

# THE UTE LETTER

244 Edition of the Nebraska City Utilities News

April 2019

## FROM THE DESK OF JEFF KOHRS:

After the historic flood of 2011 I really didn't think we'd see another flood of that magnitude for a long, long time. Eight short years later we saw river levels nearly two (2) feet higher than we saw in 2011. **Historic Crests recorded in Nebraska City:**

(1) 30.15 ft	on 03/16/2019
(2) 28.27 ft	on 06/28/2011
(3) 27.19 ft	on 07/23/1993
(4) 26.57 ft	on 04/18/1952
(5) 25.21 ft	on 06/21/2010

The river level is currently around 20-21 feet, and we're being told that the river level could run high most of the summer. Could be a long summer for lots of folks.

Work continues at the Waste Water Treatment Plant. Jerry, Nate, Sonny, and John are working; pulling pumps, motors, controllers, and meters and cleaning the plant. It may be a couple of weeks before the plant is back to somewhat normal operation. Thanks guys for working hard to get that accomplished.

April 8<sup>th</sup> was Electric Utility Line Worker's Appreciation Day observed in Nebraska. The Mayor read a proclamation at the City Council meeting the night of April 1<sup>st</sup>. That same night the City Council approved new electric and natural gas rates. The overall change in rates was revenue neutral. What is different is that now there will be separate lines on the bill for a city franchise fee for both the electric and natural gas.

The City implemented a transfer fee that was included in the rates dating back to 2007. This is a way to have the fees itemized on the billing statement.

Work continues on unit #7 at Plant Site #2 in Syracuse. This will be a good project to finish up and complete.

Sounds like all the holes in the streets have been repaired from the water main breaks that occurred this past winter.

Thanks to everyone that helped make my first year as GM as smooth as it was. I appreciate everyone's hard work and dedication to providing excellent customer service to all of 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.

Please remember to work safe and let's be careful out there.

**OPERATIONS SUPERINTENDENT:**

Dan Patton

THE FLOOD IS THE BIG ISSUE, everyone is working to get everything back to as close to normal as possible. We still has lot of issue to address and repair at our Waste Water Treatment Facility, which is moving forward as quickly as possible.

The Tree Crew, Rob and Jake are clearing right-of-way and trimming from 903 West Line to Dunbar, Otoe, Syracuse, Lorton and Talmage. They have some work to do for the Arbor Day Foundation on some of their properties also.

The power plants that NCU are partners in, OPPD NC2 and WEC2 both are back online and running with few issues, they both have had some wet coal issues, along with receiving coal to their sites with the flood issues on the Railroads Tracks. NCU Power Plant staff is working on completing unit # 7 at Plant Site # 2 in Syracuse, making necessary repairs and maintenance. This unit will be complete soon, then testing and running unit to finish the project.

Gary and Mike are still working on communications issues, on the new SCADA system at the WTP and WWTP, on the documentations, and drawings. They both have been looking at and designing new communications for monitoring more of our sites, to get up to date information. Mike has been completed the working with the power plant staff on controls for both unit #11 and #12.

The 904 Substation Upgrade is completed and is energized, suppling power again to the West Line to all of our communities and rural customers along the way. The contractor has a few items/ punch list to complete when the weather cooperates.

Spring has hopefully arrived, so we can get on the many projects that all the departments have going on this year and probably more to come.

Please everyone practice safety every day, communicate and ask questions at tailgate meetings, also use the safety equipment we have and watch out for each other.

**ELECTRIC DEPT:**

Carl Abbott

The construction period is in high gear with many projects already started and requesting electrical service. The work scheduling this summer is going to be extremely challenging. Evergreens Place in Bennet wants to immediately develop 5 lots of his proposed 41 lot sub-division. We also have a line extension for 2 sold lots in Deer Valley Trail sub-division in Bennet, as well another line extension in Bennet for 2 lots that have never been developed in the Original Bush Pines Addition.

The final Phase in the Nemaha Valley Sub-Division in Bennet is also ready. We have a couple large projects in Palmyra with the new sports Complex and the upgrade of service to the city park from single phase construction to three. We also have a line extension to a new acreage south of Palmyra, and a couple new homes in Palmyra. We have line extensions west of Nebr. City and Douglas, and many underground services in our service area. We will have a large amount of work to do on the 4th Corso viaduct, and 3 new circuits to pull new conductors and terminate in Subs 902 and 903. I would like to encourage everyone to get your vacation requests in early. Hopefully, everyone will find some time away to spend with your families

**GAS & WATER DEPT:**

Bryan Turner

Welcome to Spring in Nebraska. 70 degrees one day, snow the next and everyone wants their stuff done yesterday. At least we're finally having some nice days and the projects can get started.

Dan and his crew have been busy out at Arbor Links installing the gas lines to the new cottages and turning gas valves on the not so nice days. Ron's crew has fixed all the holes in the streets caused by water leaks this winter, turning valves, and working in the trailer courts running gas lines and cutting some off. Brad has been crazy busy with locates and helping over at 4<sup>th</sup> Corso every time they find a new line they can't identify, figuring out what it is, and getting it cut out of the way with help from the crews. John has been busy getting business survey completed, taking odorant readings, and getting his CP readings.

It's good to have Shawn back in the Meter Shop. With spring here, a lot of meters are going out with some upcoming project research and ordering meters for the projects has become very important. Shawn has dived right back in. Even though the WWTP is down the rest of the sewer system is not and Tommy has been staying on top of a lot of issues with the flooding and the lift stations. Root problems in one of our sewer mains kept him busy with help from some of the guys and making sure the new station at 9<sup>th</sup> Street is performing as it should. Everyone has done an outstanding job with all of the issues from the flood and I can't thank everyone enough from all of the departments for all of their hard work and help. Remember to always work safe and look out for one another.

