

LARM LIFE

NEWS OF THE LEAGUE ASSOCIATION OF RISK MANAGEMENT

WINTER 2019/2020

Meet the LARM Board Chair

New LARM Armor Program

Arapahoe uses volunteers
to man its movie theater





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

LARM

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Cover photo was taken in Skyview Park in Norfolk, Nebraska.

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League of Nebraska Municipalities



What's Inside

Meet the LARM Board

4

Doug Hanson, Chairman of LARM, tells about his goals for LARM

Feature Story: Community-owned theatre is popular

6



Arapahoe volunteers successfully run the theatre in a building owned by the City of Arapahoe

Be safe when putting up holiday decorations

5

Tips for keeping employees and volunteers safe when putting up or taking down holiday decorations



Open Meetings Act booklets now available for members

9



Meet the Board

Chair - Doug Hanson



"I was on the Hickman City Council when LARM was formed. I've seen the value in belonging to a pool. Other insurance companies aren't familiar with insuring a water tower, a jail, a park or a municipal swimming pool. LARM is customized for insuring public agencies," Doug said.

Doug worked for the Nebraska Department of Correctional Services as a Facilities Engineering Manager for 37 years. Since 2015 he has worked for the Nebraska Department of Administrative Services as the Administrator of the Task Force for Building Renewal.

For questions about LARM contact Doug at djhanson01@windstream.net.



www.larmpool.org

Doug Hanson knows cities. He grew up in Elwood in south central Nebraska where his dad was the village utilities superintendent and Doug was called upon to help mow the park or clear the streets.

He went on to obtain a Bachelor's Degree in Construction Management at UNL and a Masters Degree in Public Administration at UNO.

Doug knows the governance side of cities having served on the Hickman City Council from 1988 to 2014. He is currently the Mayor of Hickman- a position he's held since 2014.

Doug is the Chair of the LARM Board, having also served as Chair for ten years from 2005 to 2015. He is a past board member of the League of Nebraska Municipalities.

LARM Goals - October 2019

1. Continue to provide excellent risk management services to our LARM customers while also stabilizing the LARM Board membership.
2. Review and update LARM's Bylaws to restore a strong relationship between LARM and the League of Nebraska Municipalities.
3. Continue to grow LARM by adding new members. As a result of our excellent LARM staff and independent agents, LARM has grown significantly over the past several years. We hope to continue this pace of growth while also serving our existing and loyal customers.

Be safe putting up and taking down holiday lights

The US Consumer Product Safety Commission found that in 2012-2013 there were 15,000 falls due to putting up or taking down holiday lights.

City employees and occasionally volunteers are tasked with the job of putting up and taking down holiday lights and decorations in nearly every municipality in Nebraska. Usually the weather conditions are far from ideal for doing so. The decorations are often somewhat large and awkward to handle making the task all the more difficult.

To reduce the chance of one of your city employees or volunteers being injured when installing or dismantling holiday decorations, make sure safety policies are followed.

First of all, no one should be in a loader bucket when putting up or taking down holiday lights or when working on an outdoor project. Many municipalities use an aerial lift platform such as a lift truck or scissor lift to put up lights. A person should always wear a safety harness while in the lift.

Scaffolding is an option for some lighting projects such as in parks or larger displays. Many of the basic safety rules that apply to most tools also apply to the safe use of a lift, ladder or scaffolding. If a person feels tired or dizzy, or is prone to losing their balance, they need to stay off any lift device.

Workers should not use lift devices or scaffolding in high winds or storms. The job of putting up or taking down decorations should never be done in icy conditions. Be patient and wait for a day that's favorable for working from a lift device.

"Weather conditions in Nebraska usually require that you plan to put decorations up early before you're fighting snow and ice. In the same way no one should put themselves in an unsafe position to take down holiday decorations. Wait until spring if you have to. Taking down the decorations on an icy day in January is not worth risking the safety of your city workers or volunteers," said Dave Bos, LARM Loss Control Manager.



