

# CUSTER

PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT

With Area Service Centers in Sargent,  
Callaway, Stapleton and Thedford

## *Currents*



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Cover Photo © Deb Hostick  
American Goldfinch

Newsletter of the

**Custer Public Power District**

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

**Custer Public Power  
District Newsletter**  
is published bimonthly by:

Custer Public Power District  
P.O. Box 10  
625 E South E Street  
Broken Bow, NE 68822

Phone: (308)872-2451  
1-888-749-2453

Website: [www.custerpower.com](http://www.custerpower.com)

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*General Manager*

**April Gross**  
*Customer Service  
Manager*

**Jamie Hurlburt**  
*Operations Manager*

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*Purchasing Manager*

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*Send address changes to:*

Custer Public Power District  
P.O. Box 10  
Broken Bow, NE 68822

**Comments or Questions:**

**Tarin Burrows**  
*Executive Assistant*

*Follow us on:*



From the  
**GENERAL MANAGER'S**  
desk

**Local Control**



*Public Power in Nebraska has been the foundation of all things electrical since the 1930's.*

The interesting part is that public power was formed by the legislature and state statute. Therefore, statutes govern how Custer Public Power District operates in many aspects of our business.

However, while the formation and rules set a boundary for the way Custer PPD operates, there is a great amount of control that comes from our locally elected Board of Directors.

There are times when Custer PPD sees attempts at reducing and lessening local control in the state legislature - from how public power handles renewable energy to the district's boundaries and election precincts.

Custer PPD feels strongly that our local control needs to be preserved for many reasons, but not the least, so you, the customer/owner, has a voice in how your public power district serves you. The biggest reason local control is important is when setting rates within rate classes. There are many states that have a commission that decides what electric utilities charge their customers and the structure of those rate classes. In Nebraska, we feel that those decisions need to be made at the local level since our local customers are the ones that will be affected by any rate changes.

Custer PPD is into our sixth year of keeping the amount of money needed to operate our system without a rate increase. We are very fortunate to have directors that understand the importance of both having a financially strong public power district and are sensitive to our customers/owners' needs.

Custer PPD has been through an unprecedented time over the last 3 years. Material delivery times are long, and prices have increased due to increased demand. Those additional costs will have an impact on revenue requirements in the years ahead. However, for 2024 Custer PPD's rates have stayed the same.

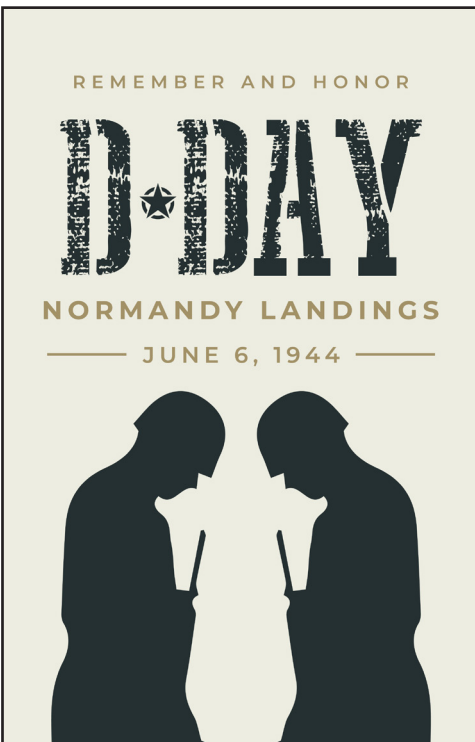
Local control is one of the cornerstones of Public Power in Nebraska. Public Power districts are proud to serve our customers/owners and have directors that live and govern locally. ♦

**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 9:00 a.m.(CT) in the main office in Broken Bow at 625 E South E 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 Theadford, Nebraska.



## May is Electrical Safety Month: Know what to do around downed power lines.

### Stay in the car or cab and call 9-1-1



April 20, 2022

**Springfield, Ill.** — May is Electrical Safety Month and a good time to think about how to stay safe in a situation where there are downed power lines, such as after a storm or as the result of an accident.

Mary Gehrig encountered such a scenario during a severe storm, and she shares what happened to her to increase awareness about downed power line safety.

Seventeen-year-old Gehrig was driving home from a friend’s house on a stormy June night, from Fargo to Kindred, N.D. Although some cars had pulled over to wait out the storm, Gehrig was close to home, and she thought she could make it.

Around 25 minutes into her 30-minute drive, Gehrig turned onto the county road that would take her home. Although there was near-zero visibility due to the storm, which turned much more severe than originally forecast, she noticed two white lines in the distance. As she got closer, she realized that those lines were across the road, in her path, and they were anything but small.

