



# THE WIRE



CURRENT NEWS FROM THE ELKHORN RURAL PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT

March 2021

Serving the Elkhorn River Valley since 1940

Volume 30, Number 3

## TRUSTEE RESIGNS -REPLACEMENT SOUGHT

Judy Hilkemann, at large trustee for the Elkhorn Rural Public Power District Community Development Fund (Fund) Board has



announced her resignation. She is resigning to take care of some health issues.

Judy is one of the inaugural trustees appointed by the ERPPD board in 2018. Judy stated that she enjoyed her time on the board and will miss working with the other trustees and having a part in funding all the great projects in

the Elkhorn communities.

The Fund Board oversees the Operation Round Up program funds and distributes those monies to non-profit organizations to benefit the communities.

The Fund Board has distributed almost \$80,000 to over 40 different organizations since August 2018.

Funds distributed for the first quarter of 2021 are listed below.

The Fund Board is currently looking for interested volunteers to fill Judy's two-year unexpired term and will be taking applications until April 1, 2021.

Qualifications for the position include being at least 21 years of age and a permanent resident

within the ERPPD charter territory.

The time commitment for the volunteer board of trustees includes a quarterly board meeting, reviewing applications and contacting organizations about the funding.

We are looking for dedicated, involved community members to fill the vacant position.

Please contact Jennifer at 402-675-2185, for more information about the position and this chance to serve your community. You can also submit a cover letter and resume to [jadams@erppd.com](mailto:jadams@erppd.com).

Deadline for submitting cover letter and resume is April 1.

Community Development Fund Requests and Awards (February 2021)

Organization	Project	Location	Amount Awarded
Battle Creek High School	Wind energy experiment kits for STEM labs	Battle Creek	\$403.97
Clearwater Chamber of Commerce	Clearwater Rodeo Concert	Clearwater	\$1,000.00
Elgin Veteran's Club	Replace old flags and poles in cemetery	Elgin	\$1,000.00
Nebraska Children's Home Society	Supporting adoption services	Norfolk	\$1,000.00
Norfolk TeamMates	Background checks for new mentors	Norfolk	\$500.00
Oakdale VFD	New Fire Hall	Oakdale	\$1,000.00
Orchard Historical Society	Digitization project for the Orchard News to be able to put and search it online	Orchard	\$500.00
Pope John/St. Boniface Schools	STREAM CI - create a multi-media center in library for students to experience more science, technology, reading, engineering, art, and math (STREAM)	Elgin	\$1,000.00
Summerland Public School	National Honor Society -Summer Sunshine project to build relationships for the new school	Clearwater	\$690.00
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>\$7,093.97</b>

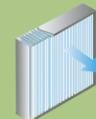


Wednesday, March 17

<b>Second Quarter</b>	<b>Application Deadline</b> April 19, 2021	<b>Board Meeting Date:</b> May 3, 2021
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# LET'S POWER SAVINGS



Saving begins with a well-maintained heating and cooling system. Change air filters monthly and check for obstructions around your outdoor compressor unit.

For more energy efficiency tips call the office or visit our website.

*We value our customers.  
We value you.*

www.erppd.com  
800-675-2185



Checking, changing, or cleaning your filter once a month saves money and extends the life of your home's heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) system.

If left unchecked, a dirty filter forces the HVAC system to work harder to push conditioned air through tight spaces. This results in higher energy bills and—potentially—system failure.

Air filters are rated by a Minimum Efficiency Reporting Value (MERV). Ranging from one to 20, this scale gauges a filter's effectiveness at blocking debris. Most experts recommend filters with a MERV 6 or higher.

Check to see if your furnace has an exist-

ing air filter. The size should be labeled on the side of the filter.

While removing a clogged filter

altogether relieves pressure on the system, the system cannot perform well without one. Unfiltered dust and grime accumulate on critical parts like the evaporator coil, causing unnecessary wear and tear.

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) advises checking an air filter once a month and replacing it at least every three months. It is critical to inspect and replace filters before seasons of heavy use like summer and winter.

When replacing the filter, make sure the arrow on the filter points toward the blower motor. To

help schedule monthly checkups, write the date on the side of the filter.

