

# Utilities Section Newsletter

League of Nebraska Municipalities

April 2023

## EPA issues best-practices memo for assessing cybersecurity risks in water and wastewater utilities

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued a memo to states and public water systems (PWS) proposing best practices for evaluating water and wastewater utilities' vulnerabilities to cybersecurity attacks.

The EPA's March 2023 memo, "Addressing PWS Cybersecurity in Sanitary Surveys or an Alternate Process," offers guidance to utilities to assess current cybersecurity practices, develop risk-mitigation plans to address identified vulnerabilities and offer technical assistance for both evaluations and remedies to reduce risks.



Adobe Stock image

Federal regulations require states to conduct periodic sanitary surveys of public water systems to protect drinking water. EPA interprets the regulations to include operational technology, such as industrial control systems and cybersecurity systems. As part of the state's periodic sanitary surveys of public water systems, the state

will assess the cybersecurity adequacy of a PWS and if deficiencies are found, then the state must require the utility to address them.

The EPA's 100-page memo offers best practices for cybersecurity selfassessments or third-party assessments, a cybersecurity checklist, information on training and other technical assistance, and suggestions for financial assistance to assess and improve cybersecurity controls.

The EPA memo can be found at <https://www.epa.gov/waterriskassessment/epacybersecurity-water-sector#rule>.

## Tornado weather watch

By Rob Pierce, Utilities Field Rep./Training Coordinator

According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the 2023 tornado season, which typically runs from March to July, is expected to be above average in terms of the number of tornadoes that occur. The NOAA predicts 15-20 tornadoes that are rated EF-3 or higher, which is the threshold for a tornado to be considered a "major" tornado. Nebraska is located in what is often referred to as "Tornado Alley," which spans **Oklahoma, Kansas, Nebraska, and parts of Texas, Missouri, Iowa, South Dakota, North**

**Dakota, and Minnesota.** This region experiences some of the most destructive and dangerous tornadoes with an average of over 1,000 tornadoes each year. The peak high storm season for Nebraska often occurs in **May and June.** The national news reported from January to March 2023, the most tornadoes occurred since 2017 (410) and 2008 (398). January was the second highest on record for tornadoes in the United States.

One factor closely monitored is the Gulf of Mexico, which is a major source of moisture for thunderstorms and tornadoes in the central and southern

United States. The warmer sea surface temperatures can increase the amount of moisture that is available for storms, which can lead to more intense thunderstorms and tornadoes. Surface temperatures in the Gulf this year are slightly above average (2-4



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



UTILITIES SECTION

Lash Chaffin  
Utilities Section Director  
Rob Pierce  
Utilities Field Representative

# Tornado weather watch

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degrees), which also can contribute to an active tornado season.

A majority of our municipal employees work outside, which includes a large share who are seasonal part-time. Make sure

to cover severe weather in your safety meeting such as how to deal with lightning, tornadoes, hail, and heavy rains. Employees need to know what the standard operating procedures are and where to take shelter. All municipi-

pal buildings should have clearly marked emergency routes and taking shelter should be practiced in case an event occurs. Monitoring the weather can help to minimize vehicle and equipment damage and prevent injuries/fatalities.

# 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:

- Sanitation Driver-Loader
  - Part-time Parks Maintenance I
  - Personnel & Payroll Technician
  - Assistant Accountant/Internal Auditor
  - Senior Accountant
- Please refer to the City of

North Platte’s website for the job descriptions of each job position: [ci.north-platte.ne.us/](http://ci.north-platte.ne.us/). A job application is on the City of North Platte’s website or you may get an application at the City Clerk’s Office at City Hall. 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.

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



of Apprentice Lineman in the Electric Department. This position’s responsibilities include, but aren’t limited to: Construction and maintenance of overhead and underground electric distribution

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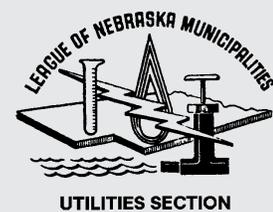
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# Nebraska utilities history – Bancroft

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

The Cuming County boundaries were approved March 16, 1855, redefined Feb. 12, 1857, and Jan. 10, 1862. The county was named in honor of the acting Nebraska Territorial Gov. Thomas B. Cuming. An early settler (1874) established a post office in the area as Portland on Nov. 21, 1879. In 1880, the Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis, and Omaha Railway planned a rail line through the area with about 25 occupants in the area. The stopping point for boiler water developed by the railroad was originally known as *Unashta Zinga* by the Omaha Native Americans, which apparently meant “little stopping place.” Land was deeded in June 1880 to the railroad by the Barber family with the agreement a townsite would be laid out. The Sioux City and Nebraska Railway Company platted a town site (one source noted Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis and Omaha Railroad) on Oct. 20.

A plat was filed as Barbersville and recorded at the county seat (West Point). This name however wasn't kept and the apparent third option “**Bancroft**” was agreed on. Depending on which folklore to believe, the village may have been named in honor of either George Bancroft (railroad civil engineer) or George Bancroft (American historian/former senior American diplomat in Europe and U.S. Secretary of the Navy). Barber had retained a one-half interest (township agreement) and was the agent for the company's sale of lots. In 1880, a general store opened and the post office name was changed to Bancroft on Sept. 31. Another plat was made in November 1881 and by 1882, the Omaha & Northern Nebraska Railroad Depot was built. Soon businesses included an implement business, a general store, a hardware store, a blacksmith shop, a hotel, and a post office. A school was operating by 1883 and land sales in 1884 brought in more settlers. On April 29, 1884, Bancroft

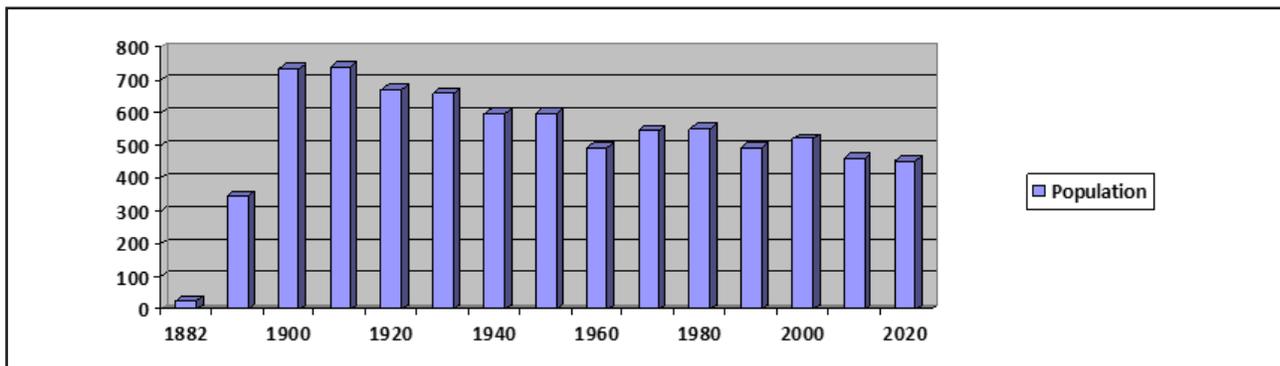


*Bancroft water storage standpipe. 2000 photo.*

was incorporated as a village (one source noted Jan. 4, 1885). The school expanded into a secondary education system by 1887 and a roller mill was built in 1889.

