

# THE UTE LETTER

247 Edition of the Nebraska City Utilities News

July 2019

## FROM THE DESK OF JEFF KOHRS:

I wanted to recognize John James for his years serving on the Board of Public Works. John served from 2003-2019. Thanks for all your time and energy John. Jon Borer was appointed by the Mayor and approved by City Council to fill John's vacancy. Welcome Jon.

Work continues at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Nearly everything is back together, although a big concern is the river level. We're wanting to be sure that the river remains at a level that won't impact the plant and take it out again. Thanks guys for your continued work at the plant.

Department Superintendents met with FEMA recently. FEMA wanted to get an idea of the damage that was done by the flooding and the work that was done to repair and help mitigate additional damage to our infrastructure. We will be meeting with them in person or on the phone weekly to keep them informed of any additional damage that we discover when the water finally recedes and the additional resources that will be required to restore everything to pre-flood condition. We hope that in the end we are able to recover some of the costs that we have incurred due to this flood event. Please continue to document and provide detail whenever you're working on flood related projects. A picture can be a big help also. This will help our chances of receiving reimbursement for our expenses.

Don't forget to take advantage of the museum pass program this summer. If you're looking for something to do there a ten (10) different museums and/or visitor centers to see in and around Nebraska City. They're all free to you and your immediate family if you have a 68410 zip code. This free pass runs, I believe, thru Halloween.

Have you ever donated blood or thought about donating? It generally takes about an hour of your time. If you're interested, the next opportunity is July 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Eagle's Club. I can try to get you more information if you'd like. Remember to work safely and let's be careful out there.

## SERVICE DEPT:

Mary Lynn Hall

The Service Dept has been staying busy with daily service work, locates, customer service requests and whatever else may come our way. It's summertime so days of vacation are being used and we appreciate the help from other departments to cover our work during those times.

Our 2019 gas meter change out program has come to a stop due to the postponement of Honeywell building our gas meters for the program. We were to have our order towards the end of June but now they aren't even building them until the end of July (hopefully the order won't be postponed again). I hope everyone had a wonderful July 4<sup>th</sup> and continue to enjoy summertime!

## **SUPERINTENDENT OF OPERATIONS:**

Dan Patton

The flood water is still high, everyone is working to get everything back to as close to normal as possible. There will be more issues appear after the water recedes and we can inspect all of our assets. Those will be corrected as soon as we can get to those areas to make any repairs needed. Please keep good records of our work and materials used in each of the departments and take photos where possible on the Flood Damage for FEMA.

We still have some issue to address and repair at our Waste Water Treatment Facility, but a lot of those have been addressed, those are moving forward as quickly as possible. We are still monitoring the river levels, watching and reviewing Corp of Engineers flows being release, forecast on the upstream control Dams and looking out into the future forecast of the areas weather predictions.

The Tree Crew, Rob and Jake are clearing right-of-way and trimming from 903 West Line from Dunbar South to Lorton and Talmage. They have some work to do for the Arbor Day Foundation, City Street Dept. and on some of our properties also. They have been trying to stay ahead of the weeds, foliage, and grasses on our properties, but this has been a battle this year with all of the moisture.

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 has had some setbacks on completing unit # 7 at Plant Site # 2 in Syracuse, and making necessary repairs. This unit will be complete soon, when they complete the testing and running of the unit.

Gary and Mike are still working on communications issues, on the new SCADA system at the WTP and WWTP, on the documentations, and drawings.

This project has been in the works for some time, but it has had many interruptions for other issues that keep coming up on a daily basis.

They both have been looking at and designing new communications for monitoring of our sites, backup systems, which will assist us in getting up to date information. Mike has been working with the power plant staff on controls on (5) units to monitor each unit operationally with new annunciator panels and controls.

Summer is upon us, so we are working on the many projects, all the departments have a large amount of work scheduled for 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.

We have six (6) summer helpers working in some of the departments this year, doing mowing at our sites, at our plants, and working with the crews out on projects as needed. Some are interns in the electrical department, others are working with crews, and working at our treatment plants. Some of them have worked here before and have returned for another summer before going back to college or they will be some looking to get full time jobs out there in the real world after this summer work is over this season.

Thanks everyone for working safely and together in all of our utility projects.

## **STORES DEPT:**

Sharon Smulling

Happy summer from the Stores Department. Things are heating up out there. We have cooling towels and Sqwincher to help with the heat. Come see us if you need some relief.

