

# Utilities Section Newsletter

League of Nebraska Municipalities

January 2023

## 2023 Utilities/Public Works Section Annual Conference

The 2023 League of Nebraska Municipalities Utilities/Public Works Section Annual Conference was held Jan. 11-13 at the Embassy Suites in Lincoln. This year marked the Utilities Section's 91st Conference; the highlight of the conference was the passing of the Utilities Section President's gavel from Bill Bischoff of Wauneta to Al Schoemaker of Blair. Matt Owens, Water & Wastewater Supervisor of Imperial was nominated and voted in as the new board member.

The full board elected at the conference is as follows:

**President: Al Schoemaker**, Director of Public Works, Blair;

**1st Vice President: Duane Hoffman**, Public Works Director, Oxford;

**2nd Vice President: Pat Heath**, City Administrator, Gering;

**Past President: Bill Bischoff**, Utility Superintendent, Wauneta;

**Board Members: Gary Thurlow**, Utility Superintendent, Atkinson; **Sarah Sawin**, Assistant Director of Utilities, Kearney and **Matt Owens**, Water & Sewer Supervisor, Imperial;

**Ex Officio: Layne Groseth**, City Administrator/Utilities Manager, North Platte.

The conference started Jan. 11 with two five-hour Preconference Seminars on "Maintain, Fix or Repair Your Utility Infrastructure" and "Backflow Programs 101."

Those attending the conference

participated in sessions covering a broad range of topics, including: Lead Service Lines, New Federal COVID Relief and Infrastructure Monies, Tips to Improve Your Workers Comp Rating, High-Speed Broadband, Collector Wells, Industrial Storm Water Requirements, EV Charging Stations, Backup Generation Operation/Maintenance, Building a Major Wastewater Treatment Plant from Scratch, Black Starting Municipal Generation, Water/Wastewater Sales Tax Issues, Water Tower Attachment Management, Rising Costs of Long-Waited Municipal Projects Needs, Clean Water Act and Safe Drinking Water Act Update along with a Municipal Utility and Public Works Legislative and Regulatory Update.

Participating systems included: Albion, Ashland, Atkinson, Auburn, Aurora, Blair, Broken Bow, Ceresco, Coleridge, Cozad Board of Public Works, Crete, Emerson, Exeter, Falls City Utilities, Franklin, Garland, Geneva, Gering, Gibbon, Hickman, Holdrege, Imperial, Kearney, Loup City, Lyons, Madison, McCook, Minden, Nebraska City Utilities, Norfolk, North Platte, Ogallala, O'Neill, Oxford, Papillion, Pender, Phillips, Plattsmouth, Randolph, Sar-



*2023 Utilities Section President Al Schoemaker of Blair thanks 2022 President Bill Bischoff of Wauneta for his service.*

gent, Schuyler, Scribner, Shelby, South Sioux City, Stuart, Superior Utilities, Sutton, Uehling, Valley, Wahoo, Wakefield, Wauneta, Wilber and Wisner.

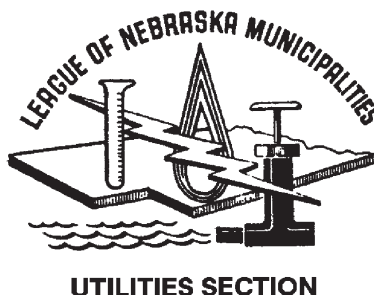
Those operators attending the preconference and the pre-approved designated sessions could receive up to 15 hours of wastewater and up to 14 water credit hours toward their license recertification. Credit hours will be posted on the League's website at [www.lonm.org](http://www.lonm.org).

A special "thanks!" to the sponsors/exhibitors of the 2023 Utilities/Public Works Section Annual Conference. League and Utilities Associate Members are in bold.

- **Altec Industries, Inc.**
- **Core & Main**
- Cornhusker State Industries
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- **First National Capital Markets, Inc.**

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Lash Chaffin  
Utilities Section Director  
Rob Pierce  
Utilities Field Representative

## 2023 Utilities/Public Works Section Annual Conference

*Continued from page 1*

- GenPro Energy Solutions
- **JEO Consulting Group, Inc.**
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- **Johnson Service Company**
- **League Association of Risk Management (LARM)**
- **League Insurance Government Health Team (LIGHT)**
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- **NMPP Energy**
- Nebraska Energy Federal Credit Union
- **Nebraska Generator Service**
- **Nebraska Public Power District**
- **Olsson**
- **Rose Equipment**



## Credit hours reminder

For those who attended the 2023 Snowball Conference and/or the 2023 Utilities/Public Works Section Annual Conference, your water and wastewater hours will

be posted soon on the League of Nebraska Municipalities website at <https://www.lnm.org/utilities/water-and-wastewater-credit-hours.html>.

*Gary Thurlow of Atkinson, Matt Smallcomb of Gibbon and Brandon Koll of Crete were among the attendees of the 2023 Utilities/Public Works Section Annual Conference.*

## 2023-2024 Executive Board

*President*

**Al Schoemaker**  
Director of Public Works  
Blair

*Past President*

**Bill Bischoff**  
Utility Superintendent  
Wauneta

*1st Vice President*

**Duane Hoffman**  
Public Works Director  
Oxford

*Board Member*

**Gary Thurlow**  
Utility Superintendent  
Atkinson

*2nd Vice President*

**Pat Heath**  
City Administrator  
Gering

*Board Member*

**Sarah Sawin**  
Asst. Director of Utilities  
Kearney



*Board Member*

**Matt Owens**  
Water & Sewer Supervisor  
Imperial

*Ex Officio Member*

**Layne Groseth**  
City Administrator and  
Utilities Manager  
North Platte

## Nebraska utilities history – Pleasanton

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

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

**P**leasanton, located in Buffalo County, had settlers in the area by 1874 and in August, a post office was established at the Morse Ranch, called "South Loup" which operated until January 1877.

Located on the north side of the South Loup River was a railroad terminus station called Pleasant Valley (also the location of an early settlement called Peters' Bridge). A bridge had been erected and operated by the Peters family where a station on the stagecoach and freight line went north with supplies. A post office was located in an area called South Loup, near the bridge. On Aug. 21, 1883, a post office was established as Riverview with James Hunter as postmaster.

The Union Pacific Railroad extended to the area and a depot, an elevated water storage tower and a windmill with fill station were built. The settlement was surveyed and platted in April and named

for its location in the Pleasant Valley of the Loup River. The first train arrived March 1, 1890 and businesses were being established. On April 18, 1890, the post office name changed from Riverview to Pleasanton. The weekly *Pleasanton Gazette* newspaper was published (1890) and School District #105 was organized with a school located on the south side of the river. Before 1890, school sessions were held in a residence. On July 23, 1892, the Pleasanton State Bank was incorporated and a school was built in 1891-92. From 1892-1894, three fires burned parts of the settlement and on Jan. 12, 1894, Pleasanton was incorporated as a village. Board members included E.C. Moffitt, E.W. Noyes, Anton V. Hlava, D. Wort and S.E. Smith.

By 1900, the population was 103 and in the 1900s, dirt was hauled in for street leveling along with the installation of street crossings and sidewalks. The telephone company was incorporated in 1903 and the Farmers Grain Company in 1905. In 1906, plans were

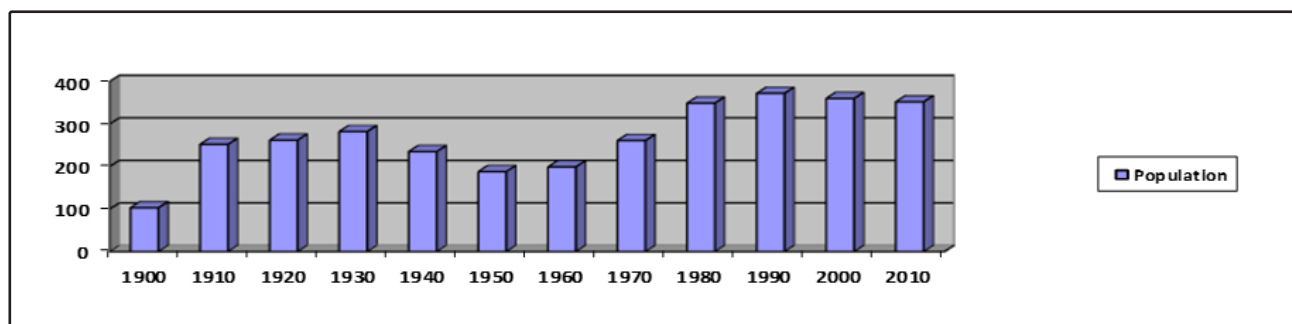


*Pleasanton water tower. 2022 photo.*

made to build a jail using 246 rocks at \$0.20 each, \$5 of cement and labor at \$24 for a total cost of about \$86. An ice jam in the river flooded the school and a new brick schoolhouse was built on the hill in 1909, above the flood plain.