By 1890, the population was 344 (one source estimated at 400) and businesses included the Bancroft House Hotel, the Bancroft Bank, a hardware store, a general store,

*Continued on page 4*



## **Nebraska utilities history – Bancroft**

*Continued from page 3*

a lumberyard, a bakery, a livery, a meat market, a saloon, a blacksmith, a millinery, a roller mill, an ag implement, a drug store, and the *Independent* newspaper. A vote was taken in August 1892 for bonds of \$7,000 to construct a water works with another vote in September. The *Bancroft Enterprise* newspaper was being published in 1895 and in June 1896, an election was held for waterworks bonds of \$5,000, which were passed by a 54-24 vote. By

1898, one-and-one-half miles of water mains had been laid. During the 1890s, a plow factory and brickyard were operating and from the early 1890s to 1904, the boardwalks were being replaced by cement sidewalks.

The population in 1900 was 733 and the water system consisted of two six-inch wells pumping to a 20 feet (ft) x 20 ft elevated tank which had a capacity of 45,000 gallons on a brick 40 ft tower (bottom of tank about 130 ft above the business district). Water

was pumped by a Gould triplex pump with 45,000 gallons per 10 hours capacity. The pump was powered by an eight-horsepower (HP) gasoline engine. The distribution system had one-and-one-half miles of four, six, and eight-inch water pipe and 11 double fire hydrants. The average daily consumption in the summer was 45,000 gallons and in the winter, it was 15,000 gallons. A fire company consisted of 21 members and a hose cart with 1,000 ft of hose.

*Continued on page 5*



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## **Nebraska utilities history – Bancroft**

*Continued from page 4*

A park was located on Park Street and a City/Fire Hall on Main Street, the 4th lot north of Church Street (Elm Street in 1909). By June 1909, the volunteer company with 23 members, two hose carts with 1,000 ft of hose, a light hook/ladder truck, and fire alarm bell located on the hose tower on city hall.

In 1909, streetlights were lit by gas, the population in 1910 was 742 and telephone service was available. In February 1913, the city council contracted with the Winters Gas Company for a 10-year term to light the streets. In 1915, the fire department had 23 volunteer firefighters, a hook/ladder truck, a hose cart with 1,000 ft of hose, an alarm bell, and telephone notification. The sanitary sewer was completed (\$19,200) and by July 1, 1916, the lighting project bonds (\$12,000) at 5 percent interest were approved and due July 1, 1936.

The population in 1920 was 673, and in 1928, the municipal water system had rates of \$0.30-\$0.50 per 1,000 gallons with a \$10 per year meter rate. The municipal power plant had rates of \$0.07-\$0.15 per kilowatt hour (kWh). The municipal electric system was absorbed by Iowa-Nebraska Light & Power Company. By 1930, the population was 660, a new well was dug in 1931, and natural gas was available by 1932. In 1933-34, a \$3,798 Civil Works Administration (CWA) project for the waterworks and street improvement was underway and Bancroft was a member of the League of Nebraska Municipalities (1934). The Iowa-Nebraska Power Com-

pany's power plant had a capacity of 75 kilowatts (kW) of internal combustion power generation. In 1938, a \$2,523 Works Progress Administration (WPA) project was spent on street and park improvements along with another WPA project for a new school in 1939.

The railroad discontinued passenger service in 1949 and the population by 1950 was 596. The movie theater closed in 1954 and an implement business closed in 1957. The natural gas system was privately owned. A new water well was dug in 1956 and there were 300 meters in service by 1958. The electric system in the 1950s was owned by Consumers Public Power District. The population decreased to 496 by 1960, the railroad tore up the rails in 1961 and officially closed the Bancroft railroad station by 1963. An activated sludge wastewater treatment plant was built in 1965-68 and a water tower was constructed about 1969. By 1970, with the population 545, the electric system was operated/supplied by Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD). In 1974, the natural gas system was operated/supplied by Peoples Natural Gas. The John G. Neihardt Center was dedicated in 1976, honoring Nebraska's Poet Laureate (1921-73).

In 1982, the last seniors graduated from the original Bancroft High School as the Bancroft and Rosalie schools merged. The *Blade* newspaper was published in Wisner and by 1990, the population decreased to 494. The electric system was operated/supplied by Nebraska Public Power District, with Cuming County Public Power District serving the surrounding

rural area. The village had a storm sewer system and solid waste was removed by a private company to a regional landfill. The sewer system consisted of an activated sludge extended aeration system, discharged to surface water.

By 2000, the population was 520, the village had a two-story brick municipal building and a brick community building with a library in the back section. The park had a ballfield and most streets were paved/curbed and some gravel or rock. In 2001, the wastewater plant received a second-place award of "most improved plant" by the Water Environment Federation (WEF). A \$250,000 grant was received in 2005 to construct a new water well, install nine blocks of water mains, and repair a water storage tank. The water system had three municipal wells. The natural gas system in 2005 was operated/supplied by Aquila and the electrical system was operated/supplied by Cuming County Public Power District, a wholesale customer of Nebraska Public Power District. By 2008, the natural gas system was operated by Black Hills Corporation which purchased Aquila's Nebraska properties.

The population in 2010 was 462 and solid waste collection service in 2015 was provided by Kings Disposal and hauled to L.P. Gill Landfill at Jackson. Bancroft Fire and Rescue in 2018 consisted of nine EMTs and 27 volunteer firefighters. By 2020, the water system had two active municipal wells with 52 metered commercial and 216 unmetered residential customers serving a population of

*Continued on page 6*

## **Nebraska utilities history – Bancroft**

*Continued from page 5*  
495.

Today, Bancroft has a population of 454, has been incorporated since 1884 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, 1990-2018, 2020; Nebraska Municipal Review, 1928, 2005; Water Resources of Nebraska, 1936; Pages of History Nebraska High Schools, Present and Past-Public and Private, 1854-1994, 1994; Perkey's Nebraska Place Names, 1995; Nebraska Place Names, 1925, 1960; Nebraska Our Town... Central Northeast, 1990; Bancroft Internet site, 2004, 2006, 2010, 2018; Maps Tell A Story, 1991; NEDED Website,*

*2005; Wikipedia website, 2019; Bancroft village website, 2020; The Crete Democrat Newspaper, 1891-92; The Auburn Granger newspaper, 1913; Andrea's History of the State of Nebraska, 1882; NENGenWeb Internet site, Cuming County, Nebraska, 2011; Technology & Engineering, Water & Sewer Works, Vol. 46-47, 1914; Nebraska Gazetteer & Business Directory, 1890-91; History of Hamilton & Clay Counties, Nebraska, 1921; Heritage of Bancroft, 1884-1984, 1984; A History of Bancroft, 1967; Cuming County Visitor & Newcomers Guide, 2014; Nebraska Blue Book, 1928, 1946, 1978; Atlas, 1908; Sanborn maps, January 1900, June 1909; Biennial Report of Audits of Public Accounts to the Governor, 1935; U.S. Congressional Serial*

*Set, House Document, Vol. 238, April 14, 1936; 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; Utility Corporations: Letter from The Chairman of the Federal Trade Commission, No. 25, July 16, 1930; Utility Corporations: Letter from The Chairman of the Federal Trade Commission, No. 25, July 16, 1930; and the Insurance Year Book 1915-16 Fire and Marine 43rd Annual Issue, 1915.*

## **Classifieds**

*Continued from page 2*  
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 physi-

cal 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.

**For Sale.** The City of Friend has Sensus Series B Electrical meters for sale. \$5 each. Contact John R. Schwab, City Clerk/Treasurer, 235 Maple Street, Friend, NE 68359; phone: 402-947-2711.

## **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.

**Checkout the League's Facebook page at**  
**[www.facebook.com/leaguene](http://www.facebook.com/leaguene).**  
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# Nebraska utilities history – Doniphan

*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*

**D**oniphan, located in Hall County, had settlers in the area by 1864 and a trading post was established three miles north. By 1873, School District #25 was organized. A school building had been erected in 1874 at the corner cross-roads. A post office was established in the area called Orchard in 1874. In 1879, a townsite was laid out/platted by William J. Burger (landowner) at a midway point between Hastings and Grand Island on the St. Joseph and Grand Island Railroad. Lots were sold and the community was named Doniphan. The townsite may have been named for Col. John Doniphan, an attorney for the railroad, or for Col. Alexander William Doniphan, a distinguished soldier (opinions differ). By August, a store and a livery stable were established and by October, a post office was established and the first school sessions were taught in the town.

