

# CURRENT FLASHES

**CEDAR-KNOX PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT**  
P.O. Box 947, HARTINGTON, NEBRASKA 68739

cedarknoxppd.com

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## Brutal Summer Sends Peak Demand Soaring

Each year as we study and monitor our electrical distribution system, we try to model its capabilities based on potentially extreme loading conditions. During a typical year, load and weather diversity helps limit the peak demand amount that we experience but under certain circumstances, such as we had this past summer, the system gets pushed to its limits.

The sustained heat and extremely dry conditions of 2012 kept air conditioners humming and irrigation systems pumping through most of the summer. Nebraskans watched helplessly as the earth cracked and our lawns, pastures and dry-land crops were baked to a crisp. Electricity demand on the Cedar-Knox electric distribution system increased almost daily as the July heat/drought persisted. Like us, most rural Nebraska utilities eventually recorded peak loads that were 15%-20% higher than previous all-time highs as irrigation operating diversity disappeared - along with the soil moisture. At 10:00 p.m. on July 30th, our

system load peaked at 78.47 megawatts. For comparison, that amount of energy is the equivalent of about 105,000 horsepower. This easily wiped away our previous all-time peak demand of 66.87 megawatts recorded in July of last year. As would be expected, parts of our system were pushed to their limits. While there were some minor issues on a couple of our

lines, we were very pleased at how well our distribution system handled the unprecedented heavy loading. Information gathered throughout the summer will help us adapt our work plan to help stave-off the next extreme year.

### Cedar-Knox Board approves 1.75% rate increase

As I think most of you know, the electricity that we deliver to our consumers is generated by, and purchased from Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD). In fact nearly

2/3 of your electric bill goes to NPPD to generate the electricity that you use at your home, farm or business. In 2013 NPPD will be raising these wholesale electric rates to Cedar-Knox by 3.75%, mostly to fund continued upgrades to aging plants and facilities. We will absorb part of the increase but starting with the January usage, the Cedar-Knox retail rates to you will increase by an average 1.75%. As always, some consumers may see slightly more or less of an increase based on rate class.

### 75th Anniversary Celebration a Success

Finally, I want to thank everyone that took the time to come out and see us during our 75th Anniversary Celebration Open House. The day was a huge success as about 500 visitors toured the facilities, inspected equipment and enjoyed a great lunch at our headquarters. Current and former Cedar-Knox employees and directors were on hand to welcome guests and reminisce about the evolution of the district. Thanks again to all that helped us celebrate - we look forward to the next 75 great years!

*From our families to yours, please enjoy a safe and happy holiday season.*

## The Anatomy of your Electric Bill

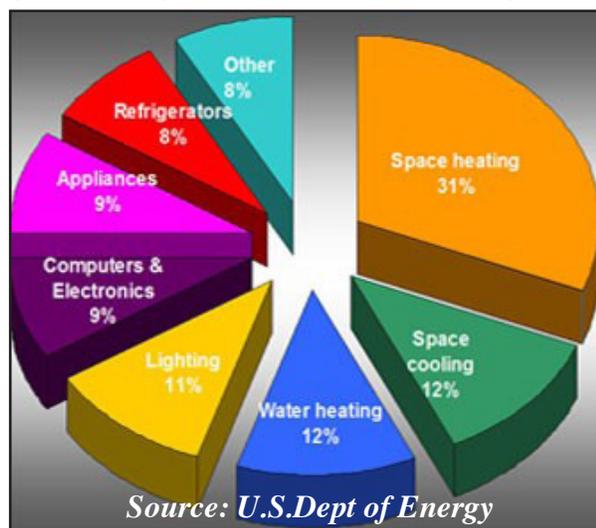
When you get your monthly electric bill, do you wonder how it's arrived at? What am I doing or not doing that might be driving up the bill? Is it that older inefficient refrigerator, clothes dryer, or are the kids leaving on all the lights in the house or not shutting off the TV when no one is in the room?

According to the U.S. Department of Energy, heating, cooling, appliances and lights are the largest energy users in your home.

A large item, like replacing an old model refrigerator that was made before 1980, which costs about \$250.00 each year to run, with a new ENERGY STAR model, which will run about \$60.00 per year, (source: ENERGY STAR) makes a lot of sense in the life of the new refrigerator.

Smaller things can bring down these costs too, and they can be easy and much less expensive, and still significant. Turn down your thermostat in the winter and up in the summer, even by just a couple of degrees is a good

place to start. Keep your clothes dryer screen and vent free of lint; this is a little thing that costs nothing to do, but a little time.



Change out some of those incandescent light bulbs with CFL or LED's, the savings are substantial. Caulk your windows and doors. A 1/16 inch gap around a standard window is the same as leaving it open 3 inches all year long (source: U.S. Dept of Energy). Who would do that during a cold Nebraska winter? Don't forget to add insulation in the attic if your current depth is 6 inches or less, and your home is primarily heated by electricity, you can add insulation and save money in heating and cooling costs and get a rebate through our Energy-Wise program. Contact us about this program.

