



SAFETY IS JOB #1

During National Electrical Safety Month, we urge awareness to the dangers of electricity.





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The latest in EMPLOYEE TRANSITIONS

HASTINGS AREA LEADERSHIP

Please join us in congratulating Jeff Foster, who was promoted to serve as SPPD's Hastings Service Area Manager. Jeff has been employed at SPPD since 1998, previously serving as a lineworker and Maintenance Supervisor.

It is also our pleasure to announce that Jon Sundberg has been chosen to fill the role of Maintenance Supervisor for the District's Hastings Area Office. Jon has been serving SPPD customers as a line-worker for almost 19 years.

Jeff and Jon both bring to their positions a healthy knowledge base of the Hastings service region. They are both skilled in their experiences as lineworkers, with strong commitments to safety. They both embrace the use of technologies that create efficiencies in workflow and system management.

Jeff and Jon are both based out of our facility south of Juniata on Highway 6, and together will lead the efforts of lineworkers serving their region.



**JEFF FOSTER
AREA MANAGER**



**JON SUNDBERG
MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR**

KUBICKA JOINS SPPD CONSTRUCTION CREW

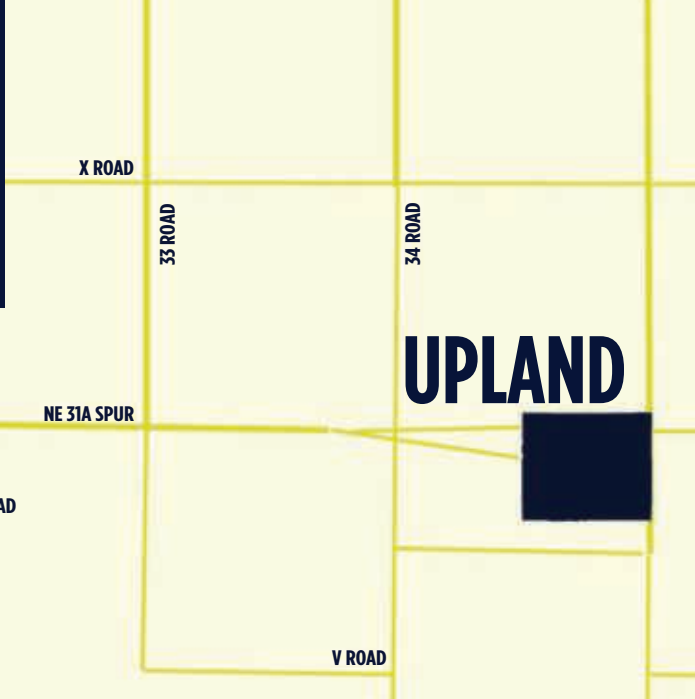
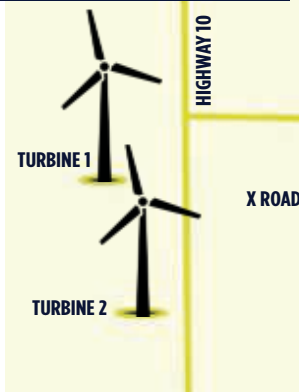
We are pleased to welcome Jacob Kubicka to SPPD. He joined the District's Construction Crew based out of Grand Island on Monday, March 8th. Prior to joining SPPD, he served as a lineworker for the City of Sutton Utilities Department. He was also a recipient of SPPD's Lineworker Scholarship Program in 2017.



**JACOB KUBICKA
APPRENTICE LINeworker**

Blue Stem Energy Solutions PROJECT ANNOUNCEMENT

Earlier this year, the Franklin County Planning Commission and the Franklin County Board of Supervisors reviewed and discussed a Special Use Permit brought forward by Bluestem Energy Solutions, Inc. The Planning Commission approved the permit on January 12th, and the County Supervisors followed with approval on February 2nd. As a result, a renewable energy project will be developed in Franklin County.



The project will entail the construction of two wind turbines that will each generate 2.82-megawatts of electricity. The site for this project is located four miles west of Upland, or 7 miles east of Hildreth, along Nebraska Highway 10.

The wind turbines will interconnect with SPPD's 69kV transmission line system. The power generated by the Bluestem-owned structures will be purchased by SPPD and 100% of its output will serve the District's customers.

The purchase agreement between Bluestem Energy and SPPD allows for a pricing schedule that is locked in for the term of the agreement. This assured pricing acts as a hedge against future price increases in the wholesale market. The generation acquired from this development amounts to approximately 2.5% of SPPD's overall generation requirement to serve its customers.

