

# LARM LIFE

NEWS OF THE LEAGUE ASSOCIATION OF RISK MANAGEMENT  
SPRING 2020

Is your playground safe?  
Insuring community events  
Beaver City Newsletter  
promotes communication





LARM Life is a publication of the League Association of Risk Management (LARM)

**LARM**

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Volume 4, Issue 1

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Cover photo was taken of playground equipment in the Cedar Bluffs Park.

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Vice-Chair:  
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Teresa Youngquist  
Clerk/Treasurer, City of Beaver City

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L. Lynn Rex, Executive Director  
League of Nebraska Municipalities  
Administrator of LARM



# What's Inside

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*Jim Hawks, Vice-Chair of LARM Board of Directors*

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## Feature Story: Is Your Public Playground Safe?

LARM Loss Control staff are now certified to identify unsafe equipment in your playgrounds

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## Communication a Priority in Beaver City

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Make sure organizations have adequate insurance when they're using city or village owned facilities

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# Meet the Board

## Vice-Chair - Jim Hawks



**Jim Hawks** has been a supporter of LARM for a long time. In 2004, when he was appointed as the North Platte City Administrator by the late Mayor Jim Whitaker, he also became a member of the LARM Board of Directors. The City of North Platte was one of the founding members of LARM in 1989. Hawks is a current member of the LARM Board of Directors and serves as its Vice-Chair.

Hawks is retiring from city government and the LARM Board as of May 1 and will instead focus his attention on state issues as Chairman of the Nebraska State Highway Commission.

Hawks began his public service in North Platte when he became Lincoln County Highway Superintendent in 1988. He then joined the city government in 2003 as Director of the City of North Platte Municipal Light and Water.

Hawks is currently a member of the Environmental Quality Council and the Board of Examiners for Land Surveyors.

"I'm glad to have had a part in growing LARM over the years. From just 36 members in 2000 to 169 that we have now, LARM has shown that it's a stable, reliable, risk management choice for Nebraska communities. I'd encourage village and city officials to look at what LARM has to offer them as far as competitive pricing and top-notch customer service," Hawks said.



*Photo top left is of Jim Hawks. Photo above was taken from the top of the Union Pacific Golden Spike Tower in North Platte. With 23,814 citizens, North Platte is one of the largest municipal members of LARM.*



[www.larmpool.org](http://www.larmpool.org)

# Communicating with your citizens

Beaver City

NE

Designed by TownMapsUSA.com

## Beaver City Clerk/Treasurer Teresa Youngquist understands the importance of communicating with citizens.

In 2018 the Beaver City Times/Tribune newspaper in Beaver City closed its doors. Subsequently, there wasn't an outlet for Youngquist to use to get information about programs or reminders to Beaver City citizens so, in January 2019, she started distributing a City newsletter as a way of communicating with citizens. The reaction of the community?

"Everybody has loved it. It's a great way to let people know what's going on. Now the village board members and mayor will suggest items that I could include in the newsletters," Youngquist said.

Each month there is information for the citizens including the names of the elected officials and staff; hours of the city office, pool and library; city council meeting times; reminders about trash pickup or recycling news; and links to online bill payment.

The newsletter is made available online on the City's Facebook page and printed versions are available at the City office, the library, the Senior Citizen Center, the local bank and the grocery store.

"The citizens know what's going on and them being more informed makes our job easier. It's sparked interesting conversations at City Council meetings and increased dialogue between the citizens and the City," Youngquist said.

Beaver City is undergoing a \$2.8 million water project with a mandated water rate increase. Youngquist said that without the newsletter it would have been difficult for citizens to have all the correct information about the project. Information about meetings concerning the City's Comprehensive Plan is also included in the newsletter.

In July 2019, the newsletter included photos of a historic cabin that volunteers are refurbishing and an explanation of the new splash pad replacing the baby pool.

Youngquist said the newsletter also serves as an economic development tool as the digital version is easily sent to the Nebraska Department of Economic Development and other entities interested in what's going on in Beaver City.

Youngquist also will include a crossword puzzle, trivia questions, old photos of the City and is now taking recipes from citizens to post in the newsletter. "It's a great way to keep the lines open between the City and our citizens," Youngquist said.

## CITY OF BEAVER CITY

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Vol. 1 Issue 9

09/15/2019

### Happenings around town!



*Come check out the newly restored log cabin! A few minor details still yet to be completed, but the Historical Marker is placed!!*

### As per City Ordinance 4-604:

Any person operating a golf cart shall have:

1. A valid Class O Operator's License and be at least 18 years old.
2. Liability insurance coverage for the vehicle.

### Library Hours:

Monday — Closed	Friday — 1:00 pm—5:00 pm
Tuesday — 1:00 pm—7:00 pm	Saturday — 9:00 am—12 pm
Wednesday — 9:00 am—5:00 pm	Sunday — Closed
Thursday — 1:00 pm—7:00 pm	

### Council Meetings:

- Meetings are held at 7:00 pm on the 1st and 3rd Monday of every month
- If you would like to be placed on the agenda, please contact the City Office.

