



NEWS MAGAZINE



MAY/JUNE 2019



Powering A Brighter Future

VOL 1, ISSUE 2



NEBRASKA STRONG

Published Bi-Monthly by
Southern Public Power District
4550 West Husker Highway
P.O. Box 1687
Grand Island, Ne 68802-1687
Phone: (800) 579-3019

www.southernpd.com

**Postmasters send notices
and returns to:**

Southern Public Power District
PO Box 1687
Grand Island, NE 68803

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Dean Klute, Chairman
Arlon Jacobitz, Vice-Chairman
Dana Meyer, Secretary
Wayne Anderbery, Treasurer
Larry Benson
Rick Bergman
Kevin Choquette
Marvin Fishler
Lee Grove
Gary Hedman
Neal Katzberg
Mike Lowry
Dirk Nickel
Kevan Reeson

PRESIDENT/CEO:

Neal F. Niedfeldt

ON THE WEB AT:

www.southernpd.com

FOLLOW US HERE:



Comments or questions:
LeAnne Doose
Public Relations Manager
ldoose@southernpd.net

**NEBRASKA STRONG--two words
that have resonated during the
past month and have said
so much to people across the
country about how we
take care of one another here.**

The devastation that occurred across Nebraska in March will impact our state for years to come. But in the midst of the crisis, there were people who stepped up to make a difference for those directly affected by the flood.

At Southern, we often have the opportunity to work with local leaders of our communities, as well as volunteer fire departments. These folks give exhaustively of their time, energy and talents in order to serve their neighbors and their community. Their dedication has never been more evident than in the efforts shown during the flooding. We all had the opportunity to see it--from evacuations in Wood River to rallies for volunteer support in Alda--the acts of service, compassion and commitment were profound.

Although it is not enough, we would like to extend a THANK YOU to all of the volunteers who made a difference for our communities. The next time you see a local fire department raising funds for equipment by conducting pancake feeds, chili cookoffs or a barbecue, please consider supporting them!

Hero--

***An ordinary individual
who finds the strength to
persevere and endure in spite
of overwhelming obstacles.***

--Christopher Reeve

Photos courtesy of
Alda Volunteer Fire
Department.



Volunteers flocked by the hundreds to Alda to fill sandbags. The barrier across the west edge of town spared this community from the rapidly approaching water.

WELSH DEPLOYED TO SERVE FELLOW NEBRASKANS



Franklin area lineman Brian Welsh had the unique opportunity through his service in the Nebraska Air National Guard to help bring relief to flood victims.

SERVICE CENTER PLANNED FOR FUNK



CONTRACT SIGNED WITH DESIGN FIRM

In April, Southern's Board of Directors approved a construction agreement with Boyd Jones Construction Company. This general contractor will begin work soon to construct a new service center in the village of Funk, Nebraska. The facility will replace the current service center located in eastern Holdrege.



Current facility, located at 1605 East Highway 6 in Holdrege.

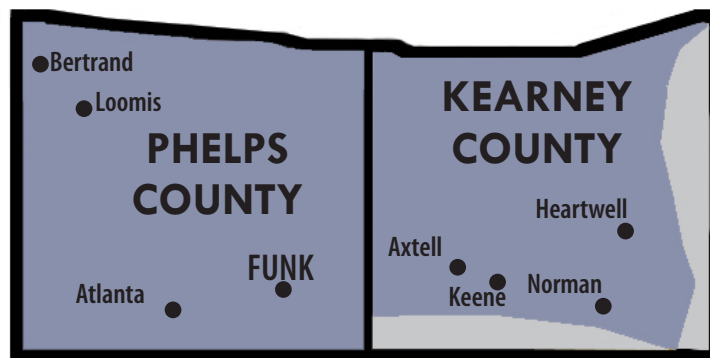
A CASE FOR A NEW SPACE

Southern's Holdrege-area personnel have been utilizing their current facility since 1961. Since that time, the District's fleet of vehicles has grown, both in number and in vehicle size. The storage buildings that currently house our utility vehicles are a tight fit. This creates hazards for our lineworkers as they navigate trucks into and out of the buildings. Also, our Holdrege area pole yard is located across the tracks from our current Holdrege facility. Although the pole yard is close to our building, its location creates a considerable

inefficiency for our lineworkers in transporting materials across the tracks.

Additionally, the current lot is too small and does not offer potential for long-term growth. Relocating the facility provides an opportunity to start from scratch, and build a functional site that allows our employees to navigate and work safely and efficiently.

The site for the new service center was chosen in order to establish a site in a more central location to the region served by this outpost. It is also an exciting opportunity for us to be located within a town that we serve!



Funk/Holdrege Service Region, shown in dark blue.