By 1880, the population was 85,

a school and a shipping station on the railroad line were built. A lumberyard, a livery stable, and a meat market were in operation along with a flour mill (1881). The *Index* newspaper was established in April. Some 33 residents petitioned for incorporation and on Jan. 9, 1884, Doniphan was incorporated as a village. The *Doniphan Leader* newspaper was established in 1884 and the Bank of Doniphan was established in May 1886. By 1887, a Doniphan Brick Works was operating and on Nov. 26, a fire swept through one side of the primary business district, destroying town records. The population in 1890 was 437, the Lutheran Church was organized and by 1892, the *Doniphan Eagle* newspaper was being published. Settlers were located along the Nebraska City-Fort Kearny Trail (south side of the Platte River) in 1896.

By 1900, the population was 473, the brick Independent Order of Odd Fellows building was erected in 1903 and by 1904, telephone lines were installed.

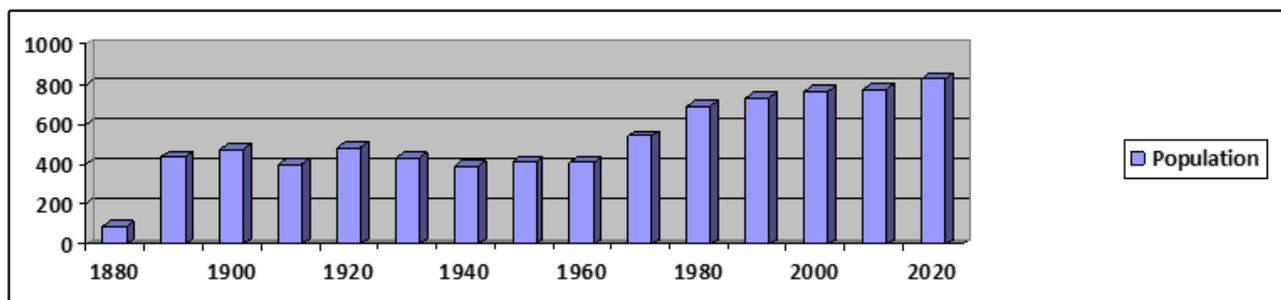


*Doniphan water tower. 2023 photo.*

The school was a two-story white frame building with a bell tower copula.

In 1910, the population was 399, a Commercial Exchange Bank was founded (1911), and a committee meeting was held to discuss a water works system. A Sept. 17, 1912, vote to install a water works was approved for water bonds of \$16,000 and \$2,000 for a light plant. By October, the installation of the water system cost \$13,000. An electric

*Continued on page 8*



## **Nebraska utilities history – Doniphan**

*Continued from page 7*

power plant was by the Doniphan Light & Power Company which issued stock in February 1914. The municipal water system in 1915 consisted of a well with one pump/engine with a capacity of 45,000 gallons, water mains, 30 fire hydrants with a domestic pressure of 55 pounds per square inch (psi), and a fire at 100 psi. The electric distribution system in 1915 was operated by the Doniphan Electric Light & Power Company and supplied by the

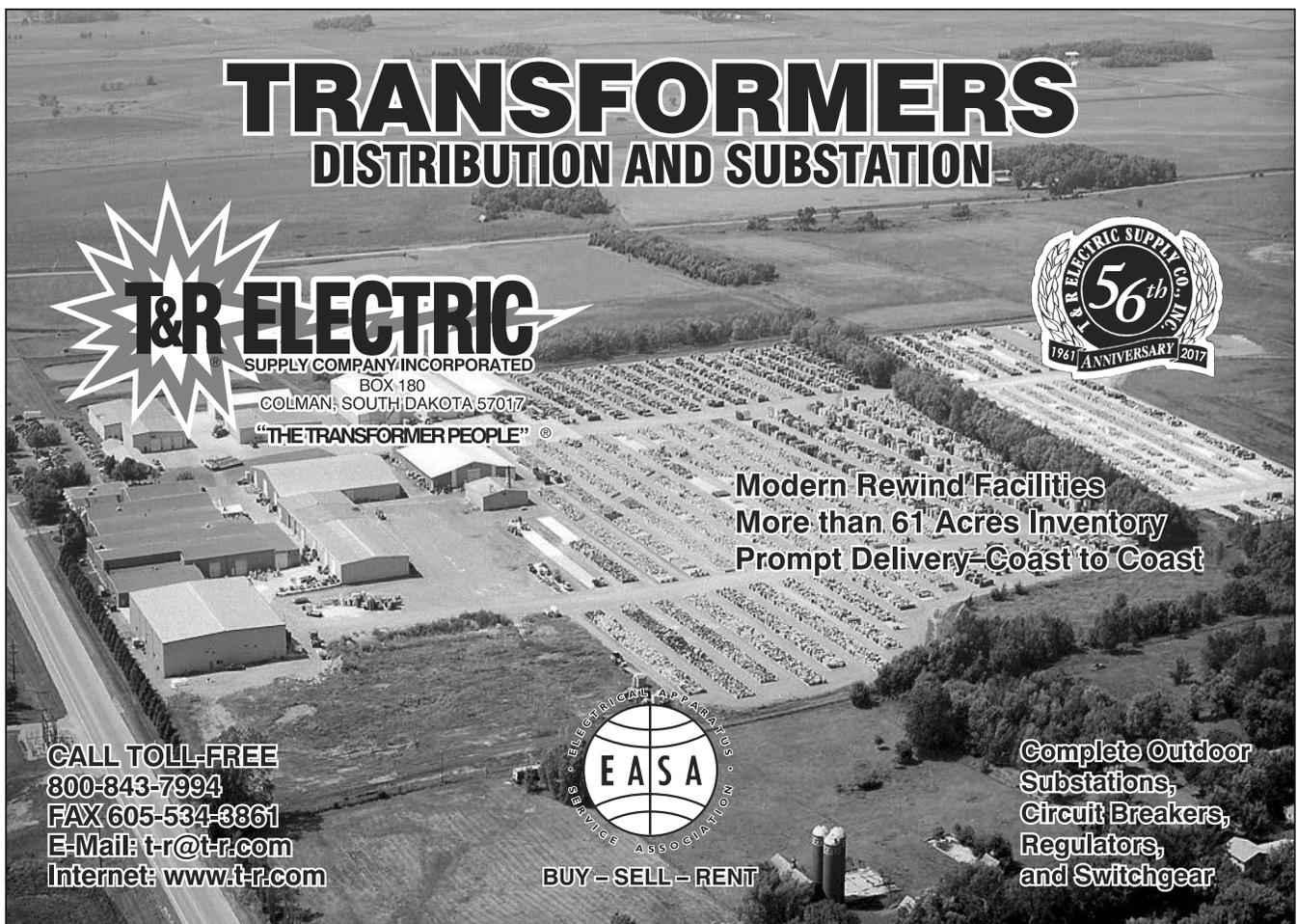
Grand Island Electric Company. In 1916, the Doniphan Light & Power Company sold the power plant to Central Power Company and connected to the Grand Island plant for electric service. In April 1917, an increase of 1 percent per kilowatt was authorized and continued during the war.

By 1915, fire protection consisted of one hose cart with 750 feet (ft) of cotton/rubber lined hose and a fire team in 1918. The electric distribution system (1919) was supplied by Central

Power Company's power plants and Doniphan Brick Works was in operation.

