

By Rick Nelson, General Manager

December 2017

It has been a great year for Custer Public Power. I want to talk about our accomplishments in 2017, from storm damage to new services, youth activities, and community involvement.

Custer Public Power spent the spring repairing damage from the April 30th snowstorm. The main damage was in the Sargent and Taylor areas. With repairing the damage, we also changed out poles as part of our maintenance program. Every year we treat poles on our system in a 12 year cycle, replacing rejected poles. This helps us stay abreast of problem areas and take care of problems in the sunshine, and hopefully not after hours. Along with the repair and maintenance, 51 new services were built. The weather always has its ups and downs but Custer Public Power's distribution system can handle the load just fine, and will continue to handle the load in the future.

Along with the outside work there is the inside paperwork. When you see the line workers building a new line it is really just the tip of the iceberg. It takes a ton of planning, study, engineering, material, accounting, and inspection to make things happen. I'm so proud of Custer Public Power's employees- inside and out, for the huge amount of work completed this year.

Coming in 2018, we will be reconstructing a substation in Halsey and replacing several big sub-transmission line switches. We have several other projects throughout our service territory as well, including some work we need to do up in the Taylor area.

As we think about all the work done in 2017, I want to note a few things that we do in and

around the communities we serve. Custer Public Power contributes to the 4-H Foundation and to the 4-H Camp. We sponsor youth to attend the NREA Energy Leadership Camp at Halsey, and we sponsor the NRECA Washington D.C. Youth Tour. Custer Public Power believes in educating our youth on the heritage and value of public power.

In addition to the camps, we teach electrical safety in schools, participate in safety day for kids, and provide the high and low voltage demonstration to communities and groups wanting to learn about electricity, and understand the hazards of electricity. Alongside the camp, tour, and demonstrations Custer Public Power added the mobile STEM trailer which will be making the rounds to schools in our service territory in the 2017-2018 school year and beyond.

Custer Public Power continues to be a member in several community's Chamber of Commerce and participates in economic development groups and the scenic byway. We contribute to our service territory fire departments. At the Nebraska State Fair, we work along with other Public Power Districts to man the Public Power booth and demonstrations.

All of the above activities are carried out by the dedicated employees and directors of your Public Power District. They donate their time and effort to give back to their communities. For that, I am truly grateful. If you get a chance and are so inclined, I hope you let them know that you appreciate their efforts, too.

In the meantime, have a joyous
Holiday Season!

IN THE RIGHT *light*

DECORATE YOUR HOME SAFELY DURING THE HOLIDAYS:

According to the National Fire Protection Association, **860 home fires** caused by holiday decorations occur **each year**. An additional **210 home fires** are caused by Christmas trees per year. Follow these steps to ensure you decorate your home safely during the winter holidays.



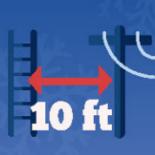
Make sure all **extension cords and electrical decorations** are marked for **proper use**



Outdoor electric lights and decorations should be plugged into circuits protected by **ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs)**



Inspect all lights, decorations, and extension cords for **damage before using**



Exercise caution when decorating near power lines. Keep yourself and your equipment at least **10 feet from power lines**



Turn off all indoor and outdoor electrical decorations **before leaving home or going to sleep**



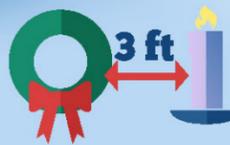
Avoid overloading electrical outlets with too many decorations or electrical devices. They can **overheat and cause a fire**



Never connect more than **three strings of incandescent lights** together



Water your Christmas tree **daily**



Keep all decorations at least **3 feet away from heating equipment or an open flame**



Purchase electrical decorations from reputable retailers and that are approved by a national recognized testing lab such as **UL** (Underwriters Laboratory), Intertek (**ETL**), or Canadian Standards Association (**CSA**)

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON ELECTRICAL FIRE PREVENTION VISIT WWW.ESFI.ORG
www.facebook.com/ESFi.org www.twitter.com/ESFIdotorg www.youtube.com/ESFIdotorg



Friendly Competition for a Cause

This year for a community fundraiser Custer Power had a **Dip~A~Chip Contest**.

