

Digger's Hotline: Locating underground power lines

Before you pick up that shovel or start up the backhoe, you need to contact Digger's Hotline to determine if any utility lines are located in the area.

You can either call Nebraska's Digger's Hotline at 800-331-5666 or 811 on your cell phone or visit their website, www.ne-diggers.com. They will ask you questions about the location of your excavation site and they type of work you are planning.

Digger's Hotline notifies the utilities with equipment in the area. They are then dispatched to mark lines with paint marks and/or flags. The utilities have 48 hours to mark the utilities before you start digging. Notify Digger's Hotline if your project is an emergency and you cannot wait 48 before you begin. There is an expedited process for emergency projects.

WHAT IT DOES NOT DO...

Utility lines will be located and marked when you call Digger's Hotline, however the service does not cover privately owned lines. For example, underground power lines between the meter and your home are not located because they are not Dawson PPD property. If you would like to have your privately owned power line located, contact your electrician.



Always call Digger's Hotline (dial 811 on your cell phone) before you dig. They will contact utilities such as Dawson PPD and have underground lines located. However, the utilities will not locate customer-owned power lines, gas lines, phone lines, water pipes or sewer lines. The property owner will need to hire a contractor to locate these lines. (Photo credit: Dave Dobbins)

Digger's Hotline - 800-331-5666

www.ne-diggers.com

Summer rates are in effect

The bill you receive in July is calculated using Dawson PPD's summer rates. These rates are in effect for power used during June, July, August (as shown on the bill statements you will receive in July, August and September).

Rate information is available at www.dawsonpower.com.

Dawson PPD joins Touchstone Energy

In May, Dawson PPD's board of directors voted to become members of Touchstone Energy Cooperatives.

"Touchstone Energy is a reliable, well accepted national brand. We're pleased to be affiliated with them," explains Robert Heinz, Dawson PPD General Manager.

"We look forward to offering the Touchstone Energy Co-op Connections discount card because it will provide so many positive benefits to our customers."

The Co-op Connections Cards will be mailed to Dawson PPD's residential customers in September. There is no charge for the card. Discounts include prescription medications, travel discounts and discounts at local retail businesses. Look for more information about the card in next month's newsletter.

We're having a busy summer in Dawsonland



I have several topics that I'd like to tell you about this month:

FLOODING ON THE PLATTE. At the current time, we are monitoring the river and the electric facilities which might be impacted by high water flows on the Platte River. Currently we have one substation in the North Platte area which may need to be



Dawson PPD is monitoring flood conditions along the Platte River and developing contingency plans to ensure we can keep the lights on.

taken out of service because of rising water. We also have a number of electric poles on the banks of the river where we have line crossings which may be in danger of washing out. Contingency plans have been developed to reroute power supplies to customer who may be affected if these facilities are damaged or out of service.

REMOVING DIRT FROM AROUND POWER POLES. Again we are seeing road ditches which are being excavated to reroute water causing

hazardous situations for power lines. If one or two feet of dirt is removed from around a power pole, the pole is compromised, making the line unstable, increasing the likelihood of it going down in a high wind or storm causing outages and dangerous conditions for people in the vicinity. Please contact us before you do any kind of dirt work which could contribute

to this situation. You will be billed to put the poles back to engineering specifications.

SUMMER CONSTRUCTION. Construction work continues across the Dawson service territory. Two contractors have been hired to augment district crews. Thirty-eight miles of the oldest distribution lines are being replaced in numerous areas of

the distribution system. The sub-transmission upgrades south of the Platte River continue. The Elwood substation and the Elwood to Eustis tie line have been completed. Work will continue over the next two years to improve all sub-transmission lines in the Smithfield, Elwood, Cozad, Eustis, and Farnam areas.

WATER BALANCE ALLIANCE. Exciting data is being generated as we work to better understand the impacts water budget can have on improving our long term water sustainability. Several NRDs have completed water budgets with some very interesting results. In addition, Roric Paulman of Sutherland is conducting an impressive study on his farm with a group of agribusiness partners, using



A Dawson PPD lineman measures the amount of soil removed near this pole. Removing soil weakens the power line, increasing the chance that strong winds could topple the poles.

the latest technologies to improve crop yields at the same time efficiently maximizing water supply. He will make his data available after harvest.

TOUCHSTONE ENERGY. Dawson has joined with over 750 rural electric systems from across the country to deliver beneficial energy efficiency, money savings and safety information to our customers. You will be hearing a lot more about a number of new programs in future issues of this publication.

Until next time...
Robert Heinz, General Manager

Kautz celebrates 15 years

Gwen Kautz, Manager of Customer Services, is celebrating 15 years of service to Dawson PPD customers.



Gwen Kautz

Kautz oversees information technology, energy services, incentive program, economic development, public relations, Touchstone Energy membership and e-commerce. In addition, she works with customers to address their concerns.

Rowley joins North Platte crew

Apprentice lineman Josh Rowley is the newest member of the North Platte construction crew.



Josh Rowley

Rowley is a recent graduate of Western Nebraska Community College's Powerline Construction and Maintenance program in Alliance. He is originally from the Culbertson area.



Photo by David Taylor

It pays to be prepared.

Dawson PPD is offering a rebate to customers who have a transfer or double-throw switch installed. The switch allows a customer to safely connect a generator to power their home.

REBATE AMOUNTS

\$200 for a 100-amp switch

\$300 for a 200-amp switch

The rebate is good for installations completed *on or after April 1, 2011*. Switches must be installed according to National Electric Code and must be tested by Dawson PPD personnel. Switches must have a center "off" position.

Contact Bernie Svoboda for more information. Call 800-752-8305 or 308-324-2386.