By 1920, the population was 482, the *Enterprise* newspaper was published and businesses included a brickyard, a general store, Bank of Doniphan, a hardware store, a livery stable, a meat market, Jewell Theater, and a harness shop. An electric transmission line was constructed from Central Power Company power plant to Doniphan in 1923. In

*Continued on page 9*



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# Nebraska utilities history – Doniphan

*Continued from page 8*

1925, electric rates were \$0.10 per kilowatt (kW) with a minimum of \$1. The municipal water system had water rates of \$0.20 per 1,000 gallons with a minimum of \$1 per 3,000 gallons. In 1930, the population was 436 and in 1934, Doniphan was a member of the League of Nebraska Municipalities. In January 1935, the electric distribution system was operated by Central Power Company and in 1939-40, the school was gutted by a fire.

The population decreased to 395 by 1940 and a Works Progress Administration (WPA) project was in progress to reconstruct the school following the fire. A hard surfacing project of Highway 281 was underway and by 1941, Central Power Company was dissolved with the electric system sold to Consumers Public Power District. In 1950, the population was 412 and by 1956, the fire department had 25 volunteer firefighters. A sewer project was completed and the public sewer system/disposal plant was maintained from a tax levy and a sewer charge. Solid waste collection was provided by a private company and the gas

service was operated by Kansas-Nebraska Natural Gas Company. The electrical system was supplied by Consumers Public Power District with the cost of street lighting at \$80 per month and the cost of current for pumping water at \$75 per month. In 1958, the cemetery, owned by the village, was maintained by donations. The municipal water plant had 200 meters in service and a fire hydrant rental charge of \$10. The municipal sewer system was maintained from an eight mill tax levy and a \$2 sewer charge.

The population by 1960 was 412 and the water system had 180 meters in service with rates at \$1 minimum then \$0.10 per 1,000 gallons (gals.) over the minimum. The cost of current for pumping water was \$0.025 for the first 3,000 kilowatt hours (kWh), \$0.015 for the next 27,000 kWh, and \$1 for all additional. On Nov. 17, 1965, the Bank of Doniphan reopened (1933-1965 without a bank). The population increased to 542 by 1970 and the electric system was owned/operated by Nebraska Public Power System (NPPD). By 1974, the population was estimated to be 700 and



*Doniphan Community Center. 2023 photo.*

a sanitary sewage system was built for a town of 800 in 1977. The population was listed at 696 in the 1980 census and in 1982, a new brick school complex was completed (red/white Doniphan Cardinals). By 1983, a project was underway on the wastewater treatment facility. In 1998-99, the village operated a facultative flow-through lagoon treatment system designed for 0.126 million gallons per day (mgd) discharged to slow filtration basin. The lagoon system had a capacity of 250,000 gals. per day with a historic peak at 200,000 gals.

From 1990 to 2000, the population increased from 736 to 763 and in 2000, the high school closed, becoming a part of the Doniphan/Trumbull Public School System. The natural gas system

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## **Nebraska utilities history – Doniphan**

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was operated/supplied by KN Energy via a two-inch supply line with an operation pressure of 600-700 psi serving 275 services. Solid waste collection was provided by private companies and hauled to the Grand Island landfill. The village maintained two parks covering about 12 acres with tennis courts, playground equipment and ball fields. The municipal water system had three wells with an average depth of 215 feet, and a capacity of 1,200 gals. per minute, an average of 400,000 gals. per day average consumption with a storage capacity of 250,000 gals. By 2004, the natural gas system was operated by Kinder-Morgan and in 2008, by SourceGas. In 2010, the population was 773 and both the interior and exterior of the water storage tower was being repaired/renovated in 2012. The village had mostly blacktop surfaced curb less streets and in 2015, solid waste collection was provided by Mid Nebraska and then Heartland Disposal hauled it to the Grand Island landfill. In 2015, the natu-

ral gas system was purchased by Black Hills Energy. In 2019-2020, the village had three active and one inactive municipal wells with seven commercial, three industrial, and 281 residential connections, all unmetered serving a population of 829.

Today, Doniphan has a population of 832, has been incorporated since January 1884 and is a League of Nebraska Municipalities and Utilities Section member. Police protection is provided by the Hall County Sheriff's Department and the electrical system is operated by Southern Nebraska Rural Public Power District

*References: Nebraska Directory of Municipal Officials, 1956, 1958, 1960, 1962, 1964-75, 1977-87, 1990-2022; Municipal Review Magazine, 1925; Water Resources of Nebraska, December 1936; Perkey's Nebraska Place Names, 1995; Nebraska Place-Names, 1925, 1960; Doniphan Internet Website, 2003 Nebraska Our Towns...Central & North Central, 1989; Maps Tell A Story, 1991; NEDED Website, 2005; Wikiped-*

*ia website, 2019-2020; History of Hamilton and Clay Counties, 1921; History of Hall County, Nebraska, 1920; Andrea's History of the State of Nebraska, 1882; Johnson's History of Nebraska, 1880; Municipal Journal and Engineering, 1912; Annual Report of Nebraska State Railway Commission, Vol. 11, 1918; Electric Power Development in the United States, Dept. of Agriculture, January 1916; Nebraska Historical Building Survey Reconnaissance Survey Final Report of Hall County, Nebraska, July 1995; McGuire Iron Inc. Newsletter, 2012; History of Hall County, a Narrative of the Past, August 1920; Eleventh Annual Report of the Nebraska State Railway Commissioner, 1918; Nebraska Blue Book, 1928, 1942, 1946, 1978; Utilities Section solid waste survey, 2015; The Insurance Year Book 1915-16 Fire and Marine 43rd Annual Issue, 1915; and the Electric Rate Survey: Domestic and Residential Electric Rates in Effect January 1, 1935 by U.S. Federal Power Commission, 1935.*

### **Do you have an individual who needs to get a wastewater license?**

The Nebraska Water Environment Association (NWEA) is conducting the following licensure training courses: June 26-28 in Wahoo, July 20 at the Kearney Holiday Inn (with the Heartland Conference), Aug. 21-23 in Lincoln, and Oct. 3-4 in Norfolk.

These classes are intended for municipal levels 1-3. Material for level 4 is covered but not comprehensively. Contact Ryan Hurst at [hurst@wahoo.ne.us](mailto:hurst@wahoo.ne.us) for information on these wastewater (licensure) training classes.

Note: A separate registration is needed for the exam (contact

Mike McBride of NDEE at [mike.mcbride@nebraska.gov](mailto:mike.mcbride@nebraska.gov)).

The NWEA has a one-day wastewater training workshop scheduled Sept. 7 in Omaha for license renewal credit hours. More information on these sessions can be found on the NWEA website at [nebwea.org](http://nebwea.org).

## SAFETY/HEALTH CORNER

# Scaffolding

By Rob Pierce, Utilities Field Rep./Training Coordinator

From the 2022 Top Ten Safety Areas, this month, I chose the use of scaffolds (Scaffolding 1926.451). **Scaffold** is defined as a temporary structure typically made from metal poles and wood planks used to support constructions workers, inspectors, cleaners, and others who need to work at heights. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), there are about 60 fatalities and 4,500 injuries from scaffolding falls per year. Falls from scaffolding account for about 25 percent of fatal falls. The most common injuries caused by scaffold accidents are traumatic brain injuries, spinal cord injuries, concussions, neck or back injuries, whiplash, internal bleeding, organ damage, scarring/disfigurement, amputations, and concussions. Four main scaffolding hazards include falls from a height, struck by, electrocution, and scaffold collapse.

