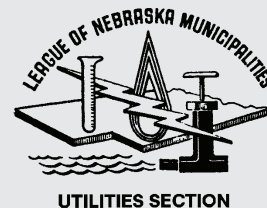
Anton "Tony" Jelinek
Director of Utilities
Kearney

Board Member

Eric Melcher
City Administrator
Aurora

Board Member

Dallas Nichols
Water Superintendent
Cozad



Board Member

Brian Newton
City Administrator
Fremont

Ex Officio Member

Tobias Tempelmeyer
City Administrator and
BPW General Manager
Beatrice

Decaying Infrastructure – a Concern to Utilities

Continued from page 1

ter system was handling all the leaking water thereby increasing its cost of operation as well.

Finding and repairing these problems will neither be easy nor cheap. A street, road or bridge shows its deterioration readily and repairs can be made before an emergency exists. This is not true of underground

utilities.

Too many times the old axiom “out of sight, out of mind” applies. Everyone expects the water to be there when the tap is turned, waste to disappear when flushed down the drain, the lights to come on when the switch is flipped, and the streets, roads and bridges to be in usable condition when needed. This is generally

true of utilities we see easily but when a water main breaks or a wastewater line collapses or plugs, it is not seen until it surfaces or waste backs into someone’s basement.

Due to age and deterioration this may happen in older areas more frequently in the future. Let’s hope it can be avoided by good maintenance programs.

League Annual Conference held

The League Annual Conference was held at the Holiday Inn in Kearney Sept. 19-21, 2018. The conference began with a Preconference Seminar on “How to Address Nuisances” and abandoned properties in small and large municipalities.

Topics at the conference included:

- Broadband Issues;
- Smart Cities;
- Infrastructure Management;
- Land Banks – Affordable Housing
- Risk Management;
- Geographic Information System (GIS);
- Promoting Hometown Careers;
- Nebraska Expressway for Economic Needs;
- Managing Aging Infrastructure;

- Key Economic Development Tools;
- Handling Dog Issues – Best Practices;
- Limiting Liability Concerning First Amendment Issues;
- Protection From Cyber-Attacks; and
- Top 10 Unusual Bills Introduced in the Last Legislative Session.

The sessions were followed by the City Managers/Administrators, Clerks, Larger Cities, Smaller Cities and Utilities Section meetings.

The conference was well attended with about 150 municipal officials from across the state. A special thanks to the many associate members, exhibitors and sponsors in attendance this year.

The 2019 League Annual Conference is scheduled for Sept. 16-18 at the Cornhusker Marriott Hotel in Lincoln.

Upcoming Meter, Snowball Conferences

The dates for future **Meter Conferences** have been scheduled and contracts signed with the Kearney Holiday Inn. Note the upcoming Meter Conference Schedule:

Feb. 12-13, 2019

Feb. 11-12, 2020

The dates for future **“Snowball” Wastewater Conferences** have been scheduled and contracts signed with the Kearney Holiday Inn. Note the upcoming Snowball Conference Schedule:

Jan. 23-24, 2019

Jan. 22-23, 2020

Jan. 27-28, 2021

Jan. 26-27, 2022

Jan. 25-26, 2023

Years of Service Awards

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

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

SAFETY/HEALTH CORNER

Office safety tips

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

Does your office or shop have a shortage of electrical outlets? Many of our municipal buildings were constructed before computers, iPads, cell phones and a multitude of office equipment that are plugged in.

It seems almost everything else these days is wireless, but we still need one, if not more, chargers plugged in. Once again, technology is out-pacing the updating of electrical wiring in our facilities, causing us to cut corners with multiple extension cords and surge strips. Often it is found where surge strips are plugged into each other with all ports in use. Amperage ratings can be easily overcome, tripping a breaker or overheating a cord or equipment to create a potential fire hazard. If the surge strip has a breaker built in, it might need to be reset or possibly the entire unit may need to be replaced.

The surge strip might become a multi-port unit with little-to-no

protection if it cannot be reset.

