

# SEWARD *Scene*

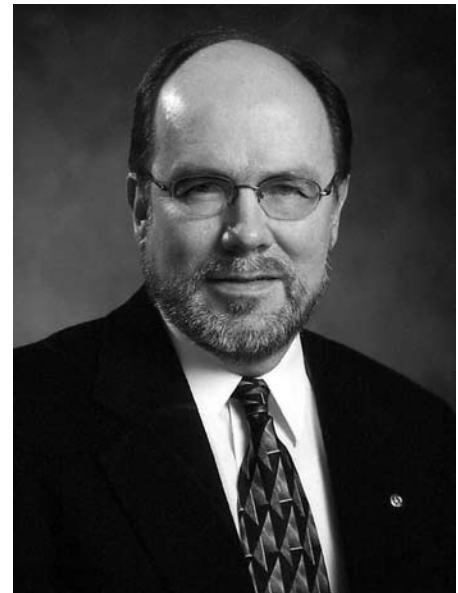
Spring/Summer 2006  
Volume 1, Issue 1

## Mayor's Message to the Community

You are reading an effort by Seward City Government to improve communication between us and you, its citizens. After this first edition, we will need to hear from you as we want to know if we are meeting your needs for information about city government. After all, if we are not providing what you want to know in the newsletter, you probably will not read it. I believe that many people have good ideas, but if we do not share them, no one will ever know. We would like to do more than just recreate the wheel, but perhaps break some new ground with this newsletter.

Communication is important in City government. It is accomplished in many ways through verbal and written means, including our weekly newspaper. However, we hope our newsletter will provide another way for us to share information about services that directly affect you. Please feel free to call me at City Hall @ 643-2928. Leave a message and I will get back with you.

Roger E. Glawatz, Mayor



Mayor Roger E. Glawatz

## Seward City Hall and the Utility Office are "Real"

Employees at City Hall would like to remind all residents that the staff is here to provide the community with exceptional PERSONAL SERVICE.



When contacting City Hall during normal business hours, residents will be greeted by a real person, not an automated system. In addition, for the public's convenience, three payment drop boxes are available: one in the alley south of City Hall and two inside the west entrance to City Hall (one handicapped accessible). These boxes are checked multiple times each day. The most convenient option for payment of utility bills is the bank deduction plan. Bills are mailed to the customer on or about the 1st of each month and payment is automatically deducted from the customer's account on the 15th of the month. Forms for this service are available at City Hall or can be downloaded at the City's website which is:

[www.cityofsewardne.com](http://www.cityofsewardne.com)

In June of 2005, City Hall was struck by lightning! In addition to losing 9 computers, 2 large printers, the total telephone system and main copier, water damage was sustained as lightning also came in through a water line. Several months passed before recovering from the loss, which included replacement of equipment, installation of new drywall, and drying out floors and walls. After determining that the lightning strike originated at the old siren on the roof of City Hall, the siren was removed, as was reported in the Seward County Independent. The staff was proud to be able to continue operations and provide customer services without any delays during this time period.

## City Administrator Credentialed by ICMA

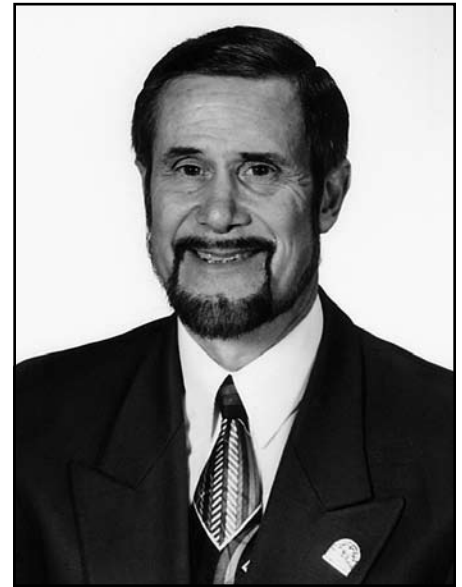
The Credentialing Advisory Board of the International City/County Management Association (ICMA) has approved Seward City Administrator Dan Berlowitz's continued designation as a Credentialed Manager for January 2006 – January 2007. Mr. Berlowitz was one of 435 local government professionals to be credentialed through the ICMA Voluntary Credentialing Program when it began in 2003.

