

PUBLIC WORKS & UTILITIES

PAVING THE WAY FOR A BRIGHTER FUTURE BY EDUCATING, ENGAGING AND EMPOWERING OUR EMPLOYEES.

February / March 2014

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<http://lincoln.ne.gov/city/pworks/docs/newsletter/>

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF...

Fleet Services Team keeps you moving to keep Lincoln moving.

Fleet Services was established in 1977 as Equipment Management (*sometimes referred to as Mainstem due to the Information System used*). In addition to the name change, it has gone through consolidations with the Parks and Recreation Department and Public Utilities, increased the fleet from 300 to 900 units and reduced staff from 11 mechanics to nine technicians. Fleet Services now uses a state-of-the-art information system driven by a comprehensive preventive maintenance program. Its well-trained staff is housed in a modern, well-designed facility and is dedicated to maximizing the productive life of equipment.

Technicians never have a "normal" workday. As a service-oriented operation, staff schedules are driven by customer needs and/or emergencies. They work with over 65 classes of equipment and over 100 brands. With advances in technology and systems, technicians take on tasks that did not exist a few years earlier.

Sign Shop keeps Lincoln safely moving in the right direction.

With six full-time and three seasonal employees, the Sign Shop achieves quality results with limited staff. They fabricate and maintain 36,000 signs across the City. They also paint about 200 miles of street striping every year. Staff also maintains pavement crosswalks, arrows, parking stalls, railroad-crossing markings and

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TECHNOLOGY ROADMAP 2014

PWU Technology Services (formerly CEIS) is committed to providing high-quality, technical support. It has changed to a department-wide service focus and has initiated several major projects for 2014:

Novell to Windows File Storage Project

The City-wide file storage system migration project has arrived at PWU. The physical servers running Novell will be moved to a MS Windows virtual server cluster at the Information Services (IS) data center. Recent migrations from XP to Windows 7 desktops revealed conflicts with Novell. The Novell infrastructure will be replaced City-wide in support of the upcoming XP to Windows 7 upgrade project. The PWU portion of this effort is scheduled to be completed in March. Changes to the computer environment include file storage locations and the scanning process. IS will do the migration, with Technology Services staff assisting users throughout the process.

XP to Windows 7 Upgrade Project

Beginning April 8, support for the Windows XP Operating System will no longer be available, so all XP computers need to be updated to Windows 7. About 150 existing XP computers have Windows 7 licenses requiring only a software upgrade to make the transition. Another 250 computers will need to be replaced. This migration will affect several applications that will require updates and patching to work with the new Windows 7 environment.

Network Speed Upgrade

The move to the Municipal Services Center (MSC) has led to concerns over Internet speed. Our Director has committed to upgrading the PWU fiber backbone from 1 gigabit to 10 gigabit by July. This upgrade will affect all users of the fiber system. IS will support the project by upgrading the Internet service contract from 50 megabit to 250 megabit.

OnBase

The completion of these three projects creates a single, unified technology environment, which provides ease of support and a consistent quality of user experience. With all digital files stored in a Microsoft file structure and all computers running Windows 7 with an upgraded network backbone, PWU will be in a position to implement a centralized document management system.

STRONG LINCS

"THERE IS NO 'DIVISION' AMONG OUR DIVISIONS."

Miki Esposito

PWU Director Miki Esposito is pleased to announce the Strong Linc Award recipients for the workplace principle of **patience**. Please congratulate these Strong Lincs for their valued service:

Larry Jochum (*ES Street and Traffic Operations*) - Larry receives weekly complaint calls about the signal system. He is patient in working with callers and explaining signal-timing issues.

Greg Topil (*ES Street and Traffic Operations*) - Greg regularly receives calls from people wanting immediate resolution about right-of-way issues. When he contacts property owners, they are often upset about what he asks them to do. In both instances, Greg is patient and understanding while trying to resolve the issues.

Tim Hunt (*ES Street and Traffic Operations*) - Tim shows great patience when working with trucking companies on over-dimensional permits. They are not always pleased with the routes and conditions placed on them. Tim calmly listens, explains the processes and talks them through the procedure.

Tina Queen (*Engineering Services*) - Tina receives numerous complaint calls about sidewalks. She patiently explains why a sidewalk is not fixed, despite the fact that the person might have called some time ago. Tina is also patient in working with people on sidewalk reimbursements.

Kris Humphrey (*Engineering Services*) - Kris was more than patient while working with her staff to set up the seating chart for Engineering Services' new location.

Ellen Wright (*Watershed Management*) - One of Ellen's responsibilities is to coordinate the [Landscape Water Quality grant program](#), which provides a 50/50 cost share for individuals to incorporate stormwater best management practices on their property. The applicants' opinions of what should be allowed are sometimes in conflict with the grant requirements. Ellen handles these "differences of opinion" in a very professional and patient manner.