Another safety item is extension cord abuse around the office or shop. Extension cords are to be used as temporary devices, not used in place of permanent wiring. These cords often are not rated for high amperage equipment that is plugged into them, such as space heaters. The cost and thickness of the cord is a good measure of whether your extension cord is heavy duty.

Trip hazards also can be a problem associated with extension cord use. When stepped on, they can roll, causing a fall or you can trip on them if they are not secured to the floor. Also, stepping on or running over cords with a vehicle can put pressure on internal wires causing them to fray or break. Another electrical issue of concern is when the electrical outlets are not grounded or cords with two-prongs (no ground prong) are used. Sometimes we get too creative by removing or cutting off the ground prong on the plug. I have even seen the ground prong bent backwards

out of the way, so the equipment could be plugged into a two-slot socket. An adapter is usually not recommended as you may not be able to ground it. Removing a ground eliminates protection and often the outlet screw connecting an adapter may not provide adequate ground. Using an adapter often can add enough weight to cause the cord to sag, pulling the prongs partially out of the outlet. This may cause sparking and a fire could result.




Next time you walk through your office, take time to observe and evaluate the electrical outlets and the equipment plugged into them to prevent a potential fire. During the holidays, we tend to use a lot of decorative lights and decorations that can overload an outlet. Many offices and shops tend to use shop heaters and those heaters that are under the desk. Try to purchase heaters that shut off if tipped over to prevent a fire. The updating of electrical wiring within the building can cost thousands, but a fire can cost a lot more.



**A REFRESHINGLY DIFFERENT
ENGINEERING & DESIGN FIRM**

- Site/Civil
- Facilities
- Environmental
- Survey
- Transportation
- Water/Wastewater
- Field Operations
- Water Resources

601 P Street, Suite 200 | Lincoln, NE 68508 | 402.474.6311 | www.olssonassociates.com
Lincoln • Omaha • Grand Island • Hastings • Holdrege • La Vista • Mullen • South Sioux City

   @olsson_assoc

Electric Rubber Gloving Workshop held

The Western Nebraska Rubber Gloving Workshop was held Sept. 12-14, 2018 at the Don Winkelman Training Field, the Wheatbelt Public Power District's training field north of Sidney. A total of 44 linemen were in attendance with 15 from municipalities and 29 from rural electric systems. Ten municipal systems participated with linemen from Arnold, Bayard, Curtis, Haxton, Colo., Imperial, Kimball, Grand Island, Mullen, North Platte and Torrington, Wyo.

The workshop started with vendor introductions, which included brief discussions on the various equipment, vehicles and other related electrical material that was provided for use and display by the various companies. The participants were divided into hands-on work groups or stations. Some of the work station jobs included a bucket rescue while using a tree on a three-phase structure, arm changeout using layout arms, changeout of cutout/arrester on three-phase bank (primary line energized), repair a downed conductor using equipotential grounding, arm changeout on an angle pole

and mid-span splicing and repair.

Due to the large beginner registration (23), they were divided into three work groups. Some of the beginner tasks were basic use of tie wire and equipment, an insulator changeout (pole top and crossarm), cross-arm change out on single phase dead-ends (pole and arm), single phase pole changeout and changing out a transformer on an energized pole.

On the second day, Ed Salazar and 21 utility line students from Western Community College toured, observing the work stations. Also in attendance were Larry Oetken of the Nebraska Rural Electric Association, Rob Pierce of the League of Nebraska Municipalities, and Kory Hildebrand and Joel Duffeld of Northeast Community College. Joel replaced Brian Bannon as the Western Region Job Safety and Safety Trainer for Northeast Community College.

A special thanks to the instructors and their respective companies:

- **Scot Ouderkir** of Chimney Rock PPD;
- **Justin Ronning** of Dawson



Rubber Gloving Beginner Station.

- PPD;
- **Brandon Jacobs** of McCook PPD;
- **Jay Tuma** of Midwest ECC;
- **Justin Huston** of Niobrara Electric Association;
- **Jake Gonzales** of Roosevelt PPD;
- **Travis Secrest** of Wheatbelt PPD;
- **Taylor Brown** of the City of Kimball; and
- **John Dellman** of Hubbell Power.

