

THE UTE LETTER

265 Edition of the Nebraska City Utilities News

January 2021

FROM THE DESK OF JEFF KOHRS:

On the COVID front: I have inquired as to whether there is any additional news on when we will be receiving the vaccine. No word yet, but I'll send out a mass email to all employees when I get an update. Even after we are given the vaccine, we will need to remain vigilant using all the precautions that we can. Not all our employees opted to receive the vaccine and there will be a segment of the general population that will choose not to get vaccinated. Those that get the shot may have the added protection but could still potentially be a carrier and could spread the disease to someone else. Please mask up, practice social distancing whenever possible, and wash up regularly.

We have hired two new employees to NCU. Seth Kerwin was hired as an assistant operator at the power plant and Ryan Worthey was hired on the tree crew. Welcome guys. Please make them feel at home. We still have a couple of positions to fill in the electric department and gas and water department.

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

ELECTRIC DEPT:

Carl Abbott

Most people are excited to get the year 2020 behind us. It has really been a challenging year. The new year 2021 will bring some significant changes in personnel, GIS mapping, and large construction projects for residential developments, along with Grain elevators, and new businesses.

I would like to welcome Kory White, Jake Walters, and Travis Peterson to the Electric Department. We are excited to have three NCU in-house transfers that are great employees. They have knowledge of our system, are hard workers, and they want to explore new careers in our department. We also are interviewing candidates for other expected vacancies.

Lots of patience and training will be needed to strengthen our work force. I would like to encourage everyone to work safely and to take extra time explaining and guiding our new employees. Tailgates should be an everyday experience. I also would like to encourage the new guys to ask questions and try to get a grasp on the value of hands-on training. We have already started working on climbing. Everyday gets easier if you do it rather than watch others do it. Safety is #1 Everyday.

GAS & WATER DEPT:

Bryan Turner

It's the start of a new year and so far so good, and looking forward to a brighter future. The weather has been typical for January, the guys have been clearing snow after the bad weather and working on things in the warehouse. Ron's guys are working on a short gas main extension to serve a home and a couple of lots for future use. Dan and Brian spent a couple of days recently working on the regulators at Border 3 and will be installing a new corrector out there soon.

It's the time of year we start getting our recertifications and OQ done, Brad and John have been busy getting ready for that. Brad has also been working on our public awareness survey and so far, we have had a good response. Tommy and Derek have been busy making sure sewage keeps running up hill as a couple of the lift stations have had some minor issues. We're hoping to hear soon, about when we can expect the installation of the new station equipment on the S. 3rd Street lift station to begin.

Shawn's been staying busy testing meters and dealing with a couple meter issues out in the system, and he will be helping with the corrector at Border 3. Ken has been busy with locates, reading meters, and helping out when the guys go west. I hope everyone had a good New Years and let's remember to be careful out there.

WATER PLANT:

Mark Lant

Hello and Welcome NCU Family to 2021. It's my Hope that you all enjoyed your Christmas and New Years'. I believe it's important to enjoy those moments in time, and to reflect on all we are grateful for.

Kicking off the New year at the Plant there is always a little extra paperwork, and we are still in the process of cleaning out our A side Clarifier. The Guys are doing a great job operating and things have been running smoothly.

Casey and Shane are planning on taking their grade 3 water operator course in April. The class will be held in Grand Island pending nothing changes between now and then. To all of you licensed water operators remember that your licenses will expire on Dec 31, 2021. Make sure you take advantage of any classes available to attain the required 10 credit hours before the end of this year.

Have a great January everyone, work safe, play safe, and let's start this New Year off well!

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS:

Ron Heng	2-19-65
Miki Van Renan	2-06-61

FEBRUARY WORK ANNIVERSARIES:

Stuart Abbott	2-13-06
Gary Bolin	2-25-08
Elaine Boyer	2-10-14
Todd Chaney	2-22-85
Travis Conner	2-15-08
Jeff Kohrs	2-06-84
Kathy Lechner	2-13-08