The Farmers State Bank was incorporated May 29, 1909, and the population increased to 252

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## **Nebraska utilities history – Pleasanton**

*Continued from page 3*  
by 1910. The *Pleasanton Independent* newspaper was being published and other businesses operating included the Traux Hotel and a concrete block factory. The Standard Bridge Company in 1911 replaced the old Mauler bridge south of town with a new steel structure. The water system in 1912 consisted of individual wells and pumps. Bids were taken in 1915 for a waterworks system to include two four-inch tubular wells, a standpipe, windmill and

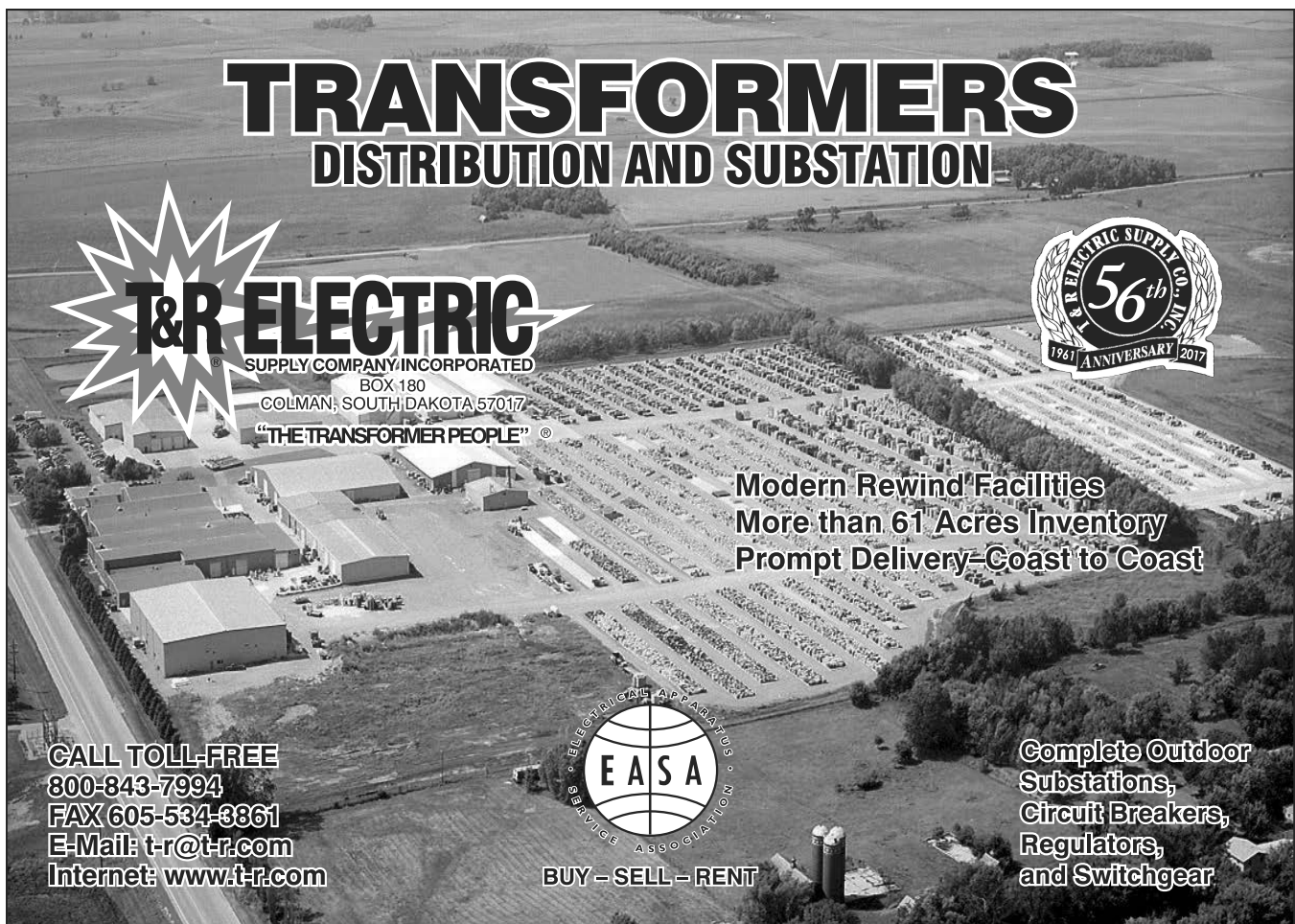
tower. A bid of \$8,183 by the Iron Mountain and Bridge Construction Company was accepted to install a water system. The old village well was located behind Bauer's building, which included a windmill. The water system constructed in 1915 cost \$9,000 and began furnishing water for domestic and fire protection. An intersection paving project was underway in July 1915 using bonds of \$15,000 at five percent interest.

The population in 1920 was 262

and in 1924, a major flood occurred. An electric transmission line was constructed from Ravenna to Pleasanton and an electric transmission line from Poole to Pleasanton (1925).

Construction began on a public park in 1929 and the population reached 282 in 1930. The bridge was damaged during a high water event in May 1935 and was rebuilt in August. The electric distributions system was operated by the Central Power Company in 1935

*Continued on page 5*



# **TRANSFORMERS**

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## **Nebraska utilities history – Pleasanton**

*Continued from page 4*

and a new brick school was built in 1936 as a Works Progress Administration (WPA) project.

By 1940, the population decreased to 235 and in 1947, a flood washed out the railroad track. The railroad discontinued using the depot with the last of train service. The population decreased to 188 by 1950, plans were made to install natural gas lines to town and in the 1950s, area farmers began getting electricity from the area rural electric association. School District #105 was consolidated with several country schools in 1953 and in 1959, a new elementary building and a shop were built. On July 9, 1959, a fire destroyed four businesses.

In 1960, the population was 199 and a bridge was completed and a new highway was constructed to the east. A new telephone dial tone system was installed (1962), a new gymnasium was built by the fall of 1962 and in 1964, a water well was drilled. The population increased to 261 in 1970, a new library was completed in 1971, and rodeo grounds were completed by 1975. In 1976, a new fire truck

and an ambulance were purchased with plans for constructing a new fire hall. The electrical distributions system was served by Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD) and about 40 new homes were built in the 1970s.

The population increased to 349 in 1980-81, the village terminated its lease with NPPD and the electric system was operated by the Dawson Public Power District. A wastewater treatment facility was constructed in 1984. The natural gas system was operated by Kansas-Nebraska Natural Gas. In 1990, the population was 372 and by 1993, a spheroid elevated water storage tower was in use.

From 2000-2010, the population decreased slightly from 360 to 352. In 2008, the village received a \$15,000 Community Enhancement Program Funding (CEP) grant for a welcome sign and Rosalia Park. The natural gas system in 2007 was operated/supplied by Source Gas. The village owned/operated a facultative lagoon system which had been designed for 0.042 million gallon per day (mgd) that was discharged to a wetland. The water system consisted of four municipal wells with

27 commercial and 156 residential unmetered connections serving a population of 361 (2020). Most streets were hard surfaced black-top with some paved (Sycamore, Elm and Church).

Today, Pleasanton has a population of 361, has been incorporated since 1894 (129 years) and a League of Nebraska Municipalities and Utilities Section Member. The electric system is operated by the Dawson Public Power District and the natural gas system has been operated/supplied by Black Hills Energy since 2015.