Also, thank you to the **City of**

Continued on page 6

MONGAN

PAINTING CO., INC.

Floor Coatings * Sandblasting * Epoxy Coatings
Water Plants * Storage Tanks * Swimming Pools
Sewage Plants * Ethanol Plant

PO Box 515 - Cherokee, Iowa 51012
Phone (712)225-0626 Fax (712)225-0627
Email: monganmd@ncn.net

Kearney ■ McCook ■ Grand Island ■ Holdrege ■ Colby, KS



Miller & Associates
CONSULTING ENGINEERS, P.C.

www.miller-engineers.com

ENGINEERING
SURVEYING
ARCHITECTURE
PLANNING
GRANT WRITING

308.234.6456

Electric Rubber Gloving Workshop held

Continued from page 5

Sidney for use of a bucket truck.

On behalf of the Utilities Section and the Rural Electric Association, a special thanks to the following companies that provided trucks, demo trailers, material and their knowledge when performing rubber gloving techniques (listed alphabetically by company name):

- Bruce Bower, Rick Little, Dennis Gronniger, Logan Furwish and Travis Allen of **Altec Industries Inc.;**
- Bud “Buddy” Cadwell of **Bashlin Industries;**
- Johns Marsaglia of **Evans Lipka & Associates;**
- John Dellman of **Hubbell Power Systems;**
- Bill Larson of **Energy Solutions Inc.;** and
- Bob Hessler.



Rubber Gloving Rescue Station.

The next Rubber Gloving Workshop is scheduled for 2019 at Northeast Community College in Norfolk.

Underground Electric Training

The Western Nebraska Electric Underground School was held Sept. 12-14, 2018 at the Don Winkelman Training Field, the Wheatbelt Public Power District’s training field north of Sidney. A total of 45 linemen were in attendance with 16 from municipalities and 29 from the rural electric systems. Ten municipal systems participated with linemen from Alliance, Ansley, Arnold, Curtis, North Platte, St. Paul, Sidney, Stuart, Valentine and Torrington, Wyo. The next Underground School will be held in 2019 at Northeast Community College in Norfolk.



Underground School locates.

Wastewater Workshop Held

The Utilities Section sponsored a one-day (five hours) Wastewater Workshop Sept. 26, 2018 at Falls City. Topics included treatment technologies, operation/maintenance, lockout tagout, a GHS update and regulatory/industry issues update. Brian Gongol of Gongol & Associates also provided a presentation on pumps with an emphasis on troubleshooting.

The operators attending this workshop received credit hours toward license renewal: **five hours** for wastewater and **three hours** for water.

Certificates were given at the workshop and a GHS training letter was emailed to the respective systems.

Nebraska Breaktime Trivia “Just For Fun”

- Q-1.** In what city in Nebraska was a counterfeiter’s outfit with nickels and quarters found in 1909 when the Gold Dust Saloon was being torn down.
- Q-2.** How many incorporated municipalities in Nebraska have names starting with the letters Br?
- Q-3.** If the year is 1892 and I am standing in front of the Potter House on Blue River Avenue between Niagra and Nebraska Avenues, what city in Nebraska am I in?

Answers on page 10.

Nebraska utilities history

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

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

Louisville, located in Cass County, was first laid out Dec. 10, 1856 by Gardner Powers. Powers' fur-trading station was in the area and on Dec. 15, he tabbed the site name "Louisville." On Dec. 16, 1856, the Town Association of Louisville (13 stock holders) bought out Powers' interest in Louisville. The site was again surveyed and laid out in January by Charles M. Lewis. A post office was established in the area by Jan. 26, 1857. In February, a plat was filed and on Feb. 10, 1857, the community was incorporated by a special act of the Territorial Legislature. One source noted on Aug. 18, 1857, Louisville was incorporated (papers filed for original 13 stockholders) under a special act of the Territorial Legislature, a paper town only at this time. In the 1860s, the "Louisville Pottery" was established by T.A. Hoover using native white clay. One source noted Louisville was platted in 1869-70 when the Burl-

