



THE WIRE



CURRENT NEWS FROM THE ELKHORN RURAL PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT

March 2019

Serving the Elkhorn River Valley since 1940

Volume 28, Number 3

SAFETY & RELIABILITY: TREE PLANTING

The cultivation of trees is the cultivation of the good, the beautiful, and the ennobling in man, and for one, I wish to see it become universal. --Julius Sterling Morton

At ERPPD we want to promote the planting and cultivation of trees within our district. We also want your electrical service to be safe and reliable. To that end, trees need to be planted in such a manner that they will not grow into the right-of-way of the utility lines.

When deciding to plant trees on your property, please take the time to research tree selections by consulting your local arborist, tree nursery or natural resource district. These experts can provide assistance in designing a beautiful, shade-filled yard with trees appropriate for each area of the landscape. With their help, trees can provide economical cooling in the summer, and a wind-break for harsh winter winds.

Choosing the right tree for the right place is crucial, especially when it comes to power lines. Trees and wood in general can potentially conduct electricity and can create a safety hazard if grown close to electric lines. Power outages or momentary interruptions can occur when branches come into contact with overhead lines. Electrical arcing and sparking from a wire to a nearby branch

Plant the Right Tree in the Right Place

For safety, plant taller trees away from overhead utility lines



can also cause fires.

Trees that grow too close to electric lines can create shock and fire hazards as well as power outages. More importantly, children can become victims of electric shock when they climb trees that have grown too close to the power lines as well. Trees growing into power lines can also create electrical hazards for people who might be trimming branches, hanging lights or otherwise working around them.

If you have trees that appear to be growing into power lines, please contact ERPPD at 800-675-2185. Never try to prune them yourself. Our employees are trained and have the proper safety equipment to safely prune and trim trees for electric line clearance.

To avoid future electrical hazards and outages, safe planting tips to

remember:

- Consider mature height of trees. Never plant a tree near a power line that could grow within 25 feet of it. Tall growing trees should be planted 50 feet away to avoid future pruning. A mature height of less than 15 feet is recommended for trees planted near power lines.
- Do not plant near underground utility services. Tree roots can grow to interfere with underground pipes, cables and wires. Future repairs to these facilities also could damage the health and beauty of nearby plants and trees, or even require removal.
- Keep areas around electric meters, transformers or other electrical equipment free of any vegetation that could limit utility service access.

continued on page 2

RENEWABLES: OPTIONS FOR ERPPD

There is no doubt that renewables are now part of the energy mix and continue to grow as a percentage of the energy mix. Hydro has been a big part of the equation for many years, but lately wind and solar are becoming more viable as technology improves and costs go down. Wind generation surpassed hydro-generation in 2016 and solar is on the rise.

Locally, solar has been making the news lately. A large solar project in Pierce County has been announced and the City of Norfolk has a project underway with solar and battery storage.

Recently, the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), partnered with small electric coops and public power districts to pilot solar projects in rural America. The Solar Utility Network Deployment Acceleration (SUNDA) program, was run by the NRECA under a cost share agreement with the U.S. Energy Department. Rural electric utilities across the nation are on track to own or buy 1 gigawatt of solar power generation in 2019.

The SUNDA program started in 2014 and is now wrapping

up. The projects varied greatly depending on the size and needs of each individual system. Today the projects are incorporating battery storage with the solar arrays to make the systems even more flexible and reliable.

The SUNDA program was deemed a success as the lessons learned provide valuable information for solar projects in rural communities. A full report can be viewed at www.cooperative.com/programs-services/bts/sunda-solar/Documents/Solar-Revolution.pdf.

The ERPPD board evaluates the energy landscape and takes pride in being good stewards of the environment and the resources we have. A good energy mix with renewables and base-load helps to optimize reliability and cost-effectiveness.

ERPPD's wholesale energy supplier is working toward that energy mix and 65% of its generation is carbon-free with over 17% of the generation being renewables.

The contract ERPPD has with the wholesale supplier allows for 10% renewable generation

on the part of ERPPD. The board of directors monitors the industry and deliberates on what generation might be feasible for our load and customers.

