

## City of Fremont Update

Date: August 21, 2020

To: City Employees/ City Boards/ Mayor & City Council

### 80<sup>th</sup> Largest Public Power System by Generation

The American Public Power Association (APPA) lists Fremont as the 80<sup>th</sup> largest public power system by generation in the nation. This ranking is based upon Fremont's production of 482,388 megawatt-hours (MWH) in 2018. Seven other Nebraska public power systems are listed and ranked as follows: Nebraska Public Power District 6<sup>th</sup> with 16,100,177 MWH; Omaha Public Power District 9<sup>th</sup> with 11,116,129 MWH; Lincoln Electric System 43<sup>rd</sup> with 2,060,277 MWH; Nebraska Municipal Power Pool 71<sup>st</sup> with 802,582; Grand Island 77<sup>th</sup> with 536,138; Hastings 82<sup>nd</sup> with 466,598; and Central Nebraska Public Power 85<sup>th</sup> with 380,177.



In 2018, public power utilities contributed 5.4% of electric operating revenues back to communities they serve. In comparison, investor-owned utilities paid a median of 4.7% of electric operating revenues in taxes and fees to state and local governments in 2018.

### California Might Become First State with a Wealth Tax

A proposed tax would affect about 30,000 California residents and raise an estimated \$7.5 billion in tax revenue. The tax rate would be 0.4 percent of net worth, excluding real estate, that exceeds \$30 million for single and joint filers and \$15 million for married filing separately. Called the "millionaires' tax," California has 12 percent of the U.S. population, but 17 percent of all U.S. millionaires and 25 percent of its billionaires.

### COVID-19

Dodge County remains the seventh highest county in the state with amount of positive cases this week. The Three Rivers Public Health Department's COVID-19 Dashboard contains additional statistics and information. Here is a link to their website:

<https://www.threeriverspublichealth.org/Coronavirus-Updates>

**Dodge County** 859 positive cases — 7,541 total tests (seventh in state with positive cases)

**Nebraska** [Department of Health and Human Services Dashboard](#)  
31,348 positive cases — 302,419 negative tests — 373 deaths

**United States** The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) [website](#):  
5,506,929 cases — 172,416 deaths <https://www.cdc.gov/covid19>.

**Globally** [World Health Organization Situation Report](#)  
22,492,312 cases — 788,503 deaths

[Johns Hopkins University of Medicine COVID-19 Dashboard](#)  
22,707,352 cases — 794,256 deaths (U.S. ranks first, followed by Brazil in cases)

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**There is no job so important and no service so urgent that we cannot take the time to do the work safely!**

## Work Progressing on New Splash Pad

Dostal Construction Company is making good progress on the new splash pad at the John C. Fremont Park. As the picture on the right shows, the plumbing is in place and the concrete has been poured. Dostal was awarded the \$85,300 contract in February as well as an additional \$16,124 contract in April for a LED lighting package. Nearly all of the funds for the LED lighting was privately donated to the City.

It is doubtful the pad will open this year, but that all depends upon the weather.



## Land Bank Legislation Signed by Governor Ricketts

After working with the Nebraska League of Municipalities to find sponsors to approve a land bank bill, the legislature approved LB 424 on August 11 (with 31 voting yes, 12 voting no, 5 present and not voting and 1 excused and not voting) and Governor Ricketts signed the bill on August 15. Special thanks to Senator Dan Quick of Grand Island and Senator John Stinner of Gering for introducing the bill and championing it through committee and floor amendments.

LB 424 authorizes the creation of municipal land banks statewide to return vacant, abandoned, nuisance, and tax-delinquent properties to the tax rolls. Before the passage of LB 424, only cities in Douglas and Sarpy Counties were eligible to create a land bank. Now, under LB 424, all cities and villages across the state can join an existing land bank, create a joint land bank with other communities, or create their own municipal land bank. A land bank cannot levy property taxes nor issue bonds.

The purpose of a land bank is not to hold property. Instead, a land bank can help get clear titles, identify property owners, and do the things that developers do not want to mess with, because the process is too difficult and time consuming. The goal is to get these properties cleaned up and back on the tax rolls.

## Flowerbeds Beautiful Despite Dry Weather

Once again, the Parks Department and specifically Jon Kuddes, has done an outstanding job with the flowerbeds this year. Especially considering the lack of rain and hot weather we have had this summer. Jon waters more than 50 flowerbeds at numerous locations across town as well as all the hanging baskets downtown. More than 4,000 flowers are planted each year and most were grown in the City's greenhouse from seed. The picture on the right is one of the many beautiful flowerbeds around town.



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