ington Missouri Railroad was built through town. At this time, Louisville consisted of about 50 square blocks. In 1870, a post office was established and the precinct population was 636. In 1870, a railroad depot and a store which housed the post office were built. In 1872, a second general store was opened and on March 1, the town was re-surveyed by M. Willsey and a plat filed and the Louisville Town Association was formed. On June 8, 1872, Captain Hoover dedicated Louisville to the public. He was known as founder of Louisville. In 1873, a Union Sabbath School was instituted in the depot. That year, a drug store and the Louisville Stone Ware Manufacturing Company was started. The next year, a blacksmith shop, the first hotel and another general store were built. In 1876, Louisville Mills was built at the foot of Main Street and a grain elevator was erected in 1878. In 1879, the Louisville Stone Ware Company was the only stoneware factory in Nebraska. J.T.A. Hoover started the business, which had an initial

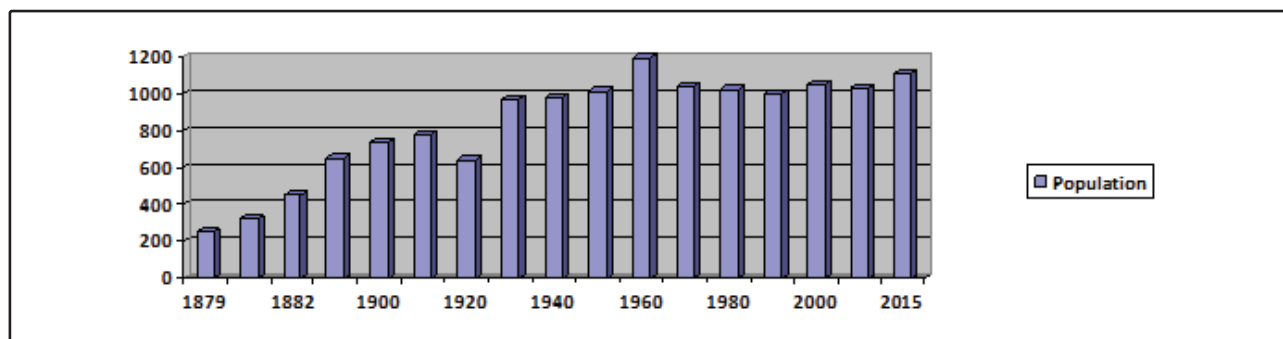


Louisville Water Tower.

output of 7,000 jars per month. The population by 1879 was 250 and in June, the Dooley House was built (later called Hall House Hotel). In August, the railroad depot and a large freight train were destroyed by fire.

By 1880, the population was estimated at 321 and the River-view Cemetery was established. In 1880, flat boats were the only way to cross the Platte River except in winter when the water level was low or frozen. By 1880,

Continued on page 8



Nebraska utilities history

Continued from page 7

the town had a grocery store, four general stores, two drug stores, one furniture store, one implement store, three hotels, two wagon and blacksmith shops, two harness shops, two liverys, a steam flouring mill, a pottery works, a fire-brick factory, a brickyard, one butcher shop and stockyards with quarries that employed about 500 men. In 1881, the Missouri Pacific Railroad bridged the Platte River between Omaha and Louisville. A depot was built at Third & Mill Streets with elevators and stockyards just to the south. The school had 50 students, District #32 was formed, and by fall of 1882, a new school house was built. On Aug. 7, 1882, Louisville was incorporated as a village under state law with a population of 450. The Louisville Bank was built by 1883 and in 1887, the Louisville Stone Ware Manufacturing Company became Western Pottery with 30 employees. A Nebraska Telephone Company was operating by 1888.

By 1890, the population was 653 and a brick and tile manufacturer started operation with a capacity of 35,000 bricks per day. By April 1892, a cigar factory was started and a saloon by 1894. In 1897, a meeting discussed the need to add a water works for fire protection. Proposed was a tank on the hill with a 12-foot windmill and six-inch main down Fourth Street then north on Main Street. The population by 1900 was 738 and poles were set for telephone wires. In 1901, a public library was founded by Louisville Woman's Club. Quarries were operating in 1903 and by 1905, a clay pit business began operation.