The board will continue to analyze and consider good business decisions that optimize the investments and resources available for our customers.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

In spring and summer months, set your ceiling fans to turn in the counterclockwise direction. This will create a cool breeze. Remember, ceiling fans cool people, not rooms. Turn them off when you leave the room.

Source: energystargov

Safety & Reliability - Cont'd from front page

- Before digging, call the local underground utility locator service to mark the location of underground utilities so that accidental contact, damage and injuries can be avoided.

We at ERPPD want you to enjoy your investment and trees for a lifetime. If you have questions about planting or trimming trees, you can call us at (800) 675-2185 or visit our website at www.erppd.com/safety/tree-planting-tips/.



Elkhorn Rural Public Power District
March 2019

NORTHEAST NE FARM SHOW WINNERS



Helen Carman of rural Norfolk was the winner of one of the drawings at the Farm Show.

Elkhorn Rural Public Power District, in partnership with Stanton County Public Power District, participated in the 2019 Northeast Nebraska Farm and Equipment Show held at the Ag Complex on the Northeast Community College campus in January.

We like to see customers and remind them about safety around power lines and let them know about energy efficiency practices and incentives.

Helen Carman of rural Norfolk was the Grand Prize Winner of an Instant Pot from our booth registration drawing.

Other winners of the booth drawings include: Earl Reed of rural Norfolk; a LED work light and Linda Unkel of rural Norfolk, GE LED light bulbs.

Congratulations to our winners!
Thank you to everyone that stopped by and visited with us during the show.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FUND

The Elkhorn Rural Public Power District Community Development Fund (Fund) continues to invest in and help community organizations. Below are the recipients for the 1st round of funding for 2019.

Eligible organizations can apply for funding each year. Please see www.erppd.com/communityfund

for more information and application.

Second quarter applications for funding are due by Monday, April 22.

Funds are obtained by customers having their bill rounded up to the nearest dollar. To date, \$34,174.04 has been raised through Operation

Round Up and \$24,410.00 has been awarded to area organizations - you can see who received money in the October 2018 and January 2019 *Wire* archived on the ERPPD website under the "About Us" tab.



Community Development Fund Requests and Awards (February 2019)

Organization	Project	Location	Amount Awarded
Battle Creek TeamMates	Chapter Fee	Battle Creek	\$500.00
Elgin TeamMates	Chapter Fee and background checks	Elgin	\$500.00
Ewing Booster Club	Post Prom	Ewing	\$50.00
In His Arms Community Childcare Infant Room	Safe sleep with Owlet	Battle Creek	\$1,000.00
Neligh Public Library	After School & Youth Program	Neligh	\$1,000.00
Neligh Young Mens Club	American Flags	Neligh	\$1,000.00
Norfolk Public Schools Teammates	Background checks for mentors	Norfolk	\$500.00
St. Vincent De Paul Society	Provide assistance to those in need	Norfolk	\$1,000.00
The Briggs and Barrett Project	Informational brochures about SIDS and SUIDs, sleep sack, safe sleep education class	Norfolk	\$1,000.00
TOTAL			\$6,550.00

Second Quarter	Application Deadline April 22, 2019	Board Meeting Date: May 6, 2019
-----------------------	---	---

Elkhorn Rural Public Power District
March 2019

NOT YOUR USUAL CAMP

Youth Energy Leadership Camp is an *all expense paid* week open to high school students currently in grades 9 - 11.

The week long camp is in Halsey, Nebraska at the Nebraska National Forest July 8 - 12.

Why should you go? You will make life-long friends, go on field trips, participate in fun activities, AND learn about public power in Nebraska.

Those that attend also have an opportunity to earn a *FREE trip to Washington, D.C.* with the Youth Tour the following year.

Applications for Youth Energy Leadership Camp are being taken until **Tuesday, April 16**. See below for the application or visit www.erppd.com for more information and an application.



2019 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, 2019)

Name _____

Address _____

Parents' or Guardian's Name _____ Phone Number _____

School _____ Age _____ Grade _____

COMPLETE THE SHORT PARAGRAPH BELOW:

Why I would like to attend the 2019 Youth Energy Leadership Camp at the 4-H camp at Halsey National Forest on July 8-12 as a representative of Elkhorn Rural Public Power District.