Three years of planning and design to meet our customers' needs, searching for available sites and selecting a contractor has led to our groundbreaking this spring. Thanks go out to the Village of Funk for their support in locating our new service center in Funk.

The overall design and build will be managed by Boyd Jones, and many services will be provided for the construction from local contractors who provided bids on the project.

Helping You Find Value

Ah...Summer!

MAINTAIN AN EFFICIENT HVAC SYSTEM

Cookouts, swimming pools, camping—it's the perfect time to enjoy the outdoors with family and friends. And when it's time to come back indoors, there's nothing better than that cool blast you feel from your home's air conditioning unit.

Your heating, ventilating and air conditioning (HVAC) system is essential to keeping your home comfortable during summer months, and if it breaks down, it's also the most expensive equipment to repair or replace. Luckily, there are simple steps you can take to lengthen the life of your HVAC system.

Change or clean filters.

Dirty filters block airflow, which decreases your system's efficiency. Change or clean filters every 1-2 months during the cooling season. If your unit is in constant use or subjected to dusty conditions or pet hair, check filters more frequently.

Clean the HVAC unit.

Outdoor condenser coils can become clogged with pollen, dirt and debris. Use a hose to spray the HVAC unit once each season to ensure maximum airflow. Do not use a pressure washer to do this, as it can damage the equipment.

Clear space around the HVAC unit.

Dryer vents, falling leaves and mowed grass can create buildup. Remove any debris around the HVAC unit. If you have foliage near the unit, trim it back at least 2 feet around the condenser to increase airflow.

If you would like to evaluate the efficiency of your HVAC system, follow the steps in the graphic shown at right. In order to determine accurate results, conduct the step-by-step process shown when the outdoor temperature is above 80 degrees. Set your thermostat well below the room temperature to ensure the system runs long enough to conduct the test.

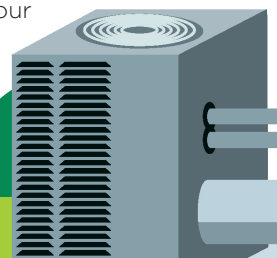
3-Step HVAC Test

As summer **temperatures** rise, so do electric bills. Follow these steps to test the efficiency of your HVAC unit.

The outdoor temperature should be above 80 degrees, and you should set your thermostat well below the room temperature to ensure the system runs long enough for this test.

1. Using a digital probe thermometer, (about \$12), measure the temperature of the air being pulled into your HVAC filter.
2. Measure the temperature of the air blowing out of your A/C vent.
3. Subtract the A/C vent temperature from the HVAC filter temperature. You should see a difference of about 17 to 20 degrees. If the difference is less than 17 degrees, you may need a licensed technician to check the coolant. If the difference is greater than 20 degrees, your ductwork may need to be inspected for airflow restrictions.

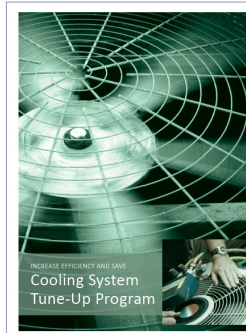
SOURCE: National Rural Electric Cooperative Association



COOLING TUNE-UP INCENTIVE AVAILABLE

Regular tune-ups on your cooling system are important in assuring its efficient performance, and ultimately, provides savings in your cooling costs. Systems that have been neglected can yield a savings of five to fifteen percent in energy costs, or more, if you invest in a tune-up! Also, a tune-up can extend the life of your unit.

Southern Public Power District offers a \$40 EnergyWise incentive to homeowners that have their cooling system tuned-up, regardless of what type or age the system is. This incentive is available to residential customers once every three years.



ENERGYWISE
The Best. Smart. Safe. So True.

SPECIAL NOTICE: In response to those in need following the flooding, EnergyWiseSM incentives have been increased for the following programs: High-Efficiency Heat Pumps, Cooling System Tune-Ups, and Heat Pump Water Heater. This measure is in effect through December 31, 2019. For more information, visit our website at www.southernppd.com.

COMMUNITY NEWS

PALMER CHILD CARE FACILITY FILLS AN IMPORTANT NEED

Palmer is a great place for families to call home. It's located just 14 miles east of St. Paul or 24 miles northeast of Grand Island. Palmer offers the peacefulness of small town living while enjoying the convenience of living close to larger cities.

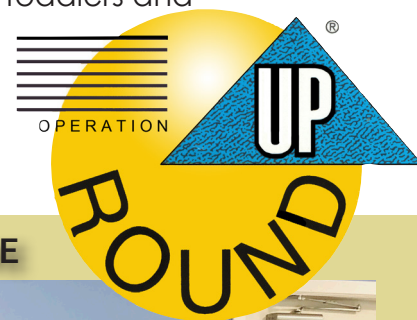
Until recently, there was one service that was lacking for young families--options for child care. While there are individuals in Palmer who provide in-home child care, many residents of Palmer were required to transport their children to nearby St. Paul, Central City or Grand Island in order to utilize weekday child care.

