

THE UTE LETTER

231 Edition of the Nebraska City Utilities News

March 2018

From the Desk of Leroy Frana:

This should once again be a busy construction season. We will have the continued projects that have been contracted with ME Collins and Yong Construction. Also, this coming late fall we will have a Contractor in for the Substation 904 improvements. Dan also plans to have a contractor in to perform maintenance on substation LTCs this spring. Our crews will be tackling many projects. An upcoming project for the water crew is the West 2nd Avenue water main replacement. Projects that were budgeted for in fiscal year 2018 will be looked at and prioritized for construction.

The 4th Corso Viaduct may be history by the time this reaches print. Wow, once they got started things moved quickly. I understand that they may have the new viaduct completed by the spring of 2019. Weather will always play a factor, but I don't see much slowing them down. The water has been bored in under the railroad and creek by ME Collins and hopefully will be tied in on both ends soon. The Gas Crew is moving a couple gas service and removing a main to be ready for the relocation of a sewer main that is needed for this project as well.

Yong Construction was to move in the week of 3/12, have a meeting with staff on 3/15 and then start construction. We likely will need to stand by to protect a multiple circuit electric primary line at the beginning of the project.

Are we going to have a late spring? I think we are all ready for some warmer weather.

Thanks for stopping by the evening of March 2nd for the retirement party arranged by my wife Pam. There is always a lot going on this time of year and Pam picked an available date for the Fox Center and our schedule. It was good to see the many retirees that stopped by. I wish I could have chatted more with everyone. The time went so quickly that evening. My last day will be March 30th. If you are ever in need of a little exercise feel free to stop by my house and we can have a "yard party", aka "yard work". Thanks to all of you for all your hard work and dedication to the Utilities and making it a better organization every day!

Please continue working safely and strive to have an accident free work place. Let's all strive for a long string of many man hours without a lost time accident. It is our goal to have all return to their home daily injury free.

SERVICE DEPT:

Mary Lynn Hall

It is so nice to have a taste of spring weather and be able to see the end of winter. Locates are definitely starting to increase and so is service related work.

I would like to say again Congratulations to Leroy on his retirement. Thank you for your years of dedication to NCU and the mentoring you have given me. God Bless you in your retirement years. Congratulations to Jeff, Mona and Lori on your new NCU positions. It's a wonderful scenario to be able to pass the baton on to others we have within our company.

Have a Happy Blessed Easter.

SUPERINTENDENT OF OPERATIONS:

Dan Patton:

First of all, I would like to congratulate Leroy on his upcoming retirement and vacations that he is planning, to anywhere he wants to go!!! It has been a pleasure working for you and with you on many different projects. I wish you all the best in your new adventures in the coming days/years. Leroy, you will be greatly missed, but we all know that you're just a phone call away. CONGRATULATIONS!!!!!!

There is a lot of changes that are taking place in our office, please stop in or down and wish all of the staff congratulations on their new positions as this is being worked out and arranged to better serve our Utilities Customers and their needs.

Spring is just around the corner, we all need to plan some time to spend with our families, kids, and grandkids before they all grow up and we run out of time to do so. Soon school will be out for the summer and the streets will be much more active with kids out and about doing all of their activities for the summer. All of us need to have a sharp eye out for all of those love ones that are having fun this spring and summer.

The Tree Crew, Rob and Jake have been clearing right-of-ways and trimming in Julian, Brock, and the South Line back to Nebraska City to help keep our system clear of trees. They have been trimming in the alleys and the North part of Nebraska City on 19th street.

The power plants that NCU are partners in, OPPD NC2 and WEC2 in Hastings have been operating with very few maintenance actions required. WEC 2 will be starting their spring outage on March 23rd 2018. The NC2 unit of OPPD has a scheduled an outage is the spring of 2019.

Gary and Mike have been working on communication issues, on the new SCADA system at the WTP, on the documentations, and drawings. Electrical SCADA at the Power Plant is completed, but we have a few day to day corrections that need updated. They still need to go back to both the WTP and the WWTP to finish

up some of the punch list, documentations, and drawings that the staff needs cleaned up. They both have been looking at and designing new communications for monitoring more of our sites, to get up to date, current time of events, changes of status, and to receive that information back at our offices.

Mike, Jeff, and Travis been working on new temperature monitoring and alarming equipment at Plant Site 2 in Syracuse on Engine #6 and #7. They have also been installing the new control room battery backups. Gary and Mike still have to move all of the equipment over to this new system.

The 904 Substation Transformer is in Jordon, MN. where it is being repaired/rebuilt to our specifications. They have started this process and expect to have it completed, tested, and shipped back to the site in April 2018. Then NCU plans on upgrading the 904 Sub with 69kv Circuit Switcher, 25kv Breaker, New Control Building, new concrete pads, enlarging the substations area and fencing to adequately design all of the upgrades to be installed with the proper clearances.

STORES DEPT:

Sharon Smulling

I would like to take this opportunity to say a heartfelt "goodbye" to Leroy. I have worked with Leroy for more years than I care to mention, but in those years I have gotten to know him. He is a man who loves his God, his family, and his community. Leroy has always been a calming presence in the office. I wish you well in your "retirement". You will be sorely missed.