The main components of scaffolding include base plates and jacks, standards (uprights, verticals, legs), ledgers (runners), transoms (bearers, putlogs), boards or platforms, couplers (clamps, fittings clips), braces, guardrails, mid-rails, and toe boards. There are three main categories of scaffolds that include suspended, support, and aerial. The types of scaffolding often include tube and coupler (fitting) components, prefabricated modular systems, H-frame/façade modular, timer, and bamboo scaffolds which are used in China and India. The web-

site [bigrentz.com](http://bigrentz.com) lists 16 types which are: catenary, float, interior hung, two-point (swing stage), multilevel, multipoint adjustable, needle beam, cantilever, single-point adjustable, supported, frame, ladder jack, mast climber, mobiler (manual or propelled), pole/wood pole, trestle and tube, and coupler. The most common scaffold used is the “frame scaffolds,” used in single or two tiers but can be stacked higher.

Two other 2022 Top Ten Safety Areas are Fall Protection – general requirements (1926.501) and Fall Protection – Training Requirements (19126.503) which go along with scaffolding. OSHA requires work above 10 feet to use fall arrest systems, and the support must be four times maximum intended load as this may cause cracking, breaking or a collapse.

Workers that commonly use scaffolds include construction workers, painters, carpenters, and building/warehouse laborers. A scaffold-use program should require the use of proper equipment, awareness of load limits, proper scaffold assembly/construction, organization of the area and ensure all employees are trained. Training should include recognizing, controlling and reducing hazards, proper selection, setup, load assessment, material handling, inspections, work practices from heights, and weather awareness.

Scaffolds should not be used in strong winds or as a support for ladders, trestles or any other equipment used for access. Scaffolds should not be used if its broken or missing parts. Some



*Scaffolding on the State Capitol Building. 2021 photo.*

alternatives to scaffolding may include the use of scissor lifts or aerial lifts if space is an issue. One rule of thumb is scaffold becomes unstable once the overall height is four times the length of the shortest part of the base. (*1:4 ratio means the height of the scaffold should not exceed four times the base width.*)

## Need a water operator licensed?

Water operator (license) training courses, provided by the Drinking Water Program, are scheduled for the remainder of the year. The registration form for water operator training courses can be found on the Drinking Water Program webpage at [dee.ne.gov/NDEQProg.nsf/OnWeb/PWS](http://dee.ne.gov/NDEQProg.nsf/OnWeb/PWS).

*Continued on page 12*

# Distracted Driving Awareness Month

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

April is designated as National Distracted Driving Awareness month. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) noted an increase (10.5 percent) of traffic deaths in 2021 over 2020. The highest number since 2005 and the largest percentage increase since 1975. These are mostly due to speeding and a rise in impaired or distracted driving. Since 2011, 119 Nebraskans have been killed on our roads due to some form of distraction. In 2020 alone, Nebraska saw 13 fatalities, 1,279 injuries, and 2,622 cases of property damage related to driver distraction. The National Safety Council noted that car crashes are the number one cause of death at work and distracted driving is an all-too-common risk, particularly for pedestrians, road workers, and first responders. The number of pedestrians killed rose 13 percent, cyclist fatalities went up 2 percent, and the number of unbelted passengers killed rose 8.1 percent. Speeding, distractions, and lack of seatbelt use are under a driver's control.

The NHTSA is focusing on distracted driving fatalities (preventable), cell phones, eating, and doing other things to divert attention from the road. One ad noted that a vehicle traveling down the highway at 55 miles per hour (mph) which you can travel approximately the length of a football field (371 feet) in the distraction time of about 4.6 seconds.

Distracted driving should be a topic of one of your safety

meetings. Although many of our municipal employees work in areas where speed may not be a factor, distractions can be an issue. Awareness activities may include posters, toolkits, videos (YouTube), and discussions on where concerns may be with your department, facility or municipality. Common types of distractions may include eating, drinking, talking to passengers, grooming, cell phone use, and other electronic device such as using drive-by meter readers. The number one reason for distracted driving today evidently is use of cell phones (talking/texting). One accident lawyer's website listed their top examples of distracted driving in California, which included driving while drinking (not just alcohol), eating, earbuds/headphones (hearing disruption), grooming, kids or other passengers, pets, talking on the phone, texting, adjusting controls (GPS, climate control, radio), gawking/rubber necking of something on the side of the road, reading while driving (newspaper, books, maps etc.), and reaching in wallets, purses, or bags for items.

The following are the "Top 25 Causes of Accident" listed by the website [gjel.com](http://gjel.com):

1) Distracted driving

- 2) Speeding
- 3) Drunk driving
- 4) Reckless driving
- 5) Running red lights
- 6) Driving in the rain
- 7) Tailgating
- 8) Drowsy driving
- 9) Drugs
- 10) Fog
- 11) Snow
- 12) Unsafe lane changes
- 13) Teenagers
- 14) Night driving
- 15) Animal crossings
- 16) Construction sites
- 17) Improper turns
- 18) Wrong way driving
- 19) Vehicle malfunctions
- 20) Potholes
- 21) Tire blowouts
- 22) Curves
- 23) Failing to obey the rules of the road
- 24) Street racing
- 25) Ice

I have noticed all of the above and more while driving down the interstate. Some to note were newspaper and book reading, working on laptops, changing clothes, and putting on makeup while sitting between the seats using the vanity mirror on the passenger side. Distracted driving is an issue **all** drivers need to address to make the roadways safer!

## Need a water operator licensed?

*Continued from page 11*

### **Grade IV Courses**

(The first day of these courses begins at 1 p.m.)

May 24-26 in Beatrice

July 12-14 in Scottsbluff

Sept. 7-9 in Fremont

Dec. 6-8 in Grand Island

### **Grade III Courses**

Oct. 3-7 in Beatrice

### **Grades I & II Courses**

Aug. 22-26 in Grand Island

# Nebraska utilities history – Genoa

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

**G**enoa, located in Nance County, had Mormons settle temporarily in the area by 1857 while enroute to Salt Lake City. The Pawnee signed a treaty with the U.S. Government in 1857 to give up lands and resettle on a reservation in Nance County. On July 13, 1858, a post office was established, but in the fall of 1859, the Mormon Colony was forced to abandon Genoa due to the signed treaty. The surrounding area now was part of the newly created Pawnee Reservation. The Pawnee Indian Agency used the structures vacated by the Mormons and about 1866, the federal Pawnee Indian Agency School opened.

A hydroelectric power plant and ditch project was initiated on Loup River in 1874. The Pawnee Tribe was relocated to Oklahoma (Indian Territory) in 1875. On March 23, 1877, the Genoa Cemetery Association filed for incorporation. In July 1879, the *Genoa Leader* newspaper was started, the first train arrived, school sessions were held at the Pawnee House

and a dry goods store was built in the fall.

The population by 1880 was 187 as a hardware, a grocery store, and the Genoa Brickyard was opened. In September and October 1880, plats were recorded and by 1882, there were five general stores, a drug store, a hardware store, two meat markets, two implement dealers, a barber shop, a blacksmith, a newspaper, a hotel, and a billiard hall were operating. The population was estimated to be 300 in 1882 and on June 16, 1884, Genoa was incorporated as a village (one source noted 1881). The Indian Industrial School was reopened (sometimes called Grant Institute) in 1884, beginning with one building on 320 acres and later grew to 30 buildings on 640 acres. The school building was enlarged and pupils were from a variety of tribes including the Crows, Omahas, Apaches, Pawnees, Wyomings, Sioux, Winnebagos, Arapahoes, Arickorees, and others.