Louisville installed a water system in 1908. In 1909, a toll bridge was built and a Drake Hotel by 1910. By 1910, the population was 778 and on Nov. 21, the Hotel Speaker burned to the ground. A brick city hall was built in 1911 on the southwest corner of the intersection across from the Drake Hotel. The jail was on the east side of the city hall building. On Nov. 18, 1911, an auditorium (Opera House) was built for \$6,500. A Campbell heating and electric plant was installed in the building by the Almo Engine Company of Omaha with a gasoline engine and dynamo with a storage battery. The Opera House was completed Nov. 25, 1911 for \$46,000. In 1912, the Kahler Pottery Company was constructed and by 1913, the Hugh Murphy Quarry opened. By 1914, Louisville had a water works (standpipe) and public electric lights. In 1915, the Omaha/Lincoln Railway and Light Company, a subsidiary of the Illinois Traction Company, proved electricity to Ralston, Papillion, Louisville and Gretna. The village took over the library in January 1917.

By 1920, the population was 645 and in 1923, the Mill Creek flooded the town. In 1924, the Riverview Ball Park was dedicated. The toll bridge, built in 1909, was paid off and given to the state in 1926. In 1927, the Ash Grove Cement Company factory opened on the old Murphy Quarry grounds (one source has the plant was built in 1929) and was dedicated in 1929. That year, the 1909 toll bridge was ruled unsafe and the State Game and Parks Commission purchased 188 acres

of land near Louisville with eight lakes to be used as a recreational facility (Platteview Recreation Grounds). In May 1929, the village board approved the original sewer system and the bid was awarded to Robeck Humphreys Company of Omaha for \$13,741. The sewer system was completed in 1930 and a steel bridge was erected across the Platte River, which required a toll until 1939. Natural gas was installed and available by 1932. The fire department consisted of 22 members and by 1934, a \$9,000 PWA water improvement project considered bids. In 1935, a CCC camp was operating in the area along with the WPA work. The population increased from 969 in 1930 to 977 in 1940. The population by 1950 was 1,014 with a Housing and Home Finance Agency Project for a \$27,151 treatment plant underway. On July 22, 1952, a \$8,500 bond issue was passed on a vote of 149-43 for a fire house. Bids opened Oct. 20 and a bid of \$7,872 was awarded to Dumke-Strohmman Company. In 1954, a new school was constructed and a rural fire department was organized in April 1956.

By 1960, the population was 1,194, the fire department had 20 volunteer firemen, the auditorium and cemetery were maintained by a mill levy. The cost of street lighting was \$1.75 per lamp. In 1960, the water plant and the 375 meters in service were owned by the village, with a \$75 deposit. The 1960 rates were: first 5,000 gallons at \$0.50 per 1,000 gallons, next 15,000 gallons at \$0.24 per 1,000 gal., next 20,000 gals.

Continued on page 9

Nebraska utilities history

Continued from page 8
at \$0.20 per 1,000 gals., next 20,000 gals. at \$0.17 per 1,000 gals., next 30,000 gals. at \$0.14 per 1,000 gallons. The 2016 rates for residential/commercial were: first 2,000 gallons at \$46.25, then \$1.95 per 1,000 gallons.

A new addition was added to the school in 1963 and natural gas was provided by a private company. In 1965, the three Nike-Hercules missile sites at Louisville, Crete and Agnew maintained by the 6th Artillery Battalion of the Army were closed. In 1966, streets and alleys were paved and the Cass County History book (1967) noted that Louisville was the “first all concrete paved community” in Nebraska. In 1967, a park shelter was erected, and a new sewer plant proposal was approved. On July 9, 1968, the village board rejected bids for a sewer system, the engineer estimated a \$130,000 cost and it was agreed to advertise again. On Sept. 17, 1968, the project was awarded to Parson’s Corporation. The plant was constructed on property at the east end of Nebraska Game and Parks’ land. Cost for the sewage disposal plant was \$135,052 with the federal government contributing \$47,090. Also in 1967, the 1911 city hall building was torn down. The population decreased slightly with 1,036 in 1970 compared to 1,022 in 1980. Tennis courts and basketball goals were installed in 1971 and the electrical system was served by Omaha Public Power District. In 1974, the natural gas system was operated and supplied by Peoples Natural Gas Company. By 1977, a bridge was built and

a bond issue was approved for new elementary and high school buildings. In 1981, the fire department purchased a new fire truck and in 1985, new entrances were installed at the park. The city purchased the Pankonin building for \$9,500 in 1986 for expansion.