Pictured above is Ricky Hampson, president of the Emerson Betterment Committee. Below are Emerson volunteers putting up lights in the City Park.





Arapahoe's volunteers operate its local movie theatre

When a town loses its movie theatre it loses a vital source of entertainment.

The Crystal Theatre opened over 100 years ago in Arapahoe when silent movies enthralled its citizens. The theatre's first "talkie" was shown in Arapahoe on March 9, 1930. A 1949 Crystal Theatre movie poster advertises upcoming showings of various movies featuring Clark Gable, Judy Garland, Fred Astaire, Mickey Rooney and Roy Rogers.

When in March, 1963, the owner announced she was closing the theatre, the Arapahoe Chamber of Commerce stepped in and leased and operated it. Then, in 1967 the Arapahoe City Council purchased the theatre building for \$4000 but it was closed

again a few years later for lack of funding. In response to an Arapahoe Attitude survey taken in 1973 - 76% of Arapahoe citizens supported reopening the theatre. **The Arapahoe City Council, the Arapahoe school student council, and a group of Arapahoe citizens worked together to clean and remodel the theatre and ready it for showing movies once again.** A Crystal Theatre Board made up of volunteers was set up to operate it.

Don Sandell, who owns the barber shop just down the street from the theatre, is a member of the six member Crystal Theatre Board of Directors and he serves as the theatre's manager.

"We try to keep the area kids involved in the theatre. They work the concessions and take tickets. They'll come to the theatre in Arapahoe to watch a movie instead of driving 40 miles to McCook or 65 miles to Kearney," Sandell said. For 43 years, volunteers have staffed the ticket booth, sold popcorn and other goodies out of the concessions area and made sure good wholesome movies are ordered and then projected on the screen. **There are currently 95 people signed up to volunteer as one of the four workers who operate the theatre on the four nights a week it's open - Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday.** The ticket price is affordable for most everyone - \$3 for adults and \$1 for kids and senior citizens. It's \$1 for everyone



Volunteers at theatre

Monday nights. The shows are listed on the theatre's Facebook page.

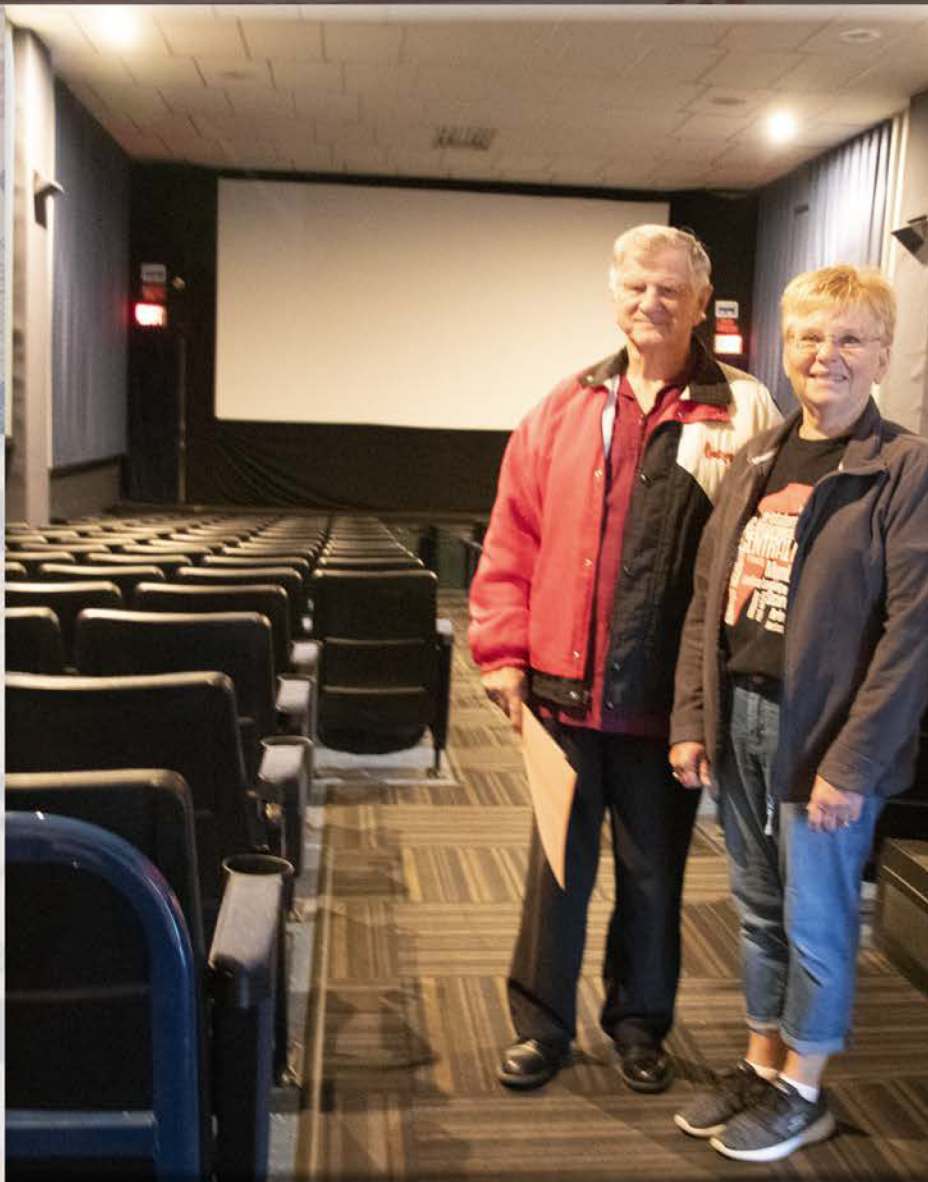
New movies including "The Art of Racing in the Rain", "Downton Abbey", "Overcomer" and "Abominable" were shown this fall. The theatre seats 172 and Sandell said it's not unheard of for the theatre to be sold out four nights in a row.