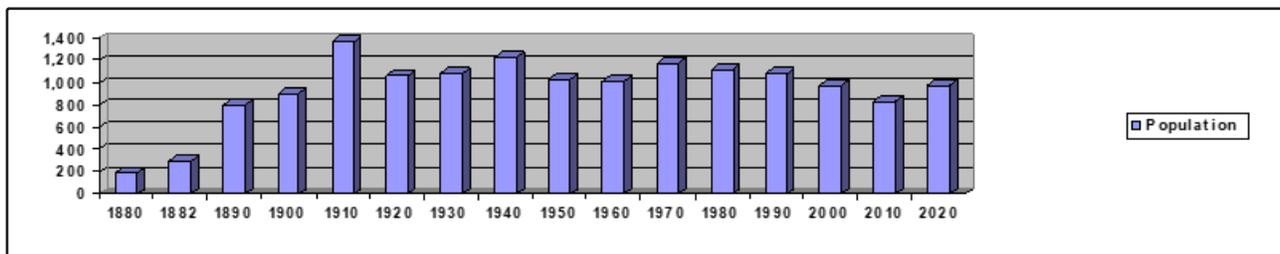
On Oct. 1, 1889, bonds of \$4,000 at 7 percent interest were approved for a water works and construction began in 1889-90.



Genoa water tower. 2001 photo.

By 1890, the population increased to 793 and on Jan. 15, a water system was in operation which cost \$9,000. By 1890, some of Genoa’s businesses included brick manufacturers, general stores, Genoa State Bank, a furniture store, saloons, the *Genoa Leader* newspaper, a cigar manufacturer, confectioneries, a grain elevator/livestock business, restaurants, ag implement businesses, a hardware, a millinery, ice dealers, an undertaker, Motter House, a drug store, liveries, blacksmiths,

*Continued on page 14*



## **Nebraska utilities history – Genoa**

*Continued from page 13*  
a well driller, a harness maker, a barber, a hairdresser, a jeweler, meat markets, feed mills, a land company, and telegraph service. The Indian School had about 250 students in 1891. The water system in 1892 consisted of two wells pumping to a 100,000-gallon reservoir by a Cook steam and a 10,000-gallon windmill pump. There were one-and-one-half miles of four to 10-inch diameter mains with 15 taps and 11 hydrants. Water consumption was 3,000 gallons per day (gpd) with an operating expense of \$550 with revenue of \$575. In May 1896, the Genoa Mill dam was washed out with \$1,500 damage.

The population was 913 by 1900 and by 1904, fire protection was provided by 16 volunteer firefighters, a hose cart with 500 feet (ft) of hose stored at the town hall, located at the intersection of Willard & Walnut Streets. Another 1,000 ft of hose was stored at the U.S. Government Indian School, located within the city limits. The waterworks was located south of Chestnut Street and lighting in June consisted of oil lamps. The Beaver Valley Roller Mill was located by the bridge over Beaver Creek and in September, some of the businesses included four brick general stores, two brick banks, a brick drug store, a hardware, a bakery, a billiard hall, a harness shop, ag implement businesses, a lumber company, and the Stillman House. A power plant with a small generator and small turbine operated on Beaver Creek which supplied electric current to Genoa for a short time. By 1909, public electric lighting was available

from the Genoa Municipal Electric Light Plant/Pump Station, located on Dakota Street between Oak Street and Walnut Street. The plant had a 75-kilowatt (kW) generator, a gas engine, a Deming Triplex pump, and a 300-gallon gas tank. The fuel was coal for steam generation. The streets were graded level but unpaved in the business area by 1909. The water system in September consisted of seven bored wells (four-inch x 20 ft) and one dug well (10 ft x 20 ft) with a Deming pump which had a capacity of 300 gallons per minute pumped to a 90,000-gallon reservoir. There were two-and-one-half miles of four and six-inch water mains and 16 double hydrants. Summer water consumption was 80,000 gallons and 15,000 gallons usage in the winter. In September 1909, the electric lighting was supplied by Nebraska Gas & Electric Company.

By 1910, Genoa was a city of the second class, had a population of 1,376, and a two-story brick town hall building was erected in 1912. A steel bridge was constructed across the Loup River (1912) and the Monroe Telephone Company purchased the Nebraska Telephone Exchanges in Genoa, Newman Grove, and Albion in 1914. The municipal water system in 1915 consisted of wells pumped to a 100,000-gallon standpipe, two miles of water mains (two-inch to 10-inch), and 17 hydrants. The system cost \$9,000 to install and had a maintenance cost of \$1,500. The fire department had 16 volunteer firefighters, one hose cart, 750 ft cotton/rubber lined hose, and

an alarm bell. The Genoa Electric Light & Power Co. Power Plant in 1915 consisted of a 150 horsepower (HP) boiler, a 150 HP steam engine, a 50 HP gas engine had a generator rating of 75 kilovolt amperes (kVA) with a lighting rate of \$0.15 kilowatt hour (kWh). In 1917, Continental Gas & Electric Corp. (Public Service Company) acquired the Genoa Electric Light & Power Plant. The Nebraska Gas & Electric Company and city pumping station was located south of Dakota Street which consisted of a 75 kW generator and two 100 HP engines in 1918. The water plant had a reservoir, Deming Triplex pump with a 20 HP gas engine and a 20 HP motor in reserve, located two blocks south of the Depot on Ewing & Benson Streets. By October 1918, the fire department had two hose carts with 1,800 ft of hose, one hook/ladder truck, and a hand bell alarm. In 1918, the streets were level but unpaved and by 1920, the population increased to 1,069. The electric distribution system was supplied by Nebraska Gas & Electric Company and on April 3, 1922, the Nebraska Gas & Electric Company filed an application for the authority to construct a transmission line from Norfolk to Madison to Humphrey to Cornlea to Lindsay to St. Edward to Genoa then Fullerton. The application was granted June 29, 1922.

By 1930, the population was 1,089, the Loup Public Power District was established (1933) and by 1934, a power project was established with a canal running five miles southwest of

*Continued on page 15*

## **Nebraska utilities history – Genoa**

*Continued from page 14*

Genoa to Columbus. The Genoa electric distribution system was provided by Nebraska Gas & Electric via transmission line. The Indian Industrial School was closed in 1934 and the facilities were deeded to the state. In 1937, the facility was converted into a prison work farm and operated from 1937-1944. In 1944, the property was deeded to the University of Nebraska and used as a seed farm. The population decreased from 1,231 in 1940 to 1,026 in 1950 and in 1951-52, most of the former Indian School buildings and land were sold at auction. The water system by 1956 consisted of 486 meters with a meter deposit of \$0.50 per month and water rates at \$1 per month. Genoa had a swimming pool project underway in 1956. The city maintained a park, a cemetery, a library, a city auditorium, along with water, street, and sewer systems (sewer system maintained by tax levy).

In 1960, the population was 1,009 and a new sewage disposal project was started in 1962 with bids opened in September 1963 for a sewage lagoon. Rasmussen and Miller were awarded the contract with a low bid of \$19,994.65. In 1966, the city had two test wells drilled by Layne Western. In 1967, the electric system was owned by Consumers Public Power District. By 1968, the electrical system was owned and operated by Loup Public Power District. From 1970 to 1980, the population decreased slightly from 1,174 to 1,115 and in 1982, the natural gas system was operated by Kansas-

Nebraska Natural Gas Company. In 1981, the former Indian School shop building was registered with the National Register of Historic Places and was restored in 1981 as a visitors' center. A wastewater treatment plant project was underway in 1989 and by 1990, the city was operating an activated sludge extended aeration system designed for 0.106 million gallons per day (mgd) with effluent discharged to surface water.

The population decreased from 1,082 in 1990 to 981 in 2000 and the school system was a part of the Twin River School District (Titans) along with Monroe and Silver Creek. An addition was built on to the elementary school in 2004. Each community had a K-6 school with the Twin River Junior-Senior High School located in Genoa.