To be credentialed by ICMA, a member must have significant experience as a senior management executive in local government, have earned a degree in public administration or a related field, and demonstrated a commitment to high standards of integrity and to lifelong learning and professional development. City Administrator Berlowitz is qualified with over 20 years of professional local government executive experience.

At the time of his appointment in February 1990 as Seward City Administrator, he had worked from 1986 to 1990 for the city of Central City, Nebraska as its first city administrator. Administrator Berlowitz has been in good standing with the ICMA since 1986.

In order to maintain credentialing, City Administrator Berlowitz must annually submit to ICMA a professional development plan and formal report on the development activities he completed during the prior year. His report must thoroughly describe what he learned, what difference it made, and explain how he applied this learning in the community.

The International City/County Management Association promotes excellence in local government through professional management. Toward this end, ICMA provides an



*City Administrator Dan Berlowitz*


information clearinghouse, technical assistance, and professional development training so nearly 8,000 chief appointed administrators, assistant administrators, and other local government administrative officials throughout the world.

## Seward Civic Center is the City's Social Center

The Seward Civic Center, located at 616 Bradford Street, was a gift to the City of Seward by Jessie Tishue Langworthy in accordance with her will. The original structure was completed in 1955, and an addition was added in 1977. The first building is located on the home site of the Tishue family. To date, over two million dollars has been distributed to the Center, and no tax dollars have been used to operate the Civic Center.

The Civic Center is available without charge to various civic, educational and religious clubs or groups. No private use of the building is allowed (i.e. wedding receptions, showers, family reunions, etc.) The building is governed by a seven-member commission appointed by the Mayor and approved by the City Council. All

rules have been set by the Civic Center Commission, in accordance with the will. Reservations must be made at least 24 hours in advance, and the building is open from 8 am to 5 pm, except when portions of the building are scheduled for meetings. For further information, please contact the Seward Civic Center, 616 Bradford Street, Seward NE 68434 or telephone 402-643-4470. Commission Chairman Jean Kolterman may be reached at 402-643-3803.



**Celebrate the 4th of July  
in the City of Seward!**

NEBRASKA HISTORICAL MARKER  
SEWARD, 4th OF JULY CITY  
Since 1868, Seward has, with but few interruptions, sponsored a yearly 4th of July celebration which has gained national attention. This square, the original site of the festival, is today its focal point. Special trains were brought regularly here on the fourth holiday week of thousands arrive by auto. With community groups people have prepared dinners for the celebration. Governor Egan in 1973 designated Seward, Nebraska's 4th of July City. In 1976, American Revolution Bicentennial will still listed Seward for its patriotic observances. Naval Cross in 1954. The county was re-organized in 1862 for Civil War Secretary of State William H. Seward. Platted in 1858, the city of Seward became the county seat in 1871. It is located at the confluence of the Big Blue River, Elm Creek, and



## Hours

### City Hall

Mon. – Fri. 7:00 am – 4:00 pm

### Building/Zoning Department

Mon. – Fri. 7:00 am – 4:00 pm

### Civic Center

Mon. – Fri. 8:00 am – 4:00 pm

### Electric Department

Mon. – Fri. 7:30 am – 4:00 pm

### Police Department

Mon. – Fri. 7:30 am – 4:00 pm

### Public Works Department

Mon. – Fri. 7:30 am – 4:00 pm

### Recreation Department

Mon. – Fri. 7:30 am – 4:00 pm

### Water/Wastewater Department

Mon. – Fri. 7:30 am – 4:00 pm

### Burnsite

*April – November*

Each Saturday 8:00 am – Noon

*December – March*

1st Saturday 8:00 am – Noon

### Dowding Municipal Pool

*Open Swim*

Mon. – Sat. Noon – 5:00 pm

6:00 – 9:00 pm

Sunday 1:00 pm – 6:00 pm

*Adult Swim*

Mon. – Sat. 5:00 pm – 6:00 pm

Mon. – Fri. 7:30 am – 9:30 am

### Recycling Center

Tuesday 10:00 am – 1:00 pm

Thursday 5:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Saturday 9:30 am – 11:30 am