Tony will be retiring at the end of August 😞. Of course, he doesn't want a party or anything like that. So, please take time to say goodbye to him. He will be missed.

**ELECTRIC DEPT:**

Carl Abbott

The summer heat has arrived along with a back log of jobs we have struggled to manage with the wet start of summer. The men are working on some larger installation projects at Hidden Falls and Palmyra Sports Complex. The 4<sup>th</sup> Corso viaduct has finally opened, and we will be doing some major construction to get the East loop and South line feeder to the Kearney Hill Sub re-constructed. Many of the underground services for the construction projects are also starting to come in.

I want to thank the guys that worked on the morning of the 4<sup>th</sup> of July to help us out on the viaduct project. The job was very well planned and looks great. I also really want to thank all the guys for their work and the efforts made to complete the jobs in a timely manner. Keep up the good work.

Please get your vacation schedules turned in, with as much advance notice for time off as possible, due to the heavy volume of work we have going on. PLEASE WORK SAFE AND FIND TIME TO SPEND WITH YOUR FAMILIES.

**GAS & WATER DEPT:**

Bryan Turner

Well the temperatures tell us summer is here but so does the river stage. We've been having some breaks in the rain, so things are starting to really move. Ron's crew has been busy at the 7<sup>th</sup> St project. That one looks like we're going to be busy moving things the whole way. They also had to replace a fire hydrant taken out by an upset driver. (Lesson there, Don't Drive Angry!) Dan's crew has been busy splitting up and helping at the Sewer, Power Plant, and the Border Stations. Next week they will be starting on a water main extension and hydrant installation.

Locates have been coming in fast and furious so Brad has been running all over the country keeping up. John has been walking Syracuse every chance he gets, he also set up a Drill with OPPD at the Plant for everyone to be familiar with the operation down there. Tom has been cleaning a lot of sewers with the help of Derek lately and maintaining the Lift Stations. Shawn has been busy testing and rebuilding meters in the shop, helping change out a meter at Border 3, and getting the new Corrector ready for out at the Tap.

A reminder to be very conscious of the kids out of school for the summer running around and to stay hydrated in this hot weather and let's pray the river goes down and stays down for a while.

**WATER PLANT:**

Mark Lant

Hello NCU Family from us here at the Water Plant. It has been a busy month for everyone I'm sure, and the heat is finally kicking in and is feeling like Summer. Here at the Plant we have kept busy with trips to the Wellfield to keep the water pumping. A very special thanks to Todd Fleck for being Super Awesome. He has been willing to help transport us back and forth at a moments' notice and his desire to serve is much appreciated! He always shows up prepared and ready to go.

Also, a Big thanks to Gary Bolin for his help in getting our (Keep Full) mode operational for our H.S Pumps. It allows us to Keep the Water tower filled by using the VFD controls on our H.S pumps to maintain whatever flow is necessary to keep the tower level at whatever level we desire. He helped us out at the wells to change out a bad VFD Drive at well #8. We had lost the ability to run well #11 awhile back and we were also able to diagnose and get it back up and running so we are thankful for that.

The Guys here at the plant continue to keep the water flowing uptown and are always keeping busy with the day to day projects we have going on here. We hope that you are all doing well, and we appreciate all that you do in your respective fields. Stay Safe, Stay Cool, and keep up the good work! Be Blessed!!

**AUGUST BIRTHDAYS:**

Tony Chaney	8-16-49
Kyle Connell	8-27-78
Sharon Crunk	8-07-56
Mary Lynn Hall	8-08-58
Christopher Meredith	8-10-89
Adam Schlorholtz	8-25-84

**AUGUST WORK ANNIVERSARIES:**

Rockie Bassinger	8-16-85
Tony Chaney	8-16-04
Todd Fleck	8-05-91
Al Harker	8-06-78
Derek Walters	8-01-17



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# 3<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL “THE GENERAL” GOLF OUTING

Join us for NCU's 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual “The General” golf outing at Wildwood Golf Course! This will be a day for us to come out and enjoy a nice, relaxing day of golf and fellowship. We won't keep score, but we will draw for winners. Tournament will be open to all current or former employees and spouses, so help spread the word.

Question??? Contact John Hodges (402-209-2233) or Brad Kingery (402-650-1425)

**Saturday,  
August 17th**

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**18 holes**

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**2-Person Teams**

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**Cold Beverages**

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**Good Times**

**WILDWOOD  
GOLF COURSE**

Social Hour: 9 - 10

Tee Off: 10 am

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\$25/person for

Cart and Golf

Lunch Provided