



# THE WIRE



CURRENT NEWS FROM THE ELKHORN RURAL PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT

October 2018

Serving the Elkhorn River Valley since 1940

Volume 27, Number 10

## CUSTOMERS MAKE PUBLIC POWER EXCEPTIONAL

October is Public Power Month. This year we would like to recognize our generous customers. You make public power awesome!!

Starting in January of this year, a majority of you, our customers, were enrolled in Operation Round Up. Each month your bill is rounded up to the next dollar and those



cents are collected to be distributed to area organizations, who apply for the monies.

As of June 30, 2018, \$17,090.77 has been raised.

On August 27, the Elkhorn Rural Public Power District Community Development Fund (Fund), the nonprofit organization created to manage the money, board of trustees met and reviewed 16 applications. Fifteen organizations were awarded a total of \$10,800.

The inaugural list of organizations, the amount awarded and what the money will be used for is on page 2.

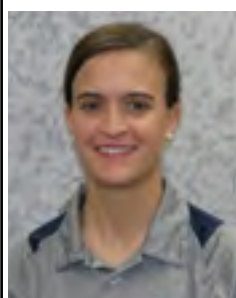
Sarah Ahlers, Chair of the Board of Trustees, stated, "We are excited to be able to help out our communities through the worthy causes that they champion." Ahlers went on to



*Pope John XXIII/St. Boniface Schools of Elgin. Pictured from left to right: Natalie Reicks, student, Julie Schiltmeyer, teacher, Kaylee Ramold, student, Betty Getzfred, principal, Anne Parks, fund trustee, Abby and Trista Hemenway, students.*



*Clearwater/Orchard TeamMates Program. Pictured left to right front row: Spencer and Jessie, students, Lynae Stelling, mentor, and Sarah Ahlers, fund trustee. Back Row: Deb Schwager, mentor and Diane Martin, coordinator.*



say, "None of this would be possible without the generosity of the Elkhorn Rural Public Power District's customers."

The organizations that had money donated to them were very appreciative of the funds to assist

with meeting their goals to serve their constituents.

Operation Round Up and the Fund will continue to help organizations throughout our territory. Applications will be taken, reviewed and awarded each quarter. The next round of application are due **November 19**. More information and an on-line application can be found at [www.erppd.com](http://www.erppd.com) under the Community Fund tab at the top.

# COMMUNITY FUND AWARDS

Community Development Fund First Round Requests and Awards (August 2018)

Organization	Amount Awarded	Project	Location
Animal Shelter of NE Nebraska	\$ 1,000.00	Repair and improve outdoor dog runs	Norfolk
Antelope County Hospital	\$ 1,000.00	S.A.V.E Yourself active shooter training	Neligh
Battle Creek Fire & Rescue	\$ 700.00	Life jackets and rope for water rescue	Battle Creek
Bright Horizons	\$ 1,000.00	Ceiling mounted projector	Norfolk
CASA of NE Nebraska	\$ 500.00	Fees for extracurricular activities, equipment for activities, school supplies, clothes etc.	Norfolk
Lois Johnson Memorial Library	\$ 500.00	Christmas Kids - Christmas gifts for children in need - clothing, books and toys	Oakdale
Lutheran High Northeast	\$ 500.00	Surveillance system	Norfolk
Madison County Ag Society	\$ 500.00	Portable Defibrillator	Madison
Madison Public Library	\$ 500.00	Osmo and Explorer Kit - turns iPad into interactive learning experience.	Madison
Meadow Grove Fire Dept.	\$ 1,000.00	Electric cot for ambulance	Meadow Grove
Oakdale Volunteer Fire Department	\$ 600.00	Sensit Gold G2 Gas Detector	Oakdale
Pope John XXIII/St. Boniface Schools	\$ 500.00	AED	Elgin
S.M.I.L.E	\$ 1,000.00	Scholarships and horses	Madison
Teammates of Clearwater/Orchard	\$ 500.00	Background checks on mentors	Orchard
Toys for Tots	\$ 1,000.00	Buy Christmas gifts for area children	Norfolk
	\$ 10,800.00		



Animal Shelter of Northeast NE. Pictured left to right: Judy Hilke-mann, fund trustee, Amber Anderson, Fund Raising Manager, Eldon Peters, fund trustee and Lisa Doescher, Shelter Manager.

Battle Creek Fire Department. Pictured left to right: Cleon Schwede, Fire Chief and Kory Lingenfelter, fund trustee



Court Appointed Special Advocate of Northeast NE (CASA) Pictured left to right: Judy Hilke-mann, fund trustee and Ruth Matthews-Mott, Exec. Dir.



Bright Horizons. Pictured left to right: Judy Hilke-mann, fund trustee, Linda Olson, Exec. Dir. and Deb Zimmerer, Program Dir.