### Seward Memorial Library

*Regular Hours: Sept. 1 – April 30*

Mon. – Thurs. 9:00 am – 8:00 pm

Friday 9:00 am – 5:00 pm

Saturday 9:00 am – 3:00 pm

Sunday 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

*Summer Hours: May 1 – August 31*

Mon. – Wed. 9:00 am – 6:00 pm

Thursday 9:00 am – 8:00 pm

Friday 9:00 am – 5:00 pm

Saturday 9:00 am – Noon

Sunday Closed

### Senior Center

Mon. – Fri. 9:30 am – 3:30 pm



*Seward City Hall located at 537 Main Street*

Please visit the Seward City Website:

[www.cityofsewardne.com](http://www.cityofsewardne.com)

or send an email:

[info@cityofsewardne.com](mailto:info@cityofsewardne.com)

## City Holidays

New Year's Day  
 Martin Luther King Day  
 Memorial Day  
 Independence Day  
 Labor Day  
 Veteran's Day  
 Thanksgiving  
 Discretionary  
 Christmas Day

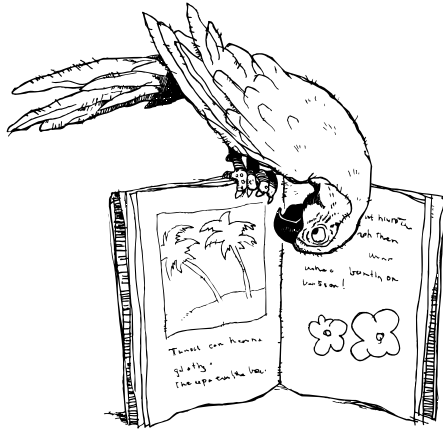
## Boards and Commissions

City Council	First & Third Tuesdays	7:30 pm	Municipal Building, 142 N 7th St
Planning Commission	Second Monday	7:30 pm	Municipal Building, 142 N 7th St
Library Board	Second Tuesday	4:30 pm	Seward Memorial Library, 233 S 5th St
Civic Center Commission	Second Monday	5:00 pm	Civic Center, 616 Bradford St
Park & Recreation Board	First Thursday in Feb., April, June, Aug., Oct., Dec.	8:00 pm	Municipal Building, 142 N 7th St
Aging Service Commission	Second Tuesday	7:00 pm	Lied Senior Center, 1010 Manor Dr W
Tree Board	Second Tuesday	5:30 pm	Civic Center, 616 Bradford St
Cemetery Board	First Monday	7:00 pm	Municipal Building, 142 N 7th St
Civil Service Commission	Fourth Wednesday	5:00 pm	Municipal Building, 142 N 7th St
Airport Authority	Second Monday	5:00 pm	Terminal Building, Seward Airport

## Seward Memorial Library Offers Something for Everyone

Seward Memorial Library serves every age group in the Seward community. From birth to old age, the library strives to be a valuable asset in people's lives. The Leading to Reading Postcard Project suggests book titles for newborns and continues sharing information each month until the child is age 5. Many infant residents are benefiting from this literacy program. Children ages 3-6 who have not yet attended kindergarten are invited to join one of the five scheduled weekly Story Times. Children in grades K-8 have several afternoon program opportunities. On Thursday nights the area teens are active in the Library After Hours program. For adult readers, the library hosts four book clubs which meet monthly on different days and at different times to discuss a variety of titles. Computer classes are offered throughout the year for anyone interested in gaining more technology knowledge. Reading At Home (RAH)

provides delivery of library materials to residents in both Sundermann Homes, Memorial Hospital, Greene House Assisted Living, Heartland Park Retirement Community, and individual homes within the city. Listening Hour is a reading program for care facility residents who no longer are able to read books, but still enjoy hearing stories.