### Planning Meetings:

- Meetings are scheduled on an as needed basis.

### City Staff:

#### Mayor:

Leighton Schmidt

#### City Council Members:

Rebecca Robinson

Roger Powell

Quinn Barnes

Kevin Harper

Chris Jappa

Russell Rickert

#### Utility Superintendent:

Grant Jorgensen

#### Utility Assistant:

Brian Jackson

#### City Clerk/Treasurer:

Teresa Youngquist

#### Deputy Clerk:

Katya Jorgensen

#### Library Director:

Rachelle Wonderly

### City Office Hours:

Monday through Friday 7:00 am—12:00 pm 1:00 pm—4:00 pm	City Office PO Box 185 Beaver City, NE 68926 308-268-2145
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Online bill payment is available! <http://ne.gov/go/beavercity> Standard fees apply.

*Pictured above is a front cover of one of the City of Beaver City newsletters that are distributed monthly. Below is Teresa Youngquist, City of Beaver City Clerk/Treasurer who also serves on the LARM Board of Directors.*



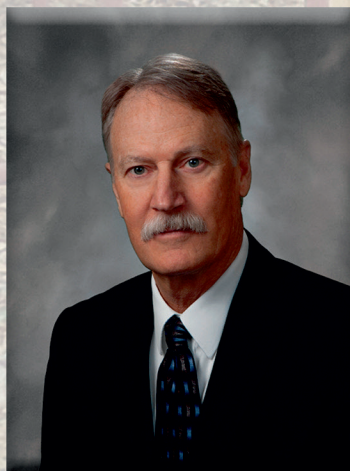
# Is your playground equipment safe?

Nearly every city or village in Nebraska has at least one park playground that usually contains a mixture of new and older playground equipment. LARM staff reminds city officials that they need to inspect this equipment regularly as outdated and even new playground equipment may have the potential to cause injuries.

According to the Consumer Product Safety Commission, more than 200,000 children ages 14 and younger are taken to emergency rooms each year with injuries from playground equipment. Not only broken bones and abrasions but concussions and severe head injuries have been the result of mishaps on a piece of playground equipment.



*From top left to bottom right: Dave Bos, LARM Loss Control Manager; Fred Wiebelhaus, LARM Field Adjuster Supervisor/Loss Control Assistant; and Randy Peters, LARM Field Auto Adjuster/Loss Control Assistant*



LARM Loss Control staff have taken steps to learn more about playground safety. In March 2019, Dave Bos, LARM Loss Control Manager, Fred Wiebelhaus, LARM Field Adjuster Supervisor/Loss Control Assistant, and Randy Peters, LARM Field Auto Adjuster/Loss Control Assistant each received training and earned the Certified Playground Safety Inspector (CPSI) designation through the National Recreation and Park Association.

The CPSI certification program provides comprehensive training on playground safety issues including hazard identification, equipment specifications, surfacing requirements, and risk management methods.

"It's important for our Loss Control staff to be able to review LARM members' playground equipment and advise members as to how they could make them safer. It may be as simple as tightening up a bolt that has become loose but there are probably some pieces of equipment out there that need to be repaired or possibly replaced," said Bos. He, Wiebelhaus, and Peters will be conducting playground audits in 2020 for those members who request they do so.

"When we do the audits we will make recommendations and present them to the member. Our goal is to help our members keep their playgrounds as safe as possible," Bos said.

Bos said there are three major areas of concern when inspecting a playground for safety issues.



“City or village staff or board members should make it a habit of looking at their playgrounds with a critical eye. Is there an improper ground surface? Is the equipment overcrowded for the space provided? Are there unprotected elevated areas? Look for spaces that a child’s head might be entrapped,” Bos said.

The National Safety Council (NSC) recommends that surfaces around playground equipment have “at least 12 inches of wood chips, mulch, sand or pea gravel, or mats made of safety-tested rubber or rubber-like materials.”

(<https://www.nsc.org/home-safety/safety-topics/child-safety/playgrounds>) Other tips include making sure there aren’t any exposed concrete footings, rocks or tree stumps in the area. Playground equipment should be free of protruding bolt ends, hooks, and other sharp points and edges. According to the NSC, 80% of playground accidents are due to falls. To prevent falls from occurring, make sure that all platforms higher than 30 inches have guardrails or barriers. “Many of us grew up playing on some playground equipment that wasn’t entirely safe,” Bos said.