The wastewater treatment facility treated an average flow of 106,000 gallons per day (gpd). In 2000, the water system had two wells with an average depth of 270 ft, a pump capacity of 270 gallons per minute (gpm) to a 250,000-gallon elevated water storage tower. Solid waste collection was contracted to a private company. The former "Manual Training Building" in 2001 became a museum and the airport, located south of town, had a turf runway and three hangars. A bridge and resurfacing of Highway 22 south of town was underway in 2005 which included new curbing, sidewalks, and paving of Main Street through town. The natural gas system was operated by Kinder Morgan in 2005 but by 2008, was operated by SourceGas.

By 2010, the population was 832, Waste Connections provided solid waste collection service, and most streets were hard surfaced streets. Black Hills Energy operated the natural gas system by 2015 and the electric system was operated/supplied by Loup Public Power District. In April 2018, the Genoa Library received a \$1,000 grant for material and a \$5,000 grant for repairs to the brick exterior.

Today, Genoa has a population of 894, has been incorporated for 139 years (since June 16, 1884) and is a League of Nebraska Municipalities and Utilities Section member.

*References: Nebraska Directory of Municipal Officials, 1962, 1965-75, 1977-87, 2000-2023; Pages of History, Nebraska High Schools (Present-Past, Public and Private, 1854-1994; Perkeys, Nebraska Place Names, 1995; Lincoln Journal Star Newspaper, 2007; Nebraska Place Names, 1925, 1960; Water Resources of Nebraska, December 1936; Maps Tell A Story, 1991; NEDED Website, 2005; Wikipedia website, 2018; Andrea's History of the State of Nebraska, 1882; Nance County Souvenir Edition, Fullerton October 13, 1916; The History of Platte County, 1950; Platte County Past and Present, 1915; Nebraska Blue Book, 1918, 1942, 1946, 1978; Municipal Journal and Engineering, Vol. 33, 1912; Moody's Manual of Railroads and Corp. Securities, Part 2, 1921; Electric Power Development in the United States, Dept. of Agriculture, January 1916; Commercial West, Vol. XXV, Janu-*  
*Continued on page 16*

## Nebraska utilities history – Genoa

Continued from page 15  
ary 3, 1914; *History of Hamilton & Clay Counties, Nebraska, 1921*; *Sanborn Maps, June 1904, September 1909, October 1918*; *Annual Report of Nebraska State Railway Commission to the Governor, Issue 15, 1922*; *Poor's and Moody's Manual of Railroads and Corp. Securities, Public Utility Section, Vol. 1, 1921*; *Biennial Report of the Auditor of Public Accounts to the Governor of the State of Nebraska, Nov. 30, 1890, 1890*; *Browns Directory of American Gas Companies and Gas Engineering Appliances Catalogue, 1922*; *Utilities Section solid waste survey, 2015*; *Municipal Ownership and the Electric Light & Power Industry, National*

*Electric Light Association, 1923*; *The Insurance Year Book 1915-16 Fire and Marine 43rd Annual Issue, 1915*; and *Electric Rate*

*Survey: Domestic and Residential Electric Rates in Effect January 1, 1935 by U.S. Federal Power Commission, 1935.*

### 2023 Solid Waste Screening Workshops held

Two Solid Waste Screening Workshops, sponsored by the League of Nebraska Municipalities Utilities Section, were held April 20 and April 27 in Hastings. Thirty participants from nine different facilities were in attendance. The workshop covered hazardous waste identification, load inspections, safety with an emphasis on asbestos, GHS update training, and a solid waste industry update. This workshop

meets the State of Nebraska requirements covering hazardous waste screening for employees of transfer stations and landfills. Some of the participants toured the Hastings landfill following the classroom sessions.

Two more Solid Waste Screening Workshops are scheduled for June 27 in Norfolk and July 25 in Gering. If you have questions, contact Rob at the League office or his cell 402-432-9172.

## Nebraska Breaktime Trivia “Just For Fun”

- Q-1. Where in Nebraska were the “first” and “last” Carnegie Libraries built?
- Q-2. How many Carnegie Libraries were built in Nebraska?
- Q-3. How many township libraries were listed in the 1946 *Nebraska Blue Book*?

- Q-4. How many cities/villages were listed in the 1995 *Directory* as having a “Board of Public Works?”
- Q-5. This auditorium is located in what village/city in Nebraska?

Answers on page 19.



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## **Drought and fire**

As in 2022, Nebraska is once again still in a drought. Drought impacts our municipal water systems with excessive use and sometimes inopportune times. Municipalities need to monitor well drawdown, monitor water use, and check water conservation plans (ordinances) to ensure a smooth water usage year. Drought rating levels are listed from none, D1, D2, D3, and D4. The latest drought report can be found at the following site: [droughtmonitor.unl.edu/CurrentMap/State-DroughtMonitor.aspx?NE](http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/CurrentMap/State-DroughtMonitor.aspx?NE).

Along with drought comes a season prone for fires and often municipal water systems are called upon to supply water to fight the fires. At one time, there were six fires in New Mexico, four in Colorado, four in California, two in Arizona, and one each in Utah, Nevada, Oregon, and Washington listed on the

website. Nebraska wasn't listed, but when I was at water workshops the second week of April, I was dodging closed highways (#20, #11, #2) due to smoke from fires. The largest was the 7,000-acre fire between Crookston and Kilgore (west of Valentine) which closed Highway 20. That week, several other fires were reported across the state in Cherry, Douglas, Lancaster, Rock, Wheeler, Hall, Wayne, Stanton, Thurston, Garfield, Jefferson, Lincoln, Holt, Garfield, Blaine, Custer, and Wheeler Counties. Local officials in Cherry and Garfield Counties declared emergencies and requested state assistance in the form of aerial application of retardant and water. Gov. Jim Pillen authorized state assistance for

Cherry and Garfield Counties and issued a state of emergency on April 10, 2023, due to the sheer number of fires, lasting until April 16.

Critical fire weather conditions, such as low humidity and gusty winds, continue to aid in rapidly spreading the fires, making them difficult to control. The National Weather Service (NWS) site also lists current fires and weather forecasts on flood warnings, freeze warnings, red flag warnings, wind advisories, special weather statements, and hazardous weather outlook. For updated fire information, visit [nema.nebraska.gov](http://nema.nebraska.gov). A fire dashboard is available at [arcgis.com/apps/dashboards/831e38de33b541cdb60d71c44e45d6ff](http://arcgis.com/apps/dashboards/831e38de33b541cdb60d71c44e45d6ff).

## **Backflow Workshops scheduled**

Four Backflow Workshops are scheduled for Aug. 15 in Beatrice, Aug. 16 in Wayne, Aug. 22 in Ogallala, and Aug. 23 in Grand Island. These workshops are sponsored by the League of Nebraska Municipalities Utilities Section and the Nebraska Section of the American Water Works Association.

A registration form is included with this newsletter and is available on the League website at [lonm.org](http://lonm.org).

## **National Lineman Appreciation Day**

April 18, 2023, was recognized as "National Lineman Appreciation Day." The Utilities Section would like to acknowledge all Nebraska electric line personnel who work hard for their municipalities every day!

We appreciate your dedicated work during the year through



challenging conditions and dangerous situations.

## **Work Zone Workshops scheduled**

Work Zone Safety Workshops are scheduled for 2023-2024: Wayne (Aug. 17), Grand Island (Sept. 21), South Sioux City (Oct. 19), Blair (Nov. 7), and Kearney (Jan. 23, 2024).

These workshops will cover setup, temporary traffic control,

control devices, site evaluations, flagging, chemical handling (GHS), and regulatory updates.

Water and wastewater operators in attendance will receive five hours toward their respective water and wastewater licenses.

# National Library Week (April 23-29)

The American Library Association (ALA) first sponsored “National Library Week” in 1958 with libraries across the country celebrating the week to highlight the importance of libraries in society. Information can be found on the ALA website, [ala.org](http://ala.org), on how to celebrate the week. The celebration breakdown included April 24 as “Right to Read” Day, April 25 as “National Library Worker” Day, April 26 as “National Library Outreach” Day, and April 27 as “Take Action Libraries” Day.

