

## From the desk of the Manager

### No Rate Increase for 2015

Cedar-Knox electric rates will remain the same for a **3rd straight year** as we will absorb cost increases, including a slight wholesale electricity price increase from our power supplier in 2015. Also, we've applied for eligible Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) funds to help pay for part of the major tornado damage that we incurred in the Coleridge and Laurel areas earlier this summer. Cedar-Knox rates were last increased at the end of 2012 by 1.75%.

### Safety Achievement

The electric utility industry is among the most dangerous in terms of working conditions and I would like to acknowledge Cedar-Knox Employees for their on-going years of expert safety performance. Cedar-Knox line-workers are skilled individuals that must be able to work safely in some of the harshest conditions, sometimes with little rest. Not only are they high-voltage technicians, but they are pole-climbers and heavy equipment operators, working with very dangerous tools and machinery such as boom trucks, trenchers, tree chippers, chain saws and many other hydraulic and electric power tools.

Obviously, crew members must stay physi-

cally fit, but they must also be capable of comprehending electrical circuitry diagrams and sectionalizing maps to enable the safe and efficient switching and operation of our electrical system. Cedar-Knox team members routinely put their lives in each other's hands and all carry the burden of keeping co-workers and the public safe from the many dangers of an electrical power distribution system. That includes our wonderful office staff, who besides their normal daily routine, help diagnose and dispatch problems while taking a barrage of phone calls during outages. Employees are CPR and First Aid certified and all new Line Technicians must participate in a 4-year lineman training and testing process. Emergency drills and pole-top lineman rescue procedures are also performed routinely.

I again want to express my appreciation to all Cedar-Knox Employees for their safe and efficient work again throughout the summer, including the power restoration process during and after the June Tornadoes. The most important part of our business is to ensure that each and every employee is able to return home safely to their family every night and I'm extremely happy to report that the Cedar-Knox crews have operated for more than 5

**straight years** without single lost-time accident! So while we may have had a few bumps and bruises along the way, none have been serious enough to cause an employee to be absent from work. That is a very impressive accomplishment in our industry and one that we are all very proud of!



Dan Leise

### Nearly 900 Have "Taken Action"

In our last newsletter we shared information about Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposed regulations that could threaten future affordability and reliability of our nation's electricity supply. Since then, nearly 900 comments have been sent to the EPA by concerned Cedar-Knox customers. December 1st is the deadline for public comment to EPA on this issue, so if you haven't already done so, go to [workingfornebraska.org](http://workingfornebraska.org) or visit [cedarknoxppd.com](http://cedarknoxppd.com) and click on the Working for Nebraska link. Thanks to all that have made your voices heard.

Please enjoy a safe and happy holiday season!

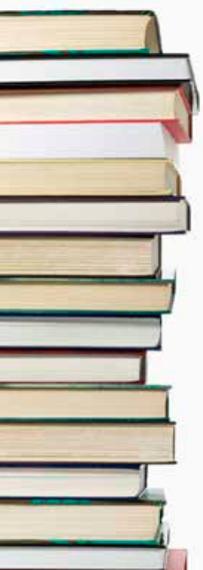
## SCAM ALERT

Recently a Cedar-Knox customer reported that they had been contacted by phone in which the caller identified themselves as a CKPPD employee. They told the customer that their account was delinquent and gave them **specific instructions on how** they must pay. The CKPPD customer knew their account was not delinquent and challenged the caller. The Caller hung up! This was a scam. Please always be sure to question such a call if suspicious. Another good suggestion is, hang up and call our office right back to be sure that you are talking to one of our representatives. We seldom call if your account is delinquent, but if we do, we would never give you specific instructions on how you must pay.

## Harold Martindale Scholarship

Cedar-Knox PPD has awarded a scholarship in Memory of Harold Martindale since 1981. The \$2,000 scholarship will be awarded to a student who is enrolled in the two-year Utility Lineman Program for this fall and who is attending Northeast Community College.