The winning team choose to donate the money raised to **Meals on Wheels**.



Butter Pecan Cream Cheese Dip

Ingredients

- 1 tablespoon unsalted butter
- 1/2 cup chopped pecans
- 8 ounces cream cheese, softened
- 1/2 cup light brown sugar
- 1/4 teaspoon vanilla extract
- pinch of salt to taste
- Homemade Salted Caramel Sauce (or your favorite store brand)
- Food Should Taste Good™ Harvest Pumpkin Tortilla Chips

Instructions

1. Melt a tablespoon of unsalted butter in skillet over medium heat. Add chopped pecans and cook, stirring, until lightly toasted and fragrant, about 5 minutes.
2. Cream together 8 ounces of cream cheese, 1/2 cup light brown sugar, 1/4 teaspoon vanilla extract, and a pinch of salt until smooth. Mix in toasted pecans and stir to combine. Give it a taste and adjust flavors as needed to suit your taste.
3. Transfer to a serving dish, drizzle with Home-made Salted Caramel Sauce, and serve with crackers and chips. Enjoy!

Recipe can be found on Our Life Tastes Good blog.

Congratulations to the Front Office.

Custer Power will be closed December 25th for Christmas and January 1st for New Years.

Enjoy a safe & Happy Holiday Season!

Emergency service is available at 888-749-2453

Employees Recognized for Years of Service

Allen Neth, Meter/Load Management Tech,	40 yrs
Barb Jensen, Engineering Supervisor	30 yrs
James Gibson, Storeroom Clerk	30yrs
April Gross, Customer Services Manager	15yrs
Spencer Burk, Lead Lineman-Thedford	10yrs
Jeannie Myers, Accountant	10yrs
Angie Flynn, Customer Service Rep	5yrs
Tarin Burrows, Executive Assistant	5yrs

Board of Directors Recognized for Years of Service

Brad Bartak, President-Board of Directors	20yrs
John Blakeman, Board of Directors	10yrs
Lloyd Ramsey, Board of Directors	10yrs



*Congratulations,
Gordon Needs
on completing your
Apprenticeship!*

Apprentice to a Journeyman

Several of our Custer PPD linemen have been hired out of college. One of the expectations is that they will continue their learning which includes completing their Apprenticeship to become a Journeyman.

For the Apprenticeship, at least 8,000 hands-on hours need to be completed in 14 different areas. Along with the hands-on hours, the Apprentice completes the 4 year Northwest Lineman program. There are approximately 10 to 11 manuals and tests for each year. Completing the above requirements allows the Apprentice to become a Journeyman Lineman.



CUSTER CURRENTS

Newsletter of the CUSTER PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT

Broken Bow, NE - Phone 872-2451
www.custerpower.com

Serving Custer, Loup, Blaine, Thomas,
Hooker, McPherson, Logan and parts of
Sherman, Garfield, Brown, Cherry,
Lincoln, and Dawson Counties

Officers & Directors

Brad Bartak, Merna.....	President
John Blakeman, Merna.....	Vice President
Greg Smith, Milburn.....	Secretary
Brad Howard, Litchfield.....	Treasurer
Tom Roberts, Loup City.....	Asst. Treasurer
Lloyd Ramsey, Broken Bow.....	Director
Wayne V. Licking, Thedford.....	Director

Staff

Rick Nelson.....	General Manager
Tom Knott.....	Director of Operations and Loss Control
Cheryl Taylor.....	Director of Finance and Administration

Board Meetings

The regular monthly meeting of the Custer Public Power District Board of Directors is on the last Thursday of each month, beginning at 10:00 a.m. in the main office in Broken Bow on Hwy. 2.

An agenda for each regular meeting of the board is available for public inspection during business hours.

In the event of matters of an emergency nature or conflicts with other meeting dates, the Board of Directors will set changes. Any change in the monthly meeting date will be posted in the legal notice at the main headquarters building at Broken Bow and at each of the District's area service centers located in Callaway, Sargent, Stapleton and Thedford, Nebraska.

