

# THE UTE LETTER

249 Edition of the Nebraska City Utilities News

October 2019

## FROM THE DESK OF JEFF KOHRS:

A couple of our employees recently retired and I wanted to thank them for their years of service for NCU. Jim Palmer began working for the utilities at the Power Plant in June 1996. Jim recently had gone to a part time capacity to help fill in some of the gaps with scheduling. Jim's last day at NCU was August 24, 2019. Tony Chaney began working for the utilities in August 2004. Tony's last day at NCU was September 6, 2019. Thanks Jim and Tony for your service and contribution that helped make NCU a true asset for our community. We wish you both well as you begin your retirement years.

To that I'd like to welcome Travis Peterson who filled a position at the Power Plant back in May and Dan Hopper who is the new Warehouse Person. I hope you both have long, successful careers with NCU.

We had a great crowd for Applejack. The weather was spotty at times, but overall seemed to work out for most of the events. Thanks to everyone that helped, whether it was hooking up the electric or water for the vendors or pitching in wherever asked. It's cooperation and assistance by NCU employees that helps events like this be a huge success for our community.

Mayor Bequette read a proclamation at the October 7<sup>th</sup> City Council meeting, recognizing the week of October 6<sup>th</sup> thru October 12<sup>th</sup> as Public Power and Public Natural Gas week. Mike Tellez, John Hodges, and Bryan Turner were present at that meeting and were introduced and represented the Gas Department.

Jerry Osborn, Chris Meredith, and Carl Abbott were also present, representing the Electric Department and were introduced as well. Rob Schreiner and Public Works Commissioner Davis were also present. Thanks guys, for giving up some of your evening to attend this meeting. Thanks Karen, for organizing the display tables and refreshments for the week.

Please consider donating to United Way or Community Health Charities of Nebraska. These organizations give back to many programs and organizations in our community. You can do a onetime contribution or through the year as a payroll deduction. It all makes a difference.

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



**ELECTRIC DEPT:**

Carl Abbott

The Electric Department has been very busy working jobs between rainy weather and muddy conditions. We have pretty much cleaned up a lot of the one-day small jobs and really need time to concentrate on some of the larger jobs before the snow flies.

The 4th Corso viaduct is completed except the retirement of some poles and fixtures when TV and Telephone have completed. The project really looks good and will benefit NCU for many years. We have a couple of underground line extensions and 10 underground services to install before the ground freezes. May need a little help from Mother Nature.

It appears the weather is a lot like our football season is going. It may not be pretty and a little sloppy, but we will figure it out before hell freezes over and we play IOWA. (I HOPE).

Please get your vacations, fishing, hunting, and Holidays time offs on the calendar. Please work safely.

**SERVICE DEPT:**

Mary Lynn Hall

Al, Ken, Shawn and Kathy have done a great job working as a team and completing the gas meter change out program for this year 2019! We have already looked into the 2020 change out list and are preparing for it when that time arrives.

The temperatures have dropped noticeably, so our customers have been calling to reconnect their gas to be able to fire up those heat sources.

Our department has been in a learning curve with the new 811 changes. I think we all are liking the new ways of handling locates, it's just getting all the wrinkles ironed out.

This is a beautiful time of year so take time to notice and enjoy. Please be careful on Oct 31<sup>st</sup> when all those little are on the streets Trick or Treating.

**GAS & WATER DEPT:**

Bryan Turner

Well it looks like we might stay dry for a little while rain wise although it's going to be cooler, but river wise not good at all ☹️.

The crews have been very busy with our different projects, Ron's crew has been working on 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue every chance we get to eliminate the old cast iron main and other job's as they come up. Dan's crew has finished a part of a main replacement on 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue and will now head out to the country to start replacing a mile of 3" steel. Tommy and Mike have been taking care of the hydrant flushing and are nearing completion. Brad has been working hard on getting the new tablets set up and familiarizing everyone necessary on how to use them. John has been covering a lot of territory from mowing, helping the crews, and taking his readings. Shawn has been busy testing meters, getting others set up for installation, and working on a backflow device at the WWTP. Ken has nearly completed his gas meter change outs for the year, reading meters, doing locates, and helping the crews when they're working out west.

With the change in weather there will be a new set of safety concerns to pay attention to so let's be careful out there.

**STORES DEPT:**

Sharon Smulling

**Pig out day will be on Friday Dec 6<sup>th</sup>.**

Also, we will be sending out information concerning the United Way drive for 2020. Please look for information in your paychecks.

**WATER PLANT:**

Mark Lant

Hello NCU Family and Happy October!!! We hope that you are all doing well, and I'm sure everyone is feeling the same sense of urgency to get things done as we start to feel some cooler weather.

We finished power washing the top of the Clearwell and it took approximately 32 hours to complete. Next Spring when things heat back up, we will be putting a fresh coat of Sealant on the Clearwell roof.

Both Shane and Steve took some much deserved, vacation time recently and we had the Honor of having Cathy Meyer back to fill in while they were away. She continues to do a great job and is appreciated greatly.

On the River front not much has changed. The River Stage is still up over 21 ft as I type this and so access to the wellfield is still difficult, but Todd Fleck continues to be a great captain when he is called upon...Thank you Todd!

We Have made sure all the Plant heaters are ready to go and are gearing up for Winter maintenance. Enjoy the rest of the month everyone, have a great Halloween and stay safe out there.

**NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS:**

Linda Cutler	11-11-63
Mona Kuhlenengel	11-14-64
Mark Lant	11-22-77
Jeff Lollmann	11-13-85
Karen Tift	11-10-64
Kory White	11-01-82

**NOVEMBER WORK ANNIVERSARIES:**

Casey Borer	11-01-17
Kevin Grundman	11-20-78
Chris Koperski	11-07-11
Ron Lechner	11-26-01
Jerry Osborn	11-12-01
Frank Stidd	11-16-01
Kory White	11-17-14
Jerry Whitehead	11-14-18

**Please contact the Service Dept. if you are a Veteran so we may pay tribute to you in the November edition... thank you!**