# RECIPE CORNER

## Parmesan Chicken Wings

- 1 cup freshly grated Parmesan cheese
- 1 T chopped fresh flat leaf parsley
- 1 t dried basil leaves
- 1 t salt

Freshly ground pepper to taste

2 lb chicken wings, cut up

½ cup melted butter

Preheat oven to 375 degrees.

Combine Parmesan, parsley, basil, salt and pepper together and place in shallow bowl.

Dip each piece of chicken into the melted butter, then roll in the cheese mixture, coating well. Place on a greased baking sheet and bake for 45 minutes, turning once half way through baking time.

Dip in favorite sauce, such as ranch or marinara. Serves 4 to 6.



# Closing for the Holidays

Cedar-Knox PPD will be closed November 22 and 23<sup>rd</sup> for the Thanksgiving holiday.

We will be closed the afternoon on December 24<sup>th</sup> and for the day, on December 25<sup>th</sup> for Christmas holiday. New Years we will be closed for the afternoon on December 31<sup>st</sup> and the whole day of January 1<sup>st</sup> 2013.

Remember we are available 24/7 for an outage. Just call our regular number 402-254-6291 or 800-891-5196.

## Portable Generator Safety Tips

- Make certain the generator is on an isolated circuit. If connected to your home wiring, it could back-feed and create a life-threatening situation for linemen working on power lines.

- Make sure the extension cord you use is in good condition and rated for a load greater than the total wattage of all connected appliances and other devices. (125 x amps = watts).

- Keep the generator dry, and do not operate indoors or in an enclosed area. Generators quickly can produce high levels of deadly carbon monoxide gas.

- Practice power management. Give your generator breaks during the day. Most portable generators are not designed to run 24/7, so shut down the unit several times during a day of operation.

- Turn off the generator's circuit breaker before starting so the load does not draw current until the generator is running smoothly. Turn off the breaker before stopping the generator.

- Test the ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) on the generator every time you fire up the engine.

## Harold Martindale Scholarship

Cedar-Knox PPD has awarded a scholarship in Memory of Harold Martindale since 1981. The \$2,000.00 scholarship will be awarded to a student who is enrolled in the two-year Utility Lineman Program for the upcoming fall semester and who is attending Northeast Community College.

Applications must be submitted to Northeast Community College by February 1st, 2013. Applications may be obtained from the website [northeast.edu](http://northeast.edu) or from your guidance counselor at your local school. Qualifications will be outlined by Northeast Community College. If you have questions, you can also contact us at Cedar-Knox PPD.

# EMPLOYEE CORNER

## Jeff Feilmeier Joins Cedar Knox PPD

Jeff Feilmeier is the newest employee for Cedar-Knox PPD. He was hired full-time Nov. 1, 2012.

He worked this summer as a temporary employee. Jeff graduated from NE Community College with a Lineman's degree in 2011.

His free time is spent farming and taking care of his cattle herd.

We are happy to welcome Jeff into the Cedar-Knox family.



## Joachimsen Celebrates 15 years

Troy Joachimsen will celebrate 15 years as a Cedar-Knox PPD employee December 1, 2012.

Troy started as an apprentice lineman and is now a Lead Journeyman Lineman.

Troy and his wife Tonya have 5 boys. When Troy has free time, he likes to hunt. Congratulations Troy.



# CEDAR KNOX PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT EMPLOYEES

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Rich Erwin ..... President  
 Terence Pinkelman ..... Vice Pres.  
 Randy Papenhausen ..... Secretary  
 Randy Carlson ..... Treasurer

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 Terry Thunker ..... Ken Eickhoff

### EMPLOYEES

Dan Leise ..... General Manager  
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 Suzanne Krause ..... Benefits Adm

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 Jackie Kathol ..... Billing Clerk  
 Gary Wiese ..... Purchasing/Safety Dir.  
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 Patrick Feilmeier ..... Line Superintendent  
 Corey Fischer ..... Line Engineer  
 Corey Stratman ..... Line Engineer  
 Doug Miller ..... Crew Foreman  
 Tim Loberg ..... Crew Foreman  
 Matt Sudbeck ..... Crew Foreman  
 Mike Lammers ..... Load Mgt/Metering  
 Reggie Hochstein ..... Dir. of Maintenance  
 Tom Potts ..... Lead Journeyman Lineman

Troy Joachimsen ..... Lead Journeyman Lineman  
 Forrest Dendinger ..... Journeyman Lineman  
 Brad Steffen ..... Journeyman Lineman  
 Eric Becker ..... Journeyman Lineman  
 Nathan Rutar ..... Journeyman Lineman  
 John Freeman ..... Journeyman Lineman  
 Dustin Neuhalfen ..... Journeyman Lineman  
 Brian Kruse ..... Journeyman Lineman  
 Jeff Feilmeier ..... Apprentice Lineman  
 Ed Kalin ..... Mechanic

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