Tan Pham (*Watershed Management*) - Tan works with several divisions in PWU and other departments with the City to coordinate the "Accela Automation" software and the division's GIS needs. He also assists in the "Fiber Cable System" initiative. Many of the projects' goals are "first time" accomplishments with many people involved, so achieving the objectives is no small task. Tan listens, takes notes, creates requested products and tests each application to make sure people have what they need to do their jobs most effectively with the tools available.

Kevin Hayes and Patrick Schroeder (*Wastewater*) - Kevin and Patrick demonstrated patience when working a 10-hour shift on New Year's Day. They responded to a combined water main break and sanitary sewer backup that affected multiple properties. They spent most of the day knocking on doors to determine whether property owners had damage, listening to their stories and documenting the event.

Mike Sanford and Jeremy Lackey (*Solid Waste Management*) - Mike and Jeremy operate refuse bulldozers at the active working area at the landfill. They remain patient and courteous under the most trying situations, including extreme weather conditions. In an eight-hour day, they orchestrate the movement of as much as 1,200 tons of refuse and 300 trucks – an average of about one truck exchange every two minutes. They show patience with all drivers who want to unload at their own pace and in their personally selected "slot" at the tipping area.

Tom Lawson and Bonnie "Lou" Campbell (*Solid Waste Management*) - With all the public and operations activity at the Gatehouse, these two always present themselves with patience and calm. They are never quick to show negative emotions toward any situation, and their patience helps others to demonstrate the same attitude when dealing with their own situations.

In addition to the staff recognized in the last newsletter for **collaboration**, the following employees deserve recognition for assisting with smooth traffic management for football games. **Thanks for stepping up to help create an enjoyable Husker fan game-day experience!**

(*ES Street and Traffic Operations*)
Don Gunning, Leroy Heier, Nancy Nelson
Jeff Adams, Mark Donner, Tim Toy,
Kyle Williams, Matt Stevens, Todd Lange
and Travis Laughlin
(*Water*)
Sandra Finn and Todd Stevens

The next workplace principle will focus on **persistence**. Nominations are due to Miki by **Friday, March 14**.

Blahak Accepts New Position

Congratulations to Chad Blahak, who recently left PWU to accept the position of Building and Safety Director/DSC Manager. Chad has a BS in Civil Engineering and an MBA from UNL, and is a licensed professional engineer. Chad officially took over his new position January 2.

Engineering Services has moved!

**Our new address is
949 West Bond Street
Suite 200
Lincoln, NE 68521**

402-441-7711



**The phone
numbers remain
the same.**

CITY OF
LINCOLN
NEBRASKA

Thanks to all the employees of Engineering Services who have been waiting patiently to make the move to a permanent home in the 949 building at the MSC.



MARCH 15

StarTran Evening Bus Service
8 p.m. to 2 a.m.

MARCH 20

Spring Contractor Meeting
Firefighters Hall

MARCH 26 and 27

Earth Wellness Festival
Southeast Community College

APRIL 4 Launch Date

Rain Barrel Art Project
Displayed at SouthPointe Pavillions
and available for purchase in April

APRIL 12

UNL Red-White Spring
Football Game
Big Red Express Shuttle Service

APRIL 12 and 13

15th Annual "Stuff the Bus"
for Friendship Home
10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Wal-Mart and Sam's Club locations

APRIL 23 and 24

Spring Safety Meeting
Firefighters Hall

UPCOMING CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

2014 Construction Season Projects
lincoln.ne.gov
(keyword: projects)

StarTran

Big Red Express:

StarTran's Big Red Express service experienced record ridership in 2013 with a 19-percent increase over 2012. **"With the slight increase in the fare from \$4 to \$5 this year, we are pleased with these ridership results,"** said Transit Manager Mike Davis. **"We would like to encourage everyone to utilize this service for getting to and from each home football game and help decrease the vehicular congestion downtown. It's safe, it's efficient, and most of all, it's fun!"**

For the Husker's Spring Game April 12, StarTran will operate the Big Red Express shuttle from SouthPointe Pavillions at 27th and Pine Lake and North Star High School at 5801 N. 33rd St. The fare is \$5 each way. Service starts two hours prior to kickoff and returns to the lots after the game. **GO BIG RED!**

Stuff the Bus:

StarTran will team with Three Eagles Communications, Wal-Mart and Sam's Club for the 15th annual Stuff The Bus event April 12 and 13 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The public is invited to donate **new** items for Friendship Home, a 24-hour emergency shelter for women and their children experiencing domestic violence.

Evening bus service:

In addition to its extended UNL bus service ending at 9:30 p.m., StarTran will offer evening bus service from 8 p.m. to 2 a.m. several nights, including March 15 (Saturday before St. Patrick's Day) and New Year's Eve. Based on availability, riders can **Get on Board!** at designated locations outside downtown or reserve a time for home pick-up. The cost will be \$1.75 one-way or \$3.50 round trip. StarTran passes will be accepted.

