

THE UTE LETTER

231 Edition of the Nebraska City Utilities News

February 2018

From the Desk of Leroy Frana:

Well my time here as General Manager is winding down. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for making my nearly 43 years with the Utilities a pleasure. It has been an honor to service our City and customer base. My last day will be sometime during the month of March. On March 2nd my wife will be hosting a retirement party for me and all are invited. Please stop by either on the way home or feel free to come back later with your spouse or family. Please bring your family if you can. This might also be a time when your family can meet each other's coworkers and their families. It should be a fun time and some good food and goodies.

It is exciting to finally see the beginnings of the 4th Corso Viaduct replacement. With my upcoming "free" time maybe I will be able to see some of the process. We finally recently received the temporary easement for relocation of the water to begin. ME Collins will be working to get the water and sewer relocated. Please keep up the defensive driving around the parking lot and drives. South 3rd street from 1st Corso to 5th Corso will be closed during the viaduct construction and may put even more traffic by our offices.

We are now also anxiously awaiting the beginning of the sewer extension in the Maplecrest and Arborview Drive area. The route is cleared and the contractor is awaiting more favorable weather.

We have experienced quite a bit of colder weather. It will be interesting to see how the overall winter averages out. My bet is still on warmer than normal temperatures. Bets anyone?

We have once again lost another retiree with the passing of Marvin Zimmerman. Our sympathy goes out to his family.

Please work safely every day and promote safe practices daily. You are all responsible for not only your own safety, but also those you work with. Think through your job site process and take the necessary precautions to work safely. Hopefully you were able to attend the Workplace Violence and Active Shooter Awareness Training on Feb 14th. Very good information was presented. Always be observant no matter where you may be.

STORES DEPT:

Sharon Smulling

Hello Everyone! Happy 35 days until Spring! Things here in the stores department are busy as usual. As you are reading this newsletter, our new inventory system will have been installed. It has been a long process to convert, but we are excited and ready for the change 😊. We are planning on sometime in April to do our physical counts, which everyone knows, is one of the favorite activities we like to do.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Lori Neeman on her promotion to Assistant Office Manager. She will do a bang up job. CONGRATS.

The Smulling Family grew by one on December 28th. Sarah and Travis were blessed with a daughter, Evelyn Suzanne Martensen. She is a keeper.....

ELECTRIC DEPT:

Carl Abbott

The cold temperatures and snow has allowed us to do some very important maintenance and repairs. The guys have repacked or replaced all the wheel bearings on all the electric trailers, fixed the plug ends, lights, and jacks. All the fiberglass and rubber goods, and insulated jumpers have been cleaned and inspected. Many of the small repairs needed on the trucks have also been taken care of, along with cleaning and waxing of the fiberglass booms. The annual dielectric testing is scheduled for Feb 19th.

Adam has been trying to keep up with the electrical jobs at the different sites as well. The bids were let and recently approved by the Board of Public Works for the purchase of a new Digger Derrick. Truck #29 will be 18 years old by the time we receive the new one.

Hawkins Construction has started on the demolition of the 4th Corso viaduct. The closing of South 3rd Street during the construction period could put additional traffic in front of our buildings. Please continue to use caution. The development of the North Star Senior Housing Project has cleared another hurdle, and will probably start this spring.

Kuddos and Congratulations on all the staff changes. Cody Beecham has left the Utilities to pursue his love of farming. We wish him well. Hopefully, we can get a couple of pole climbers and get back to full strength in the very near future.

GAS & WATER DEPT:

Bryan Turner

Well According to the Groundhog, we have 6 more weeks of winter. **Somebody Shoot That Thing! We've had some record cold days and quite a few water main breaks. The crews have been doing a great job of getting them repaired quickly and safely. We've had some issues with a couple of our lift stations that have been keeping Tom busy. He's had a lot of good help getting them up and running quickly. A special thanks, goes to the Electric guys in setting up their tent

so we could keep working on the lift stations and keep them from freezing up.

Shawn, Gary, and Mike have the new corrector and power supply hooked up and going out at Border 4. I know Mary Lynn is grateful for that.

As usual for this time of year we are busy with our Operator Qualification for the coming year and trying to get valves turned when we can. Work on the 4th Corso Viaduct is picking up and we're going to be busy with the Water and Sewer relocations helping with locating and moving a couple of things that are in the way. Again, thanks to all the guys for all of the hard work in the lousy weather. Keep working safely and report any issues you see out there.

** All Groundhog activists please contact Bryan Turner with complaints**

SERVICE DEPT:

Mary Lynn Hall

February has been a slower month for the Service Department. The weather has slowed down customer service work and locates. We have been using this time to prepare for our meter change out program which will begin in late April or May. We have printed out the query targeting the age appropriate meters and have communicated with Shawn and Howard the number of meters needed.