At this time, the District anticipates that the units will be in operation by March of 2022.

ATTENTION

Load Management Customers:

Later this month, you will receive your annual pre-season mailing from SPPD. The mailing will include a special edition newsletter with information outlining processes and procedures in place during the irrigation season. We will also share with you recently adapted policies regarding new service extensions and power factor requirements. We encourage you to review these articles and familiarize yourself with these policies.



Additionally, you will find an acknowledgment of your account listings, and a calendar outlining your days of control for 2021. This mailing is a final opportunity to review the status of your accounts, your control groups, and the days of control you are assigned for the summer. Give these items your attention before the rush of the season arrives.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the upcoming load management season, we encourage you to contact our Irrigation Services Department.



Get smart about electrical safety. May is National Electrical Safety Month.

At SPPD, we use the word “safety” frequently. We speak about “safety” to our employees. We educate our customers and the public about “safety”. The word is not spoken loosely, it is ingrained into the mission for the work that we do, EVERY DAY.

As stated by our mission statement, we strive “to safely provide our customers with highly reliable and competitively priced electricity, superior customer service and innovative energy solutions”. That statement concisely explains the purpose of the work done by SPPD. The placement of the word “safely” is intentionally stated first because above all, **SAFETY IS JOB #1.**

If you stop and think about accidents relating to electrical hazards, there is often one factor in common—safety has taken a “back seat” to other priorities such as convenience, expediency or a lack of awareness. According to the Electrical Safety Foundation, thousands of people in the United States are seriously injured or electrocuted as a result of electrical fires, accidents or electrocution in their own homes. Most of these accidents are preventable.

In May, we will be sharing a variety of safety tips on our website and social platforms. We ask you to check out these resources regularly, and review the tips we share with your families and friends. If you are a farmer, share the tips with those working on your farm. Awareness is the first step, followed by a commitment to taking moments of pause to assess danger at all times.

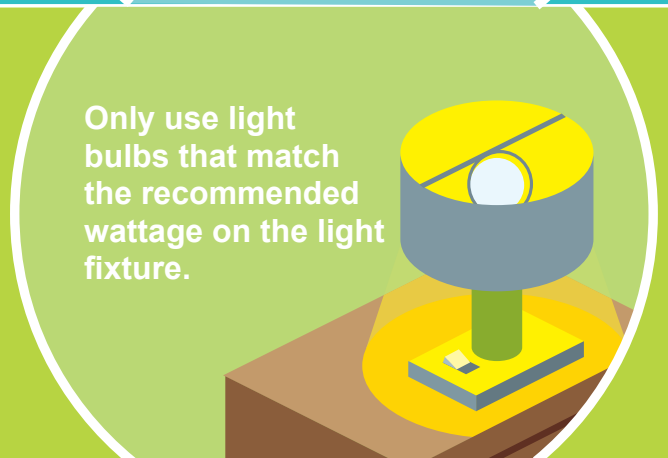
Also, we are excited to potentially get back out into communities to share our message of safety with Hotline Trailer Demonstrations. Contact SPPD if you would like to schedule a Demonstration in your community.



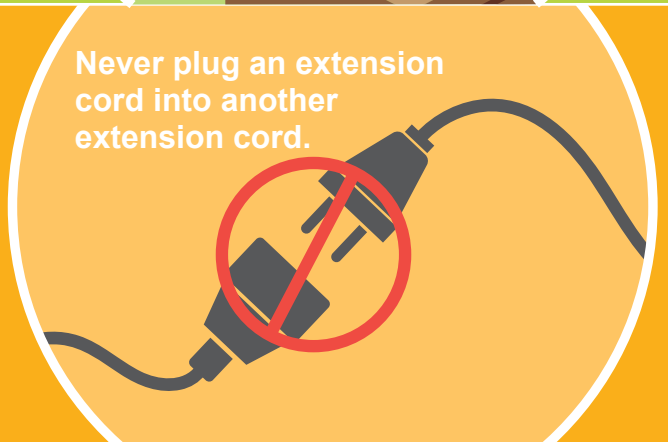
Label circuit breakers to understand the different circuits in your home.



Talk to your children about the importance of practicing electrical safety.



Only use light bulbs that match the recommended wattage on the light fixture.



Never plug an extension cord into another extension cord.

Tackling a DIY Project? Safety Comes First!

These days many of us are spending more time at home and finding new, creative ways to enhance our living space. Tackling do-it-yourself (DIY) projects for the home can be fun and cost-effective, so why not roll up those sleeves and get started!

