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September Newsletter

Board member Bev Morton suggested the lead item this month should be **“Street and sidewalk safety for school children.”** So, we all have a lot at stake always practicing safe driving habits. The opportunity for safe driving is abundant with the Lincoln Public Schools serving over 42,000 students in more than 60 schools and programs. As for school bus safety, when the sign says ‘Stop’, that means stop. Nebraska state law requires that when a motorist approaches a school bus from either the front or rear, and the stop warning signal lights are flashing, the driver shall reduce their speed to not more than 25 miles per hour. When the school bus stop signal arm is extended, the driver of a vehicle – coming from the front or rear must come to a complete stop. School bus drivers report, some drivers are completely ignoring the stop sign.

Rooftop solar panels – The federal income tax credits for installation of solar panels that are included in the recently enacted Inflation Reduction Act has prompted several residents to inquire about installing rooftop solar panels. As the item came up for discussion at the September Board meeting, Jenny Tricker noted, “We have discussed this in previous meetings and communicated it was O.K. as the bylaws don’t preclude it”. However, Treasurer Angie Paul Unruh offered a caution, that “Residents should also consult with the Lincoln Electric System,”(LES). Marc Shkolnick, LES Manager, Energy Services, says, “Not all solar companies in the market are looking out for the customer’s best interest, so it’s essential to get accurate information.” So, team up early with LES if you are thinking about installing solar panels.

Landscape and Fence Installations – While we are discussing service facilities for our homes, we urge residents that have screened pad mounted transformers and pedestals in back yards, to



make sure the access to power equipment is not obstructed. A three-foot clearance in front of the opening side and a one-foot clearance on the other three sides of the pedestal is required. **A townhome owner recently removed a Pfizer planted within a foot of the pedestal. The Pfitzer had grown to more than 10 feet in circumference.** The transformer in this area was also mostly covered. *Properly locating landscaping will reduce power-restoration time, maintain reliability, and eliminate safety hazards.* Current homeowners are

responsible for the compliance of screen plantings with utility company requirements even though the plantings may have been placed there by a former owner.

The Lincoln Electric System required clearances are:

- A 10-foot clear area in front of the opening side of a pad-mounted transformer (label side)
- A 3-foot clear area on the other three sides of the pad-mounted transformers

Pictured – Properly maintained transformer and pedestals.

Note – Transformers require greater clearance than pedestals.



Financial Summary's –

The January 1 – August 31, 2022, Annual Account financial statement is included. Sixty-six percent of the budget has been expended.

Townhouse members will also receive the Townhouse Account financial statement. Budget utilization is at 69 %. End of the year alert – cost increases will top our budgeted amount by years end. The acronym **ROFD**, refers to our Irrigation system in relation to cost increases. We commend Board Member DeLoyd Larsen for his constant vigilance to assure we **repair or fix daily** to keep the system in operation. After a very dry season, the 72 townhomes have a lot of green grass and the daily walk through was essential to assure lengthy shutdowns were avoided. We are nearing the end of the irrigation season with fewer pipeline leaks.

So, this will be a good month to look to see if you have hidden or non-accessible pedestals or transformers. Thanks to everyone for your excellent cooperation.

Dayle Williamson

Edenton Secretary