**WATER PLANT:**

Mark Lant

Hello NCU Family from us here at the Water Plant. The weather is starting to warm up so we are sure enjoying the Sunshine, and we are thankful that despite the flooding that we have been able to remain operational.

We have been keeping busy here at the plant as usual with maintenance items. A Big thanks to Dan Maddox, Kory White, and Brian Spurlock for their help in the A-Upflow unit with the installation of our new Deaeration box. Also, a thank you to Brian Spurlock for his help on various other repairs here at the plant where we are getting rid of parts that rust and replacing them with aluminum that will hopefully last the test of time.

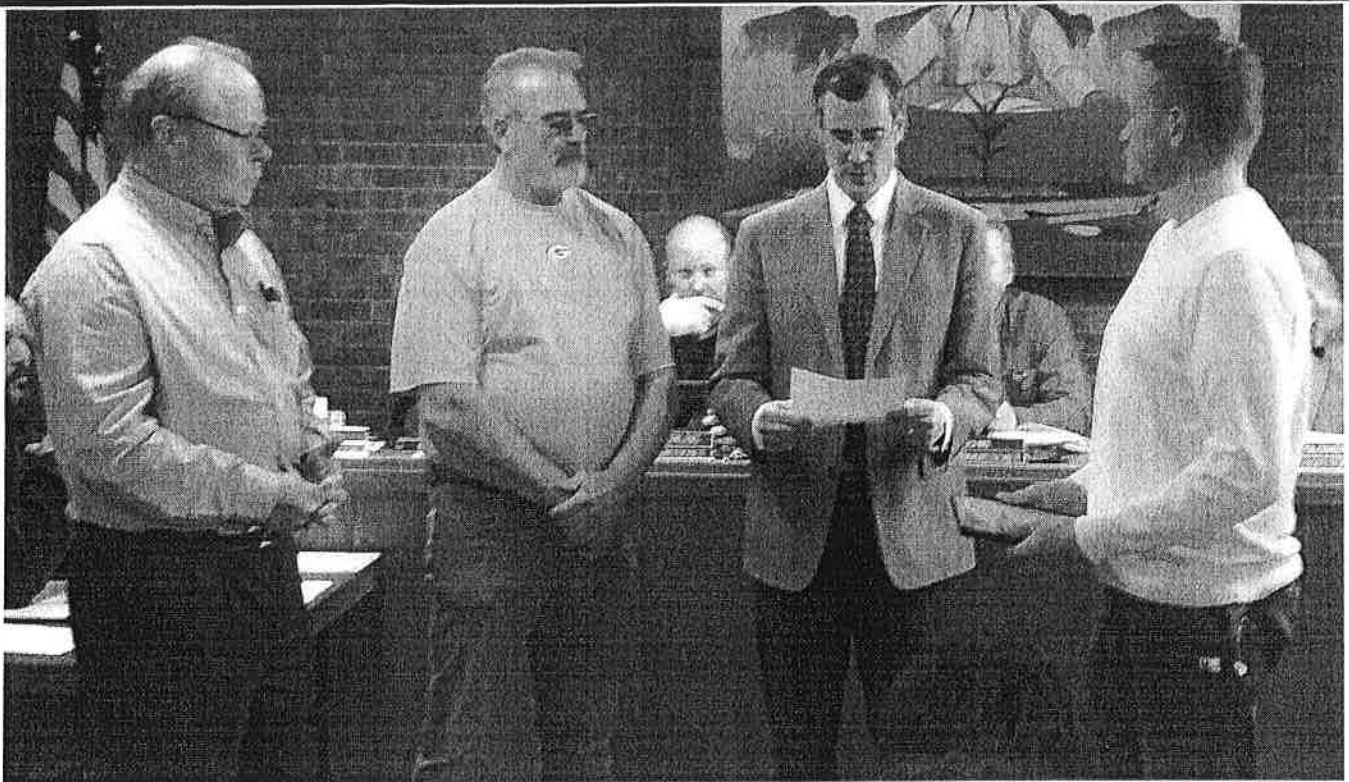
I'd like to take a moment to say a prayer for all of the communities that our hurting because of the flooding and would like to thank God for showing his Grace through all of the efforts and kindness of so many people. Many hands do in fact make light work. Be Blessed my Friends and have a great rest of the month.

**MAY BIRTHDAYS:**

Justin Conner	5-08-84
Jake Coyan	5-08-90
Jeff Kohrs	5-06-61
Nate McAlexander	5-08-76
Lori Neeman	5-12-62
Doug Rubey	5-10-90
Sharon Smulling	5-14-58

**MAY WORK ANNIVERSARIES:**

Mark Francois	5-20-96
Shawn Gawart	5-06-06
Jon Griebe	5-21-18
Mary Lynn Hall	5-30-95
Ron Heng	5-28-00
Doug Rubey	5-16-18



4-1-19 Presentation of Utility Safety Award

## **IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER**

**Continuum Stress Management and Resiliency training**  
Rowe Memorial Public Safety Complex  
CONTINUUM SIGN UP SHEET  
**TUESDAY, APRIL 30, 2019 - 9:00 a.m. or 10:15 a.m.**

**MUTUAL OF OMAHA**  
**PENSION REVIEWS & INFORMATION PRESENTATION**  
**MONDAY, APRIL 29, 2019**  
SESSION INFORMATION WILL BE SENT TO SUPERVISORS  
AS SOON AS TIMES ARE SCHEDULED

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO CHANGE YOUR TAX WITHHOLDINGS  
FOR 2019 – PLEASE SEE PAYROLL CLERK TO COMPLETE A NEW  
**W-4 FORM 2019**