*References: Nebraska Directory of Municipal Officials, 1965-95, 1997-98, 2002, 2005-2021; Water Resources of Nebraska, December 1936; Nebraska Traveler Magazine, 2003; Nebraska Place Names, 1925, 1960; Nebraska Our Towns...Central North Central, 1989; Maps Tell Nebraska's History, 1991; NEDED Website, 2005; Wikipedia website, 2018-2019; Pleasanton an Ideal Town and Place to Locate, 1917; Buffalo County Nebraska and Its People, Vol. I, 1916; Engineering and Contracting, 1915; Nebraska Historical Survey Reconnaissance*

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## Best Tasting Water in Nebraska!

For the second straight year, a Metropolitan Utilities District (MUD) facility took the top honors but this year, the Omaha Florence Plant was selected as having the best tasting water in Nebraska. Aurora and Lincoln tied for second place as the judges apparently had a hard time distinguishing a clear winner. Participating water systems this year were: **Auburn, Aurora, Fremont, Lincoln, MUD (Florence) and North Platte.**

The 2022 Fall Conference “Best

Tasting Drinking Water Contest” judges included: Gene Anderson, Utility Superintendent, Village of Crawford; Alyson Hanson, Water Quality Specialist, City of Lincoln; Joe Jacangelo, AWWA President & VP and Director of Research at Stantec; Angel Lowery, Senior Water/Wastewater Engineer, Olsson; Connor McFayden, Environmental Specialist, NDEE Drinking Water Program; and Cody Willnerd, Environmental Specialist, NDEE Drinking Water Program.

## Do you need to get a wastewater or water operator certified?

Check the following websites for information on training and test dates.

- Nebraska Water Environment Association – [www.nebwea.org](http://www.nebwea.org)
- Nebraska Rural Water Association – [www.nerwa.org](http://www.nerwa.org)
- Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy – [www.deq.state.ne.us](http://www.deq.state.ne.us)

## Nebraska utilities history – Pleasanton

*Continued from page 5*  
*Survey, Final Report of Buffalo County for Nebraska Historical Society, August 1993; History of Pleasanton Buffalo County, Ne-*

*braska, 1976; Biennial Report of Audits of Public Accounts to the Governor, 1935; U.S. Congressional Serial Set, House Document, Vol. 238, April 14, 1936;*

*and the Federal Power Consumers Electric Rate Survey, Domestic and Residential Electric Rates in Effect January 1, 1935 in the state of Nebraska, 1935.*

## Dillion’s Rule Law and Legal Definition

Dillon’s Rule is the cornerstone of American municipal law. Under Dillon’s Rule, a municipal government has authority to act only when:

(1) the power is granted in the express words of the statute, private act, or charter creating the municipal corporation;

(2) the power is necessarily or fairly implied in, or incident to the powers expressly granted; or

(3) the power is one that is neither expressly granted nor fairly implied from the express grants of power but is otherwise implied as essential to the declared objects and purposes of the corporation.

Dillon’s Rule is used in inter-

preting state law when there is a question of whether or not a local government has a certain power. Judge Forest Dillon, the Chief Justice of the Iowa Supreme Court, expounded this famous rule, which was quickly adopted by state supreme courts around the nation.



## SAFETY/HEALTH CORNER

### 2022 OSHA Top 10

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

To start the new year right, let's look at the 2022 OSHA Top 10 (most cited standards) for Region 7, which includes Iowa, Kansas, Missouri and Nebraska. Listed are the rated topics of concern and the related OSHA standard number.

- 1) Fall Protection-general requirements (1926.501)
- 2) Ladders (1926.1053)
- 3) Hazard Communication (1910-1200)
- 4) Personal Protective and lifesaving Equipment-eye & face protection (1926.102)
- 5) Powered Industrial Trucks (1910.178)
- 6) Scaffolding (1910.451)
- 7) Respiratory Protection (1910.134)
- 8) Machine Guarding (1910.212)
- 9) Lockout/Tagout (1910.147)
- 10) Personal Protective and Lifesaving Equipment-head protection (1926.100)

When your safety committee meets and looks at a strategy to communicate safety areas of concern for your municipality, they should check each department for deficiencies (accidents, injuries, near misses). If there are no accidents in your various departments, then look at near misses if they are recorded or discussed. Look at nearby facilities/municipalities with similar work types and again, check their deficiencies. Lastly, look at national data such as what we listed earlier as potential topics for discussion. Be sure to survey the employees for topics of concern.

### Safety shoveling tips

- 1) Plan the task at hand and think where I will be shoveling and where the load is going.
- 2) Keep a firm stance at all times.
- 3) Bend knees as you shovel.
- 4) Tighten stomach muscles in preparation.
- 5) Use your legs, not your back to lift the load.
- 6) Keep the load close to your body.
- 7) Turn your feet, not your back, in the direction of dumping the load.

One tip I use is to keep in mind your age and physical condition when shoveling. The task of shoveling is a common high-stress activity that can result in a heart attack due to overexertion and lack of physical conditioning. In my case, I also use a smaller shovel (less load weight) than I did a few years ago.

Normally, we use equipment such as snow blowers for snow

removal. Be sure to use caution on the smaller touch up jobs where a shovel is utilized so an injury does not occur. Remember, a lack of using the safety steps mentioned can result in a back injury, pulled muscle or worse. Happy careful shoveling!

One source noted that the biggest December safety concerns during the holidays were fatigue, stress, work zone traffic safety, preventing slips/trips/falls, fire hazards, working at heights, working in cold weather (cold stress), drunk, drowsy and distracted driving along with shoveling snow. In my opinion, these also should be the safety focus for January!

### Nebraska Breaktime Trivia “Just For Fun”

- Q-1.** What Nebraska County once was called L'Eau Qui Court?
- Q-2.** What villages/cities in Knox County are Utilities Section Members?
- Q-3.** What villages/cities in Nebraska start with the letter “V”?

Answers on page 17.

## Nebraska utilities history – Silver Creek

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

**Silver Creek** is located in Merrick County (named in honor of Elvira Merrick, wife of territorial Legislator Henry W. DePuy of Dodge County) and was created by the Nebraska Territorial Legislature in 1858. A settlement named Elvira was the first county seat. On Jan 17, 1865, a post office called Silver Glen was established on Lathrop's Ranch, located two miles from the present site of Silver Creek. The post office name was changed to Elkdale on June 23, 1874, and then later moved to Gage Valley in Howard County.

In 1866, the Union Pacific Railroad built through the area and a town site was platted in November which was named Silver Creek for the nearby creek which was noted for its clarity. Settlement by 1870 initiated the first school which was taught in a private home. A section house, a depot and hotel were built by September and a school district was organized by 1871.

On April 4, 1877, the Silver Creek post office was established and a bridge was built across the Platte River for \$10,000. In 1878-79, the old water mill "Flour Mill" was built which operated a run of three stone. The Congregational Church which was organized in 1874 and built a building in 1879 for \$2,000.

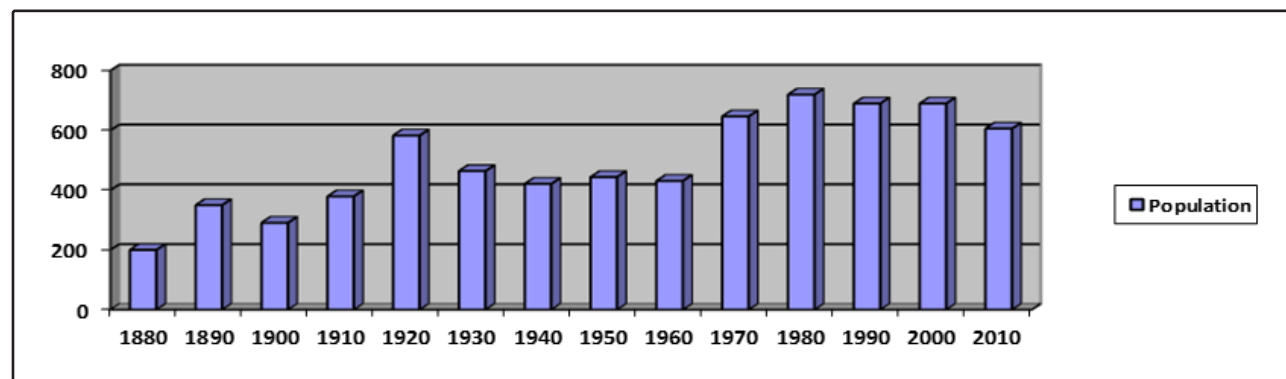
In 1880, the population was estimated to be between 150-200 and a cemetery was located about one-half mile west by 1881. Businesses by 1882 included two grain elevators, a flour mill, a lumberyard, two general stores, two blacksmiths, a harness shop, a drug store and a butcher shop. On Dec. 24, 1887, the *Silver Creek Times* newspaper was said to have been first published.