I would like to congratulate Leroy on his retirement coming up in March and wish him nothing short of the best times in his retirement years. Thank You for all your guidance. I will definitely miss your presence and knowledge and have so enjoyed working with you!!

Congratulations to Jeff our new General Manager, to Mona our new Office Manager and to Lori our new Assistant Office Manager. I look forward to working with all of you in a different office related dynamic.

Carline Moles had open heart surgery on February 15th at Bryan East Hospital in Lincoln NE. Keep her in your thoughts and prayers and if possible, let her know you're thinking of her.

WATER PLANT:

Mark Lant

Hello NCU Family, we here at the Water Plant hope that you are all doing well as this February slips through our hands. We have been keeping busy here at the Plant with winter maintenance. Lisa has been playing in the B Pipe gallery jungle gym painting the influent pipe as well as the valve actuators and it is looking nice. Steve has been doing some painting in the Lime elevator pit, and Casey has been getting schooled on Lime Machine Maintenance, and is preparing for his Grade 4 Operator course later this month. We also Drained and cleaned out our B Upflow unit this month and as I am typing we are draining out our A Upflow for cleaning and maintenance. We hope you are all doing well and I'm sure we are all looking forward to some warmer weather. Stay safe out there and Thanks to everyone for all that you do! God Bless

MARCH BIRTHDAYS:

- Elaine Boyer 3-28-62
- Todd Chaney 3-25-62
- Alan Harker 3-23-58
- Steven Roush 3-09-83
- Scott Shoemaker 3-30-70
- Mike Tellez 3-09-78
- Derek Walters 3-12-85
- Tom Walters 3-26-69

MARCH WORK ANNIVERSARIES:

- Mona Kuhlengel 3-18-91
- Jeffrey Lollmann 3-17-14
- Ken Parde 3-01-88
- Steven Roush 3-19-14
- Reno Stitt 3-16-16
- Mike Wells 3-24-14

WASTE WATER TREATMENT PLANT:

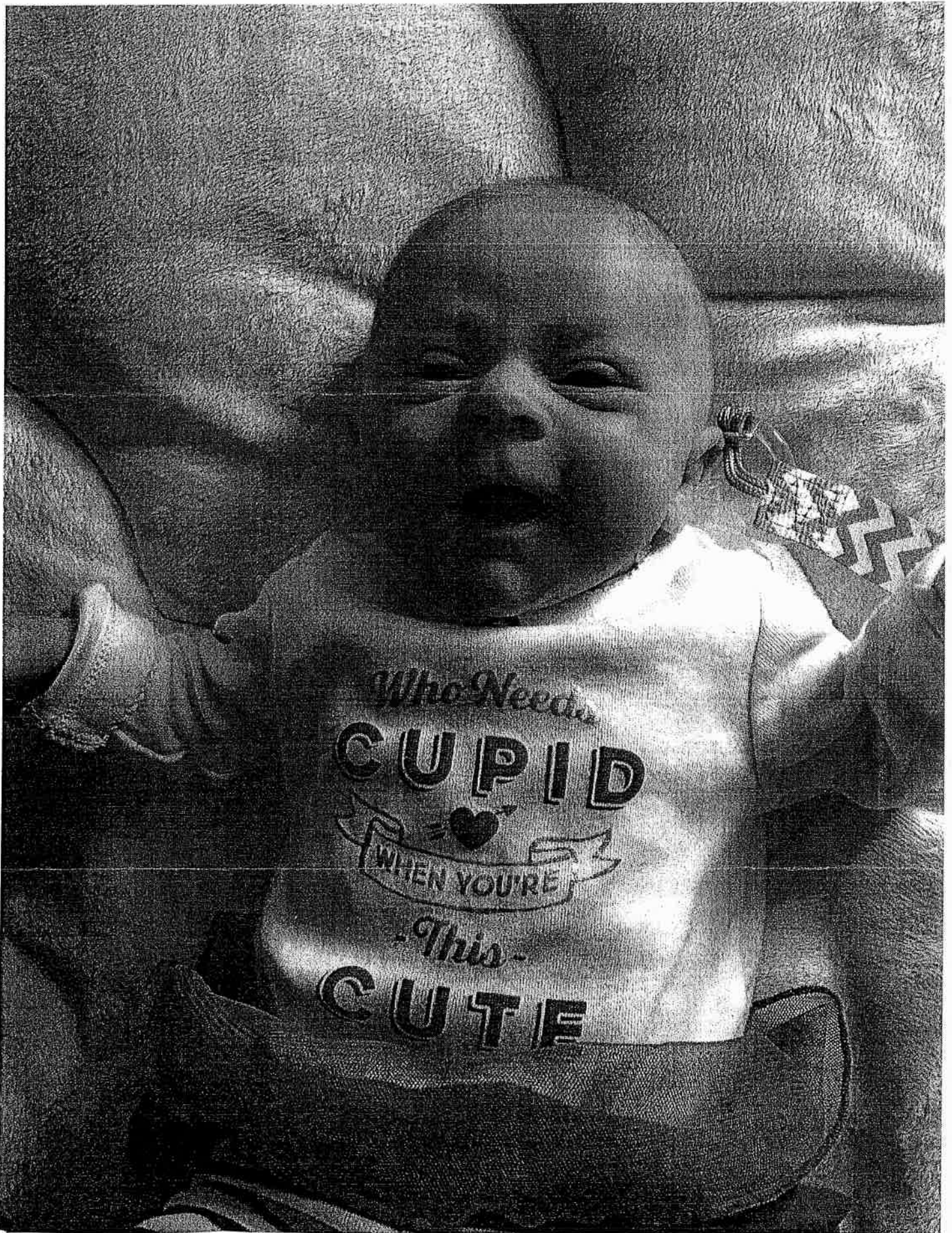
Scott Shoemaker

SAGA XXVII.....
Greetings to all Uteonians! Even though the crazy Groundhog saw its shadow and it's going to be 6 more weeks of winter. Do you ever wonder how that fuzzy little thing sees his shadow? Good question we should have our Kingdom's historian look into this.

Anyway, moving on to bigger and better things in the Kingdom. The noble knights have been busy working on projects through the winter. They installed a new gas heater in the Solids' Building garage. They got right on it from making hangers, to core drilling for the vent, and hanging the heater to keep the water lines from freezing and overall helping to heat the building. Also on the heaters thanks to the Electric guys' main man Adam for his expertise of wiring the heater and to the gas crew for running the gas line.

We got the other Westafalai centrifuge back and it is working fine. Since then, the staff took the bowl and scroll out of the Sharples and we took it down to Kansas City to Jenkins for overall work. You know the Kingdom has to gear up and be prepared for those major BBQ events to process. The crew at the Kingdom is always doing their best to stay up on top, by replacing lime lines for the centrifuges. Of course, everyone is getting spring fever and wanting to get out and about on those outside projects. Such as replacing weirs on the clarifiers.

Man, here at the Kingdom we now need sun glasses thanks to Adam and Chris Meredith, for doing an extremely good job on the lighting. We salute you with a flush! As time keeps on going the Kingdom wants to start wishing (the main man, THE GRAND POOBAH Leroy) joyfulness on his remaining days. We thank you for your support..... To be contuined!!



Congratulations to Sarah(Smulling) and Travis Martensen of Omaha, on the birth of their daughter Evlyn Suzanne Martensen. She was born December 28th, 2017 weighing 6lbs 10oz and was 19" long. At home she joins furry dog brother Mac. Proud grandparents are Tim & Sharon Smulling.

Everyday Preventive Actions That Can Help Fight Germs, Like Flu

FIGHT FLU



CDC recommends a three-step approach to fighting the flu.

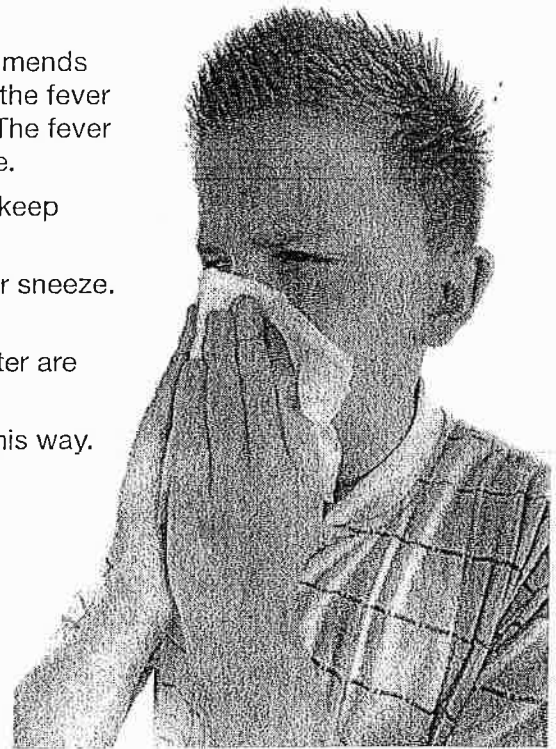
CDC recommends a three-step approach to fighting influenza (flu). The first and most important step is to get a flu vaccination each year. But if you get the flu, there are prescription antiviral drugs that can treat your illness. Early treatment is especially important for the elderly, the very young, people with certain chronic health conditions, and pregnant women. Finally, everyday preventive actions may slow the spread of germs that cause respiratory (nose, throat, and lungs) illnesses, like flu. This flyer contains information about everyday preventive actions.