Having identified this critical need, a group of local residents pooled together their time, skills and talents to create a child care center in an existing building in Palmer, which had previously been utilized as apartments.

"Our facility provides not only care, but also an opportunity for kids to learn and grow through play and discovery," says Jessie Baker, Executive Director, "We hope to prepare them for preschool and beyond!"

Palmer Child Care is state licensed, and offers child care for infants, toddlers and preschool children, ages 6 weeks to 4 years. Service is provided year round from 6 am - 6 pm, Monday through Friday. The facility has a total capacity of approximately 25-30 children.

If you'd like to learn more about Palmer Child Care, you can visit their website at www.palmerchildcare.org or call 308-894-9061.



OPERATION ROUND UP GRANT PROVIDED TO PALMER CHILD CARE

Palmer Child Care was a recent recipient of Operation ROUND UP grant funds. A total of \$2,500 was awarded to the facility for the installation of sidewalks and parking. The funds were officially presented to Board Members of Palmer Child Care at their open house earlier this year.

"This project is a great example of a community rallying together to fill a need among its residents", says LeAnne Doose, Public Relations Manager. "Collaborative efforts just like this one are what we hope to assist with in communities throughout our service region."

To learn more about applying for ROUND UP funds for a project in your community, contact LeAnne Doose at Southern Public Power District, or log on to www.southernppd.com.



MAY IS ELECTRICAL SAFETY MONTH

GIVE YOUR HOME AN ELECTRICAL SAFETY CHECKUP!

Just as regular wellness checkups are critical for maintaining your health, routine safety checkups are critical for the safety of your home. Use this checklist to ensure that you can identify and correct potential electrical hazards around your home before a fire can start.

SWITCHES AND OUTLETS

- | | | |
|---|-----|----|
| 1. Are all switches and outlets working properly?
<i>If "no", have a licensed electrician check these switches and outlets.</i> | YES | NO |
| Are any switches or outlets warm to the touch? Discolored?
Crackling, buzzing or making sizzling sounds?
<i>If "yes", stop using them until they are checked by a licensed electrician.</i> | YES | NO |
| 2. Do plugs fit snugly into all outlets?
<i>If "no", ask a licensed electrician to replace these outlets.</i> | YES | NO |

CORDS

- | | | |
|--|-----|----|
| 1. Is any cord cracked, frayed or otherwise damaged?
<i>If "yes", do not use these cords. Replace the cord or the equipment/appliance.</i> | YES | NO |
| 2. Are any cords pinched by furniture or in doors/windows?
<i>If "yes", move furniture or relocate cords to prevent damage.</i> | YES | NO |
| 3. Are cords attached to anything with nails or staples?
<i>If "yes", remove nails or staples. Check cord and replace if damaged.</i> | YES | NO |
| 4. Are cords placed under carpets?
<i>If "yes", move the cords or carpets.</i> | YES | NO |
| 5. Do you use extension cords on a permanent basis?
<i>If "yes", have a licensed electrician install new outlets, or move electric appliances to closer outlets.</i> | YES | NO |
| 6. Are cords kept wrapped up while being used?
<i>If "yes", unwrap them.</i> | YES | NO |

LAMPS & APPLIANCES

- | | | |
|--|-----|----|
| 1. Are you using the correct wattage bulb in all lamps and light fixtures?
<i>If "no", replace incorrect bulbs with bulbs of the proper wattage. Use bulbs of 60 watts or less if you are unsure of the appropriate wattage.</i> | YES | NO |
| 2. Are all appliance cords placed so they won't contact with hot surfaces?
<i>If "no", move cords away from all heat sources, such as heaters, ranges and toasters.</i> | YES | NO |

ELECTRICAL PANEL

- | | | |
|---|-----|----|
| 1. Do you have recurring tripped circuit breakers or blown fuses?
<i>If "yes", this can signify a serious electrical problem. Contact a licensed electrician immediately.</i> | YES | NO |
| 2. Are fuses or circuit breakers the correct size for the circuit?
<i>If you're not sure, ask a licensed electrician to inspect them and install correct sizes.</i> | YES | NO |
| 3. Do you have arc fault circuit interrupters?
<i>If "no", consider having a licensed electrician replace the standard circuit breakers with AFCIs.</i> | YES | NO |
| 4. If you have AFCIs installed, do you test them every month?
<i>Start testing these monthly, simply click on the TEST button. If power is not interrupted by clicking this button, have a licensed electrician replace the defective AFCI.</i> | YES | NO |

MAY IS ELECTRICAL SAFETY MONTH

FARMERS: LOOK UP, LOOK OUT, LIVE!