Whether you're painting the front door with a fresh hue or finally upgrading those patio lights, successfully completing a DIY home project is incredibly satisfying. But many of these projects do not come without risks. Here are a few safety tips to keep in mind as you get to work.

- Start by selecting a designated work area. The amount of space you'll need will depend on the size and scope of your project, but make sure you have adequate lighting and ventilation (if necessary). Required tools and equipment should be located in your workspace and organized for easy access.
- Personal protective equipment (PPE) is your friend. Investing a few bucks in PPE is essential for most home projects. Stock up on safety goggles, dust masks, ear plugs (or noise reduction ear protectors), gloves and any other kind of protection you'll need for your project. Remember to wear appropriate clothing and shoes.
- Work slowly and clean as you go. When you rush through a DIY project, you'll likely end up with less desirable results than you intended, or worse, you could make a costly or dangerous mistake. Take your time and remember that you are in control of the project. You should also clean as you go to ensure a safer workspace. Pick up any scrap materials, tools that aren't in use and any tripping hazards.
- Be cautious with power tools. Annually, 8% of electrocutions in the U.S. are attributed to improper use of power tools. The Electrical Safety Foundation International offers the following safety tips:
 - Use ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) with every power tool to protect against electrical shock.
 - Never use power tools near live electrical wires or water pipes.
 - Use extreme caution when cutting or drilling into walls where electrical wires or water pipes could be accidentally touched or penetrated.
 - If a power tool trips a safety device while in use, take the tool to a manufacturer-authorized repair center for service.
 - Do not use power tools without the proper guards.
 - When using a wet-dry vacuum cleaner or a pressure washer, be sure to follow the manufacturer's instructions to avoid electrical shock.

Remember, you should only tackle DIY home projects within your skill and comfort level. For projects that require extensive electrical work, we strongly recommend you hire a licensed, qualified electrician for assistance.



A Place To GATHER

We have all seen special stories of community service and dedication to mankind throughout the pandemic. One shining example of these qualities has occurred in the community of Cairo.

The Gathering Place in Cairo, once known as the Cairo Senior Citizens' Center, serves the community's population of age 60 and above. For more than ten years, The Gathering Place has provided hot meals Monday through Friday. The facility has been a place to gather for meals, activities, and to access life-enhancing services.

When the pandemic took hold in 2020, The Gathering Place adapted their procedures to shift from on-site dining to home-delivered meals. Mandy Sweitzer, Site Council Member noted that the pandemic shed light on the need for hot, healthy meals for folks in the community, as well as other personal needs. "When the pandemic caused closures and isolation, it became obvious that people not only needed help with acquiring meals, but they also needed the opportunity to say "hello" to their friends and neighbors." The need for meals and friendly faces shows in the number of people that are served daily. Prior to the pandemic, The Gathering Place kitchen was utilized to serve 12-15 meals each day. More recently, that number has grown to 35-40 meals daily, more than double their previous level.

The Gathering Place recently submitted an application for an Operation ROUND UP grant, which is made possible by participating customers of Southern Public Power District. Their application was successful, and a \$2,500 grant was awarded for expansion to their kitchen, which will include additional space and larger refrigeration and freezer units. The Gathering Place also actively sought assistance from local foundations and fundraising efforts such as Go Big Give.

LeAnne Doose, Public Relations Manager notes, "This project is one that truly exemplifies service at its best. Clearly a significant need has been discovered by The Gathering Place, and they have risen to the occasion to serve members of their community."

Sweitzer noted that the Site Director Tracy Bowers has done an incredible job overseeing the efforts to shift to home deliveries, and local volunteers Marv Roth, Carla Blake and Dee Reinhart have been dedicated figures in delivering meals to people, even in extreme cold temperatures.

We applaud the efforts made by The Gathering Place, its volunteers, and the entire community for having a vision to meet individual needs. Your example of community service and teamwork are worthy of acknowledgment.

The recipients for grants during the First Quarter of 2021 are listed on the next page. We thank SPPD customers for making grants like this possible!





Operation ROUND UP FIRST QUARTER RESULTS

SPPD's Operation ROUND UP Board of Directors approved the distribution of \$22,200 in funds to eleven applicants from the First Quarter of 2021. This quarter saw a great selection of applicants including volunteer fire departments, local child care organizations, a senior center and stringed instruments for band students!

Since its inception in 2014, a total of \$375,515 has been awarded to projects throughout our service region.

Applications for the second quarter of 2021 are due June 30th. You can learn more about this program by visiting www.southernpd.com, or contact LeAnne Doose at Southern Public Power District.

