

THE WIRE

CURRENT NEWS FROM THE ELKHORN RURAL PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT

November 2016

Serving the Elkhorn River Valley since 1940

Volume 25, Number 11

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

OWNER VALUE

Ownership in Rural Public Power

Studies have shown that communities where owners occupy the majority of homes are more successful academically, are more physically fit and have a stronger sense of community. While owning a home may not be possible or desirable for everyone, ownership does matter. It just seems to make sense that we treat things we own with greater care.

Chances are you probably don't think too often about your ownership role with your public power district. Every customer of Elkhorn RPPD can take pride in the fact that you are an owner of your public power district. While at times it may seem easy to take the

provision of electricity for granted, we are working 24 hours a day, 365 days a year to make sure you, the customer-owners of the PPD, are well taken care of when it comes to your electricity needs.

Elkhorn RPPD believes this special bond and obligation to be an integral part of the community. We understand that you can't sell electricity to a business that has closed its doors, or to people that have left the community because there are not enough local opportunities. Electricity is a critical



Customer-owners at Elkhorn's 75th Celebration in 2015.

need, but it takes more than poles, wires and kilowatt-hours to make a community.

We are owners of our PPD, and in a real sense, we are owners of our community. Our community is strong. If we act like owners on a consistent basis, we will put even more care and attention into our community, and we will look locally for solutions. Finding local solutions can **continued on page 3**

RURAL VOTES COUNT



Elkhorn Rural Public Power District has been recognized by the National Rural Electric Coop Association (NRECA) for being a "5 Star Coop/PPD", through their "Coop

Votes Program". Coops Vote is a national initiative to encour-

age the rural vote. The "5-Star" program recognizes that Elkhorn has taken an active role in educating our customer owners on industry related issues. We also encourage customers to vote and respond to calls to action. We do this through newsletter articles, like this one; visiting the legislature, inviting elected officials and candidate to our board meetings

and posting information on our website and Facebook page.

We encourage all our customer owners to vote on Tuesday, November 8. There are many issues and your voice needs **continued on page 3**



Vote November 8th

OPERATIONS NEWS



Jim Ridder,
*Operations
Manager*

Elkhorn has purchased an Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV), also called a drone. The UAV is white, about a foot square and has four propellers. It is equipped with a high resolution video camera that can take video or still pictures. It can travel up to 45 miles/hour and has a battery life of about 20 minutes. It will remain stable in winds up to 20 miles an hour.

The FAA (Federal Aviation Administration) requires that UAVs used for commercial purposes be flown by a certified operator. Patrick Hintz, journeyman lineman for Elkhorn, received his certification and can

fly the UVA.

In the June *Wire* uses for the UAV were outlined. Among them were: faster power restoration after a storm where travel along some roads would be hazardous because of storm damage; patrolling lines for preventative maintenance where the top of the structure would be seen close up without the need of a bucket truck; as well as, patrolling lines where there are no roads. We will be out with the UAV starting in the month of October to do some of these projects.

The use of this technology will have a positive impact on our operations through increased efficiencies, safety and reliability of the system.



Patrick Hintz, *certified UAV pilot, brings the UVA in for a landing.*



New energy saving LED street lights

Elkhorn crews have been changing out the old security lights in the towns of Hadar, Clearwater, Ewing and Elgin; and in the rural areas, as requested or as the old ones fail, to the more efficient LEDs (light emitting diodes). We have had good reports from customers on these lights, because the light is focused on the ground and not shining in windows. LEDs put out the same or more light and operate on about half of the power used by the newer high pressure sodium lights and about one third or one fourth of the older mercury vapor lights.

By the time of this publication, the City of Elgin conversion will be complete. On October 12th, the last customers were cut over to the new distribution voltage of 7200 volts. On October 13th, work started on changing equipment in the substation over to the new voltage. The conversion should be complete by the end of the first week in November.

The new system will allow for more growth in the community, better reliability and the ability to do maintenance work on lines in Elgin with minimal interruption to customers. This is partly because the distribution voltage in Elgin is now the same as the voltage in the surrounding rural areas and the fact that there are two additional feeds into town.

Thank you to all Elgin residents for your patience and working with us to get this completed in a safe and timely fashion.



Crew working in Elgin stringing new wire.

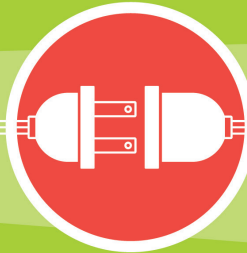
SAFETY NEWS

HOLIDAY LIGHTING SAFETY TIPS



Consider purchasing LED holiday lights; they are cool to the touch and more energy efficient than incandescent bulbs.

Test holiday lights by connecting each strand before hanging them.



Make sure there are no broken bulbs or damaged or frayed cords. Discard any defective strands.

Use holiday lights that include the Underwriter's Laboratories (UL) label.



Avoid resting bulbs on tree needles and branches. Try using a clip to keep the bulbs upright.

Do not overload electrical outlets or extension cords.



Turn off all indoor and outdoor holiday lighting before leaving the house or going to bed.



Happy Thanksgiving

Ownership continued from page 1
help keep money – and people –
right here in our communities.

We all have a role to play. Yours
is to participate in the demo-
cratic process and vote for board
members. As your public power
district, we promise to do our part
for the community. Many of our
employees serve on local school
boards, community committees,
and volunteer fire/rescue depart-
ments. We live in the communi-
ties we serve and we are dedicated
to seeing them succeed.

If you have feedback, please call
our office at 402-675-2185, talk
to your elected board member or
come to a board meeting on the
second Tuesday of the month.

You are the customer-owners of
Elkhorn RPPD, and we welcome
your active participation.

Adapted from an NRECA article by Adam
Schwartz, the founder of The Cooperative Way.

Rural Votes continued from page 1
to be heard!

The Co-ops Vote/Rural Votes
Count campaign was launched
by America's electric co-ops and
ppds in response to continued
voter apathy, particularly in rural
America. Just nine percent of
America selected Donald Trump
and Hillary Clinton as the presi-
dential nominees. Most of the
nation chose not to vote. And
in the 2012 elections, rural voter
turnout dropped 18 percent. Since
its launch in February, more than
560 electric co-ops and ppds have
joined forces through Co-ops Vote
to increase voter turnout in areas
served by co-ops, which include
much of rural America.

More information can be found at
erppd.com or on Facebook.

75th Anniversary Cookbooks Available

Need a stocking stuffer for Christmas? Elkhorn Public Power District has 75th Anniversary Cookbooks available.

The cookbooks are \$5 a piece.



Cookin' with POWER

Stop by and pick some up or you can call the office to reserve your copies.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



Heating your living space uses more energy than any other system in your home – typically making up about 42 percent of your utility bill. By combining proper equipment maintenance and upgrades with recommended insulation, air sealing and thermostat settings, you can save about 30 percent on your energy bill.

Source: energy.gov

Elkhorn Rural Public Power District

will be closed
**Thursday & Friday,
Nov. 24 & Nov. 25,**
to celebrate the
Thanksgiving weekend.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

with Board position
and subdivision

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

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
FaceBook: Elkhorn Rural Public
Power District



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**

*Elkhorn Rural Public Power District
November 2016*