



# THE WIRE



CURRENT NEWS FROM THE ELKHORN RURAL PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT

May 2020

Serving the Elkhorn River Valley since 1940

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## GOOD NEBRASKA NEIGHBORS

Elkhorn Rural Public Power District Director, Ray Payne and his wife Peggy were recently honored by ServeNebraska, a non profit that, according to their mission statement is “mobilizing Nebraskans to strengthen their communities through volunteering, collaboration, and national service programs.” (Source [www.serve.nebraska.gov](http://www.serve.nebraska.gov).) You can read the ServeNebraska Executive Director’s letter of commendation for the Paynes’ actions on page 2.

Ray and Peggy were given the 2020 Good Nebraska Neighbor Award for the service they rendered at the scene of an accident in August 2019. “We didn’t expect any recognition,” states Ray. “It was Divine Intervention that we happened to be in the right place at the right time.”

Ray and Peggy were traveling back from a Nebraska Rural Electric Association board meeting in Scottsbluff, NE and decided to visit his father.

“We saw a couple of cars at the intersection as we were turning in the drive. There was something odd about how the cars were sitting and not moving. We figured we had better go see what was going on,” Ray said.

It was a good thing they did. As they came closer they could see that there had been an accident. Upon



Ray and Peggy Payne were honored with the 2020 Good Nebraska Neighbor award. They are pictured with Antelope County Veterans' Officer Tom Nelson (far left) and Elgin American Legion Commander Gary Hoefer (far right). Photo courtesy of the *Elgin Review*.

further investigation it was revealed that both victims were severely injured. Ray and Peggy called for help and administered what care they could.

Ray related, “While we were there, no one drove by, so the victims could have stayed there a long time before someone came by, which probably would have been a fatal result for both of them. We were just glad we came by when we did and that we could help.”

Both victims of the accident are recovering.

Ray has served on the ERPPD board of directors for three years.



**With Honor & Gratitude**  
**We Remember**  
 Elkhorn Rural Public Power District  
 will be closed  
**Monday, May 25**  
 In observance of  
**Memorial Day**

# GOOD NEBRASKA NEIGHBORS CON'T

Ray and Peggy Payne were presented with the Good Nebraska Neighbor award from ServeNebraska. The letter of commendation is to the right.

ServeNebraska was created in 1994, when Governor Ben Nelson signed Executive Order 94-5 which established the Nebraska Commission for National and Community Service.

ServeNebraska recognizes many different types of volunteers yearly through its Step Forward awards. Nominations for the awards are open now. For more information go to [www.serve.nebraska.gov](http://www.serve.nebraska.gov).



Dear Ray and Peggy,

*Thank you for demonstrating and modeling social responsibility, your actions to help out in a serious situation shows your service to others is important to you and I want to personally say thank you! You are receiving this recognition because of the great work that you do to make the lives of others better. We praise you for being there to help your fellow community members in their time of need, this speaks volumes to your service to community.*

*We are sorry that we could not be there to thank you ourselves but are thankful to Tom for bringing this to our attention and we want you to know how much your service is appreciated so enclosed is a certificate of recognition and appreciation signed by Governor Peter Ricketts congratulating you.*

*On behalf of the ServeNebraska Commission thank-you for your commitment to service to your community and Nebraska. Best wishes to you and to the well-being of the people of our great state. Best Regards, Cathleen Plager, Executive Director, ServeNebraska (As reprinted from the Elgin Reivew)*

## SAFETY NEWS

May is National Electrical Safety Month.

Every year, thousands of electrical accidents occur and Elkhorn Rural Public

Power District is committed to educating our customers about potential electrical dangers in the home.

According to the National Fire Protection Association, a residential fire was reported every 90 seconds. Many home fires occur when electrical equipment is outdated or improperly used. See the graphic to the right.

It is critical that customers understand their home's electrical system and the safety concerns associated with the latest residential technologies before bringing them into their homes. With newer technologies, such as solar panels, electric vehicles and more electrical gadgets in the home, our customers need to ensure they have an electrical system that's compatible with the increased load.

Through electrical safety awareness and education, we can all play a part in preventing electrical hazards and injuries in the future.



**1. Electrical outlets:** Faulty electrical outlets are a leading cause of home fires. As outlets age, so do the wires behind them that you can't see. Any loose, damaged or warm-to-the-touch outlets should be repaired or replaced.



**2. Electrical wiring:** Outdated wiring is another common cause of electrical fires. Frequently tripped breakers, flickering lights and burning smells are clear warning signs. If your home is more than 20 years old, it may not be able to handle today's increased power load. If you suspect your home's wiring is outdated, leave this one to the pros and contact a qualified electrician.



**3. Overloaded cords and outlets:** Extension cords are not permanent solutions. If your big-screen TV, home theater system and other electronics are plugged into one extension cord, it's time to call an electrician and install additional outlets.



**4. Old appliances:** Older appliances are more likely to have loose or damaged wiring, which means they're more likely to catch fire. Check older appliances for damage and determine if it's time to upgrade or replace. Also check to ensure you're using appliance-grade outlets. A qualified electrician can help with installation.

# ENERGY SAVINGS FOR IRRIGATORS

Irrigation season is upon us! Here are some great tips for irrigators as the irrigation season starts. ERPPD wants to partner with you to make sure you have the most productive irrigation season ever!



**New this year** is a prescriptive energy saving credit for irrigation systems. Elkhorn will provide a \$500 incentive when irrigators replace all of a system's existing outlet components such as sprinkler heads, sprayers, rotators, plates, pads and nozzles, and regulators on qualified systems.