The population reached 350 by 1890 and businesses included the *Silver Creek Oriole* newspaper, a meat market, an ag implement dealer, a saloon, a blacksmith, a grocery, a hardware, a millinery, a drug store, a livery, a billiard hall and two hotels (Central Hotel,

Clifton House). A school was built (1890) for \$3,000, the Silver Creek Roller Mill was established (1893) and the population was estimated to be 513 by 1895. A gas lighting system, a waterworks and a fire department were operating by 1896. In 1900, the population was 291, the dirt streets were lined with boardwalks, the Catholic Church was built, and the *Silver Creek Sand* newspaper was started in 1903. A new railroad depot was built (1906), telephones were installed and in 1907, a flour mill began operation.

The population was 379 in 1910 as a new brick school was built and in 1912, the flour mill was powered by steam. Brown Bros. billed the village \$34.12 for electric street lighting in 1912. The Silver Creek Telephone Company was sold to the Bell Telephone Company in 1912 and lighting was changed from gas to electric in 1914. The telephone service was provided by the Nebraska Telephone Company (1916)

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## **Nebraska utilities history – Silver Creek**

*Continued from page 8*  
and the Silver Creek Township Library was organized in 1917. W. G. Brown was superintendent of the Silver Creek Light and Water Works. Businesses in 1917 consisted of two banks, two hotels (Lincoln Highway Hotel, Silver Creek Hotel), a flour mill, two cement grain elevators, *The Sand* weekly newspaper, the Silver Creek Cemetery Association and a township library. A waterworks project was completed in 1918 as 20 blocks of mains were added to the existing system. A building was erected in the south part of town to house the water tank along with the city hall and jail. The building also housed the fire-house apparatus. Hose carts and a chemical engine were housed on the north side of the railroad tracks.

By 1920, the population was 583 and in 1925, a bridge was constructed over the Platte River, replacing the 1877 bridge. In 1925, the municipal power plant had rates of \$0.09-\$0.17 per kilowatt (kW) and the public water system had rates of \$0.20-\$0.25 per 1,000 gallons with a minimum of \$6 per year. A new library building was erected in 1934 and a gymnasium was built. On Jan. 1, 1935, the electric system was operated by Northwestern Public Service Company. The Northwestern Public Service Company power plant in 1936 had a capacity of 74 kilowatts of internal combustion power generation.

The population decreased slightly from 464 in 1930 to 421 in 1940 and Consumers Public Power District was providing electricity. By 1950, the popula-

tion was 444 and in 1956, the village-owned water plant had 40 meters in service and residential rates of \$12 per year. The electrical system current was purchased from Consumers Public Power District with the street lighting cost of about \$720 per month. The sewer system, owned by the village, was maintained from a tax levy (1958) and a new wing was added to the elementary school in 1959.

In 1960, the population was 431, the fire department had 24 volunteer firefighters and a new Catholic Church was built in 1967. The population increased to 483 by 1970, the electric distribution system was owned by the village and operated/supplied by the Nebraska Public Power District. A new park facility was completed in 1972 and a 1973, an addition to the school included a cafeteria, gymnasium and locker rooms.

The population was 496 in 1980 and the parks included two baseball fields, a tennis court, horseshoe pits, playgrounds and shelters. The wastewater treatment plant was upgraded in 1986 and the population by 1990 reached 625. By 1999, gas consisted of individual propane tanks and the wastewater treatment system included a flow-through aerated lagoon system designed for 0.085 million gallons per day (mgd).

The population decreased to 441 by 2000 and the village received a \$250,000 grant for the construction of a 150,000-gallon elevated water storage tank, new water mains and the installation of meters. Also considered was a \$924,000 USDA grant. By 2003, the water system consisted of

a 600-gallon per minute (gpm) production well, two-and-one-half miles of 12-inch and eight-inch diameter transmission mains, approximately 4,000 linear feet of four, six, and eight-inch distribution mains and a 125,000-gallon water storage tower. A new control system was installed along with new meters at all connections. The village maintained a park with gazebo, a pond with an aerating fountain and a ballfield. In 2003, a new control system was connected to the wastewater lift station. The electrical system was operated by Polk County Public Power District. In 2009, the water system had two active municipal water wells, a water tower, serving 205 residential and 14 commercial connections. By 2010, the population was 397 and the water system had 168 connections in 2015. In 2019, the fire department had 25 volunteer firefighters and propane gas service provided by Husker CO-OP.

Today, Silver Creek has a population of 320 and is a League of Nebraska Municipalities and Utilities Section member.

*References: Nebraska Directory of Municipal Officials, 1965-75, 1977-87, 1990-1998, 2007-2022; Nebraska Municipal Review, 1925; Perkey's Nebraska Place Names, 1995; Nebraska Place Names, 1925, 1960; Water Resources of Nebraska, December 1936; Kirkham Michael Data Flyer, 2004; Maps Tell Nebraska's History, 1991; NEDED Website, 2005; Silver Creek website, 2019; Wikipedia Website, 2018; History of Nebraska, Johnson, 1880 Andrea's History of the*

*Continued on page 10*

## **2023 Snowball Conference**

The 32nd Annual Snowball Wastewater Conference was held Jan. 25-26, 2023, at the Kearney Holiday Inn. The conference was co-sponsored by the League of Nebraska Municipalities-Utilities Section and the Nebraska Water Operators Division (NWOD) of the Nebraska Water Environment Association (NWEA), a member of the national Water Environment Federation (WEF). Conference attendance totaled about 218 with 180 operators in attendance. The past 32 years, more than 7,500 operators, engineers and wastewater-related company representatives have participated at this conference with over 323 hours of recertification “relicensing” credit for wastewater participants. This year, licensed **wastewater attendees received 11 hours** toward their wastewater relicensing and **water operators received up to 7 hours** depending on which sessions they attended. (Eight sessions at this year’s conference received water credits). Certificates were issued with wastewater hours but those with water licenses will need to keep track of their hours and also can view the credit hours list posted on the League’s website at [www.lonm.org](http://www.lonm.org). If you have

questions on credit hours for this conference, contact Rob at the League office.

The morning sessions included: Ten Steps to a 21st Century Water Workforce, NPDES Support Services, Confined Space Entry, Sewer Backup Liability, Testing Procedures (HACH), General Collection System Maintenance, 811 Update on Safe Digging and Damage Prevention.

The afternoon sessions included: Valves: Have You Tried Unplugging Them?, Pump Station Energy Efficiency Principles, Pump Applications, Wastewater & Water Rates, Components of a Good Safety Program, and Biostimulation: Improved Alternative to “Bugs & Enzymes.”

On Jan. 26, following the operator breakfast, Brittany Travers (EES) and Scott Seelhoff (Fremont) provided NWEA and NWOD updates on activities of the association. The morning sessions included basic activated sludge processes, operator certification program update, NPDES Support Services and disconnect management.

