

PUBLIC WORKS & UTILITIES

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

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

2013 April / May

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DAVIS TO SERVE AS STARTRAN TRANSIT MANAGER

Director Miki Esposito announced April 19 that Michael Davis has been named StarTran Transit Manager for the City of Lincoln. Davis has been the transit manager of operations for Los Alamos County in New Mexico since 2007. His tentative starting date is June 3, but a "meet and greet" session will be scheduled in May.

Davis has 15 years of progressive experience managing public transportation projects, programs and initiatives. His work history and experience also includes transit administration and operations for Johnson County, Kansas; Mesa, Arizona; Billings, Montana; and Aspen, Colorado. He has a bachelor's degree in urban planning and geography from the University of Utah and a master's degree in urban planning from the University of Kansas.

Larry Worth, who headed StarTran since 1995, retired in March. He had worked for the City's transit system for 40 years. Under his direction, StarTran became a leader in the use of alternative fuels and was the first transit system in the U.S. to be completely ADA-compliant.

Esposito thanked Mike Weston who will continue to serve as Acting Transit Manager until Davis arrives.

SPRING IS HERE!

Spring cleaning provides an opportunity to sort and toss items that have accumulated over time in your home. It's a good idea to sort items into four categories: keep, toss, sell/donate and recycle.

For items you are keeping, try storing similar items together. For example, a gardening area would hold seeds, fertilizers, rakes, cloth gloves and flower pots.

Dispose of items that are broken and can't be fixed or too old to be of use to anyone. Be sure to properly dispose of hazardous waste such as yard chemicals, cleaners, solvents and oil-based paint. The Health Department periodically conducts household hazardous waste collection events, and more information is available at lincoln.ne.gov (keyword: households).

Donate useable items such as clothing, furniture, books and household goods to a thrift store, or set them aside for a yard sale. Building materials such as lumber, paint, plumbing or lighting fixtures can be donated to material reuse programs such as EcoStores Nebraska or Habitat for Humanity. Recreational and exercise equipment can be sold to reuse stores such as Play it Again Sports.

It's important to prolong the life of our landfill by recycling as much material as possible. For information on how to reuse or recycle different materials go to recycle.lincoln.ne.gov and click on the Waste Reduction and Recycling Guide.

Some examples:

- Old electronics such as TVs, computers and cell phones can be recycled at no cost at many retailers. Goodwill accepts donations at its computer and electronics store at 5745 "O" Street, and does charge a fee for TVs and computer monitors.
- EcoStores Nebraska, 530 West "P" Street, accepts latex paint and charges \$2 per gallon if it is unusable. EcoStores also offers a paint exchange for useable latex, and the next one is from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, May 18.
- Rechargeable batteries and compact fluorescent bulbs (CFLs) are accepted at many big box stores and some hardware stores.



For more information visit
recycle.lincoln.ne.gov.



STRONG LINCS

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

Miki Esposito

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

Tim Beckman (*StarTran*)

As StarTran's lead dispatcher/field supervisor, Tim has been very innovative in producing run/route assignments. Tim's work efforts determine when every bus pulls out of the garage. By ensuring StarTran buses run in the most efficient manner, Tim has saved the City a large amount of money over the years by reducing scheduled overtime.

Jared Nelson (*Watershed*)

The City and Lower Platte South Natural Resource District (NRD) are sending out hundreds of letters to alert property owners about an upcoming stream survey on their property as part of the Southern Basins Drainage Master Plan. Jared is very proficient with Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and has come up with an efficient method for mapping streams to be surveyed which provides great information to the property owners about City/NRD intentions.

Additional award winners for the workplace principle of generosity from December/January include:

Kitty Elliott (*StarTran*)

Kitty was approached to help design Leadership Link flyers. Without hesitation, she was happy to help. Her great attitude, willingness to go the extra mile and her time have not gone unnoticed.

Brenda Nepper (*Business Office*)

Brenda created new reports for quality control, checking within Accela after historical data needed for impact fees was not converted. Brenda worked with the Finance Department to figure out how to extract the information and took the time to learn how to build the report in JDE.

Michelle Zuhlke (*Engineering Services*)

Michelle recently updated the impact fee website. Although she is "doing her job," she does it in a way that is not humiliating to those who are not "techies of the Web world." The website is well on its way to being a finished product, and it's due to Michelle's savvy Web artanship, creative skills and kind personality.

Jocelyn Golden (*City Attorney's Office*)

Jocelyn has been managing the many proposed changes in the Water Management Plan and also has been working diligently on the backlog of subdivision improvement guarantees. She generously agreed to be part of the committee to select a consultant for a new horizontal collector well. While rushing to a committee meeting, she took a serious tumble down the stairs. We appreciate Jocelyn's expertise and assistance and wish her a fast recovery!