ELECTRIC DEPT:

Carl Abbott

I reported to you awhile back Frost was coming. (before he was hired). I will be right again spring is coming. The Electric Department has really been busy with all the agenda items that I have wanted to tackle this winter. All the wire stringing and trencher trailers have the wheel bearings replaced or packed. Thanks Logan for making us up a complete list of materials and cross-over parts for all the trailers.

We have been very busy updating maps and pole counts for all the small villages, doing line patrol maintenance, and infra-red repairs. We still have a lot to do, and will continue to work on them weather permitting. We have removed part of the East loop from Sub 901 to Sub 902 during the demolition and construction of the 4th Corso viaduct. We have several jobs ready to go once the frost is gone, and we get some drying time and good weather.

The truck inspections have all been completed and the repairs to be made are very minimal. I appreciate everyone working hard to keep the trucks and equipment in good condition. Trucks and equipment are a very large part of the overall budget and are extremely expensive to replace.

Good luck to Leroy and hope he enjoys retirement.

POWER PLANT:

Todd Chaney

It seems like old man winter does not want to give it up for the year, everybody's getting spring fever. We have been very busy at the plants lately. Travis and Mike have been at Syracuse with Conley from H.K Scholz doing some much needed upgrading to unit #6 & #7's control panels and wiring.

Unit #3 is still down as we figure out the best option to repair the oil heat exchanger. It was manufactured in February 1955, so I guess it has served it's time.

Unit #5 turned out to be a big project, but provided a lot of hands on training for the guys. We pulled the generator apart to have it cleaned (cob blasted) and replaced the outboard bearing. Overall, it went pretty smooth except for the outboard bearing (just ask Spurlock). He likes cutting things up with that torch.

Thanks goes out to everyone who worked on these projects. Good job!! Now if the weather would just cooperate we might see some smiles!

Congratulations to you Leroy, and we hope you have many years of happiness in your retirement!

GAS & WATER DEPT:

Bryan Turner

Things in the Gas and Water Department are really picking up with the warmer weather. The 4th Corso Viaduct project is going at a very fast pace with the demo and the relocation of the water line. Brad has been busy keeping ahead of them locating everything and the crews have been working on moving some lines to facilitate the installations and the demolition. The sewer main project out on Arborview Dr. is about to get under way also, so we will be keeping an eye on that and assisting when necessary. The annual gas main valve maintenance in Nebraska City is about done and will be starting on the rest of the system soon.

John has started on the business leak survey with Kyle's help and they've made good progress on that. Dan's crew is taking care of replacing and moving a couple of gas services in Syracuse. Tommy with help from a couple of the guys has been busy keeping the lift stations up and running, and checking on the company that's doing rehab on a few of our manholes.

Remember to work safe and to wear your PPE. Report any issues you see. Somebody get that Ground Hog, this is ridiculous!

WATER PLANT:

Mark Lant

Hello everyone from us here in the Water Plant World. We hope you are all enjoying some of the warm days that are starting to filter in as the weeks go by. Something about those first few warm days of the year seems to be good for the soul.

We here at the plant have recently just finished the cleaning and filling of our A-Upflow unit, and we are continuing to tackle maintenance projects as we prepare for the WARM season coming up. A Congratulations to Casey here at the Plant as he has passed his Grade 4 exam, and as a result he will not have to wear the Grade 4 Failure shirt that we were preparing for him. He is now a Certified Water Operator.

Spring approaching is another reminder of the constant changes we see in life. Here at the Plant we are experiencing some change too as Lisa has decided to go a new direction and so we will be looking for a new Water Operator soon. We hope only the best for her as she moves forward in life. As for Steve, well he is continuing to do a great job and with his part time work for A-1 Locksmith he is becoming pretty good at picking locks so keep an eye out as he is always getting into something. Be safe everyone and enjoy what is left of the month!!!!

APRIL BIRTHDAYS:

Kevin Grundman	4-15-1956
David Hoyle	4-23-1960
Jerry Osborn	4-27-1960
James Palmer	4-20-1948

APRIL WORK ANNIVERSARIES:

Mark Lant	4-14-2003
Howard Orndorff	4-23-1990
Teresa Runkles	4-06-1998

WASTE WATER TREATMENT PLANT:

Scott Shoemaker

SAGA XXVIII.....Greetings to all Uteonians! I hope you are still hanging in there despite shifts in the weather. Me personally, I want 80 degrees and sunny. Here at the kingdom work continues on projects for the winter. We put up our gib crane in the back-shop area, which allows us better work conditions on the heavy items. We also started spring cleaning early getting rid of things that don't exist here anymore, for added space for organizing parts and material. The noble knights have been really doing a good job on turning around the kingdom to a spacious and luscious place for people to visit.

Thanks to the Electrical gang Adam the mighty ring leader with Chris, Jake who seems to have a passion for our poo, and Logan for making the kingdom bright as ever. Our Miox cell has arrived so hopefully we can get that back in operation for the disinfectant process.

Remember happy fish happy fish. Everything is in good working order as spring rolls around, meaning St. Patrick's Day so eat that corned beef and cabbage until your heart desires it's all good this way.

We are coming to the close of an era with our Grand Poobah. At the end of the month we'll give Leroy a 3 flush solute and then at the beginning of the new month another flush solute to ring in the new Grand Poobah Jeff. We thank you for your support..... To be continued !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!