Speakers included Brian Gongol, Gongol & Associates Inc.; Mark Pomajzl, JEO Consulting

Group; Jake Rink, Olsson; Fred Wiebelhaus, LARM; Eric Bloedorn, HACH Company; Monte Dakan, Johnson Service; Jill Geyer, One Call Concepts, Inc. (Nebraska811); Brent Nibarger, Grunfos; Chris Johnson, Gurney & Associates; Randy Hellbusch, Nebraska Rural Water Association; George Edwards, Edwards Environmental; Brittany Travers, Engineering Equipment Solutions; Scott Seelhoff, Fremont; Nick Willis, Wichita State University; Mike McBride, NDEE; and Rob Pierce and Lash Chaffin, League of Nebraska Municipalities-Utilities Section.

A special “thank you” to the Holiday Inn once again for providing excellent facilities and delicious food for the conference event. A special thank you to the following companies (listed alphabetically) that supported the 32nd Annual Snowball Conference by providing exhibits, speakers and/or sponsorship, which always helps make the conference a big success.

- **Bert Gurney & Associates, Inc.**
- **Core & Main**
- **DJ Gongol & Associates, Inc.**

*Continued on page 15*

## **Nebraska utilities history – Silver Creek**

*Continued from page 9*  
*state of Nebraska, 1882; Merrick County's 100th Year 1858-1958, 1958; Merrick County, Nebraska, 1981; History of Merrick County, 1895; Nebraska State Gazetteer and Business Directory, 1890-91;*

*Nebraska State Gazetteer and Business Directory, 1917; Nebraska Blue Book, 1928, 1942, 1946, 1978; Federal Power Consumers Electric Rate Survey, Domestic and Residential Electric Rates in Effect January 1, 1935 in the state*

*of Nebraska, 1935; Nebraska Historic Buildings Survey Reconnaissance Survey Final Report of Merrick County, Nebraska prepared for Nebraska State Historical Society State Historic Preservation Office, August 1, 1992.*

# Nebraska utilities history – Stratton

*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 [rob@lonm.org](mailto:rob@lonm.org).*

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

**S**tratton, located in Hitchcock County, had cattle drives to the area along with the establishment of large cattle ranches. A Pikes Peak stage station by 1859 was located southwest of the present townsite. In the spring of 1879, logs were hauled from Muddy Creek for a building which served as a general store and a post office was established. A community was started along the Chicago, Burlington, and Quincy Railroad by 1881 and a depot was erected. On July 22, 1881, the post office name was changed from Frontier to Stratton, named for Mary Stratton – the original owner of the townsite. The townsite was surveyed/platted and was used as a water stop for the railroad and a loading point for cattle. By 1885, a frame school was built just east of town with the primary business centered around the depot, with a saloon, and a few stores stocking

general merchandise. On Jan. 14, 1886, the Hitchcock County Commissioners accepted a petition to incorporate the Village of Stratton. The petition was signed by 54 of the taxable inhabitants (one source noted incorporation was in 1888). The population was 200 by 1886 and a bank had been established by 1887.

In 1890, the population was 326 and a local brickyard was manufacturing bricks which were used to construct a two-story school building in 1893 (north of the frame school building). Due to the drought and a grasshopper problem in 1893-94, the population decreased to 225 by 1900 and the Stratton Telephone Exchange was built by the Wray Telephone Company in 1904.

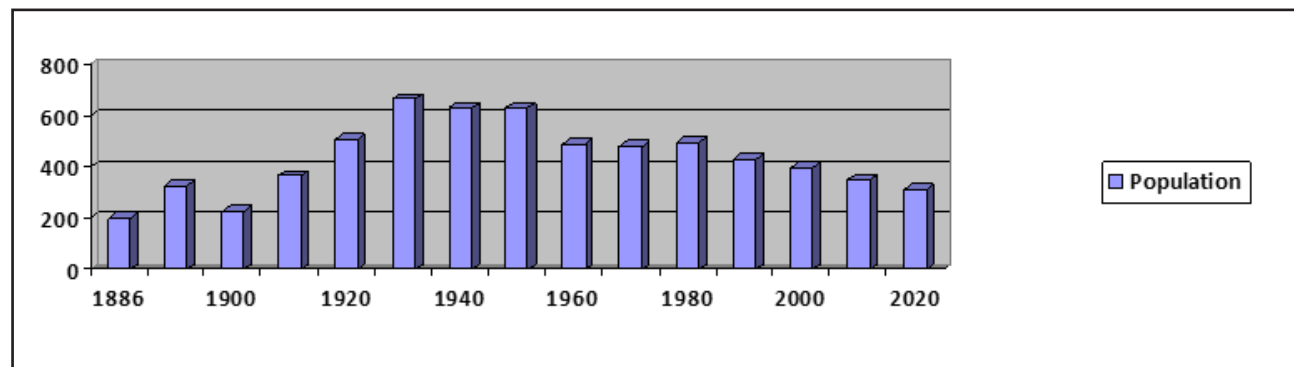
By 1910, the population was 367, the village had a two-story frame hotel building, a grain elevator and a railroad water tower. On Oct. 14, 1910, the original waterworks were approved for construction and by 1911, the vil-



*Stratton water tower. 2010 photo.*

lage had a steel standpipe located on the hill past the school building. On Aug. 1, 1914, a funding loan of \$4,000 for five years at 5 percent interest was taken out (due Aug. 1, 1934). A 1915 fire destroyed a large part of the brick school building which had been

*Continued on page 12*





## **Nebraska utilities history – Stratton**

*Continued from page 11*

erected in 1893. Bonds of \$3,500 were authorized for a municipal electric light plant. In 1915, the municipal electric system included a power plant with a 50 horsepower (HP) Foos gas engine and a generator rating of 30 kilovolt amperes (kVA) and rates at \$0.18 per kilowatt hour (kWh). The municipal water system had six (15 inch x 36 feet deep) wells pumped by a 330,000-gallon Deane driven pump. The cost to install the water

and electric plants was \$16,000.

A school was built in 1916 and a private hospital was built in 1918.

The population was 509 in 1920 and in December 2021, the municipal ice plant began operation. On Feb. 23, 1922, the light plant was upgraded with improvements costing \$12,500. The Women's Club was organized in March 1923 with a traveling library project. In 1925, the Veterans Memorial Hall was built, the municipal electric system had rates of \$0.05-\$0.16

per kWh and the water system rates were \$0.10-\$0.20 per 1,000 gallons. The Miller Manufacturing Company was founded in 1926 and a gymnasium and a vocational agriculture workshop were added to the school in 1927. The Stratton Municipal Power Plant, which had a capacity of 110 kilowatts (kW) internal combustion power generation, was threatened by the Republican River in May and again in June 1935. Miles of

*Continued on page 13*



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## **Nebraska utilities history – Stratton**

*Continued from page 12*

railroad tracks and bridges were washed out and the water supply was put out of commission when flood waters threatened the light plant. Diehl's Lake, located two miles east of Stratton, was completed on Camp Creek in 1937, a depression relief project and in 1938, the Eden school was built.

The population decreased from 663 in 1930 to 630 in 1940 and the business district included automobile and farm implement dealers, a furniture store, a clothing store, lumberyards, feed stores, general merchandise, grocery stores and two factories. The Stratton Municipal Ice, Light & Water Plant was providing power and a sewer lift station was installed in 1945. The Stewart Hospital was in operation in 1942 and the weekly *Stratton News* newspaper was being published. The Kashka Brothers Airways was operating by 1946 and in 1947, the first uncultured disc harrow was built by the local Miller Manufacturing Company. Planning for a \$15,000 public swimming pool (1948) and a ground-breaking ceremony was held for the Trenton Dam (\$23 million) on Sept. 21, 1949.

The population in 1950 was 628, the public swimming pool was built and in 1951, the Stratton Volunteer Fire Department purchased a fire truck. In 1954, a \$300,000 one-story addition was completed at the Stratton School for the elementary grades. The Stratton School District consolidated with about seven other rural districts in 1956. The Stratton Rural Fire Department was established in 1956 and began serving the surrounding farming community. The

village water system had rates of a minimum of \$2 for 20,000 gallons and over that \$0.10 per 1,000 gallons. The sewer collection/disposal system was maintained by a sewer charge and the village auditorium was maintained by a tax levy and income from rentals. The natural gas service was privately owned in 1956 and the municipal electric system was served by Southwest Public Power District. In November 1957, the first oil well in the Stratton area was drilled (#1 Hudson) which only produced 1,064 barrels of oil before being plugged in 1964. The sewer system in 1958 was maintained by a \$1 per month charge.