Seward Memorial Library's staff of nine is preparing for the annual

children's summer reading program. Beginning in May, families can register their children ages 3 through 8th grade for an assortment of classes held during May, June, and July. The 2006 theme is "Paws, Claws, Scales, and Tales." On July 27 Seward Memorial Library will sponsor The String Beans, family entertainment for the summer finale, performed at the Bandshell.

Adults should watch for special monthly events related to the 2006 One Book One Nebraska title, *One False Move* written by Nebraska author Alex Kava. The 2006 All Seward Reads Together title is *Big Stone Gap* written by Adriana Trigiani. Adult readers may attend programs related to this novel during the summer months. For more information on programs, events, and continuing education opportunities visit the library website at: [www.sewardlibrary.org](http://www.sewardlibrary.org).

## Lied Senior Center: The Community Meeting Place

Come join us! The Lied Senior Center is a community meeting place where older persons can come together for fellowship, nutritious meals, recreation, education and exercise. Dates and times for activities and the daily menu are listed in a monthly newsletter available at the Center, or may be found in the Seward County Independent.

The Lied Senior Center offers the community other services. The facility may be rented for special functions such as receptions or various meetings. A state-of-the-art video/audio system for use in presenting PowerPoint programs has recently been installed and is included in the rental agreement.



### The Seward Recycling Center accepts the following materials:

- Newspapers, magazines, catalogs, mail, glossy paper (tied in bundles or flat in brown grocery bag)
- Cardboard (tied in flat bundles or placed flat in trailer)
- Aluminum cans (rinsed, crushed, in large plastic garbage bag)
- Aluminum foil (rinsed, crushed and bagged)
- Plastic (nos. 1 & 2 plastic containers, milk jugs, 2-liter and small pop bottles, soap and bleach containers - all lids removed and placed in separate bags)
- Steel cans (washed with labels & lids removed)
- Batteries-automotive (no holes & lids on)
- Computer paper (bagged in grocery sacks, separate from other paper and no staples)

## Dowding Municipal Pool Opens Memorial Day

The 2006 swimming lesson sign-up will be from 5:30 pm to 6:30 pm on Tuesday, May 9 at the Civic Center. The pool will open for the season on Memorial Day and will be open from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm. The pool will be open through August 20, 2006.

### Pool Admission Costs

#### Daily Fees:

Adult (18-54) \$5.00  
Youth (3-17) \$4.00  
Senior (55-64) \$4.00  
Seniors 65 & over Free  
Age 2 & under Free

#### Season Pass Fees:

Individual \$60.00  
Family \$125.00  
(2 adults & up to 4 youth 17 & under in the same household or \$10.00 per person for additional family members)

## Park and Recreation Department Gears Up for Spring and Summer Sports

As the weather warms up Recreation Director, Steve Ferguson and Assistant Director Pat Sanley will be working with spring and summer sports programs. The recreation department has added a new employee, Nick Guess, for the busy season ahead. Nick will be in the recreation department office to answer questions and help out with the spring and summer programs.



The department is currently working on the baseball and softball programs. Ball games begin the end of May and run until mid-July. Plum Creek Park and Plum Creek Sports Complex are the locations for the games, which are played Monday through Thursday nights. Seward has been awarded the area 4 Class B American Legion Junior District Baseball Tournament this year. This special event will be held July 13-25.

The Recreation Department has a new phone number dedicated to ball game and swimming pool information. Ball game "rain outs" and pool closing information will be made available by calling (402) 643-9574. For ball game information call after 4:00 pm. Pool information will be updated as needed.

## Seward Police Department Wants Residents to Enjoy a Safe Summer

The Seward Police Department is preparing for summer. Recently they purchased two new cruisers to serve the city of Seward. Both vehicles replaced older cruisers which were being retired. One of the cruisers was purchased through the Seward County Drug Board, which utilizes seized drug funds to assist agencies within Seward County. All eleven sworn officers are available to participate in "Bike Patrol". This service offers a unique opportunity to spend more time within the community.