From 1990-2000, the population increased from 998 to 1,046. By 1998, the wastewater treatment activated sludge contact stabilization system was operated by PeopleService. The electric system was operated by Omaha Public Power District. In 1999, plans were made to update the water system because some components dated back to 1910. The water tower still had a coating of lead paint, areas of the system had low pressure and a new well was needed. In 2000, Louisville became a city of the second class.

The Main Street was repaved in 1999-2000 and new street lights were installed. By 2002, the natural gas system was operated by Aquila. An \$11,000 grant was used in 2004 to undertake the Louisville Drainage Improvement Study.

In 2004, a \$1,950,000 water project addressed four new wells, treatment for iron/manganese, storage, and mains to improve pressure. A new \$2.2 million 400,000-gallon water storage tower was located south of the existing tower. New wells were installed in 2005. Treatment consisted of a slow gravity sand filter with a capacity of 1,500 gallons per minute (gpm). The facility was atop the 150,000-gallon clear well and had two 1,000 gpm pumps with backwash recirculated through the treatment with

a minimum discharge. The water treatment facility began operation on-line in 2008. In November 2004, work began on a new \$2.4 million wastewater treatment plant with an open house held in June 2008. In 2008, Louisville was the sixth fastest growing community in Nebraska. In 2008, the natural gas system was operated by Black Hills Energy, which had purchased Aquila. The population was 1,029 by 2010 and that summer, an energy savings study was done by the UNL Partners in Pollution Prevention. In 2011, city hall was damaged by fire from the adjoining store.

Today, Louisville is a city of the second class with a population of 1,106 and a longtime member of the League of Nebraska Municipalities and the Utilities Section. The city maintains a city hall, an auditorium, a library, a park system, cemetery, a water system, wastewater facility and several miles of paved public city streets. Law enforcement is provided by the Cass County Sheriff and natural gas service provided by Black Hills Energy and electric service provided by Omaha Public Power District. Solid waste collection and recycle services are provided by Waste Management.

References: Nebraska Directory of Municipal Officials, 1956, 1958, 1960, 1962, 1964-75, 1977-87, 1990-2018; Nebraska Municipal Review Magazine, 1934, 1950; Utilities Section Newsletter, 1967; Perkey's Nebraska Place Names, 1995; History of Cass County, 1989; Cass County History, 1967; Water Resources of Nebraska, December 1936;

Continued on page 10

Nebraska utilities history

Continued from page 9
NHHS Sanitary Survey Results, 2004; Nebraska Our Towns... East Southeast, 1992; Maps Tell A Story, 1991; Lincoln Journal Star Newspaper, 2005, 2018; NEDED Website, 2005; Louisville Website, 2008; Andrea's History of the

State of Nebraska, 1882; Johnson's History of Nebraska, 1880; NDEQ/UNL Energy Flyer, 2010; Electric Power Development in the United States, Dept. of Agriculture, January 1916; History of Hamilton & Clay Counties, Nebraska, 1921; and History and

Financial Resources of Louisville, Nebraska, 1905.

AWWA Safety Committee Meeting held

A Safety Committee Meeting was held at the Club House Restaurant in Gering Sept. 7, 2018. The committee discussed safety applications for potential awards, which will be awarded at the Annual AWWA Banquet. Also discussed, 2019 Safety Com-

mittee activities and events along with safety concerns in the water industry.

The committee helps plan and arrange safety speakers and topics at conferences and any safety reference material such as handouts, safety references and manuals.

The last NDEQ Test Date in 2018 for Wastewater Treatment Operator Certification is Dec. 6 at the NDEQ Training Center in Lincoln. More information can be found at www.deq.ne.gov.

