

# THE UTE LETTER

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April 2021

## FROM THE DESK OF JEFF KOHRS:

As I mentioned last month, we had some retirement announcements. In addition, Howard has announced he will be retiring after the first of the year. We have had some internal transfers that have taken place. Stuart Abbott has been promoted to the Electric Superintendent position and will take over when Carl retires. Adam Schlorholtz has been promoted to Electric Line Foreman and Dan Hopper will be taking over the Electric Meter Technician position when Howard retires.

Bobby Haneline has been hired as an Assistant Operator at the Power Plant. Please welcome Bobby as he starts his career with NCU.

Employees that opted to receive the COVID-19 vaccine received their second shots on March 31<sup>st</sup>. For those employees that didn't get the vaccine but later chose to get vaccinated if you would please let me know. I'm not releasing any names of those that did or didn't get the vaccine. I just want to have an accurate count/percentage if asked.

Please watch the spending in your respective departments. I asked everyone last month to do that and I continue to ask that purchases be made for necessary items only.

As of this writing we have sent out all three cycles of billing statements. Thanks to everyone in the business office and service department for all your hard work on this project. This took lots of extra hours and hard work to put all of this together. You all did a great job!!

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

## ELECTRIC DEPT:

Carl Abbott

The quick change to spring weather, and the rain has really increased the push into the construction season. It will be a very busy summer. We have continued to make progress on the Hy-Vee construction site and have recently started on the Electric charging station. We have also been able to sneak in a couple small work orders and some services.

Recent changes in the Electric Department have given many opportunities for everyone in our department. I am very excited and happy for everyone. A small company sometimes is not always opportunistic for everyone to advance, but it is always opportunistic to become the best that you can be. I want to Congratulate Stuart Abbott for being selected as our next Electric Department Superintendent. I also want to congratulate Logan Crunk and Adam Schlorholtz for being selected as our 2 new foremen. All three of these guys are very deserving and respected by everyone.

After watching these three guys work together on many projects as co-workers, not only on the same crews, but also as two crews working together, I am confident and excited to watch them continue to build the future of this department. Their ability to teach, train, and communicate will continue to provide the opportunity for our younger guys to grow into their future roles. Perhaps leaders someday. Changes will always bring challenges, but also brings rewards. Good teams have a captain, but a captain has nothing without a team. Guys I have been blessed to be a part of your team.

## **GAS & WATER DEPT:**

Bryan Turner

It's a new Month and the projects are really starting to get going. Both crews are busy working on water mains, gas line installations, cut offs, and leaks. We did get our annual gas valve maintenance complete. John finished up business survey with occasional help from the crews. John was also able to take Mitch along and do the distribution line patrol. Soon as the winds calm down some, Ron and his guys will start Transmission leak survey.

Johnson Service company was just here, they did rehabilitation work to some of our manholes to stop the inflow of ground water into our system. We are supposed to be getting delivery of our new trencher this week, we look forward to getting it out and start using it. We should be getting close to starting the South 3<sup>rd</sup> Street Lift Station replacement project, Van Kirk Construction should be taking delivery of the new equipment this week. As soon as we have confirmation, we will install the new force main for the station.

Brad's been keeping up with his locates, he's also been setting up some new equipment for the GIS system. Shawn's been getting meters ready for the summer change out program which will be starting soon. Ken's also getting ready for the change outs and assisting the crews when they are out his way. As always let's be careful out there and keep an eye out for one another.



## **WATER PLANT:**

Mark Lant

Hello NCU Family and Friends, and a Happy April to you all. I am sure by now you are all enjoying some of this great weather that we have had.

As I am typing this out both Casey Borer and Shane Bassinger are sitting in their grade 3 class in Grand Island. Steve plans on going back to school in August to take a crack at the Grade 1 course as well. I hope they all enjoy their break from the regular routine and know how much they are appreciated here. Cathy has been filling in while they are away and it nice to have her back at the Water Plant.

Things are going well here at the plant. Both the A and B Clarifiers have been cleaned and are back in service. Also, a big thank you to Rob Schreiner and Ryan Worthey for helping beautify the water tower with our Summer ornaments!

Thank you Everyone for all that you do. Continue to Work Safely my Friends and BE BLESSED!

## **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
Doug Rubey	5-10-1990
Sharon Smulling	5-14-1958

## **MAY WORK ANNIVERSARIES:**

Shawn Gawart	5-06-2006
Jon Griebe	5-21-2018
Mary Lynn Hall	5-30-1995
Ron Heng	5-28-2000
Travis Peterson	5-01-2019
Doug Rubey	5-16-2018