The next workplace principle for April/May will focus on optimism. Nominations are due to Miki no later than May 17.

Whisenhunt Presented Mayor's Award of Excellence for January

StarTran Bus Operator Caleb Whisenhunt was presented the [Mayor's Award of Excellence for January](#) at the March 11 City Council meeting. He was nominated in the category of valor. In October 2012, a young woman left Caleb's bus and ran in front of it without looking for traffic. She ran into the path of a large truck that was passing the bus. Caleb honked the bus horn to alert her, and she stopped. The truck grazed her but her injuries were minimal. Caleb's action that day helped save her life.

Congratulations, Caleb, and thank you for your quick actions!

A Farewell Note...

Best wishes to our colleagues who recently retired from City employment. Their service to our community is appreciated. May they find success in all their future endeavors!

Shirley Morris (*Business Office*)
47 years

Dennis Markowski (*ES/Street and Traffic Operations*) – 38 years

Leroy Rosenthal (*ES/Street and Traffic Operations*) – 37 years

Randy Winch (*ES/Street and Traffic Operations*) – 35 years

Bill Dutton (*ES/Street and Traffic Operations*) – 33 years

Gary Hosek (*Wastewater*)
seven years

Morris Receives March Award of Excellence

Shawnadee Morris of the Wastewater-Solid Waste Operations division of the Public Works and Utilities Department was presented the Mayor's Award of Excellence for March by Mayor Beutler at the April 15 City Council meeting.

Morris has worked for the City since 1999. She is a Gatehouse Attendant and processes vehicles using the solid waste disposal facilities. On December 13, 2012, an elderly man traveling alone entered the North 48th facility and asked for directions to his home. Morris noticed that his vehicle had South Dakota license plates. The man did not know when he had left home or where he was. She invited him inside the gatehouse and gave him some water. After ruling out any obvious conditions requiring immediate medical attention, Morris continued to gather information, including his name. She contacted the Police and offered him something to eat. While an officer and another investigating official did research, Morris talked to the man for nearly three hours. The entire time, she also handled her duties of processing traffic for the solid waste facilities.

Congratulations Shawnadee!



Wednesday, May 1
 StarTran's "StarPass" available
 Summer Youth Bus Pass
lincoln.ne.gov (keyword: starpass)



ON THE WEB

The 14th and Superior roundabout and the Antelope Valley Project were recognized with **two awards** presented to Olsson Associates at the 2013 American Council of Engineering Companies/Nebraska's Engineering Excellence Awards.

UPCOMING CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

Construction projects and street closures can be found at lincoln.ne.gov (keyword: closures).

EMPLOYEE TRAINING AND RECOGNITION EVENT

Sixty-eight PWU employees were recognized at the Public Works and Utilities Employee Training and Recognition April 2 through 4. ***"The dedication you commit to your jobs and the great working relationships you have built in our community are greatly appreciated,"*** said Miki Esposito, Public Works and Utilities Director. ***"We will continue striving to improve our service to the public, while maintaining a harmonious, civil and healthy work place for our employees."*** Employees recognized (*names with asterisks received two nominations*):

Lisa Adams
 Zach Becker*
 Dave Beyersdorf
 Roger Borchers*
 Bob Brown
 Taylor Buss
 Tim Byrne
 Judy Cartmill
 Nick Castillo
 Amy Cornelius-Jones
 Julie Dahlke
 Kirk Drake*
 Will Dryden
 Carol Dunker
 Cedric Esquivel
 Steve Faust
 Ed Gleason
 Jeff Grove
 Jeff Hertzler
 Ken Hobza
 Jim Holz
 Kris Humphrey
 Tim Hunt*

Shannon Ideus
 Chris Koll
 Steve Kostner*
 Ed Kouma*
 Michael Kramer
 Rock Krzycki
 Don Kubicek
 Todd Lange
 Frank Larson
 Tom Lawson
 Holly Lionberger*
 Gerardo Martinez
 Mark Miller
 Jamie Mitchell
 Tim Myer
 Brenda Nepper
 Rick Nobbe
 Erika Nunes*
 Gale Ogg
 Roger Ohlrich
 Tan Pham
 Jerry Poppe
 Meagan Pratt