*Pictured above from the top left to the bottom right: playground equipment in Inglewood Park; the McCandless Park in Wymore; and the Oakland City Park. In the background of page six and seven is a playground set in the Malmo Park.*

“With new materials that are much safer and the recommendations of experts who study playground safety, cities are more equipped to provide a more safe playground experience for the kids in their community.”

If your city would like a playground audit, please contact Bos at [dave.bos@larmpool.org](mailto:dave.bos@larmpool.org) or 402-853-1055; Wiebelhaus at [fred.wiebelhaus@larmpool.org](mailto:fred.wiebelhaus@larmpool.org) or 402-440-9129; or Peters at [randy.peters@larmpool.org](mailto:randy.peters@larmpool.org) or 402-310-5356.

It's the time of year when community groups hold art shows, runs, carnivals, outdoor concerts, and other events in city-owned parks or other facilities. Most city officials would encourage these type of events that bring economic development and an opportunity to foster unity in a community. At the same time, a city or village needs to make sure any group or organization that uses city property for its event follows certain guidelines.

Before hosting an event on city-owned property the group or individual should provide a Certificate of Insurance and Hold Harmless Agreement as a method of protecting it from potential claims or lawsuits. The group needs to have an insurance policy naming the city or village as an "Additional Insured" under the Certificate of Insurance.

The purpose of this requirement is to make certain that the group has the financial means available to compensate for an injury or property damage should it occur. If a person can receive compensation for injuries or for property damage from the group, he is unlikely to sue the municipality for compensation. If the event's sponsor has no means of compensating him or is not insured, then the injured person may look to the municipality for payment.

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## Insuring an Event in Your City

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It's reasonable for the community groups that host events on city-owned property submit the necessary documents to the city or village office at least 30 days before the event so the Certificate of Insurance and Hold Harmless Agreement can be reviewed at a village board or city council meeting.

Having the group submit these documents to the city or village office early on allows the officials to address other aspects of the event such as alcohol permits, parking, start and ending times of the event, and other considerations.

Tracy Juranek, LARM Customer Service Specialist, is available at 402-742-2604 for questions you may have about hosting community events or email her at [tracy.juranek@larmpool.org](mailto:tracy.juranek@larmpool.org).





# LARM Armor Program Update



As of February 1, 2020, eleven LARM members had applied and been approved to receive \$700 towards the purchase of a bullet-proof vest for their police departments. The Village of Emerson purchased a bullet-proof vest in January and received a reimbursement check from the LARM Armor program.

A requirement of being awarded funds for this program is that the LARM member police department show they have in place a "mandatory wear" policy for their patrol officers. For those who don't have one in place, LARM has a model policy available for members at [www.larmpool.org/larmarmor.html](http://www.larmpool.org/larmarmor.html).

The LARM Armor online application must be submitted and approved before the bullet-proof vest can be purchased. The mandatory wear policy must be emailed to [dave.bos@larmpool.org](mailto:dave.bos@larmpool.org) before approval. Once approved, the member can purchase a vest and submit a receipt to LARM for reimbursement for up to \$700 for its purchase.

The deadline for submitting the LARM Armor application is September 15, 2020.

If you have any questions about the program please contact Dave Bos at [dave.bos@larmpool.org](mailto:dave.bos@larmpool.org) or 402-853-1055; Fred Wiebelhaus at [fred.wiebelhaus@larmpool.org](mailto:fred.wiebelhaus@larmpool.org) or 402-440-9129; or Diane Becker at [diane.becker@larmpool.org](mailto:diane.becker@larmpool.org) or 402-314-6827.



*Pictured at left is the Village of Emerson Police Chief Charles Chinn with the bullet-proof vest purchased using \$700 LARM Armor funds.*

*Below is an Edgar police cruiser. The Village of Edgar is one of eleven communities who have applied and been approved for the LARM Armor*





# Safety Grant

With city budgets tight it's not always easy to find the funds needed to buy needed safety equipment.

The Lean on LARM Safety Grant was designed and introduced to LARM members in 2018 to provide up to \$500 in funds for safety items.

Since then over 150 grants have been awarded to communities for items that include safety harnesses, traffic cones, safety apparel, eye protection, security cameras, AEDs, playground surfacing, body cameras, first aid kits, barricades, gas monitors, fire extinguishers and much more.

To receive the funds, each applicant must apply online at [larmpool.org](http://larmpool.org) and be a LARM member at the time of submission and issuance of grant funds.

The Lean on LARM committee reviews and approves grant applications. Items cannot be purchased until the member has received notice that the grant has been approved.

For more information about the Lean on LARM grant, contact Dave Bos at [dave.bos@larmpool.org](mailto:dave.bos@larmpool.org) or 402-853-1055, Fred Wiebelhaus at [fred.wiebelhaus@larmpool.org](mailto:fred.wiebelhaus@larmpool.org) or 402-440-9129 or Diane Becker at [diane.becker@larmpool.org](mailto:diane.becker@larmpool.org) or 402-314-6827.