“I realized I was not going to (be able to) drive over it,” Gehrig recalls. She slammed on the brakes and her car struck the object, which happened to be one of two high-voltage transmission power lines lying in the road. The massive cable stopped Mary’s car in its tracks. The car’s electrical system was damaged, and she was stuck there alone during the storm.

The next thing Gehrig did was pick up her phone

and call her parents. When her dad heard that there was a downed power line involved, he told her to stay in the car and call 9-1-1.

Fire chief Rich Schock, who was on the scene that night, said, “Those are large transmission lines with a lot of volts in them,” adding that the outcome could have been fatal had Mary gotten out. “Mary did everything right,” he said.

When there is an accident involving downed power lines, a padmount transformer or other related utility equipment, Safe Electricity offers these safety tips:

- Call 9-1-1 and report that a downed line or other electrical equipment is involved.
- Do not get out of the vehicle until electric utility workers say it is safe to exit.
- Warn those involved in the accident to stay put and alert others who might approach to stay back.

Exiting a vehicle or equipment is the last resort and should only be attempted if the car is on fire or giving off smoke. If this is the case, exit the vehicle by crossing your arms and jumping from the vehicle without touching it. Then, hop with both feet together as far as you can.

To watch Mary’s story or to learn more, go to [Safe Electricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org).

###

*Safe Electricity is the award-winning, public awareness program of the Energy Education Council, a 501(c) 3 (not-for-profit organization) established in 1952 on the campus of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. With offices located in Springfield, Ill., Safe Electricity operates under the University of Illinois Extension and is led by the EEC Board of Directors. Since the Safe Electricity program was created in 2001, it has provided thousands of safety-minded resources to its more than 500 utility members from across the country to help save lives and reduce injuries.*

# The Purpose of the Custer Public Power Districts Board of Directors



This year is an election year, Public Power Districts across Nebraska are preparing to have their political subdivision certifications turned into the county election offices in their service territories. Districts grossing over \$40 million will have candidates on the Primary and General Elections and Districts grossing under \$40 million will only have candidates on the General Election ballot. Public Power Districts are public corporations and political subdivisions of the State and are controlled by State Statute. The uniqueness of Nebraska and the designation of being 100% Public Power ensures local control of your electricity.

Custer Public Power District follows the guidelines for Public Power Districts grossing under \$40 million for certifications.

Custer Public Power District's Directors follow the Statutes of the State of Nebraska, the by-laws of the District, and represent the customers of the Custer Public Power District. Besides the regular monthly board meetings, directors are encouraged to attend the quarterly Nebraska Rural Electric Association (NREA) meetings and may serve as a voting delegate at these meetings. Additional meetings throughout the year include NPPD Annual Customer Meeting, Nebraska G & T meetings, Mid-West Electric Consumers Association Conference, and the Region 7 & 9 National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) Conference. In January of each year, the Directors are nominated and by vote are chosen to represent the District at each of the listed meetings.

At the State level, Custer PPD belongs

to the Nebraska Rural Electric Association (NREA). The NREA is a private non-profit trade association. It is made up of 34 rural electric systems across the State of Nebraska. In January of each year, the Board of Directors vote on delegates to represent Custer PPD at the quarterly NREA meetings. All Directors are encouraged to attend the winter NREA Legislative Event and fall NREA Annual meeting.

The NRECA is a national association that Custer Public Power District belongs to.

The Custer Public Power District's Board of Directors are encouraged to attend classes through the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA). The Director Certificate Programs are offered in three parts.

*Continued on page 5.*

# 2024 Scholarship Winners

The 2024 Custer Public Power District scholarship winners are Braden Powell and Jace Schauda.



Braden Powell

Braden Powell is a 2024 graduate of McPherson County Schools. He is the son of TJ and Krista Powell. Braden will be attending Western Nebraska Community College in Alliance, Nebraska. He will begin the Powerline Construction & Maintenance Program at the end of May 2024.

Jace Schauda is attending Mitchell Technical College in Mitchell, South Dakota. Jace is the son of Travis and Amy Schauda. Jace is finishing the Power Line Construction & Maintenance Program and starting the Electrical Utilities & Substation Technology Program.

If you have a current Sophomore, Junior, or Senior in High School who would like to job shadow or learn more about a career path in becoming a power line worker, contact Tarin Burrows at 308-872-2451. Custer Public Power District provides job shadow experiences for potential scholarship applications upon request and scheduled with the Custer PPD Operations Department.