To qualify, the system must be a minimum of four (4) sections in length with water supplied by an all-electric pumping system. The majority of the system's existing nozzles, sprayers or sprinkler heads must be at least five (5) years old. For verification, a copy of the pivot's most-recent sprinkler/nozzle report (usually kept inside the pivot control panel) must be provided with a completed application and qualifying proof-of-purchase documentation.

Call 800-675-2185 and ask for Brian Suckstorf for more information on the incentive or go to the ERPPD website <https://erppd.com/energy/energywise-incentives-reward-energy-savings/>.

Here are some tips to keep your irrigation system running efficiently all summer long:

- **Check Fuses:** Perform a system check before the irrigation season begins to make sure you have power. There may be fuses that need replaced.
- **Motor Savers:** Have your electrician install a motor saver on your system. Most three-phase pump motors detect a blink on only one phase, which can allow the motor to continue to operate on two phases which may result in motor damage. A motor saver monitors all three phases and shuts down the system if any one of the phases blinks.
- **Power Factor Corrective Capacitors:** Capacitors installed at the pump panel will lead to several important customer benefits, such as:
  - Guarding against low voltages on startup,
  - Assisting in keeping your system's voltage at a proper level while running,
  - Reducing service amperage and heating due to a poor power factor,
  - Lessening the chance of dimming your neighbor's lights when the motor starts,
  - Prolonging the life of your motor and electrical equipment,
  - Reducing the demand (measured horsepower) of your well,
  - Reducing consumption of kilowatt-hours by utilizing more efficient practices,
  - Maximizing the output of the electricity purchased.
- **Autostart:** An autostart component installed on your system can maximize the amount of pumping by automatically starting your system following a period of control, or following a blink on the electrical system.
- **Text or E-mail Control Notifications:** We can use this service to notify you by text or e-mail when the radio signal has been sent to control your individual well. Another notification will be sent when the radio signal has been sent to restore the individual system at the end of the control period.



If you have any questions on the items above, or questions related to energy efficiency, please call our office at (800) 675-2185 and ask to speak with our Energy Services Representative, Brian Suckstorf. You can also find valuable energy information by visiting our website ([www.erppd.com](http://www.erppd.com)) and clicking on the Energy tab or the Irrigation tab.



**Two Co-op Students For ERPPD.** Tyler Lamoree (pictured far left) and Jake Lantis (pictured left) are the co-op students that are joining us this year. Due to the pandemic and in-person classes at Northeast Community College being cancelled, they were able to come on full-time in March. Which is a good thing, because there are lots of jobs and they are hard workers. Tyler is from Stromsberg, NE and Jake is from Sutherland, NE.

# SYSTEM MAINTENANCE

Spring brings renewal - trees and lawns turn green, plants start to grow and blossom.

At ERPPD it is time for irrigation builds, work plan projects, as well as, maintenance projects.

Part of our maintenance routine is pole inspections and vegetation management. (See the article below for pole testing information.)

Customers are definitely a big part of keeping our system in great working condition.

Keeping the line clear from trees is a good start.

Remember to plant trees well

away from power lines. Know the

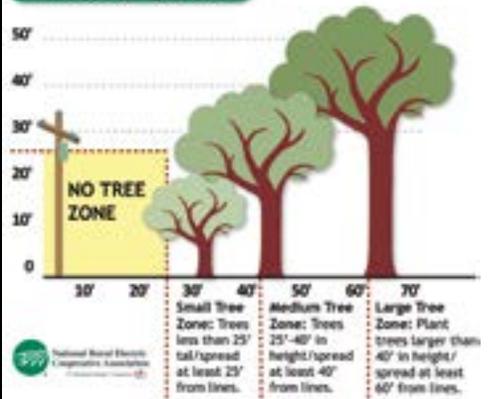
type of tree that you are planting and how big it will grow.

We want to help protect your investment in shade, wind protection, cooling benefits to your house and landscaping for years to come.

The same goes for reliability. We want to protect your electric reliability by having a grid structure that will withstand most of what mother nature can throw at us.

This includes inspecting poles and keeping vegetation out of the right of ways.

## Tree Planting Guide



Hardening the system allows us to keep our reliability at 99.98%. Which is some of the highest reliability in the nation!

## POLE TESTING IN WOODLAND PARK AND NORFOLK AREA.

According to Dan Belt, General Foreman at Battle Creek, pole testing this year will begin around the end of May and include Woodland Park.

“Sundance Power Pole Inspectors (Sundance) will be in the Woodland Park area and northeast of Norfolk testing poles at the end of May,” said Belt.

“Each year we select an area to test, last year it was the Elgin, Clearwater, Ewing area.” Belt continued, “We appreciate our customers’ cooperation and patience with this process.”

The Sundance logo and what the trucks and clothing will look like are pictured to the right. Please be aware of these workers and slow down and give them room to work if they are close to the road. They may also need access to poles that are on your property, just as the ERPPD workers do.

Sundance will also be testing poles between Norfolk and Madison, west of Highway 81, north of Norfolk by Prime Stop, south and east of Hadar and north and west of Tilden.

Pole inspections consist of visually examining the pole, doing a sound test by hitting it with a hammer and digging out the pole to see if there is decay underground. Poles that show signs of advanced decay are marked for removal, before mother nature causes an outage!



*Pictured clockwise from top: Sundance Power Pole Inspectors logo, truck insignia and worker clothing; worker bores a hole for a sample of the wood; worker uses a hammer to test the soundness of the pole.*