HILDRETH VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT	Lifepak 15 Monitor & Defibrillator	\$2,000
LOOMIS RURAL FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT #4	Lights for Grass Rig	\$2,000
HORDVILLE RURAL FIRE DISTRICT	Thermal Imaging Camera, Grain Rescue Auger	\$2,000
GLENVIL VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT	Various Equipment	\$1,200
GATHERING PLACE OF CAIRO	Kitchen Expansion	\$2,500
KENESAW UNITED CHILD CARE COALITION	Computers	\$2,500
STICK CREEK KIDS	Hands-on STEM Learning Tools & Smart TV	\$2,500
FRANKLIN LITTLE FLYER ACADEMY INC	Commercial Dishwasher	\$2,500
CAIRO COMMUNITY FOUNDATION: STEERING COMMITTEE	"Welcome To Cairo" Landscaping	\$1,250
NE VOCATIONAL AGRICULTURAL FOUNDATION/ LEADERSHIP CENTER	Lighting Improvements	\$1,250
MINDEN BAND PARENTS	String Instruments	\$2,500

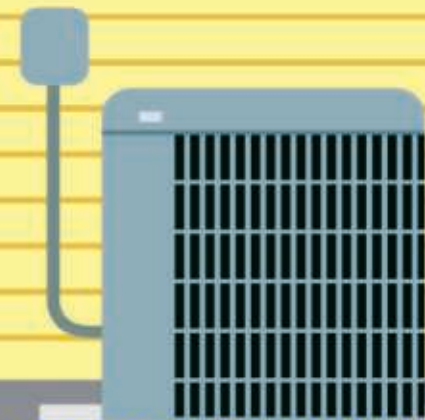
ENERGYWISE COOLING TUNEUP INCENTIVE

As the sun begins shining brighter and temperatures begin to climb this summer, now is the time to prepare your cooling system.

Regular tune-ups on your cooling system are helpful in assuring efficient performance, and ultimately, savings in your cooling costs. Systems that have been neglected can yield a savings of 5 to 15-percent in energy costs, or more, if you invest in a tune-up! A tune-up may also extend the life of your unit.

SPPD offers a \$30 EnergyWise incentive to homeowners that have their cooling system tuned-up by an HVAC contractor. Qualifying systems include residential central-air conditioners, air source and water source heat pumps. This incentive is available to residential customers. If you would like to learn more and access an application for the Cooling System Tune Up Incentive, log onto our website at southernpd.com.

ENERGYWISESM
Use less. Spend less. Do more.



CONGRATULATIONS

Lineworker Scholarship Recipients

FIVE SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED IN 2021

We are pleased to announce five recipients for SPPD's Utility Lineworker Scholarship Program. These men will begin their education through accredited lineworker certification programs in the Fall.

 **ANDREW ADAMS, AURORA**
Northeast Community College, Norfolk

 **ARIK ACKERMAN, BERTRAND**
Northeast Community College, Norfolk

 **TREVOR KLUCK, AURORA**
Northeast Community College, Norfolk

 **NOAH LANDANGER, WOOD RIVER**
Northeast Community College, Norfolk

 **DENTON STARK, HASTINGS**
Western Nebraska Community College, Alliance

Each of these scholarship recipients will receive a scholarship totaling \$2,000--with half of the value awarded after successful completion of the first year, and the remainder awarded upon graduation from the program.

We wish these men the very best as they embark upon their education and careers as utility lineworkers.



MEMORIAL DAY 2021

WE REMEMBER AND HONOR

Today, let us remember those who fought for our country.

Our offices will be closed on
MONDAY, MAY 31st
In observation of the holiday

RECIPE

MEDITERRANEAN CHOPPED SALAD

INGREDIENTS

- 1 sm. head romaine lettuce, chopped
- 1 15-oz. can chickpeas: drained, rinsed
- 1 tomato, diced
- 1 small cucumber, diced
- 1 small red pepper, diced
- 1/2 small red onion, diced
- 3/4 C. chopped kalamata olives
- 3/4 C. feta crumbles
- 2 T. chopped fresh dill
- Pita bread for serving

DRESSING

- 1/4 C. olive oil
- 2 T. red wine vinegar
- 1/2 tsp. dried Italian seasoning
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1/4 tsp. black pepper

Add dressing ingredients to a large bowl and whisk until combined.

Next, add all remaining chopped salad ingredients to the bowl and stir until everything is mixed together.

Spoon chopped salad mixture into warm pita bread and enjoy!

SOURCE: shelikesfood.com

Check out our
"Salads" board on
Pinterest for more
delicious recipes!