By 1960, the population decreased to 492 and an electric distribution system rebuilding project was planned.

The electric system consisted of a 500 kW standby only generation plant, eight miles of lines, about 500 meters and was supplied by Southwest Public Power District at a wholesale rate of \$0.01650. The meter deposit was \$20, and the cost of street lighting was \$156 per month. The water system had 350 meters in service and the cost of current for pumping water amounted to \$276.43 per month. In 1962, a curb and gutter extension project was underway and the village auditorium was maintained from a two-mill tax levy and income from rentals. The Indian and Muddy Creeks flooded in August 1962 and Highway 34 was expanded to four lanes through Stratton's village limits in 1968.

By 1970, the population was 481 and the village in 1972 was selling the power plant's 550 kV De La Vergne diesel engine for parts.

In January 1974, a new \$16,000 ambulance was purchased and that year, Stratton won first place in the Nebraska Community Improvement Program in the 301-800 population class. In 1976, an extensive wastewater treatment plant project was under construction and at the school, a new gymnasium and cafeteria were built at for \$377,046. The population increased slightly in 1980 to 499 and in the summer of 1985, cable was installed by Custom Cable of Denver. By 1985, there were 380 oil wells in operation in a 10-mile radius of Stratton (546 in county). The population was estimated to be 496 in 1987 and in 1988, the 1949 diesel caterpillar engine was sold. The village purchased the old bank building from the Commercial Bank in 1989 and the village office was moved from the shop building to the newly acquired building at the corner of Bailey and Highway 34 (311 Bailey Street). Two lots also were purchased south of the new village office for use as a park which included a gazebo. The water system in 1999 had two municipal water wells and the sewer collection system consisted of a facultative retention lagoon system designed for 0.0293 million gallons per day (mgd). The last graduating class of Stratton High School was in 1999 when the school entered a merger agreement with Culbertson and Trenton with the school known as Lakeside Central School.

By 2000, the population had decreased from 427 in 1990 to 396 and the village looked into a project with surrounding communities

*Continued on page 14*



## Nebraska utilities history – Stratton

*Continued from page 13*  
due to arsenic issues. In 2005, the village received a \$797,000 loan and a \$404,000 grant to construct a new well, build a transmission main and paint the existing water storage tank. The population was 350 in 2010, and solid waste collection service was provided by the village of Trenton and hauled to the McCook Transfer Station. In March 2019, the village was awarded a \$385,000 CDBG grant to build a new library/city hall

building which was constructed in 2020. The sewer collection system had 49 manholes, about 2,400 feet (ft) of eight-inch collection mains, about 1,800 ft of six-inch and 12,000 ft of 10-inch pipes. The influent to the lagoon system in 2020 was at 35,000 gallons per day (gpd). A project was to replace the 1945 lift station and to rehabilitate the lagoon system with a total improvement project cost of \$675,905.

Today, Stratton has a population

of 310, has been incorporated for 136 years and is a League of Nebraska Municipalities and Utilities Section member.

*References: Nebraska Directory of Municipal Officials, 1956, 1958, 1960, 1962, 1964-75, 1977-87, 1989, 1991-1994, 1996-2005, 2007-2019-2022; Nebraska Municipal Review Magazine, 1925, 1972, 1986, 2000, 2005; Water Resources of Nebraska, December 1936; Public Power*

*Continued on page 15*



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## Nebraska utilities history – Stratton

*Continued from page 14*  
Magazine, Vol. 51, Number 1, January-February 1993; Stratton, Nebraska Quasquicentennial (1886-2011), 2011; NHHS Sanitary Survey Results, 2004, 2020; Nebraska Place-Names, 1925, 1960; Perkey's Nebraska Place Names, 1995; Maps Tell Nebraska's History, 1991; NEDED Website, 2005; Stratton website, 2019-2022; Wikipedia website, 2017-2018; Who's Who Ne-

braska Hitchcock County, 1940; Electric Power Development in the United States, Dept. of Agriculture, January 1916; The McGraw Waterworks Directory, 1915 Nebraska Blue Book, 1915, 1928, 1942, 1946, 1978; Wikipedia website, 2017-2018; Biennial Report of Audits of Public Accounts to the Governor, 1935; U.S. Congressional Serial Set, House Document, Vol. 238, April 14, 1936 Directory of Electric

Utilities in the United States, Federal Power Commission, 1941; Utilities Section solid waste survey, 2015; Federal Power Consumers Electric Rate Survey, Domestic and Residential Electric Rates in Effect January 1, 1935 in the state of Nebraska, 1935; Biennial Report of the Auditor of Public Accounts to the Governor of the State of Nebraska, Auditor of Public Accounts, Nebraska, 1916 Report, 1919.

## 2023 Snowball Conference

*Continued from page 10*

- Dutton-Lainson Company
- Edwards Environmental Corp.
- **Electric Pump, Inc.**
- GPM
- **HOA Solutions Inc.**
- Iowa Pump Works
- JCI Industries Inc.
- **JEO Consulting Group, Inc.**
- **Johnson Service Company**
- **Lincoln Winwater**
- Macqueen Equipment
- Mc2, An Electric Pump Company

- Mellen & Associates, Inc.
- **Miller & Associates Consulting Engineers, P.C.**
- Municipal Automation and Control
- **Municipal Supply Inc. of Nebraska**
- **Nebraska 811**
- Nebraska Department of Energy & Environment
- **Nebraska Generator Service**
- **Olsson**
- **Rose Equipment**
- UECO

- United Rental
  - **USDA Rural Development**
  - Utility Equipment Company
- Those **listed in BOLD** are 2022-2023 League and Utilities Section Associate Members.

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. 24-25, 2024 (Wed.-Thurs.)
- Jan. 22-23, 2025 (Wed.-Thurs.)



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## January is Membership Appreciation Month

The Utilities Section would like to take this time to recognize our members and associate members! Listed are the municipalities/companies that are Utilities Section members.

Ainsworth	Ceresco	Fort Calhoun	Lawrence	Osmond	Sterling
Albion	Chadron	Franklin	Leigh	Overton	Stratton
Alda	Chambers	Fremont	Lewellen	Oxford	Stromsburg
Allen	Chappell	Friend	Lexington	Palisade	Stuart
Alliance	Chester	Fullerton	Lincoln Water/	Papillion	Superior
Alma	Clarkson	Geneva	Wastewater	Pawnee City	Sutherland
Ansley	Clay Center	Genoa	Litchfield	Paxton	Sutton
Arapahoe	Clearwater	Gering	Lodgepole	Pender	Syracuse
Arcadia	Coleridge	Gibbon	Long Pine	Peru	Table Rock
Arlington	Columbus	Glenvil	Louisville	Phillips	Tecumseh
Arnold	Cook	Goehner	Loup City	Pierce	Tekamah
Ashland	Cortland	Gordon	Lyman	Plainview	Terrytown
Atkinson	Cozad	Gothenburg	Lynch	Plattsmouth	Tilden
Auburn	Crawford	Grand Island	Lyons	Pleasant Dale	Trenton
Aurora	Creighton	Grant	Madison	Pleasanton	Unadilla
Axtell	Crete	Greenwood	Madrid	Plymouth	Union
Bancroft	Crofton	Gresham	Malcolm	Polk	Upland
Bartley	Culbertson	Gretna	Marquette	Ponca	Utica
Bassett	Curtis	Gurley	McCook	Potter	Valentine
Battle Creek	Dakota City	Hampton	McCool Junction	Prague	Valley
Bayard	Dannebrog	Hartington	Mead	Primrose	Verdon
Beatrice	Davenport	Harvard	Merna	Ralston	Waco
Beaver Crossing	David City	Hastings	Milford	Ravenna	Wahoo
Beemer	Daykin	Hay Springs	Minatare	Red Cloud	Wakefield
Bellwood	Decatur	Hebron	Minden	Rosalie	Wallace
Benedict	Deshler	Hemingford	Mitchell	Rushville	Walthill
Benkelman	DeWitt	Henderson	Morrill	Ruskin	Wauneta
Bertrand	Dix	Hershey	Morse Bluff	St. Paul	Wausa
Big Springs	Dodge	Hickman	Mullen	Sargent	Waverly
Blair	Doniphan	Hildreth	Murdock	Schuyler	Wayne
Bloomfield	Dorchester	Holbrook	Murray	Scottsbluff	West Point
Blue Hill	Douglas	Holdrege	Nebraska City	Scribner	Weston
Bradshaw	Duncan	Holstein	Neligh	Seward	Wilber
Brainard	Eagle	Hooper	Nelson	Shelby	Wilcox
Bridgeport	Edgar	Howells	Newman Grove	Shelton	Winside
Broadwater	Edison	Humboldt	Norfolk	Shickley	Wisner
Broken Bow	Elgin	Humphrey	North Bend	Shubert	Wolbach
Burwell	Elm Creek	Imperial	North Platte	Sidney	Wood River
Butte	Elmwood	Indianola	Oakland	Silver Creek	Wymore
Byron	Elwood	Johnson	Odell	Snyder	Wynot
Cairo	Emerson	Juniata	Ogallala	South Sioux City	York
Callaway	Exeter	Kearney	O'Neill	Spalding	
Cambridge	Fairbury	Kenesaw	Orchard	Springfield	
Campbell	Fairfield	Kimball	Ord	Stanton	Associate
Cedar Bluffs	Fairmont	La Vista	Osceola	Stapleton	Members are
Central City	Falls City	Laurel	Oshkosh	Stella	listed on page 17