Jace Schauda

## Continued.

First, the Credentialed Cooperative Director (CCD) Certificate which is a set of five courses that focus on basic governance knowledge and the essential skills required of cooperative/public power directors. The second part of the program, Board Leadership Certificate (BLC), consists of a series of courses focusing in greater depth on specific industry and governance issues. These include issues such as risk management, power supply, parliamentary procedure, technology,

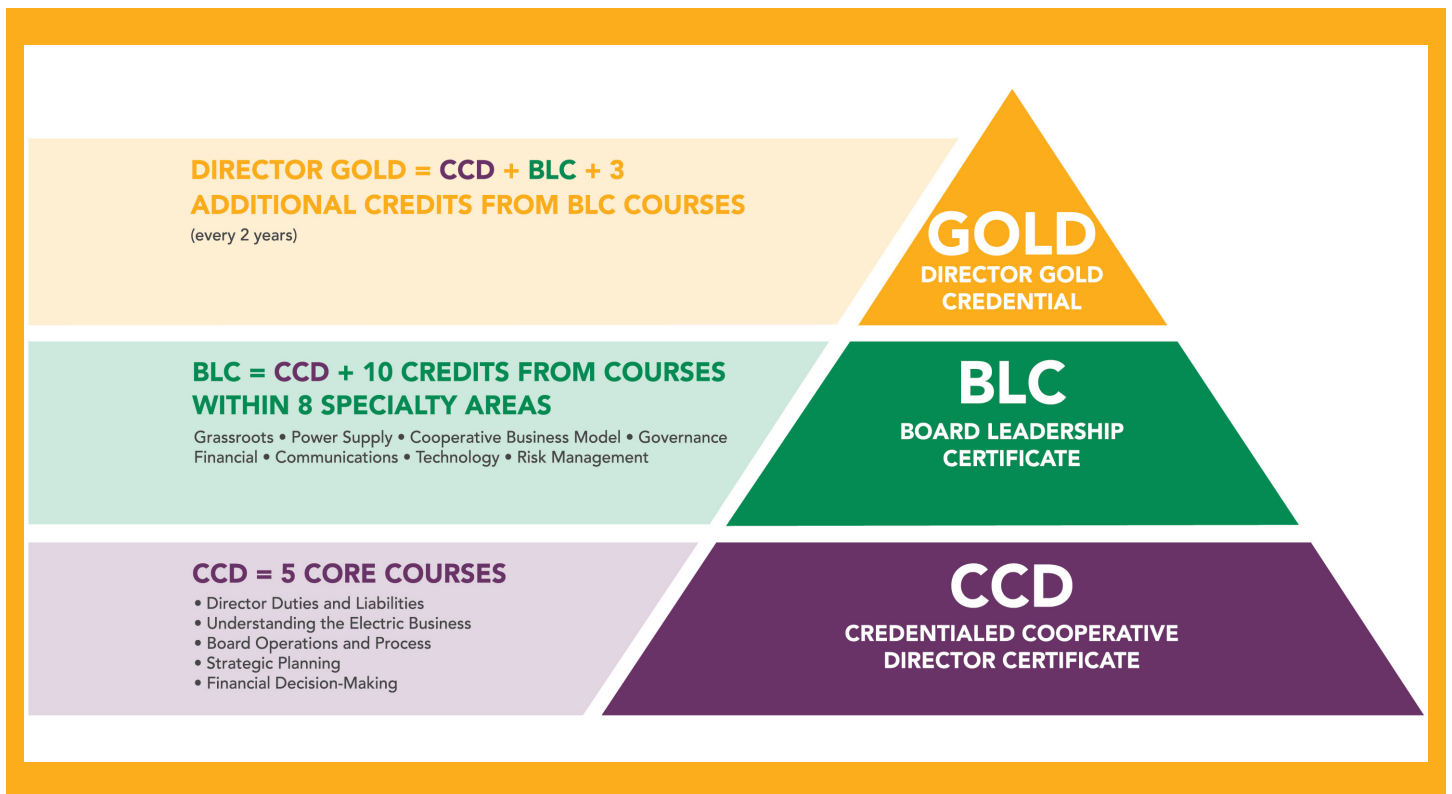
and policy development. The final part of the program is the Director Gold Credential which is created to recognize directors committed to continuing their education beyond the first two certifications.

The Custer PPD Board of Directors also serves as representatives at the NRECA meetings, at the Nebraska Power Review meetings, and the Nebraska Public Power Districts meetings.