Once you have made the change, turn your system

back on.

It is not too early to think about warmer weather and being pre-

pared for air conditioning season.

EnergyWise<sup>sm</sup> offers a \$30 rebate on yearly air conditioning tune ups. A qualified technician must perform the tune up. Please see [www.erppd.com](http://www.erppd.com) for more information or contact Brian Suckstorf at 800-675-2185.

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Don't keep your refrigerator too cold. The Department of Energy recommends a temperature setting of 35 to 38 degrees for the fresh food compartment and zero degrees for the freezer. Make sure the refrigerator doors are sealed airtight to maximize efficiency.

Source: [www.energy.gov](http://www.energy.gov)



# ENGINEERING INTERN



Jacob Abraham, started as an engineering intern on January 18.

He is studying electrical engineering through the Bell Program, which is a work based way

for juniors and senior engineering students to complete a bachelors degree while learning on-the-job. Degrees are awarded through Minnesota Sate University, Mankato.

Jacob is a Wayne, NE native and completed pre-engineering courses through Northeast Community College. He is in his senior year of engineering school.

Jacob will be learning about electrical distribution systems and working on various projects, like line loss, while he is at Elkhorn.



As you prepare for planting season, don't forget to plan for safety. There are many aspects to safety on the farm, but electrical safety is often overlooked. Keep these safety tips in mind as you prepare for planting:



### TRAIN OTHERS

Train anyone working on your farm, including family members and seasonal workers, about electrical hazards.

### SAFETY FIRST

Have daily meetings to review the day's work and discuss safety implications. Know and review where the power lines are, the clearance required, and the proper position of extensions as they are transported.



### WAIT TO UNFOLD

Remind workers to fold or unfold extensions well into the field, not close to the field's edge where power lines are typically located.

### USE A SPOTTER

When working in the vicinity of power lines, always have a spotter on the ground, who can direct you away from power lines or poles if you are getting too close.



### DO NOT EXIT YOUR CAB

If your machine or truck makes contact with a power line, pole, or guy wire, you could become electricity's path to ground and become electrocuted if you step out of the cab.

### CALL 9-1-1

Call 9-1-1 to have your electric utility dispatched to deenergize the power source. Only exit the cab if your equipment is on fire. If that happens, make a solid jump out and hop away with feet together as far as you can.



For more information:

Safe Electricity.org

# YOUTH ENERGY LEADERSHIP CAMP

## NO, IT'S NOT JUST ANOTHER CAMP

I bet right now you are thinking that this is the zillionth camp flyer you have seen and that this camp is just like all the rest. It costs a bunch, you won't know anyone there, it's going to be awkward, and you won't get anything out of going, except maybe a sunburn.



## THINK AGAIN!

It's free, you are going to make life-long friends, and learn about the electric industry through interesting workshops, fascinating demonstrations and presentations by regional experts addressing the many issues affecting the rural electric program. There's also canoeing, sports, a banquet and a dance. A tour to the Gerald Gentleman Power Station and the Kingsley Hydro-Electric Power Plant provide for a first-hand look at the process of generating electricity.

So don't delay...apply today!

## WHY SHOULD I ATTEND?

Now that you know this isn't just another camp, you may be asking yourself, "should I go?"

You should if you have:

- Leadership potential
- An awesome personality
- A strong academic record
- An interest in meeting new people



### Fun, Friends, Learning and Leadership

Join us at YELC 2021 - July 19-23, Halsey NE

More info at [www.erppd.com](http://www.erppd.com)

## 2021 ERPPD ENERGY LEADERSHIP CAMP APPLICATION FORM

Return to : Elkhorn Rural Public Power District, c/o Stacie Young, PO Box 310, Battle Creek, NE 68715

(Entry Deadline April 16, 2021)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Parents' or Guardian's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

School \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_ Grade \_\_\_\_\_

### COMPLETE THE SHORT PARAGRAPH BELOW:

Why I would like to attend the 2021 Youth Energy Leadership Camp at the 4-H camp at Halsey National Forest on July 19-23 as a representative of Elkhorn Rural Public Power District.

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