Elwood and Hershey receive awards

by Dave Behle, Economic Development Specialist

The villages of Elwood and Hershey have recently been recognized for their efforts in building strong, vibrant hometowns.

Elwood receives two awards

On the heels of being recognized as the smallest Nebraska community to become Nebraska Economic Development Certified, Elwood has been awarded \$350,000 for main street revitalization.

"We are so grateful to receive this certification after 18 months of hard work by many community leaders," said Jen Wolf, Executive Director of Dawson Area Development.

The certification separates Elwood from many other communities in proving their readiness for economic development opportunities. It also makes them eligible for certain community development block grants and awards them bonus points when applying for other state sponsored programming.

This certification enabled Elwood to receive a \$30,000 Phase 1 Downtown Revitalization Grant. This grant will assist with the planning of both public and private improvements to the main street area. Once the planning is completed, the village will be ready to receive the Phase 2 funding.

"The Phase 2 funding will enable downtown businesses to make improvements with the grant funding

75% of the costs if they can come up with 25% of the matching dollars," reports Anna Fagot, member of the Elwood Revitalization Board.

Hershey is recognized

In recognition of National Community Development Week, Hershey was named as one of seven outstanding Nebraska communities. All of these communities had demonstrated long term efforts in rebuilding their communities. Hershey's efforts have produced over \$22 million in investment into the community in recent years.

Nearly ten years ago, the village recognized a need for planning and community investment. A study identified areas as blighted and substandard. Hershey then developed a plan for improvements to water and waste water. This included infrastructure to a development site on the east side of town, a new housing development on the north side, and the annexation and extension of services to Betts Addition. Those efforts proved valuable as Greenbrier Rail Services chose to locate near Hershey last year. Greenbrier took advantage of the shovel-ready site to build a 50,000 square foot building and rail spur to provide maintenance services for UPRR's rail car wheel sets.

Congratulations to both Elwood and Hershey on receiving these state awards!

join us on facebook

Our Facebook friends know about planned outages and the causes of unplanned outages. They get reminders about our rebate programs and tips to help them save energy and money. Visit **Dawson Power** the next time you are on Facebook.



Need some wood chips?

Call us if you would like to receive free wood chips the next time our tree crew is working in your area.

800-752-8305
or 308-324-2386

Dawson's Dynamic Homemaker

Reprinted from the September 1969 Dawson Dynamo

Music plays such a large part in the life of our September homemaker, **Doris Geiken** of Route 2, Gothenburg, that she chose to be pictured at the Gulbransen organ in their living room.

Her husband enjoys playing too, she says, having taught himself. But in his World War II days, Clifford Geiken played a clarinet in the Army.

"We sing in a quartette with Mr. and Mrs. Arch Trimble," Doris Geiken says, "And I sing and play for funerals when needed, and play for weddings."

Mrs. Geiken was nominated by Mrs. Trimble -- a former Dynamic Homemaker herself.

Behind the music rack on the organ, Mrs. Geiken displays a walnut tray made from the wood in a house built by her great-great grandfather.

"I also have a footstool made from the

boards we got from that house when they were tearing it down," she says. The old place was at Wetmore, Kansas and the possessions are recent ones.

Doris and Cliff Geiken are 20-year choir members of the rural Banner

United Methodist Church.

Their farm home is located in the Platte Valley, southeast of Gothenburg, where they own a quarter section and also 160 acres of hill pasture. The present farm home was remodeled 10 years ago.

Geiken children are Carole Ann, 16, a junior at Gothenburg High School this fall and David, 10, in District 32 of country school.

As an average farm homemaker who works in the yard, makes choke-cherry jelly, ("they were quite green when I gather the first bucketful," she says, "so I am waiting"), patches

family work clothes and helps irrigate, the summer is a busy one.

"We water from the 30-Mile Canal," Doris says. "It usually takes two hours each morning to make sets, and another hour at night."

Electricity-wise, the

10-year ago remodeling job which provided ducts for central air conditioning now gives the Geikens their greatest pleasure. "With hay fever and having to spend quite a bit of time

in the house, I especially enjoy the air conditioning," Doris says.

But she rates her automatic washer as giving her spare time she otherwise would not have. "Since my washer is now in the kitchen, I don't have to suffer the leg ache from going up and down the basement steps, as I used to," Doris reports. "I sure would hate to return to the old way of washing, although I like to wash and hang out my clothes."

One newly-enjoyed appliance in her kitchen is a new electric range with a high oven. "It has those glass doors that raise up," she says, "and two sizes of ovens. I use the small oven a lot. I've always had a gas range so it's been quite a change."

Mrs. Geiken's record of service in her community attests her confession of "I like to visit and to be with people." She has helped collect for the Red Cross, cancer and Heart Fund; she has been serving on a committee for the Bloodmobile this past year; she is a visitor hostess at Gothenburg Hospital twice a month; she's been an active member of the VFW since 1948.

Carole will drive herself to school this fall in the family Volkswagen, but in previous years her mother has made that 12-mile trip twice a day. Carole plays the baritone horn in the school band, so her family tries to attend all band programs.

Dawson PPD used to publish tributes to busy homemakers in the monthly newsletter. The Dynamic Homemaker was chosen by nomination of friends or neighbors. The articles were written by Eleanor Seberger and Darryn Gulden.



Doris Geiken of Gothenburg was featured as Dawson's Dynamic Homemaker in September 1969.

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CONTACT INFORMATION

Phone (Main).....308-324-2386
 Phone (Kearney).....308-234-3111
 Phone (North Platte).....308-532-0223
 Phone (Toll Free).....800-752-8305

Mailing address.....PO Box 777
 Lexington NE 68850

Website.....www.dawsonpower.com

Social media.....Facebook, Twitter & BlogSpot