## January is Membership Appreciation Month

*Continued from page 16*

Bert Gurney & Associates, Inc.  
Commercial Recreation Specialists Inc.  
Core & Main  
CTC Disaster Response, Inc.  
D.A. Davidson & Co.  
DGR Engineering  
Diggers Hotline  
Electric Pump  
Environmental Works  
Evans, Lipka & Associates, Inc.  
Evluma  
Farabee Mechanical Inc.  
Gilmore & Associates  
Hach Inc.  
Harold K. Scholz & Co.  
Heartland Energy  
HOA Solutions  
Hydraulic Equipment Service  
JK Energy Consulting, LLC  
John Henry's Plumbing

Lexington Area Solid Waste Agency  
Maguire Iron  
Metropolitan Utilities District  
Nebraska Generator Service LLC  
Nebraska Public Power District  
Nebraska Rural Water Association  
NextEra Energy Marketing  
NMC, Inc.  
Olmsted & Perry  
Olsson  
PeopleService Inc.  
Precision Concrete Cutting  
RESCO and EUSCO  
Rose Equipment  
RVW, Inc.  
SmallData Tech, Inc.  
Sunbelt-Solomon Solutions  
T & R Electric Supply Co.  
WESCO  
Yuma, Colorado

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

Congratulations! **Incorporation Anniversary Recognition:** 120 years – Gilead (1903-village); 135 years – **Callaway** (1888-village) and Linwood (1888-village); 150 years – **Fairbury** (village/city since 1872).

The City of **Stromsburg** has owned and operated the natural gas system since 1962 (60 years).

**Utilities Section members and associate members are bolded.**

Do you, your department or facility have some-

thing to crow

about – new hires, promotions, awards, certifications, anniversaries/

milestones, accomplishments, grants/funding or projects? Let us help you celebrate events and accomplishments! Please send information to any of the League/Utilities staff.



### *“Just For Fun” Answers*

- A-1.** Knox County, was L'Eau Qui Court County from 1857-1873 when the name was changed to Knox in honor of Continental and U.S. Army Major General Henry Knox.
- A-2.** Bloomfield, Creighton, Crofton and Wasau.  
*Reference: 2022 Nebraska Directory of Mu-*

*nicipal Officials*

- A-3. Valentine, Valley,** Valparaiso, Venango, Verdel, Verdigre, Verdon, Virginia. Those in bold were all Utilities Section Members in 2022. *Reference: 2022 Nebraska Directory of Municipal Officials*



# Classifieds

**The City of North Platte is Hiring!** Due to growth and retirements, the City of North Platte is currently looking to fill the following job positions:

- Director of Information Systems
- Personnel & Payroll Technician
- Assistant Concessions/Rides Manager
- Semi-Truck Driver (Maintenance Worker III)
- Sanitation Driver-Loader
- Assistant Accountant/Internal Auditor
- Part-time Parks Maintenance I
- Police Officer
- Part-time Technology Assistant – Library
- Senior Accountant
- Storm -Water Management & Code Enforcement Officer
- Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator

Please refer to the City of North Platte's web site for the job descriptions of each job position listed at: <https://www.ci.north-platte.ne.us/>. A job application is on the City of North Platte's web site or you may get an application at the City Clerk's Office at City Hall. Closing for the job positions will be Friday, Dec. 16, 2022, unless otherwise noted on the City of North Platte's web site. Please

submit completed job applications by email to: [info@ci.north-platte.ne.us](mailto:info@ci.north-platte.ne.us). Mail to: City of North Platte, Attn: City Clerk's Office, 211 West 3rd Street, North Platte, NE 69101.

**Full Time Maintenance Personnel.** The Village of Eagle (population 1,065) is currently accepting applications for full time Maintenance Personnel. This position requires a variety of duties including the operation and maintenance of light, medium and heavy equipment such as street sweepers, snowplow trucks, backhoes, skid steers and mowing equipment; operation of the water well system and wastewater treatment facility; routine building and property ground maintenance; general repair and maintenance of equipment; and experience in basic plumbing and construction or maintenance techniques. Municipal or maintenance background preferred. Candidate must have a valid Nebraska driver's license. Physical and background check required upon offer of employment. Certification as a Class IV Water Operator and Class II Wastewater Operator desired or may be required within 12 months of employment. Salary range is



\$13-\$19 per hour (without Water and/or Sewer License); \$16-\$26 per hour (with a single Water or Sewer License); and \$19-\$29 per hour (with both a Water and Sewer License). Benefits package includes health, dental, vision, disability/life insurance, retirement, paid vacation, holidays and sick leave. Applications may be obtained at the Village of Eagle office located at 747 South 2nd Street, Eagle, NE 68347 or online at [www.eaglene.gov/employment-application](http://www.eaglene.gov/employment-application). Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. Please contact Nick Nystrom at 402-781-2748 or by e-mail at [nick@eaglene.gov](mailto:nick@eaglene.gov) for additional job description information.

**Apprentice Lineman.** City of Benkelman is accepting applications for the position of Appren-

*Continued on page 19*

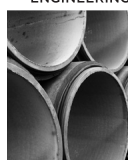
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# Classifieds

*Continued from page 18*

tice Lineman in the Electric Department. This position's responsibilities include, but aren't limited to: Construction and maintenance of overhead and underground electric distribution systems, operate a high lift bucket truck, digger derrick, and other equipment, assists other City operations, and perform other duties as required, available for 24-hour emergency calls. Requirements include high school graduation, ability to obtain a CDL license issued by the State of NE within 1 year of hire. Excellent benefits package is included. Employment is contingent upon successful completion of a post-offer physical and drug test. The City of Benkelman is an EOE. Applications can be picked up at the City of Benkelman Office located at 126 7th Ave E, Benkelman, NE 69021 or by calling 308-423-2540. The City of Benkelman is an EOE.

**Maintenance.** The City of

Sargent is looking for a full time maintenance personnel. This job requires a variety of duties including: water, wastewater, streets, parks, primary and secondary power 2400/7200. Running the power plant and equipment. Must have a High School diploma or GED and a valid driver's license, and able to get a class 4 water license in the first year. Insurance and Retirement are included with the job. Vacation after the first year of service You will be expected to be on call one week a month. Application may be obtained from the city at 308-527-4200, cityofsargent@nctc.net or on the web at [www.sargentne.com](http://www.sargentne.com).