To learn more about the duties and

responsibilities of Custer Public Power District's Board of Directors call the Broken Bow Office and ask for General Manager Rick Nelson or Tarin Burrows, Executive Assistant or contact one of our Board of Directors. The public is able to attend the monthly Board of Directors meetings at the Broken Bow office.

The Custer Public Power District's Board of Directors exists to direct the affairs of Custer Public Power District and represent you. ♦



# RECIPES

## Monster Bars

*Courtesy of Jo Ann Baum's Kitchen*

### INGREDIENTS:

½ cup butter softened (1 stick)  
½ cup brown sugar  
½ cup white sugar  
½ cup peanut butter  
1 eggs  
1 tsp vanilla  
½ cup all purpose flour  
½ tsp baking soda  
1½ cup quick cooking oats  
1 cup semi-sweet chocolate chips  
1 cup M&Ms

## Small Batch Monster Bars Without Flour

*Courtesy of Tracy @ bakingmischief.com*

3 tablespoons salted butter softened\*  
1/2 cup peanut butter creamy or chunky\*  
1/3 cup granulated sugar  
1/3 cup brown sugar  
1 large egg  
1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract  
1 1/2 cups (quick/instant oats \*  
1/2 teaspoon baking soda  
1/2 cup (M&M's plus more for topping  
1/3 cup chocolate chips

### DIRECTIONS:

Preheat oven to 350 F.

*Use a greased parchment lined 9 x 13 pan for **Monster Bars**.*

*Use a lightly greased parchment lined standard-size loaf pan or 5X7 baking dish for **Monster Bars without flour**.*

Cream together butter, brown sugar, white sugar, and peanut butter. Mix well! Add eggs and vanilla. Then stir in dry ingredients and mix well. Next stir in chocolate chips and M&Ms.

Press into greased pan. Add additional M&Ms to the top, if desired, pressing them into the dough slightly.

Bake for 20 - 25 minutes or until edges are slightly brown or until toothpick inserted comes out clean.

Do not over bake. Let cool a bit before slicing.



© Tracy Baking Mischief

Share your  
favorite recipe and  
earn a gift when  
it is published.



### Mail to:

Custer Public Power District  
Attention Tarin Burrows  
P.O. Box 10  
Broken Bow, NE 68822

## Foil Packet Beef and Vegetable Meal

Courtesy of BEEF Its Whats For Dinner @ <https://www.beefitswhatsfordinner.com>

### INGREDIENTS:

- 6 ounces refrigerated fully cooked beef Pot Roast, shredded or fully cooked steak, cubed
- 6 ounces prepared smoked Beef Sausage
- 1 cup butternut squash, diced
- 1 cup zucchini or yellow squash, sliced into 3/4 inch pieces and halved
- 2 ears sweet corn, cut in half
- 4 teaspoons vegetable oil
- 2 teaspoons all-purpose seasoning blend, such as Old Bay

### DIRECTIONS:

Combine beef and vegetables in large bowl. Add oil and seasoning; toss to coat.

Preheat grill to medium heat (approximately 350°F).

Place a 12" x 12" square of heavy-duty aluminum foil down on work surface. Add 1/4 of beef and vegetable mixture to center of foil. Fold right and left edges in and roll together to close. Fold top and bottom edges in and roll to close package. Repeat with remaining mixture for a total of 4 packets.

Grill for 10 to 12 minutes until vegetables are tender.

*Cook's Tip: Packets can also be prepared in a 350°F oven. Bake for 10 to 12 minutes.*



©BEEF

## JUNE IS SAFETY MONTH HOME SAFETY TIPS:

Replace broken wall plates.

Test GFCI outlets.

Check tools for frayed cords.

Use proper extension cords for outdoor tasks.



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## NEBRASKA MAGAZINE

Nebraska Rural Electric Association

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YOUR PHONE, TABLET, LAPTOP, OR DESKTOP.



[WWW.NEBRASKAMAGAZINE.ORG](http://WWW.NEBRASKAMAGAZINE.ORG)

# OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Friday  
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. CT.

The office and service centers will be closed May 27 to observe Memorial Day.

For after hour emergencies, call 1-888-749-2453.



P.O. Box 10  
Broken Bow, NE 68822

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## Plant Trees Safely

Before you dig, call 811 to locate buried utility lines.

### LOW TREE ZONE

Avoid planting within 20 ft. of power lines. If planting is unavoidable, only plant shrubs and small trees that reach a mature height of 15 ft. or less.

### MEDIUM TREE ZONE

Plant medium trees (under 40 ft. when mature) at least 25 ft. away from power lines.

### LARGE TREE ZONE

Plant large trees (over 40 ft. when mature) at least 50 ft. away from power lines.