How does the flu spread?

Flu viruses are thought to spread mainly from person to person through droplets made when people with flu cough, sneeze, or talk. Flu viruses also may spread when people touch something with flu virus on it and then touch their mouth, eyes, or nose. Many other viruses spread these ways too. People infected with flu may be able to infect others beginning 1 day before symptoms develop and up to 5-7 days after becoming sick. That means you may be able to spread the flu to someone else before you know you are sick as well as while you are sick. Young children, those who are severely ill, and those who have severely weakened immune systems may be able to infect others for longer than 5-7 days.

What are everyday preventive actions?

- Try to avoid close contact with sick people.
- If you or your child gets sick with flu-like illness, CDC recommends that you (or your child) stay home for at least 24 hours after the fever is gone except to get medical care or for other necessities. The fever should be gone without the use of a fever-reducing medicine.
- While sick, limit contact with others as much as possible to keep from infecting them.
- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand rub.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth. Germs spread this way.
- Clean and disinfect surfaces and objects that may be contaminated with germs like the flu.
- If an outbreak of flu or another illness occurs, follow public health advice. This may include information about how to increase distance between people and other measures.



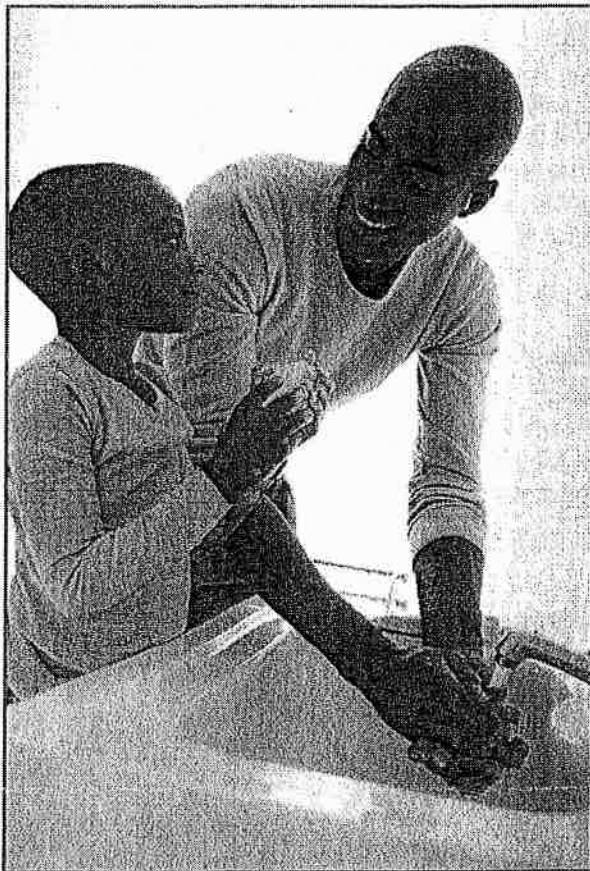
For more information, visit:
www.cdc.gov/flu
or call 1-800-CDC-INFO



U.S. Department of
Health and Human Services
Centers for Disease
Control and Prevention

What additional steps can I take at work to help stop the spread of germs that can cause respiratory illness, like flu?

- Find out about your employer's plans if an outbreak of flu or another illness occurs and whether flu vaccinations are offered on-site.
- Routinely clean frequently touched objects and surfaces, including doorknobs, keyboards, and phones, to help remove germs.
- Make sure your workplace has an adequate supply of tissues, soap, paper towels, alcohol-based hand rubs, and disposable wipes.
- Train others on how to do your job so they can cover for you in case you or a family member gets sick and you have to stay home.
- If you begin to feel sick while at work, go home as soon as possible.



What additional preventive actions can I take to protect my child from germs that can cause respiratory illness, like flu?

- Find out about plans your child's school, child care program, or college has if an outbreak of flu or another illness occurs and whether flu vaccinations are offered on-site.
- Make sure your child's school, child care program, or college routinely cleans frequently touched objects and surfaces, and that they have a good supply of tissues, soap, paper towels, alcohol-based hand rubs, and disposable wipes on-site.
- Ask how sick students and staff are separated from others and who will care for them until they can go home.

Everyday preventive actions can help slow the spread of germs that can cause many different illnesses and may offer some protection against the flu.