

THE UTE LETTER

232 Edition of the Nebraska City Utilities News

April 2018

From the Desk of Jeff Kohrs:

The calendar is telling us that it is supposed to be spring, but the weather we've seen recently doesn't make it feel very spring like. Hopefully the weather will improve and we'll be able to enjoy activities outside soon.

Last week we experienced a brief, but very strong storm complete with some very high winds on Friday the 13th. The electric crews were out till late Friday night. Great job guys getting the trees removed and restoring power as quickly as you did. I know our customers appreciated your efforts. Thanks also to everyone that stuck around to help answer calls from our customers that evening.

Thanks to everyone that has offered their support as I venture into a new position with different responsibilities. My decision to accept this position was truly based on the quality of employees we enjoy here at NCU. We are very fortunate having employees that care about the service they provide to our customers. If you have questions or concerns, it is my intention to have an open door to visit.

Please continue to work safely and if something doesn't look right or is unsafe, please let your supervisor know.

GAS & WATER DEPT:

Bryan Turner

Things are really picking up with a little nicer weather, it's giving us hints winter might finally be giving up. The guys have been busy with a lot of various maintenance projects, changing out some leaking valves and working with ME Collins on the water tie-ins and the sewer line for the Viaduct project. We're hoping Yong construction can get started on the Arborview Dr. sewer project soon after more delays, and actually get some pipe in the ground. JEO Engineering is starting to look at upsizing and replacing the 9th St lift station, it's becoming a common occurrence to have to go out in the middle of the night to work on it.

Ron Lechner is currently at school to get his Grade 3 Water Operator's License, and Derek and Kyle are scheduled to take their CDL test this week. Good luck to all!

Congratulations to everyone who has moved to a new position and to our new employees, let's do what we can to help them out. Remember to work safely and wear your protective equipment.



Spring

ELECTRIC DEPT:

Carl Abbott

As winter seems to not go away, we are struggling with how hard to attack construction projects, with the fear of having another delay of rain or snow. The projects that are on the agenda for the summer are accumulating each day. We are getting started on the Nemaha Valley Sub-division in Bennet. Several of the lots are already sold in phases 2 and 3. We have recently installed the underground primary on the west end into 2 sectionals that we installed last fall. We will be terminating them as time allows. We also will have several projects that will take precedence when that time arrives. We will be moving a 3-phase bank for Gavilon Grain, installing infrastructure, transformers, pedestals, and services in the North Star Senior project, and the Cottages at Arbor Links. We will also be doing some street lighting for the North Star project and along the black top road by the new Holiday Inn Motel. We have a couple of retirement jobs to complete in Unadilla and a 1 phase transformer job to build in Bennet. We also will be involved in the rebuild project at sub 904 in Syracuse.

Craig's new Truck # 49 should arrive shortly. We are currently looking at applications for linemen as well. We should have plenty of work for the summer interns, who will be arriving before long. Please do your tailgates and communicate with each other on the projects.

Maintenance on all the trucks and equipment is a huge part of keeping construction progressing, so let's all be good team members and communicate with each other, including the gas and water crews, as we continue to share equipment throughout the company. Nothing is more frustrating than hooking on to a piece of equipment and getting to the job site and the equipment needs to be fixed or will not start. Work Safe. Thank You for your service to NCU and our customers.

LORI NEEMAN:

I would like to welcome Linda Cutler to our Nebraska City Utility family! Please stop over and introduce yourselves or say hello to an old friend.

With our new Payroll Clerk's duties, I would like to remind you to remember to use your "**employee numbers**" on all your paperwork, such as Overtime slips and Time Sheets. It is very helpful when getting them in order and for payroll processing.

Our First Quarter Pension Reports are ready to view online. You may have gotten an email letting you know they are available. If you need assistant, please let me know.

SERVICE DEPT:

Mary Lynn Hall

The month of April has been a challenge regarding our Natural Gas daily estimated usage and daily real usage through the first half of the month. I'm sure we are all more than ready for some spring warmth and sun.

