

# LARM LIFE

NEWS OF THE LEAGUE ASSOCIATION OF RISK MANAGEMENT  
SUMMER-FALL 2018



Hershey: Home of the longest pedestrian bridge in Nebraska

Dial-A-Ride Program still  
rolling in Neligh after 40 years







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

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Photos: Cover- Neligh Mills, Neligh  
Right: Top to bottom-Hoskins,  
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# NEWS FROM THE

## *Executive Director*



Many communities across Nebraska struggle with abandoned or unkempt properties. Not only are these properties eyesores for those who live and work in those neighborhoods, they become a safety issue.

Homes and businesses that show obvious signs of neglect are invitations to vandals and those looking to break in and steal items. Rodents, snakes and other wildlife are apt to move in also.

Nuisance abatement is a problem and we want to help you if we can. If you need a sample ordinance to get these properties under control, contact us.

A great opportunity to hear about what you can do concerning nuisance abatement is a session put on by attorney Clint Schukei at the upcoming Southeast Nebraska Risk Management Seminar to be held November 1 at the Arbor Manor in Auburn, Nebraska. This is the second seminar we've held in the last few months to help you learn how to avoid risks in your community.

We will be holding more of these seminars across the state. If you are interested in hosting a seminar, let us know.

Enjoy the beautiful Nebraska fall!  
Mike Nolan

**Dave Bos, LARM Loss Control Manager, gives a presentation on Workplace Violence at Gering Risk Management Seminar.**



"To improve is to change; to be perfect is to change often." Winston Churchill



## City of Norfolk recently completes \$8.7 million library renovation

Libraries continue to be a valuable community resource- a belief confirmed in the Norfolk community by a \$8.7 million renovation approved by Norfolk voters in 2014 and completed recently by the City of Norfolk. The 16,000 square foot expansion along with renovation of the existing library built in 1977 was paid for by a temporary half cent sales tax.

"The library was paid for at completion and was open throughout the majority of construction. The new addition and renovation offers better integration of technology, more community meeting space and improved access to information and resources," said Jessica Chamberlain, Norfolk Library Director.

A large meeting room with a capacity of 200 people was incorporated into the existing part of the library. There are also study rooms for individuals and groups, an outdoor courtyard, expanded parking and a drive-up window for those who want to drop off books without leaving their vehicle.

"This library will be a game changer for thousands of those who have a love for learning and reading. There's a passion of learning that's instilled in our hearts and that's what we're seeing today," said Lieutenant Governor Mike Foley who, along with hundreds of other visitors, attended the grand re-opening of the library earlier this summer.

One of the biggest changes at the library is that the children's area is now away from the entrance to the library and includes special features like the Imagination Forest that children can climb inside to read a book.

**Norfolk's newly renovated library**

Norfolk  
Nebraska★



# Neligh's Dial- *Keeps Rol*

When six-year-old Evelyn Johnson needs a ride from daycare to the Neligh Public Library for story hour, her mom sets up a bus pick up and drop off at the library for her with Neligh's Dial-A-Ride program. The program, which is the oldest public transit program in the state, is celebrating 40 years of helping adults and kids get around town and across Antelope County. A lot of people in Neligh are given rides – about 7,000 just in the last year. The town's population is about 1,500. Dana Klabenes, City of Neligh Clerk and Treasurer, said the program began in 1978 when a need for public transit services was identified in Neligh.

A small bus was subsequently purchased through a grant. At first it was mostly elderly people who used the transportation service. "There was a misconception that you had to be handicapped to use the Hand-i-bus," Klabenes said, "Through the years, Neligh residents have come to see the Dial-A-Ride as a useful transportation service for all types of needs. It's not uncommon for up to 20 students to be picked up after school and delivered home or to a local restaurant before heading off to a sporting event." A sizeable number of Neligh school students live outside the city limits. In the summer, teens without drivers' licenses





# Dial-A-Ride Celebrating for 40 Years



may catch a Dial-A-Ride out to the local golf course or swimming pool. Elderly people use the service to travel to the post office, grocery store, doctor or for physical therapy. The bus has lift capability for those who are in wheelchairs.

In 2004, a mini-van was purchased and in 2006 a 21-passenger bus was added to the fleet. In 1978 there was only one driver. Now there are three who give rides five days a week and then to church on Sundays. To get a ride to church, passengers need to make a reservation on Friday to the Dial-a-Ride dispatcher located in the City offices. For other rides, the drivers like to be notified at

least 24 hours in advance.

A Federal Transit program grant pays for 50% or about \$25,000 of the yearly operating costs. State funds and city matches pay \$7,000 each. Program fees bring in another \$7,000 - \$8,000 per year. Cost for a ride is \$1 one way in town or \$1.50 per mile for out of town trips. For longer trips, there is an additional fee of \$10 per hour for the driver. Klabenes estimates that up to 40 families regularly use the Dial-A-Ride Services. Another 50 may use it on occasion – while their car is being repaired or by a person whose spouse has the vehicle for the day.

"This is a wonderful service for a small town

1978



2018





# Neligh Dial-A-Ride Continued...



in rural Nebraska community to be able to offer its citizens," Klabenes said, "In 1978 there were only two other transportation services in the state. Now 84 of the 93 counties have some level of public transit. Sixty of those services are in rural areas."

Dial-A-Ride operates from August to May 8 am to 5 pm Monday through Friday and Sunday from 8 am to noon. From Memorial Day to August its weekday schedule is 9 am to 4 pm.