James Puls
 Tina Queen
 Arnold Radloff
 Rhea Rowe
 Andy Ruder
 Randy Saathoff*
 Chris Schneider
 Alan Shockey
 Karen Sieckmeyer
 Kelly Sieckmeyer
 Doug Stevens
 Matt Stevens
 Megan Stevenson
 Jess Sundeen
 Allison Trentman
 Curt Weber
 Louise Weyer*
 Kirk Wheeler
 Jane Wilkinson*
 Rich Wolfe*
 Warren Wondercheck*
 Michelle Zuhlke*

GOLDEN SHOVEL AWARD

Manuel "Manny" Martinez, Jr. of Pavers Inc. was presented the Engineering Services' 2013 Golden Shovel Award for his excellent work managing the construction process for the 13th Street and the N.W. 4th Street Storm Bond Projects. Manny overcame a number of underground utility conflicts with superb communication and spirit of cooperation. He has received numerous testimonies to the high quality of work he provides. His character and experience lead to effective and efficient resolution of any issues that come up.



Congratulation Manny and Pavers Inc.!



PLATINUM PEN AWARD

Engineering Services has awarded the first Platinum Pen Award to the Parsons Brinkerhoff team of Mike Rauhut, Scott Rathjen and team leader Karl Fredrickson for their work on the 14th Street and "H" Street water main projects. The award is given to a consultant in recognition for teamwork, problem solving, a proactive approach and public relations necessary to deliver a project through adversity.

Both projects included complex concerns, including sensitive water shutdown issues for the State of Nebraska's server building and Capitol Building. Their communication and attention to detail in their record-keeping was outstanding.

Congratulations to Parsons Brinkerhoff!

DOLLAR\$ & ÇENT\$

Managing the Cost of Electrical Power

The largest single Lincoln Water System (LWS) expense in its operating budget is electricity. LWS purchases over \$3 million of electricity per year from Lincoln Electric System (LES) and from Omaha Public Power District (OPPD). Electrical power is the largest energy source for LWS. Electricity is necessary to pump water from the wells through the treatment process and eventually to Lincoln where it is pumped throughout the City.

“About 10 years ago, we observed the rising energy cost each year and took a serious look at how we were using electricity,” said Rick Roberts, Assistant Superintendent of Maintenance at the Ashland Water Plant. **“We visited with OPPD about ways we could hold down our cost of electricity.”**

A very important factor is the time of use. On the hottest summer days, when air conditioners are working their hardest to keep up with customer demands, OPPD and LES are paying the most for the electricity on the open market. Both electrical companies suggested “interrupting” or reducing electrical use when customers’ demands were at their peak.

In 2002, the cost of energy used at the Ashland Plant to treat and deliver water was more than \$600,000. Since 2002, electrical rates have increased over 48 percent, which in 2013 would equate to nearly \$980,000. Last year, with electrical management practices in place, the energy usage for 2012 was \$685,000 – a savings of almost \$300,000. During hot summer afternoons, water also can be pumped with diesel engines to curtail energy use. Water also is pumped at night when energy is less expensive. Thanks Rick Roberts, John Miriovsky and the Ashland water operators for helping make LWS a sustainable utility!

SUMMER Water Restrictions AGAIN POSSIBLE

Despite recent rains, the drought in Nebraska is not yet over. Lincoln Water System (LWS) is gearing up for another year of potential water shortages.

The summer of 2012 put the existing Water Management Plan to the test, with outdoor watering restrictions in effect for an extended period of time. Staff invested significant time and effort to [update the Plan](#).

Changes will be announced to the public soon. Improvements include the following:

- A new hotline on water restrictions will be implemented at 402-441-1212.
- More specific [river flow rate and customer usage](#) signals will be used in recommending outdoor watering restrictions.

- The responsibilities for each City Department will be better delineated.
- Definitions on which outdoor watering uses are restricted will be clarified.

The biggest potential for reducing water use is in turf irrigation. Customers are encouraged to water lawns only three days a week from the beginning of the season. Customers can conserve even more by watering only two times per week or reducing the watering time.

To address long-term needs, the City Council recently approved the construction of a new horizontal collector well, which will increase capacity by eight to ten million gallons per day during low flow conditions. The new well will be operational in 2014.

For more information on water conservation, visit water.lincoln.ne.gov.

REPORT POTHOLES

Residents are encouraged to report potholes and other non-emergency street problems in four ways:

- Call the Pothole Hotline at 402-441-7646.
- Call the Street Maintenance Division of PWU at 402-441-7701 for street problems requiring immediate action.
- Visit lincoln.ne.gov (keyword: pothole).
- Use your mobile phone to send a photo to the City’s ACTION center. The free application can be found in the [Android Market](#) and [iTunes store](#) (search for “Lincoln Action Center”). The message will automatically include GPS information.



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