We finally got the Park meters set and connected after a couple of postponements due to the weather. The beginning of May we will begin our gas meter change out program, changing gas meters that have been in service for 15 years or more and will also upgrade the water and electric meters if required.

Locates have been many, keeping our locators busy along with completing their other jobs. It appears that the shifting of offices is making great progress and everyone is getting settled into their new space and administrative roll. Change takes us out of our comfort zone and triggers growth which can trickle down to others. I look forward to working with all of you under new dynamics.

I hope Leroy has enjoyed his first month of R & R and is loving his retirement.

WASTE WATER TREATMENT PLANT:

Scott Shoemaker

SAGA XXVI.....Hello fellow Utetonians once again we are learning what's happening in the wonderful world of Nebraska City Utilities. Seems like time is flying by way too fast. Hope everyone had a nice Easter, seems like it.

Here at the Kingdom we had to run a couple of long days to get caught up. There must have been a sale on lamb and hams. Once again, the Kingdom prevailed and we are back to normal. First off, we finally got Miox in here to fix the Sodium Hypochlorite Generator. They put our new upgraded cell in and with a new mother board and some adjustments it's up and operating. So now boating season can begin.

The Noble Knights are rebuilding the sludge grinder and have installed the new sludge pump. They are also getting rid of the old, and putting in new work benches and shelves for organization. We are now in the twentieth century (lol) give us time we can see the twenty first century just around the corner. The Knights also cleaned out the barn so now we can prepare for spreading season, whenever mother nature turns off the faucet for a while. She has to understand the ground needs nurturing also. So, the farmer's plants can grow with our secret blend.

We wish Leroy a good retirement and also wish Jeff full steam ahead Captain. Here at the Kingdom it's defiantly getting brighter with all the new lighting, thanks again to the Electric crew. Well fellow Utetonains its time to sign off for now, but the saga will continue..... We thank you for your support.

MAY BIRTHDAYS:

Justin Conner 5-08-1984
Jake Coyan 5-08-1990
Jeff Kohrs 5-06-1961
Nate McAlexander 5-08-1976
Lori Neeman 5-12-1962
Sharon Smulling 5-14-1958

May Work Anniversaries:

Mark Francois 5-20-1996
Shawn Gawart 5-06-2006
Mary Lynn Hall 5-30-1995
Ron Heng 5-28-2000
Scott Shoemaker 5-03-2004

NEW EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT:

Hello, my name is Linda Cutler. I am the new Head Cashier and Payroll Clerk. I live in Percival, Iowa. My boyfriend is Sonny Stitt. I have two children Malarie and Jesse. I also have a beautiful grandson Conor Elshire. I have two dogs Bully, a Boston Bulldog and Daisy, an old English Bulldog. My hobbies include crafting, sewing, crocheting, making signs and t-shirt designs.

WATER PLANT:

Mark Lant

Hello NCU family from us here at the Water Treatment Plant. Hopefully, you are all enjoying the occasional spring like day that has been getting thrown in here and there. It seems that a lot of change is happening with the staff here at the Utilities, and I would like to take a moment to Thank everyone for all that they do here. With so many changes taking place it can be challenging, but from what I have seen everyone seems to be doing a great job. So, congratulations to everyone as they make their transitions into their new positions. Up here at the Plant we have welcomed on Shane Bassinger as our new Water Operator/in Training. We are excited to have him here and look forward to having him as part of our team. Shane is 39 years old and has spent most of his life here in Nebraska City. Previously to working here, he was employed at O'Reilly Auto Parts and worked as an Assistant Manager. Spending time with Reed, his 8 year old son is his favorite pastime. Stay Safe everyone and Be Blessed!





Congratulations to Jonathan and Kalea (Molloy) Neeman of Auburn, on the birth of their daughter Margo Maureen Neeman. She was born March 24th, 2018 weighing 7lbs and 13oz and was 19 $\frac{3}{4}$ " long. Proud Grandparents are Lonnie and Lori Neeman and Dan and Patricia Molloy all of Nebraska City.