Occasionally the Dial-A-Ride will be called in to help the housing authority, nursing home, assisted living complex or the Antelope County Hospital transfer passengers. Dial-A-Ride will also be open for special events like concerts.

Six-year-old Evelyn doesn't care about those events. She just knows that Jack (Conger) is going to pick her up from daycare at 9:00 am every Thursday and take her to the fun summer activity slated that week at the city library. Conger, who has been driving for 15 years said driving the Dial-A-Ride is the best job he's ever had.

"I give rides to elderly people to the Senior Citizen Center or to get groceries and to kids who need a ride to swimming lessons. It's one of the greatest services a city can provide. It gives a person a reason to live in a small town," Conger said.

Pictured walking off the bus from left to right on previous page: Evelyn Johnson, Olivia Mortensen, Harloe Kaufan, Lily Mortensen and Cain Mortensen.





## New Pedestrian Bridge in Hershey

The Village of Hershey has made it safer to cross five sets of tracks by installing a 211-foot-long pedestrian walkway spanning the tracks. The walkway opened for pedestrian use earlier this summer.

“The walkway has been part of the discussion surrounding the installation of a viaduct for 25 years. We have a train go by every seven minutes and with the bank, post office, grocery store and school on one side and your home on the other, you may have to cross those tracks more than once a day,” said Ronnie Steward, Hershey Maintenance Superintendent.

The ten-foot-wide concrete walkway, considered the longest in Nebraska, allows residents to walk, ride bikes and lawnmowers and pull wagons across the tracks without waiting for the train to pass. At times there are four trains coming to or from the Union Pacific Bailey Yard in

nearby North Platte. The Bailey Yard is the largest railroad classification yard in the world.

The walkway is built on 20-foot-tall support bases and extends 30 feet tall in the air over the tracks. Steward said a person can see about ten miles from the top of the walk way. As he works at sites across the town of 665 residents, Steward crosses the walkway himself at

least four times a day – which is

a quarter mile each way. The State of Nebraska built the

\$3 million walkway but it’s

the Village of Hershey that soon will be responsible for its maintenance which will mean Steward will be moving snow and melting the ice off it in the winter.

The trains also don’t have to blow their whistles any more as they go through town.

“People can sleep with their windows open now,” Steward said.

See a video of the placing of the new walkway on the Hershey Facebook page.





# LEARN with LARM

## Risk Management Seminar

November 1, 2018

8:30 am-3:30 pm

Register online  
at [www.larmpool.org](http://www.larmpool.org)

Arbor Manor

1617 Central Avenue, Auburn NE

Fee includes continental  
breakfast and lunch

In partnership with the  
Southeast Area Clerks Association,  
Auburn Board of Public Works and the City of Auburn



### TIME/PLACE

We will begin at 8:30 am and conclude at 3:30 pm CT at the Arbor Manor. Details at [www.larmpool.org/conference.html](http://www.larmpool.org/conference.html).



### TOPICS

Topics will include workplace violence, nuisance abatement, workers comp 101, driver safety, answers to your insurance FAQs and much more.



### SPEAKERS

Speakers include Dave Bos, Paige Buffington, Fred Wiebelhaus, Tracy Juranek, Clint Schukei and Mark Segerstrom.



### TO REGISTER

To register go to [www.larmpool.org/conference.html](http://www.larmpool.org/conference.html). Cost is \$20 per person before October 15, 2018. \$30 after October 15, 2018.

### ABOUT US

League Association of Risk Management (LARM) is an insurance pool made up of 166 government entities across Nebraska. Our goal is to help Nebraska communities reduce risk.

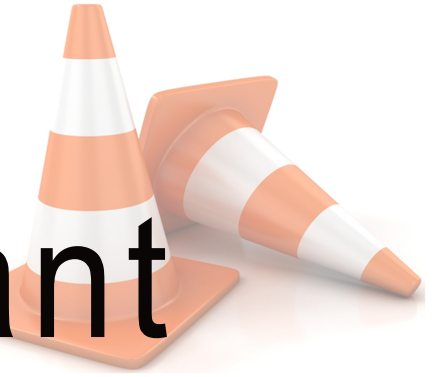
### WHY SHOULD YOU COME?

Reducing the risks in your community helps everyone. LARM members and non-members are invited to attend this special conference.





# Safety Grant



The Lean on LARM Safety Grant has been a great way for LARM members to improve safety in their communities. As of July 31, over 60 members have applied and been approved for \$500 each for safety items as part of the Lean on LARM program approved by the LARM Board in December 2017.

Items approved and purchased by members include safety harnesses; safety cones and barricades; security cameras; reflective clothing; a padded pool decking mat; rubberized playground material; safety shoes, chaps, eye gear and much more.

There is still time to apply for a Lean on LARM Safety Grant. Apply for safety items that will assist in reducing or preventing injuries, property losses, Workers' Comp claims and/or liability claims. **LARM members can apply for a Safety Grant through September 30, 2018.** Each applicant must be a LARM member at the time of the grant application submission and issuance of funds.

The Lean on LARM committee reviews and selects qualifying recipients. Funds will be distributed only for items purchased after they were approved and after the receipt is presented to LARM.

**Make sure to apply before September 30, 2018.**

<http://www.larmpool.org/leanonlarm.html>

(Pictured from left is David City Street Supervisor Chris Kroesing and Mat Asche with barricades purchased from a Lean on LARM Safety Grant.)





