

THE UTE LETTER

269 Edition of the Nebraska City Utilities News

May 2021

FROM THE DESK OF JEFF KOHRS:

Virgil (Bud) Fox Jr. passed away April 21st. Bud was a former employee and worked for NCU for a little over 26 years. Bud worked in the electric department mainly as an equipment operator.

With our summer help and interns coming to work for us this summer, please make sure that they are working in a safe environment. We want all of our employees, parttime and fulltime, to be safe and to be able to work in a manner that allows everyone to return home at the end of every workday.

We are still feeling the effects of the extremely high electric costs that we experienced in February. All departments, please watch your spending. Order and purchase only what is necessary.

We are looking at opening up the offices to the general public. We don't have a definite date yet. We are continuing to monitor the COVID numbers for our community. This has been a long year and then some. We will try to return to some level of normalcy soon. Thanks for everyone's patience and cooperation in trying to keep everyone safe.

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

ELECTRIC DEPT:

Carl Abbott

With anticipation of summer months comes along with the need for all of us to be on the caution side, due to the dismissal of school, graduations, along with extra outdoor activities and distractions. The safety of our co-workers and the general public sometimes, becomes a take for granted Position. NCU employees are some of the most visible professionals within our community, people are always curious about what is happening, all this big equipment, traffic obstructions, manpower, and etc. Please use provided safety equipment, barricades, flag men, and whatever is necessary to provide safe job sites.

The electric department is going to have a very busy work schedule this summer. The Studio Town Homes have started, the Hyvee Store project is rapidly moving forward, Talmage Elevator expansion is on schedule for completion by August, and we recently started some work on the Evergreens sub-division in Bennet. I really appreciate the flexibility of our men and our crews, and their abilities to adjust to the jobs and willingness to work together. Your expertise really shines.

As the summer months will be challenging to stay on schedule, please get your vacations and time off on the calendars. This will help us schedule our jobs. Please request time off for comp and unexpected events in advance. Last minute call ins and changes can be challenging in the middle of projects. Being flexible is the ability to adjust, but also can produce stress on your co-workers. I truly believe the transitioning in our department is a very positive outlook for the department, and you can be proud of each of your accomplishments. Keep up the good work!

GAS & WATER DEPT:

Bryan Turner

Well, it looks like construction season is here. The weather has been cooperating for the most part. Ron's crew has finished our annual leak survey of the transmission main, and everything looks good there. Dan's crew has been bouncing around cutting off services to condemned houses and has bored in the new force main for the 3rd St. Lift Station. Work has begun on the 3rd St Lift Station replacement they are hoping to have it completed in about a week.

We've also started work on the installation of the new CNG fill station, it will be great to have that in so all of the CNG trucks can start using it. Tommy and Derek have started our spring hydrant flushing and so far, it is proceeding well. Ken has been busy with meter change outs in Syracuse and hopes to have all of the gas meters converted to radio read soon. Shawn has been busy testing meters and keeping Ken and Al supplied with meters for the change outs. Brad has been busy with locates and working on the mapping as a lot of things are being put in the ground right now. John has been working on his CP readings and it looks like we're going to be putting a few anodes in the ground soon.

School will be out soon so there will be a lot more kids out running around so let's keep an eye out for them, and as always let's be careful out there.

JUNE BIRTHDAYS:

Shane Bassinger	6-26-78
Scott Betts	6-06-72
Gary Bohlin	6-02-72
Todd Fleck	6-25-65
Shawn Gawart	6-22-80
Brad Kingery	6-13-74
Dan Patton	6-23-57
Aaron Stuck	6-17-83
Teresa Runkles	6-01-59

WORK ANNIVERSARIES:

Scott Betts	6-05-07
John Hodges	6-01-99
Dan Maddox	6-04-01
Tom Walters	6-11-90

****NEW EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT****

Welcome to Robert Haneline. He is a new Assistant Operator at the Power Plant. He served in the Army. His past work experience includes, Ariens and Superior Sales. He has four children: Gracelynn age 7, Felicity age 2, Zane age 1, and Callum age 2 weeks.

Let's all give him a warm welcome into the NCU family!