

THE WIRE

CURRENT NEWS FROM THE ELKHORN RURAL PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT

July 2015

Serving the Elkhorn River Valley since 1940

Volume 24, Number 7

ERPPD is dedicated to providing **SAFE, RELIABLE, COST-EFFECTIVE** electricity for **ALL** customers.

75TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION



The 75th Anniversary Open House Celebration on June 3rd was a great success! We had over 600 customers and guests join us for a great meal, presentations, demonstrations and family fun!

We want to thank everyone who helped us bring this outstanding event together: City of Battle Creek; Battle Creek Farmers Pride, Battle Creek Schools, Battle Creek Fire and Rescue, St. Patricks Catholic Church of Battle Creek, Greenline Equipment of Neligh, Stahla Homes, Neligh Young Men's Club and Nebraska Public Power District.

Thank you for letting us provide you with safe, reliable, cost effective electricity for the past 75 years.

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Carmen Thelen Completes NRECA Management Internship Program



Carmen Thelen, Chief Financial Officer, has completed the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's Robert I. Kabat Management Internship Program (MIP).

The MIP is an intensive six-week management training program held on the campus of the University of Wisconsin-Madison. The program provides a comprehensive analysis of the functions and processes of management.

Carmen is excited to begin utilizing her training to enhance financial decision making to maximizing cost saving and value to our customers.

Congratulations, Carmen, on this great accomplishment.

Dave Hrabanek Completes the Loss Control Internship Program



Dave Hrabanek, ERPPD Foreman and Safety Director, has completed the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association Loss Control Internship (LCI) program.

The LCI program is an intensive four-week program dealing with regulations affecting public power districts, "best practices" for ensuring safety, communication techniques for teaching others, collaborative exercises and networking with other safety professionals, and resource sharing of materials.

Dave will be applying this knowledge to help maintain and improve ERPPD's safety program and commitment of safely supplying electricity to our customers.

Congratulations, Dave, on the completion of the LCI program.

Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

By cleaning your air conditioner's air ducts, you can lower your energy consumption by between 5 and 15 percent.

Source: energy.gov

Working for Nebraska Video

Check out the new Working for Nebraska video on the ERPPD.com website.

"Electricity 101" shows how electricity is generated and delivered to your home to be there when you flip the light switch or turn on an appliance.



**Working for
Nebraska**

Wayne McCormick Retires after 23 years with the District

Wayne McCormick, Assistant General Manager, retired on June 12, 2015. He started his career at Elkhorn Rural Public Power District in January of 1992, after teaching and coaching at Battle Creek High School for 19 years and one year at Elkhorn Valley High School in Tilden.

His original assignment at ERPPD included the duties of Safety Director, Human Resources (benefits, policy updates, wellness, training, etc.), Corporate Communications (newsletters, advertising, marketing, etc.), Energy Services (irrigation load control, energy audits, incentives, etc.)

Wayne was promoted to the position of Assistant General Manager in 2000. He added the duties of Office Manager in 2005. His current duties included Manager of Support Services (technology coordinator, new technology project leader, etc.), Grassroots Political Action Coordinator, Corporate Communicator, etc.

His major accomplishments included developing the automatic irrigation load control system in partnership with the late Chip Guenther, created the WIRE monthly newsletter in 1992, and created custom screens for displaying system load data.

Wayne's family include Jill, his wife of 42 years, daughter Hailey and her husband Ryan of Omaha, son Mitch of Norfolk, and daughter Kelsey, husband Wes and grandson Kaden of Lincoln.

Wayne plans to spend time with family and friends and pursue his hobbies of hunting, fishing, water skiing and other water sports, riding ATV's, singing in choir, computers, woodworking, and traveling/sightseeing. He plans to continue his volunteer work in the Battle Creek Betterment Club, Battle Creek Public School Foundation, and serves on the board of the Nebraska Rural Electric Association Credit Union.





Heat Safety

Working in hot humid weather can limit the body's ability to cool and regulate its temperature. It is important to recognize when there might be a problem. There are several types of illnesses that can result from the heat:

Heat rash - looks like blisters or pimples. To treat, keep skin dry and avoid hot, humid environments. Do not use ointments or creams to treat.

Heat exhaustion - symptoms include nausea, confusion, thirst, excessive sweating and a body temp of 104

degrees or greater. To treat, immediately remove the worker from the hot area, give liquids, and apply a cool cloth to head, neck and face. Take to a medical facility to be checked.

Heat Stroke - signs include loss of consciousness, seizures and no sweating. Immediate medical attention will be needed. While waiting, move to a cooler area and apply cool water to entire body, if possible.