Where was the first library in America? As all history can be debated, the ALA website lists some options. One claim was in November 1871, the Library Company of Philadelphia was founded by Benjamin Franklin (donation), which was a

subscription-type library. Another claim listed the first free modern library opened in 1833 in Peterborough (NH), which was apparently the first institution funded by a municipality, open to the entire community. The Boston Public Library in 1848 was the first municipal-funded library in a large community. So, when was the first library built in America? Likely debatable and what criteria was used to determine what type of library. So, do you want to debate the first library in Nebraska? Once again, it might be a matter of debate as to what type of library, how was it funded, and is there documented proof. In Nebraska, many of the libraries or early versions were started by the local Women’s Clubs.

Today, there are about

3,500 public libraries in the United States with 2,509 funded partially by Andrew Carnegie grants between 1883-1929. These are listed by state on the website [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_Carnegie\\_libraries\\_in\\_the\\_United\\_States](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Carnegie_libraries_in_the_United_States).

Carnegie Libraries built from 1899-1917 in Nebraska total 69: Albion, Alliance, Alma, Arcadia, Ashland, Aurora, Beatrice, Blair, Bloomfield, Broken Bow, Burwell, Chadron, Clarks, Clay Center, College View, Columbus, Cozad, Crete, David City, DeWitt, Fairbury, Fairfield, Franklin, Fremont, Fullerton, Geneva, Gibbon, Gothenburg, Grand Island, Hartington, Harvard, Hastings, Havelock, Holdrege, Kearney, Lexington, Lincoln (main/branch), Loup City, Madison, McCook, Neligh, Norfolk, North Bend, North Platte, O’Neill, Pawnee City, Pierce, Plainview, Plattsmouth, Ponca, Randolph, Ravenna, Schuyler, Scottsbluff, Seward, Shelton, Sidney, South Omaha, Spencer, Stanton, Stromsburg, Superior, Sutton, Tecumseh, Tekamah, University Place, Wayne, and Wymore.

# 2023 Water Operator Training Courses

Water operator training courses, provided by the Drinking Water Program, are scheduled for 2023. The registration form can be found on the NDEE website at [dee.ne.gov/NDEEQProg.nsf/OnWeb/PWS](http://dee.ne.gov/NDEEQProg.nsf/OnWeb/PWS).

### Grade IV Courses

- July 25-27 in Gering
- Sept. 6-8 in Fremont
- Dec. 5-7 in Grand Island

### Grade III Courses

- Oct. 2-6 in Beatrice

### Grades I & II Courses

- Aug. 14-18 in Grand Island

### Water (Fluoride School)

- Oct. 25 in Columbus
- ### NDEE Training/Tests
- June 21 in Lincoln (WW Lagoons)
  - June 22 in Lincoln (WW test day)
  - July 19 in Kearney (WW training)
  - July 20 in Kearney (WW test day)
  - Aug. 23 in Lincoln (WW Lagoons)
  - Aug. 24 in Lincoln (WW test day)
  - Oct. 11 in Norfolk (WW Lagoons)
  - Oct. 12 in Norfolk (WW test day)
  - Dec. 13 in Grand Island (WW Lagoons)
  - Dec. 14 in Grand Island (WW test day)

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**Congratulations!** Incorporation Anniversary Recognition: 130 years – **Alliance** (1893-city second class) and Stanton (1893-city second class); 135 years – Harrison (1888-village); 140 years – Elk Creek (1883-village); 145 years – **Wahoo** (1878-city second class); and 165 years – **Dakota City** (1858-village by

Nebraska Territory).

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

Do you, your department or facility have something 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.

**April: Monthly celebration acknowledgments**

Distracted Driving Awareness Month [nsc.org/justdrive](http://nsc.org/justdrive)  
National Work Zone Awareness Week (17-21) [atssa.com](http://atssa.com)  
National Lineman Appreciation Day (18)  
National Playground Safety Week (24-28)

Other events recognized in April include: 911 Education Month, National Walking Day (April 6), National Public Health Week (3-9), World Health Day (April 7), National Volunteer Week (15-21), Earth Day (April 22), and Workers Memorial Day (April 28). I didn't do well on April 7 for "Walk to Work Day" since it was Good Friday and I didn't work. However, I did walk to my vehicle at least six times that day, does that count?

If you access this website [calendarr.com/united-states/observances-2023/](http://calendarr.com/united-states/observances-2023/), there is a celebration or event listed for every day of the year.

**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 emailing the League office at [brendah@lonm.org](mailto:brendah@lonm.org).

**Retirements:** Let us help recognize those municipal employees who are retiring after years of service.

**"Just For Fun" Answers**

- A-1.** Lincoln was the first (December 1899) and Scottsbluff was the last (June 1917). *Note: The Clarks Library was built in May 1917.*
- A-2.** Sixty-nine Carnegie Libraries were built from 68 grants, awarded by the Carnegie Corporation of New York from 1899-1917, totaling \$707,488.

- A-3.** Twenty-eight – Allen, Anselmo, Ansley, Arcadia, Atkinson, Axtell, Beemer, Brunswick, Callaway, Clarks, Comstock, Crofton, Ewing, Gibbon, Loup City, Mason City, Merna, Monroe, Oconto, O'Neill, Ord, Orleans, Sargent, Silver Creek, Ulysess, Waco, Wausa, and Wilcox. *Note: Arthur, Grant County (Hyannis), Hooker*

*County (Mullen), Phelps County (Holdrege), and Logan County (Stapleton) were listed as county libraries (1945-46).*

- A-4.** Twelve – Auburn, Beatrice, Broken Bow, Cozad, Fairbury, Falls City, Fremont, Hastings, Kimball, Nebraska City, Neligh, and Schuyler.
- Q-5.** Rulo, a WPA project built in 1939 (2022 photo).

# 2023 Training calendar

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

**June**

June 27 .....Solid Waste Screening Workshop ..... Fire Training Facility, Norfolk

**July**

July 25 .....Solid Waste Screening Workshop ..... Fire Hall, Gering

**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. 22 .....Backflow Workshop ..... MidPlains Community College, Ogallala

Aug. 23 .....Backflow Workshop ..... Grand Island

Aug. 29-31 .....Electric Rubber Gloving School ..... Wheatbelt Training Field, Sidney

**September**

Sept. 19 .....Water Operator Training Workshop ..... North Platte

Sept. 20 .....Water Operator Training Workshop ..... City Hall, McCook

Sept. 21 .....Work Zone Safety Training Workshop ..... Utilities Services Building, Grand Island

Sept. 27-29 .....League Annual Conference ..... Cornhusker Marriott Hotel, Lincoln

**October**

Oct. 17 .....Water Operator Training Workshop ..... City Library, Norfolk

Oct. 18 .....Water Operator Training Workshop ..... Fire Hall, South Sioux City

Oct. 19 .....Work Zone Safety Training Workshop ..... Fire Hall, South Sioux City

**November**

Nov. 7 .....Work Zone Safety Training Workshop ..... Library, Blair

**December**

Dec. 5 .....Water Operator Training Workshop ..... Lincoln

Dec. 6 .....Water Operator Training Workshop ..... Auburn

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## 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 cover requirements, liabilities, financial benefits, unions, etc.

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

Members \$0 (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 Christensen

(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 Christensen

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

Members \$35, non-members \$45

**Steps and Guidelines to Drilling a New Water Well** by speaker Brad Harris, Layne Christensen

(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

## Utilities Section Webinars

**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 speaker 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 speaker Rob Pierce, LNM, topics cover 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