Backflow Workshops Held

Backflow Workshops were held in Grand Island Aug. 29 and in Ogallala Aug. 30, 2018 with 83 operators in attendance.

Operators received **five hours** recertification for water operators grades 1-4 water and grade six and **five hours** toward waste-

water licenses.

Speakers included Tony Martinez, Ralph Naber and Rob Pierce with input from local backflow operators. The next League/AWWA Backflow Workshops are scheduled for August 2019.

"Just For Fun" Answers

A-1. Louisville.

A-2. 14 – Bradshaw, Brady, Brainard, Brewster, Bridgeport, Bristow, Broadwater, Brock, Broken Bow, Brownville, Brule, Bruning, Bruno, and Brunswick. *Reference: 2018 Nebraska Directory of Municipal Officials*

A-3. Wymore. *Reference: September 1892 Sanborn map*



- Municipal Pipe Cleaning
- CCTV Pipe Inspection
- Foam Root Treatment
- Manhole Rehabilitation
- Trenchless Sewer Liners
- Point Repair Liners
- Pipe Bursting

Phone - (308) 237-6651
Fax - (308) 234-5390
PO Box 1065 Kearney, NE 68848
johnsonservicecompany.com

HAROLD K SCHOLZ CO.

**ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS
SWITCHGEAR ASSEMBLERS**

Switchgear Controls Relaying	Generation Automation Metering	Substations Service Breakers
---	---	---

7800 Serum Ave. - Ralston, Nebraska 68127
PH: (402)339-7600 FAX: (402)339-1821
E-MAIL: power@hkscholz.com
www.hkscholz.com

Construction zones: A collection of orange cones!

The **City of Broken Bow** held an open house for its new fire hall Sept. 27, 2018.



Broken Bow fire hall – Oct. 2018.

On Aug. 26, 2018, the **City of Ravenna** held a grand opening for

its new library, which replaced the old Carnegie Library.

In the spring, the **Village of Roseland** built a new fire hall along Highway No. 74.

The **City of Schuyler** built a new Public Library (Summer 2017) using financial aid of \$250,000 from the Nebraska Department of Economic Development and a donation of \$1.5 million from a private individual. The 11,300 square foot facility held an open house in April and trees were planted by volunteers in September 2018.



Schuyler Public Library – top photo May 2017; bottom photo Aug. 2018.

TRANSFORMERS

DISTRIBUTION AND SUBSTATION

T&R ELECTRIC
SUPPLY COMPANY INCORPORATED
BOX 180
COLMAN, SOUTH DAKOTA 57017
"THE TRANSFORMER PEOPLE" ©

56th
ANNIVERSARY
1961-2017

Modern Rewind Facilities
More than 61 Acres Inventory
Prompt Delivery-Coast to Coast

CALL TOLL-FREE
800-843-7994
FAX 605-534-3861
E-Mail: t-r@t-r.com
Internet: www.t-r.com

EASA
ELECTRICAL APPARATUS
SERVICE ASSOCIATION
BUY - SELL - RENT

Complete Outdoor
Substations,
Circuit Breakers,
Regulators,
and Switchgear

Classifieds

Utilities Assistant. The Village of Elwood is accepting applications for a full-time Utilities Assistant. Duties include assisting with maintenance of streets, operation of sewer and water systems, park and swimming pool. 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. Please include a resume with your application. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. The Village of Elwood is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Journey Line Worker. The City of Alliance is accepting applications for the position of full-time Electric Journey Line Worker with a starting pay range of \$24.76-\$31.95 per hour DOQ. This individual will perform skilled line work in the operation, construction, maintenance and repair of overhead and underground electric urban and rural distribution and transmission systems. The City is offering a hiring bonus of \$3,000

after the successful completion of probation and relocation reimbursement up to \$2,000. The position includes an excellent benefit package including health, dental and vision insurance, retirement, vacation, flex time, sick leave and paid holidays. The City of Alliance Electric System includes 115 miles city and 200 miles of rural overhead and underground lines with a service area of over 150 square miles, which includes 10 miles of trans and sub-trans lines. The system operates with a transmission substation (115 KV) and three distribution substations (7.2/12.5 KV). The Department services approximately 5,000 customers, over 1,700 street lights, 220 irrigation wells and operates out the Public Works Facility, which was constructed in 2002. The Department maintains 10 vehicles, including a 60-foot and two 50-foot bucket trucks. A complete job description and application is available on the City of Alliance's Website at www.cityofalliance.net. Applications with resumes will be accepted until the position is filled.