For more information, visit startran.lincoln.ne.gov or call 402-476-1234.



2014



**BIG RED
Express**

Humphrey Presented Mayor's Award of Excellence



Kristen Humphrey, a Senior Engineer in the Engineering Services Division since 2004, received the **Award of Excellence for November** from Mayor Beutler at the December 9 City Council meeting. Kris was recognized in the categories of customer relations, loss prevention and productivity for her work on the Antelope Valley Project. She has been Project Manager since 2008.

During the first of two audits, the State found no wrongdoing. The second audit by federal authorities began in 2010. After the initial review, it appeared that more than \$29 million spent on the project might not be eligible for federal reimbursement. If that was the case, the City would have to provide local dollars to pay for the project.

Kris dug into records dating back to 1995 to find requested documentation. Her "dogged and seemingly endless efforts" produced documents proving the City had spent the federal funds appropriately. Additionally, she was able to show that the City was eligible for an additional \$3.1 million in federal reimbursement. Kris estimated that she spent about 1,400 hours on the two audits.

2013 Tank of the Year
Thousand of tanks were painted.
200 tanks were nominated.
10,627 votes were counted.
12 tanks were chosen.

The water reservoir at 56th and Pine Lake landed in the top five, earning it a place in the Tnemec Company's Tank of the Year Calendar. The minimalist design is based on the City's new branding initiative. With its vibrant blue hues and glossy finish, it serves as a billboard reminding residents to conserve.

Find out more at:
tnemec.com/tankoftheyear



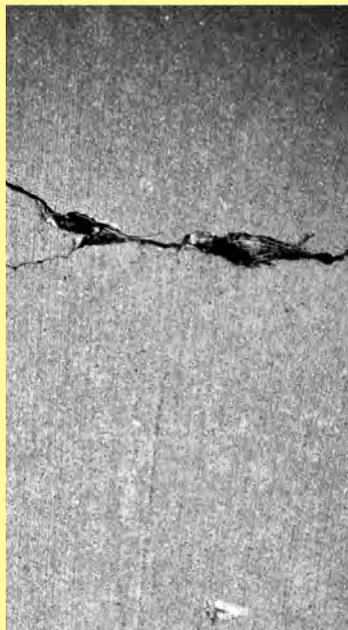
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raised pavement markers and inspects for road rehabilitation projects involving markings and signing.

At the 7:30 a.m. meeting, the supervisor distributes work assignments and shares information such as safety tips. Staff loads trucks with supplies and deploys either alone or in groups, depending on the assignment. Crews may be sent to install, replace or repair a sign. From April 15 to October 31, they may be painting centerlines or repairing crosswalks, arrows, parking stall lines or railroad crossing markings. Crews also help with events such as house moves, marathons, the Uncle Sam Jam celebration and Nebraska football games.

Sidewalk Funding 2014

Those participating in the [Taking Charge](#) public engagement process identified the maintenance of streets and sidewalks as a top priority. The City has proposed about \$4 million for repair of deficient sidewalks and curb ramps throughout the City. Because of the large number of repair locations, construction is divided among several packages for bidding in February. Construction is anticipated to begin this spring and continue into 2015. The initial bid packages will address about 1,400 locations identified as priority areas, those identified with a two-inch or greater grade separation. The packages will be divided by geographic regions – northwest Lincoln, northeast Lincoln/ downtown, and south Lincoln. A future package will include additional sidewalk repairs based on availability of remaining funds.



PUBLIC WORKS & UTILITIES
MARKETING COMMITTEE MEMBERS
***Newsletter Committee Member**

- Ellen Wright**
ewright@lincoln.ne.gov
- *Amy Cornelius-Jones**
acornelius@lincoln.ne.gov
- Clay Engelman**
cengelma@lincoln.ne.gov
- *Dave Beyersdorf**
dbeyersdorf@lincoln.ne.gov
- Gene Hanlon**
ghanlon@lincoln.ne.gov
- Glenna Graupmann**
ggraupmann@lincoln.ne.gov
- Jeff Harrison**
harrison1@neb.rr.com
- Kitty Elliott**
kelliott@lincoln.ne.gov
- Kyle Williams**
kwilliams@lincoln.ne.gov
- *Meagan Pratt**
mnpratt@lincoln.ne.gov
- Michelle Zuhlke**
mzuhlke@lincoln.ne.gov
- *Nick McElvain**
nmcelvain@lincoln.ne.gov
- *Pam Gadeken**
pgadeken@lincoln.ne.gov
- Rock Krzycki**
rkrzycki@lincoln.ne.gov
- Shannon Ideus**
sideus@lincoln.ne.gov