The theatre, even with Netflix and Hulu available online, makes enough to support itself. Recent local

donations to the theatre have made it possible to add handicapped seating. Headphones and screen readers for the hearing impaired are also available.

"We sell popcorn like crazy even to people who come off the street. The City pays the electric bills and the Theatre pays all the other expenses," Sandell said. Those expenses include paying a booking service that contracts with a movie studio. The movie used to come in a large platter format with film that played off a projector.

Since an upgrade January 2001 to a digital projector for \$92,000, the movie is now transferred from a hard drive to the theatre drive with an activation code allowing the movie to play for the four days of weekly operation. Connie Hoefs, who serves as secretary on the Crystal Theatre Board, is responsible for transferring the movie each week. Sony or whatever movie company that



Pictured at the top left is Bob Sandell leaving the Crystal Theatre. Bottom left is Connie Hoefs in the concessions area. Top right are Sandell and Hoefs in the main theatre seating area.

produced the movie requires 35-67% of the box office receipts in addition to a \$200-300 base fee. Sandell said representatives from Sony have dropped in before to make sure the head count was accurate.

The City of Arapahoe is a LARM member and insures the theatre building. Dave Bos, LARM Loss Control Manager, said it's a privilege to insure Arapahoe.

"It's great when communities can work together to offer wonderful amenities to their citizens. We at LARM are glad to be able to offer our loss control and customer services to help these projects be successful," Bos said.

"Going to the movies is a fun family event. It gives people something to do here in town," said Hoefs.

The League Association of Risk Management (LARM) is now offering funds towards the purchase of a bullet proof vest for LARM member police departments.

The LARM Armor program will provide \$700 towards an approved vest for qualifying members.

A requirement of being awarded funds for this program would be that the LARM member police department be required to show they have in place a "mandatory wear" policy for their patrol officers. LARM has a model policy available for members at www.larmpool.org/larmarmor.html.

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

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 or 402-853-1055, Fred Wiebelhaus at fred.wiebelhaus@larmpool.org or 402-440-9129 or Diane Becker at diane.becker@larmpool.org or 402-314-6827.