*New Police cruiser purchased through the Seward County Drug Board*

As the weather warms up residents will spend more time outside with their pets. Seward offers many different areas for citizens to enjoy walking, running or playing fetch with their pets. However, Seward Police Department would like to remind all pet owners of City Statute 6-213 regarding the removal of animal excrement. Please remember to bring along a plastic bag, rubber gloves, or other means of waste removal when out in public with pets.

The Seward Police Department is constantly training to hone already learned skills to become safer, more professional, and more effective within the community. The officers of the Seward Police Department have most recently been involved in annual re-certification training. All sworn officers were re-certified in both firearms and defensive tactics.



*All sworn officers on the Seward Police Department participate in "Bike Patrol."*

The Seward Police Department would also like to mention that with the onset of summer, foot traffic increases. Motorists should be extra careful when driving near local parks, downtown businesses, and especially when driving in the area of Seward's Dowding Municipal Pool. The department wants all the residents to have a safe and enjoyable summer!

## Information from Seward's Water / Wastewater

The Water/Wastewater Department staff consists of the superintendent, David Lathrop, seven operators, and two seasonal summer workers. The department operates and maintains nine wells in three well fields, a water treatment plant, 65 miles of water distribution mains, two water towers, more than 35 miles of sewage collection mains, and the wastewater plant. In addition, the department assists with the maintenance of the Dowding Municipal Pool.

Seward continues Stage II drought restrictions, due to the well levels being 14 feet lower than the ground water levels in the '90s. These are the highest restrictions available to the city. The ground water is contaminated with nitrate based fertilizers from farming, and the water is also corrosive.

For these reasons, Seward commissioned and constructed a 3.2 million gallon per day reverse osmosis water plant which went online in June of 2004. It removes nitrates from well water and treats the water to make it less corrosive to copper plumbing pipes.

Some planned projects for the next year include replacing water mains on 12th Street near Park and Hillcrest and adding a variable frequency drive to the water pumps.

All water used by residents and businesses except for water used to irrigate lawns makes its way to the wastewater plant. The plant was constructed in 1957 and had a major upgrade in 1977. The plant is designed to handle 1.0 million gallons per day of wastewater. The wastewater

department is planning for another major upgrade which will meet the next 25 years of growth. The renovation will include disinfection of the final wastewater effluent that discharges into Plum Creek.



*Water restrictions for irrigating lawns are in effect. Odd numbered parcels may water on Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday. Even numbered parcels may water on Tuesday, Thursday, and Sunday. No irrigating is allowed on Fridays, which enables special maintenance to be done on the water distributions system.*

## News from the Electric Department

The Seward Electric Department is headed by superintendent Clarence Wattier and Crew Chief Larry Ruether.

*Never climb in trees that have electric wires running through them. You may get badly burned.*



These men have a staff of six who keep busy with projects and improvements. Projects recently completed include tree trimming by contractor, installation of underground electric lines and equipment in the new development areas, and completion of a new overhead line in the annex area.

Projects proposed for the Electric Department are the rebuilding of the Ash Street substation and continued rebuilding of the underground lines in the annex area. Installing lines, street lights and transformers in the development areas is an ongoing project.

## Public Properties Division Readies for Warm Weather

Employees Bob Miers, Bob Core, and Terri Christensen are getting ready for the spring and summer mowing and maintenance of Seward's 11 parks. Cemetery employees Frank Reynolds and Bill Patsch are preparing for the warm weather maintenance in the three cemeteries in Seward.



## Building Inspection Department Sees Changing of the Guard

With time comes change, with change comes restructuring. After serving the City of Seward for 28 years, Mr. Roger VanOoyen retired in Nov. 2005.

Mr. John Hughes has served the City of Seward for 10 years and has been promoted to take over VanOoyen's position as Building Director and Planning-Zoning Director. Mr. Hughes brings a great deal of experience and knowledge with him.

One of Hughes' first duties was to fill his old position. After reviewing several qualified applicants, the City of Seward hired Ed Gonzalez to fill the position of Assistant Building Inspector and Purchasing Agent. Gonzalez was a former police officer

for the City of York and has multiple years of experience in general construction.