Lutheran High Northeast. Pictured left to right: John Robertson, Director of Operations, Fred Aufdem-brink, Director of Development and Kory Lingenfelter, fund trustee



Madison County Ag Society. Pictured left to right: Sherri Fish, board member, Linda Haack, Treasurer and Eldon Peters, fund trustee

# COMMUNITY FUND AWARDS CON'T



Madison Public Library. Pictured left to right: Judy Hilke-mann, fund trustee and Lori Porter, Director



Toys for Tots. Pictured left to right: Eldon Peters, fund trustee, Jerod Neuhalfen, local community coordinator and Judy Hilke-mann, fund trustee



Meadow Grove Fire Department. Pictured left to right: Brian Suckstorf, volunteer Garland Goracke, Fire Chief and Kory Lingenfelter, fund trustee



S.M.I.L.E. Inc. Patty Prauner, Program Director

## OCTOBER IS NATIONAL CYBERSECURITY AWARENESS MONTH

**Think Before You Click**

- Always hover over a link first to be sure it is safe.
- Report suspicious emails or emails from an unknown sender to your spam filter and delete them from your inbox.

**Defend Your Computer**

The best defense against viruses, malware and other online threats is keeping your equipment up to date.

**Lockdown Your Log-in**

- Create long and unique passwords. Use familiar phrases or song lyrics you'll remember.
- When possible, use 2-factor authentication as a second layer of defense.
- Change passwords regularly and do not share them.

**Protect Sensitive Information**

- Use encryption to protect sensitive data.
- Limit the spread of any attack by only accessing files and folders you need.
- Do not put confidential information in emails, or instant and text messages.

**Watch for Red Flags to Identify Potential Phish Attacks**

- Phishing attempts seek to steal or compromise data and will often mimic a known sender.

Look for red flags:

1. the email is unexpected;
2. there is a sense of urgency conveyed;
3. there is an offer that seems too good to be true; and/or
4. there are typos and misspellings.

**Practice Good Cyber Hygiene On the Go**

Treat all public Wi-Fi networks as a security risk, and don't make financial or other sensitive transactions over public networks.

Want more tips to improve your cyber hygiene? Visit [www.staysafeonline.org](http://www.staysafeonline.org).

# BOARD HONORS GREG WEIDNER

## Resolution 2018-05



*Appreciation for Greg Weidner, Sub-District I representative from Madison, NE, of the Elkhorn Rural Public Power District Board of Directors.*

**WHEREAS**, Greg Weidner served on the board for 10 years 10 months (07/01/2007-5/4/2018); and as President for 1 year 4 months from January 2017 – May 4, 2018, as well as the Executive Board for the Nebraska Rural Electric Association, first as Secretary/Treasurer and then as Vice President;

**WHEREAS**, Greg obtained NRECA Credentialed Cooperative Director, Board Leader Certificate and Director Gold certifications and maintained the Director Gold for two terms to broaden his understanding and experience of the Public Power Model and board duties and issues;

**WHEREAS**, Greg provided exemplary and selfless leadership for the board and committed time, energy and dedication to his roles for the board, community and state;

**WHEREAS**, Greg embodied the Mission of Elkhorn Rural Public Power District to provide SAFE, RELIABLE, COST-EFFECTIVE electricity to ALL customers;

**WHEREAS**, it is with deep regret that Board of Directors acknowledges the untimely death of Greg Weidner on May 4, 2018, who will be remembered for his smile, willingness to serve, the way he valued others and their input, loyalty, dedication, honesty and integrity;

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the Board of Directors of Elkhorn Rural Public Power District expresses its admiration for and gratitude to Greg Weidner for his dedication, commitment, and contribution to strengthening public power and enhancing the quality of life in Nebraska and recognizes Greg for his outstanding service to the District.

<p><b>BOARD OF DIRECTORS</b> with Board position and subdivision</p> <p>Mark Miller President..... I</p> <p>Joe Thiele Vice President .III</p> <p>Tim Means Secretary .....II</p> <p>Dennis Kuchar Treasurer ..... I</p> <p>Jerrell Dolesh Director .....II</p> <p>Dave Hoefer Director .....III</p> <p>Rod Zohner Director .....II</p> <p><b>MANAGER</b> Tom Rudloff</p>	<p><b>Outage Checklist</b></p> <p>In the case of an outage:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• First check to see if the fuses below the meter are good.</li> <li>• If you have breakers, make sure they are on and have not kicked out.</li> <li>• If you have a double-throw switch for standby power, make sure it is in the correct position.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Questions about your bill?</b></p> <p>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:</p> <p><b>Elkhorn Rural Public Power District P.O. Box 310 Battle Creek, NE 68715</b></p>	<p><b>Deadline for Sub-district I Opening Applications is October 15</b></p> <p>Those interested in applying for the board opening will need to meet statutory requirements: “A candidate for director shall be a registered voter residing within the chartered territory or subdivision as defined in the charter of the district or a retail customer duly certified in accordance with subsection (3) of section 70-604.03.</p> <p>Those interested in applying for the board position can find more information, a district map and an application at <a href="https://erppd.com/about-erppd/job-opportunities/">https://erppd.com/about-erppd/job-opportunities/</a></p> <p>Applications for the vacancy should be submitted no later than <b>4:30 p.m. Monday, October 15, 2018.</b></p> <p>Please call the office at (402) 675-2185 with any questions.</p>
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