*Pictured from the left are Dannebrog Utility Supervisor Terry Webb and maintenance worker Josh Webb with traffic cones purchased from a Lean on LARM grant. Safety barricades were also purchased.*



*Pictured from the left is Kendra Johnson, Litchfield Village Clerk and Matt Schukei, Litchfield Maintenance Supervisor with first aid kits, fire extinguishers and traffic cones purchased with a Lean on LARM grant.*

Apply online at  
[www.larmpool.org/leanonlarm.html](http://www.larmpool.org/leanonlarm.html)

# Members of the League Association of Risk Management Pool

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City of Ainsworth  
Village of Alda  
Village of Allen  
Village of Anselmo  
Village of Ansley  
City of Arapahoe  
Village of Arlington  
Village of Ashton  
City of Atkinson  
City of Auburn  
Auburn Board of Public Works  
Village of Bancroft  
City of Bassett  
City of Bayard  
City of Beaver City  
Village of Beaver Crossing  
Village of Benedict  
City of Benkelman  
Village of Berwyn  
Village of Broadwater  
Village of Brock  
Village of Brownville  
Village of Brule  
Village of Burr  
Village of Butte  
Village of Callaway  
Village of Cedar Bluffs  
Village of Cedar Creek  
Central RFPD  
City of Chadron  
Village of Chester  
City of Clarkson  
City of Clay Center  
Village of Comstock  
Village of Cook  
Village of Cotesfield  
City of Crete  
City of Curtis  
Village of Dannebrog  
City of David City  
Village of DeWeese  
City of Edgar  
Village of Edison  
Village of Elba  
Village of Elyria  
Village of Emerson  
Village of Eustis  
Fairfield RFPD  
City of Fremont  
City of Genoa  
City of Gering  
City of Gibbon  
Village of Glenvil  
Village of Guide Rock  
Guide Rock RFD  
Village of Gurley  
Village of Haigler  
Village of Halsey  
City of Harvard & Harvard RFD  
Village of Hazard  
Village of Hemingford  
City of Henderson  
Village of Hendley  
Village of Herman  
Village of Hershey  
City of Hickman  
Village of Holbrook  
Village of Hoskins  
Hoskins RFD  
Village of Howells  
City of Humboldt  
Humboldt Fire & RFD  
City of Imperial  
City of Indianola, Indianola  
RFD & VFD  
Village of Inglewood  
Village of Johnstown  
Village of Julian  
KBR Solid Waste Committee  
Village of Lawrence  
Village of Leigh  
Village of Lewellen  
Village of Litchfield  
Little Blue NRD  
Village of Lodgepole  
City of Louisville  
Loup Central Landfill  
Lower Platte North NRD  
Lower Republican NRD  
Madison County RTSD  
Village of Malcolm  
Village of Malmo  
Village of Marquette  
Village of Martinsburg  
Village of Mason City  
Village of Maxwell  
Village of Meadow Grove  
Village of Merna  
Merna RFD #3  
Village of Miller  
Village of Monroe  
Village of Moorefield  
Village of Morrill  
Village of Mullen  
Village of Murray  
City of Neligh  
City of Nelson  
Nelson RFD  
Village of Newcastle  
City of Norfolk  
Village of North Loup  
City of North Platte  
North Platte NRD  
NE NE Econ. Dev. District  
Northeast NE Solid Waste  
Coalition  
City of Oakland  
City of Oshkosh  
Village of Otoe  
Village of Oxford  
City of Pawnee City  
Village of Pilger  
Village of Platte Center  
City of Randolph  
Village of Roca  
City of St. Paul  
St. Paul RFD  
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SID #6 - Dodge County  
SID #7 - Platte County  
SID #23 - Sarpy County  
SID #29 - Sarpy County  
SID #48 - Sarpy County  
SID #79 - Sarpy County  
SID#158 - Sarpy County  
SID #299 - Sarpy County  
SID #331 - Sarpy County  
SID #333 - Sarpy County  
City of Sargent  
Sargent RFD  
Village of Scotia  
City of Scottsbluff  
Sheep Creek & Farmers RFD  
Village of Shelton  
Village of Shickley  
Village of Silver Creek  
Solid Waste Agency of  
Northwest Nebraska  
Southwest Nebraska Solid  
Waste Agency  
Springbank Township  
Village of Stamford  
Village of Stapleton  
Village of Sumner  
City of Syracuse  
Village of Table Rock  
Village of Taylor  
City of Terrytown  
Village of Trenton  
Village of Union  
Union RFD  
Village of Utica  
City of Valentine  
Victoria Township  
City of Wahoo  
Village of Walthill  
Village of Wausa  
City of Waverly  
Village of Wilcox  
Village of Winnebago  
Village of Wolbach  
Village of Wood Lake  
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