Water/Wastewater Utility II. The City of Schuyler, Department



of Utilities is accepting applications for the position of Water/Wastewater Utility II. Nebraska State certification Grade IV Water and/or Sanitary Sewer Grade I is required. Pay rate \$18.18-\$22.83 per hour depending on experience and qualifications, with benefits. Drug test required. Applicants must be 18 years of age and hold a valid Nebraska driver's license. Candidates must mail a cover letter, resume and three references to the Schuyler Department of Utilities. Application and job description may be requested at the Schuyler Department of Utilities office, 204 East 10th Street, Schuyler, Nebraska, 68661 or via email supt@eaglecom.net. Applications accepted until position is filled. The City of Schuyler, Department of Utilities is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Continued on page 13



Hello Progress

The greatest accomplishments start with the smallest details. **This is where great begins.**



hdrinc.com

Classifieds

Continued from page 12

Electric Lineman First Class (Full-Time). The City of Seward is accepting applications until filled for Electric Lineman First Class. Application review begins Nov. 8, 2018. Pay range: \$23.73-\$30.05 per hour, with benefits. Applicant must be high school graduate or equivalent and have the equivalent of technical training received in an associate degree program in electric utility maintenance; will perform and participate in construction, installation, maintenance and repair of electric distribution and transmission lines and other related work. Applicant must possess: Class B CDL license (or ability to obtain within 6 mos.); knowledge of approved methods, materials and tools used in electric line work; knowledge of principles of electric theory which apply to electric distribution and transmission systems. Application and job description available at Seward City Hall, 537

Main St.; PO Box 38; Seward, NE 68434 (402-643-2928) or can be downloaded at the City's website: www.CityofSewardNE.gov. Reasonable accommodations are available for persons needing assistance in completing application and should be made at time of application. All positions of employment with the City of Seward are subject to a Veteran's Preference. The City of Seward is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Public Works Director. The City of Plattsmouth, NE seeks qualified applicants for Director of Public Works. Department head with responsibility for fiscal management, administration and operational direction of the City's public works and utilities activities and functions; provides expert professional assistance to City management in areas of expertise, including engineering, municipal water, wastewater collection, and street and landscape maintenance; and performs related duties as

required. Job description and application available at www.plattsmouth.org. Open until filled. EOE with veteran's preference.

Maintenance Worker. The Village of Wausa is accepting applications for full time Village Maintenance. Performs a variety of duties in the operation and maintenance of the streets, water, wastewater, parks and more. High school diploma or equivalent and valid NE driver license. Applicant must be able to obtain a CDL. The individual must have a Certification in wastewater and water or be willing to take classes and pass the certification test. Wages will depend on level of experience. Applications can be obtained at the Wausa Clerk's Office, 406 E. Broadway, or call 402-586-2311. Open until filled. EOE.

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.

Milestone celebration recognition

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

systems in the 1940s.

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

Training calendar

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

January

Jan. 16-18..... Utilities/Public Works Section Annual ConferenceEmbassy Suites, Lincoln
Jan. 22 Water Operator Training WorkshopHoliday Inn, Kearney
Jan. 23-24..... Snowball ConferenceHoliday Inn, Kearney

February

Feb. 12-13 Meter Conference.....Holiday Inn, Kearney
Feb. 25-26 Midwinter ConferenceCornhusker Marriott Hotel, Lincoln



Power Plant Problem Solvers

Leader in RICE NESHAP Compliance & Testing

Stationary Diesel & Dual Fuel 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, White Superior, Worthington and others

FMI **Farabee Mechanical, Inc.**
Hickman, NE 68372 • (402) 792-2612
farabee@inebraska.com
www.farabeemechanical.com