Applications must be submitted to Northeast Community College by February 1st, 2015. 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.





# Recipe Corner

## Ultimate Comfort Food Clam Chowder

### Ingredients:

- 1 Cup chopped celery
- 1 medium onion chopped
- 1 T chopped garlic
- 1 Stick butter
- 3 Cups peeled and cubed red potatoes
- 3 Cup Chicken stock
- 1 T chopped parsley
- 2 Cups half & half or cream
- 3 Cans of clams with juice
- Salt 2 teaspoons
- Pepper 1 teaspoon
- Milk as needed

**Directions:** In large soup kettle, melt 1 stick butter, sauté celery and onions till opaque. Add potatoes, chicken stock, salt and pepper. Cook on medium for 30 minutes, turn down to simmer and add half & half or cream, garlic and parsley and stir often. After 15 minutes add clams with juice and little milk if you want it thinner, and cook 15 minutes more on simmer. Top each bowl with shredded cheddar and bacon bits if desired. Enjoy!



# LED LIGHTING

Whether you are considering LED bulbs for your home or outdoor Christmas lighting for the holidays, LED lighting has come a long way in the last few years. Improvements have been made in colors available and tones (warm or cool). They use much less electricity, last longer and put off almost no heat, thus making them safer and more energy efficient. Cost has been a factor, but as time goes on, the cost has come down.

The biggest Con, despite their reputation for being long-lasting, LED lights can and do burn out or become less bright. In researching comments about the LED Christmas lights, it seems quite a few comments were made concerning the brightness or lack of. So our recommendation is that you are certain that you are satisfied with the output of the lights before you buy.

### Rebate Program

Remember we also have a credit rebate on LED light bulbs. The 2014 program is \$5 per LED bulb and a maximum of 10 per year on each qualifying account. Bring in your receipt and we will turn in for the credit rebate.

## Stork Report

Lucas Victor Freeman was born August 29, 2014 at 5:34 a.m. to John and Audrey Freeman. Lucas is their first son and joins two sisters, Evie and Allie. He weighed 6lbs 11 oz. and was 20 inches long. John is a journeyman lineman and works in our meter/AMR department. Congratulations to the family.



## Automatic Bank Payment

- ✓ Save Time.
- ✓ Save Money.
- ✓ Sign up for automatic bank withdrawal today!

By signing up for automatic bank withdrawal, you no longer need to write out a check, schedule your online bank payment, or pay any postage.

You will still receive your monthly billing statement showing your current usage and billing information. The notation "Bank Paid" and the date the payment would be withdrawn from your account is also shown.

Sign up today by filling out the form below. If you have any questions, please contact us at the Cedar Knox PPD Billing Department at (402) 254-6291 or (800) 891-5196. Thank you.

## Dates Closed

**Cedar-Knox PPD office will be closed on the following days:**

**November 11 Veterans Day**



**November 27 and 28th for Thanksgiving**

**December 24 at noon and December 25 for Christmas**



## CKPPD Calendars are Here!

Our 2015 calendars featuring local scenery are available at some of your local businesses and at the Cedar-Knox PPD office in Hartington. There is one correction that we need to mention, on the month of March, that is a picture of the beautiful church in Menominee not Bow Valley. We featured the historic church in Bow Valley on last year's calendar.



### CEDAR KNOX PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT BANK COLLECTION AUTHORIZATION

Name of Financial Institution \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Bank Location (City & State) \_\_\_\_\_ Type of Account: (circle one)

Customer Bank Account Number \_\_\_\_\_ Checking Savings

I hereby authorize Cedar Knox Public Power District to collect payment of my electrical bill from the above financial institution until such time that I cancel this agreement. It is understood that in case of a billing error, an adjustment will be made between Cedar Knox Public Power District and myself.

Bank Transit Number \_\_\_\_\_

Customer CKPPD Account Number \_\_\_\_\_

Customer Name (Print) \_\_\_\_\_

Customer Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Customer Service Address & City \_\_\_\_\_