Prevention is always the best cure. Here are a few tips to help prevent heat illnesses:

- 1) Build up to being in the heat - take frequent breaks, if you are not used to being out in the heat;
- 2) Drink water at least every 15 minutes, regardless of whether or not you are thirsty;
- 3) Wear hats and light-colored clothing;
- 4) Know the warning signs of heat illnesses and take action when you see or experience them;
- 5) Remember: Water. Rest. Shade.

You can visit www.osha.gov/SLTC/heatillness for more information.

Take precautions to have fun, stay healthy and be safe in the summer heat.

OPERATIONS NEWS

Tree and Brush Spraying

In a continuing effort to control tree and brush growth in the power line rights-of-way for reliability purposes, ERPPD has contracted with Midwest Spray Team and Sales, Inc., and Wilson Shady Acres Nursery and Tree Service to treat vegetation in the ROWs.

The Midwest Spray Team will begin in late August or Early September treating power line rights-of-way in the area west of Neligh and Elgin. The area will encompass Townships 23 to 25 in Ranges 8, 9, and 10. Wilson will start in late June to early July in the area around Norfolk and Madison. This area will encompass Townships 21 to 25 in Ranges 1E, 1W, and 2W.

If you have any questions or concerns or have a request not to spray, contact ERPPD Operations Manager Jim Ridder at our Battle Creek office, 1-800-675-2185.

Tree and brush control is an integral part of meeting our goals of service reliability and cost management.

Recognize the Signs of Stroke

About 800,000 Americans suffer a stroke every year. A stroke is an interruption of blood flow to the brain that kills nerve cells and affects a person's ability to function.

Early detection of a stroke and speedy treatment can mean the difference between full recovery or long term disability.

Signs that someone is having a stroke:

1. Abrupt numbness or weakness in the face, arms or legs - particularly on one side of the body.
2. Confusion
3. Trouble speaking or understanding speech
4. Vision issues in one or both eyes
5. Problems walking and loss of balance
6. Sudden severe headache
7. Fluctuating levels of responsiveness.

Symptoms can vary in individuals so the National Safety Council (NCS) recommends that 911 be called immediately and using the Cincinnati Prehospital Stroke Scale to help identify a stroke. Follow these three steps:

1. Ask the person to smile.

One side of the mouth will "smile" and the other will droop, if they have had a stroke

2. Ask the person to raise both of their arms in front of their body.

If there has been a stroke, one arm will not move or drifts away from the front of the body.

3. Ask the person to repeat the following sentence: "You can't teach an old dog new tricks."

The person slurs words or uses incorrect words or cannot speak at all, which indicates that there has been a stroke.

Source: *Today's Supervisor*

75TH ANNIVERSARY DRAWING WINNERS



Tower Fan
Leray Zierke



Grand Prize Winner
Electric Grill
Dee Rathjen



Popcorn Popper
Dan Scheer



Rectangular Crockpot
Janie Witzel

***Congratulations to our
Door Prize Winners!***



6 pack LED Bulbs
Levi Hrabanek

Not Pictured:

Gary Volk; Jeff Ryan and Merret Howard - winners of tickets to the Northeast Nebraska Ag Appreciation Banquet on June 11, 2015.

Liz Thelen - Bullet Blender

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

with Board position and subdivision

- Rod Zohner
President.....II
- Tim Means
Vice President..II
- Larry Lindahl
Secretary.....III
- Dennis Kuchar
Treasurer.....I
- Jerrell Dolesh
Director.....II
- Mark Miller
Director.....I
- Joe Thiele
Director.....III
- Greg Weidner
Director.....I
- David Hoefler
Director.....III

MANAGER

Tom Rudloff

For Emergency Service or Outage Reporting

1-800-675-2185

After Hours Note:

The entire 800-number *must* be dialed, even for a local call.

Communicate Electronically With ERPPD

Internet: www.erppd.com

E-mail: erppd@erppd.com



**Know what's below.
Call before you dig.**

**It's the law!
Call 811 Before You Dig!**

Or 1-800-331-5666

Diggers Hotline of Nebraska

Outage Checklist

In the case of an outage:

- First check to see if the fuses below the meter are good.
- If you have breakers, make sure they are on and have not kicked out.
- If you have a double-throw switch for standby power, make sure it is in the correct position.
- Check with neighbors to see if they have power. By doing this before calling us, we can determine if it is a line or an individual outage. This can help cut down on outage duration.
- Please, be prepared to give the name on the account, plus the consumer number and/or the legal location. This will assist us in sending our crews to the correct place.

Questions about your bill?

Please call the ERPPD office at 402-675-2185 or toll-free, 1-800-675-2185, during office hours, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. M-F, in regards to billing questions. When calling the office concerning billing problems, it will save time if you would have your meter serial number or customer account number. Remember to call the Battle Creek office if you have billing questions. All account payments should be mailed to:

Elkhorn Rural Public Power District
P.O. Box 310
Battle Creek, NE 68715