Farmers, there is no question about it, 2019 has been a challenging year already. Wet conditions have lingered with ongoing snow and rain and the planting season has been continuously delayed.

You are likely feeling rushed, and that is understandable. But where electric safety is concerned, it is well worth your time to take a few moments to assess your surroundings, every time you enter your field. LOOK UP, LOOK OUT, and LIVE.

Please take a few moments to review the safety tips listed here, and share them with anyone who is working in your fields. To engrain these tips in your mind, just keep the words "Look Up, Look Out, and LIVE" at the top of your mind. Have a safe and prosperous farming season!



- Keep cultivators, sprayers and planters **AT LEAST 10 FEET** from power lines and electrical facilities.
- Use a spotter when maneuvering large equipment.
- Inspect entrances into fields to ensure adequate clearance for equipment.
- Use a spotter from a good vantage point to verify that entry points offer sufficient clearance.
- Never attempt to move a power line out of the way or raise it for clearance.
- If you're equipment contacts a power line, remain inside the vehicle until linemen from SPPD arrive to de-energize the line. Stepping out of the equipment creates a path from the equipment to the ground, and electricity will use YOU as a path.

IRRIGATORS: WATCH FOR INFORMATIONAL MAILING

This month, load management customers will receive their annual pre-season mailing from Southern Public Power District. The information included in this mailing will include a special edition newsletter, packed with information to explain processes and procedures in place during the irrigation season.

Additionally, you will find an acknowledgement of your account listings, and a calendar outlining your days of control for 2019. This mailing offers 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 takes hold!

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



*Follow us on
Twitter, or join our
Load Management
group on Facebook for
up-to-the-minute load
management updates.*

BILL PAYMENT OPTIONS

Whether you prefer to interact with us face-to-face or online, we offer a variety of methods to pay your Southern Public Power District accounts.

If you have any questions about the options for your bill payments, contact our Customer Service Department at 800-579-3019.

ONLINE PAYMENT

With SmartHub you can make payments on your accounts with mobile and web apps in a secure environment. SmartHub allows you to review your billing, usage and payment history. You may set up recurring credit card payments on SmartHub, as well. Log on to www.southernppd.com to begin.



PAY BY MAIL

Mail your payment to:

Southern Public Power District
PO Box 1687
Grand Island, NE 68802-1687



To be considered "timely", payments must be received at this address on, or before the 15th each month. Please allow 3-5 days for delivery.

AUTO PAY

Auto Pay is an electronic funds transfer payment. Once you are signed up, you will receive your billing notice(s) marked "Bill Paid By Auto Pay". On the 15th of each month, funds are withdrawn from your banking account in the amount due on your billing statement.



WALK-IN/STOP BY

Stop in to any of our area offices, according to the hours listed below. Credit cards can be used at our Grand Island and Franklin offices, all other locations will accept your cash or check payment.

GRAND ISLAND

4550 West Husker Hwy
Monday-Friday, 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

FRANKLIN

101 16th Ave

CENTRAL CITY

1616 Hwy 14

HASTINGS

7140 W Hwy 6

HOLDREGE

1605 E Hwy 6

Monday-Friday, 8:00 AM - Noon

All five locations have drop-boxes available for payments.

PHONE PAYMENT

Payments can be made by calling our Customer Services Department at 800-579-3019. You can pay using your credit/debit card, with no fees, and we will also process a payment from your checking account by phone. Payments can be made Monday-Friday, 8 AM—5 PM.



RECIPE

BLUEBERRY MUFFINS

INGREDIENTS

½ cup softened butter
1 ¼ cups sugar
2 eggs
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
2 cups flour
½ teaspoon salt
2 teaspoons baking powder
½ cup milk
2 cups blueberries,
washed, drained and
picked over
3 teaspoons sugar

Preheat the oven to 375°.

Cream the butter and 1-1/4 c. sugar until light. Add the eggs, one at a time, beating well after each addition. Add vanilla.

Sift together the flour, salt and baking powder, and add to the creamed mixture alternately with the milk.

Crush 1/2 cup blueberries with a fork, and mix into the batter. Fold in the remaining whole berries.

Line a 12-cup standard muffin tin with cupcake liners, and fill with batter. Sprinkle the 3 teaspoons sugar over the tops of the muffins, and bake at 375 for about 30-35 minutes.

Remove muffins from tin and cool at least 30 minutes. Store, uncovered, or the muffins will be too moist.