**Water/Wastewater Director.** Salary Range: \$64,032-\$95,148 annually. First Review of Applications: Jan. 3, 2023. The City of Seward is seeking a qualified candidate for the position of Water/Wastewater Director. Ideal candidate will understand operations



of the current water/wastewater systems but possess the ability to transition to a new wastewater treatment facility (2024) currently in design. Candidate will perform administrative and technical work in the supervision, operation, maintenance, improvement of and technical control of the sewer collection system, lift stations, anaerobic trickling filter wastewater treatment facility (Class III), bio solids application, well fields, transmission mains, Reverse Osmosis (RO) water production facility (Class II), water towers, water distribution system, fire system, and water metering system. Experience with a Sequencing Batch Reactor (SBR) wastewater treatment system (Class IV) is preferred. Applications accepted until filled. Application review begins January 3, 2023. Must meet minimum requirements. Full job description and application: [www.CityofSewardNE.gov](http://www.CityofSewardNE.gov). Seward City Hall, 537 Main St.; P.O. Box 38; Seward NE 68434 (402-643-2928) or [info@cityofsewardne.gov](mailto:info@cityofsewardne.gov). Reasonable accommodations available for persons needing assistance in completing application & should be made at time of application. All positions of employment with the City of Seward are subject to a Veteran's Preference. Equal Opportunity Employer.

## 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 utility is celebrating a 25, 50, 75, 100-year milestone, let the Utilities Section help you celebrate by recognizing it in the newsletter.

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

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



## Register Now!

**For the 2nd Nebraska Advanced Nuclear Forum May 23-24, 2023 at the Embassy Suites in Lincoln, NE. A special pre-conference reception will be held the evening of May 22 for all participants.**

The Nebraska Advanced Nuclear Forum brought to you by the Advanced Nuclear Coalition will provide an opportunity for members of the public and the energy industry to learn more about the advancements in nuclear generation. Industry representatives will discuss a variety of topics including; small modular nuclear, next generation nuclear, and micro nuclear generation, fuel management, economic development, nuclear regulation, financing and community education/advocacy.

As many utilities strive to reduce or eliminate carbon emissions, nuclear energy is poised to provide the foundation for a carbon free energy future to meet the needs of a rapidly growing demand for electricity by consumers.

**Register at: <https://advancednuclearcoalition.org/forum>  
Early Bird Registration before February 15th, 2023**



## 2023 Training calendar

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

### February

Feb. 7-8 .....Electric Meter Conference ..... Holiday Inn, Kearney  
Feb. 27-28 .....League Midwinter Conference ..... Cornhusker Marriott Hotel, Lincoln

### March

March 7 ..... Water Operator Training Workshop ..... City Hall, Chadron  
March 8 ..... Water Operator Training Workshop ..... Fire Hall, Gering  
March 9 ..... Work Zone Safety Training Workshop ..... MidPlains Community College, Ogallala  
March 27 ..... Water Operator Training Workshop ..... Library, Blair  
March 30 ..... Water Operator Training Workshop ..... Fire Hall, Columbus

### April

April 11 ..... Water Operator Training Workshop ..... Community Center, Sargent  
April 13 ..... Water Operator Training Workshop ..... MidPlains Community College, Valentine

### May

May 16-18 .....Electric Rubber Gloving School ..... Northeast Community College, Norfolk  
May 24-25 .....Electric Underground School ..... Northeast Community College, Norfolk

### August

Aug. 15 ..... Backflow Workshop ..... The Venue, Beatrice  
Aug. 16 ..... Backflow Workshop ..... Fire Hall, Wayne  
Aug. 17 ..... Work Zone Safety Training Workshop ..... Fire Hall, Wayne  
Aug. 23 ..... Backflow Workshop ..... Grand Island  
Aug. 29-31 ..... Electric Rubber Gloving School ..... Wheatbelt Training Field, Sidney

### September

Sept. 21 ..... Work Zone Safety Training Workshop ..... Utilities Services Building, Grand Island  
Sept. 27-29 ..... League Annual Conference ..... Cornhusker Marriott Hotel, Lincoln

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[www.hkscholz.com](http://www.hkscholz.com)



## Utilities Section Webinars

**(Credit hours for water 1-4, 6 and wastewater available where listed)**

**Safety Committees** by Speakers Rob Pierce and Lash Chaffin, LNM, topics will cover requirements, liabilities, financial benefits, unions, etc.

(Approved for 1 hour grades 1-4 and 1 hour wastewater)

Members \$0.00 (free), non-members \$35

**Safety Session Series (If you purchase all five sessions as a bundle, the cost for members is \$140 and for non-members is \$180.)**

**Implementing an Effective Safety Meeting** by Speaker Rob Pierce, LNM, topics cover requirements, topics selection, how and when to present, safety focus along with building a safety culture.

(Approved for 1.0 hour grades 1-4 and 1.0 hour wastewater)

Members \$35, non-members \$45

**Safety: Lockout/Tagout Programs (Practices and Procedures)** by Speaker Rob Pierce, LNM

(Approved for 1.0 hour grades 1-4 and 1.0 hour wastewater)

Members \$35, non-members \$45

**Safety: Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)** by Speaker Rob Pierce, LNM

(Approved for 1.0 hour grades 1-4 and 1.0 hour wastewater)

Members \$35, non-members \$45

**Safety: General Roundtable Discussion** (safety programs, injury/near miss issues and hot topics) by Speaker Rob Pierce, LNM

(Approved for 1.0 hour grades 1-4 and 1.0 hour wastewater)

Members \$35, non-members \$45

**Safety: Slips, Trips & Falls** by Speaker Rob Pierce, LNM

(Approved for 1.0 hour grades 1-4 and 1.0 hour wastewater)

Members \$35, non-members \$45

## Water/Wastewater Sessions

**Asset Management** by Speaker Shelly Rekte, DHHS, covers a general overview on asset management and associated record keeping options

(Approved for 1.0 hour grades 1-4 and 1.0 hour wastewater)

Members \$35, non-members \$45

**Pump Application, Operations & Maintenance** by Speaker Brad Harris, Layne

(Approved for 1.0 hour grades 1-4 and 1.0 hour wastewater)

Members \$35, non-members \$45

**Well Rehabilitation and Relining** by Speaker Brad Harris, Layne

(Approved for 1.5 hours grades 1-4 and 1.5 hours wastewater)

Members \$35, non-members \$45

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## Utilities Section Webinars

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**Steps and Guidelines to Drilling a New Water Well** by Speaker Brad Harris, Layne  
(Approved for 1.5 hours grades 1-4 and 1.5 hours wastewater)  
Members \$35, non-members \$45

**Water Storage Tank: Operation/Maintenance** by Speaker Jake Dugger, Maguire Iron  
(Approved for 1.5 hours grades 1-4 and 1.5 hours wastewater)  
Members \$35, non-members \$45

**Backflow Sessions (If you purchase all four sessions as a bundle, the cost for members is \$60 and for non-members is \$100.)**

**Cross Connection Control Programs: Past & Present** by Mike Wentink, DHHS  
(Approved for 1.0 hour grades 1-4, 1.0 hour grade 6 and 1.0 hour wastewater)  
Members \$35, non-members \$45

**Cross Connection/Backflow Safety: Confined Space** by Rob Pierce, LNM, topics covering a variety of confined space issues.  
(Approved for 1.5 hours grades 1-4, 1.5 hours grade 6 and 1.5 hours wastewater)  
Members \$35, non-members \$45

**Basic Requirements of a Cross Connection Control Program** by Speaker Rich Koenig, DHHS. Rich covers requirements, regulations, in a summary overview.  
(Approved for 1.0-hour grades 1-4, 1.0 hour grade 6, and 1.0 hour wastewater)  
Members \$35, non-members \$45

**Public Education concerning a Cross Connection Control Program** by Speaker Rob Pierce, LNM covers options for educations, communication options, monitoring, feedback etc.  
(Approved for 1.5 hours grades 1-4, 1.5 hours grade 6, and 1.5 hours wastewater)  
Members \$35, non-members \$45

## Landfill/Transfer Station Session

**Hazardous Waste Identification and Random Load Inspections** by Speaker Rob Pierce, LNM  
Members \$35, non-members \$45