One of Hughes' first assignments for Gonzalez was to join other City of Seward employees in attending and completing a Computer Aided Drafting (AutoCAD) class at Southeast Community College. Gonzalez reports that the class was very in-depth and that he very much appreciated all the support from his fellow classmates and Hughes. Gonzalez will be utilizing his AutoCAD skills when the city implements their new Geographic Information System (GIS). The new GIS will provide the public access (via the Internet) to several city maps depicting streets, property lines, city easements and more!!

With Hughes' and Gonzalez' combined knowledge and experience in the areas of construction and enforcement, the Building Inspection Department feels very confident in serving the City of Seward by ensuring that safe and quality construction is provided for all citizens of Seward.



*John Hughes and Ed Gonzalez*



## Volunteer Fire Department Serves the Community for Over 125 Years

The City of Seward is very proud of its Volunteer Fire Department. The department was established on May 29, 1879. Today 46 active members provide modern fire and emergency medical services. Of these, 27 are certified fire fighters and 18 are EMT defibrillator certified. The fire department's equipment includes: three engines, one 75-foot ladder truck, two tanker trucks, one grass rig, one all terrain vehicle, and two rescue squads. The Seward Volunteer Fire Department responds to city and rural calls. In 2005 the department responded to a total of 488 calls.

## Summer "To Do" Lists are Long for the City Street Division

Six men make up the Street Division of the Public Works Department. Calvin Nordmeyer, Mel Aldrich, and Ken Holeka all have over 20 years of experience at their jobs. These men and their co-workers are responsible for snow removal, tree and stump removal, sweeping of streets, gravel and alley maintenance, and concrete street and sidewalk repair. Their job includes flood levee maintenance and pumping water over the flood levee. They install and maintain street signs, as well as seal street cracks and joints. The street division also operates the wood disposal site on Saturdays, mows road sides and private lots, and sprays for mosquitoes.

The most recent projects completed by the Street Department were street repair on Rainbow Ave. from Bader Ave. to Pinewood Ave. They sealed

street cracks and joints, and also removed trees and stumps from the city's parks and cemeteries. Snow removal was completed as needed.

Spring department projects include building a new flood pumping station on S. 10th Street, sealing street cracks and joints, and monitoring the work of contractors who are paving Karol Kay Blvd. by the Sports Complex. During the summer N. 4th Street will be paved through to the Seward Cemetery. Paving will take place on N. 1st Street, Maple Street, and Augusta Dr.



## City of Seward Contact Information

City Hall	537 Main St	
Utilities		643-2927
Mayor, Administrator, Clerk		643-2928
Building/Zoning Department	537 Main St	643-4869
Civic Center	616 Bradford St	643-4470
Electric Department	142 N 7th St	643-3151
Fire Department	222 N 3rd St	643-3811
	(Non-Emergency dispatch center: 643-4578)	
Library	233 S 5th St	643-3318
Police Department	148 S 1st St	643-2207
	(Communications center: 643-2579)	
Public Works Department		
Public Properties Division		
Park Shop	Plum Creek Park	643-3971
Cemeteries	N Highway 15	643-2053
Street Division	142 N 7th St	643-4000
Burnsite	S Highway 15	
Recycling Center	340 S 7th St	643-3003
Recreation Department	537 Main St	643-3511
Dowding Pool	167 N 14th St	643-4674
Senior Center	1010 Manor Dr W	643-4466
Senior Shuttle	1010 Manor Dr W	643-3177
Water/Wastewater Department	1040 S Columbia Ave	643-3433



[www.cityofsewardne.com](http://www.cityofsewardne.com)

The City of Seward website has a new look! Visitors to the site can find information about each city department, City Council meeting agendas and minutes, community links and more. Several forms are also available for downloading via the website including building permits, parking permits, job applications and registration forms for recreation programs.

PRSRT STD  
 U.S.  
 POSTAGE  
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 Seward, NE  
 Permit No. 7