**[www.larmpool.org/
larmarmor.html](http://www.larmpool.org/larmarmor.html)**



LARM ARMOR

Open Meetings Act Booklet Available To LARM Members

Every Nebraska public official needs to be knowledgeable about the Nebraska Open Meetings Act.

"When a public entity holds a meeting, board members must follow the Open Meetings Act which explains laws such as when and how to notify the public about meetings and when it's appropriate to go into executive session. It's vitally important that board members understand and follow the Act," said Dave Bos, LARM Loss Control Manager.

LARM has a new booklet containing the entire Open Meetings Act available for its members. There were changes made to the Open Meetings Act in the 2019 session of the Nebraska Legislature. The changes were in effect as of September 1, 2019. The booklet has a table of contents to more easily find sections of the Open Meetings Act.

For more information or to obtain an Open Meetings Act booklet contact Diane Becker at diane.becker@larmpool.org or 402-314-6827.

OPEN MEETINGS ACT

NEBRASKA
REVISED STATUTES
84-1407 THROUGH 84-1414

VALID SEPTEMBER 1, 2019



402-742-2600
WWW.LARMPPOOL.ORG

84-1411. MEETINGS OF PUBLIC BODY; NOTICE; CONTENTS; WHEN
RIGHT TO MODIFY; DUTIES CONCERNING NOTICE; VIDEOCONFERENCING OR
TELEPHONE CONFERENCING AUTHORIZED; EMERGENCY MEETING WITHOUT NOTICE
APPEARANCE BEFORE PUBLIC BODY.

402-742-2600

LARM



Safety Grant



Since January 2018 over 150 members have applied for and received \$500 Lean on LARM Safety grant funds for items that included 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.

LARM members can submit an application for up to \$500 of Lean on LARM grant funds from October 1, 2019 to September 15, 2020.

Each applicant must be a LARM member at time of submission and issuance of grant funds. The Lean on LARM committee will review and select qualifying recipients of the grant. Items cannot be purchased until you have received notice that the grant has been approved.

For more information, contact Dave Bos at dave.bos@larmpool.org or 402-853-1055, Fred Wiebelhaus at fred.wiebelhaus@larmpool.org or 402-440-9129 or Diane Becker at diane.becker@larmpool.org or 402-314-6827.

Apply online at
www.larmpool.org/leanonlarm.html

Nebraska's Municipal Insurance Pool



Here is what LARM members are saying:

"The City of Imperial has been a member of LARM for 20 years, both because of the savings and the incredible service we have been given. When I have questions about coverage or premiums, they are always answered quickly and thoroughly. Staff is so helpful and always takes the time to make sure I understand. When we have had claims, they have been handled efficiently and without complications. I appreciate the pool aspect of being in this 'insurance thing' with my fellow communities!" **Jo Leyland, Administrator/Clerk/Treasurer, City of Imperial**

"The City of Curtis chose LARM over a decade ago primarily due to the significant savings over the competitors for the same coverage. We have continued to be a LARM member due to the savings and the fact that the customer service by the employees of LARM is top notch. My experience on the LARM Board of Directors and being a satisfied customer for years give me the confidence to wholeheartedly encourage other municipalities and government entities to consider LARM." **Doug Schultz, Administrator/Clerk/Treasurer, City of Curtis**

"LARM Customer Service is top notch. No other insurance company can even come close to the expertise and knowledge of LARM Staff and its agents. The affordability and protection that a risk management pool such as LARM provides is unparalleled, especially for small communities like Beaver City." **Theresa Youngquist, Clerk/Treasurer, City of Beaver City**

"The City of Gibbon appreciates the customer service we receive from Clint Simmons and the rest of the LARM staff. It does not matter if we have a claim or just a question they are always ready and willing to help our staff in a friendly and professional manner. The savings we've realized is also a huge benefit." **Deb VanMatre, Mayor of the City of Gibbon**

LARM is committed to providing Nebraska communities with excellent insurance coverage, loss control and customer services. We had 100% retention of members in 2018/2019 and we're still growing! Find out more at www.larmpool.org

