



CONNECTIONS

April 2026

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Board meetings held the third Monday
of each month at 9 AM. Agenda
available during business hours.

EDITOR

Jessica Kurpgeweit

OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Friday 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Closed weekends and holidays

SERVICE CENTERS

Albion, NE and Fullerton, NE

CONTACT

23169 235 Ave • PO Box 9
Columbus NE 68602-0009
402 564 2821 • cornhusker-power.com

OUTAGE CALLS 24 HOURS

(402) 564 2821

COUNTIES SERVED

Platte, Colfax, Boone, Nance, Greeley,
Merrick and Wheeler Counties



Lineworkers are ready when it matters most

On April 13, 2026, we take time to pause and recognize the brave men and women who keep the lights on every single day—our lineworkers.

When storms impact our communities and outages occur, many people experience the inconvenience, but our lineworkers see a call to action. Our crews are always ready when it matters most—leaving family dinners, working through the night, and heading into challenging conditions to restore power as safely and quickly as possible. That readiness is not accidental. It comes from rigorous training, deep experience, and a shared commitment to serving others.

What makes lineworkers especially remarkable is they aren't just restoring power to a system, they are restoring power to their

own communities. They live here. They raise their families here. They understand electricity is more than a convenience; it's essential to daily life, to local businesses, to schools, farms, and emergency services. Powering the places we call home is personal to lineworkers.

Public power districts like Cornhusker PPD were built on the principle of neighbors helping neighbors, and our lineworkers embody that spirit every day. They are the first to respond and the last to leave, often working long hours behind the scenes.

At times, serving our neighbors means going beyond our own service territory through a process known as mutual aid. During major outage events, Cornhusker PPD crews stand ready to assist neighboring

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Swan new Goodwill Fund Trustee

Karol Swan of rural Columbus was appointed to represent Platte County as trustee on the Goodwill Fund Board on February 2, 2026. She replaces Cody Luchsinger whose six-year term expired.

Swan said, “I enjoy supporting my community, and these funds strengthen so many needs and improve services used by everyone.”

Swan is an agriculture advocate for CommonGround. She also enjoys reading, crafting, and quilting.



Platte County Trustee Karol Swan (left) gives \$300 to the Lindsay Academy Robotics Team for pneumatic kits.

2026 Goodwill Fund 1st Qtr Results

Thank you to all customers who round-up their bill.

| Amount | Organization/Agency | Purpose |
|-----------|--|------------------------------|
| \$500 | Belgrade Volunteer Fire Dept | CO2 detectors |
| \$100 | Cedar Rapids Blood Mobile | Food |
| \$200 | Clarkson Public Library | Automatic door |
| \$200 | Platte Valley Kin Seekers | New computers |
| \$100 | City of Fullerton | Batting cage |
| \$300 | Fullerton's Future Inc. | Office computer |
| \$500 | Park Street Medical Clinic | AED |
| \$300 | Howells-Dodge Library | Books |
| \$300 | Lindsay Academy | Pneumatics kits for robotics |
| \$200 | Camp Luther | Smart thermostats |
| \$400 | V.F.W. Post 2836 | Flags |
| \$200 | Beaver Valley Sr. Center | Industrial coffee maker |
| \$500 | Spalding Rescue | Communications radio |
| \$75 each | Post Prom: Columbus HS, Columbus Scotus, Lakeview HS, Humphrey HS, Lindsay Academy, Riverside HS, Spalding Academy | Prizes |

Applications are due on April 17, 2026. Apply at cornhusker-power.com.

Lineworkers, From Page 2-A

districts—sometimes close to home, and sometimes across state lines—to help restore power. This spirit of mutual aid strengthens all districts and ultimately benefits the customers we serve.

We understand any time the lights go out it can be frustrating, bringing everyday life to a halt. We are incredibly grateful to our customers for your patience and encouragement during these times. Linework is demanding, physical, and at times, it can be dangerous. Our crews approach each job with a focus on safety and teamwork. They take pride in their craft and in the trust our customers place in them.

On April 13, 2026, we will celebrate Lineworker Appreciation Day, but one day is hardly enough. Every day, we thank lineworkers for their service and dedication, which are the backbone of our district.

To our lineworkers: thank you for your hard work, your readiness, and your unwavering commitment to the communities we serve. We are proud to stand behind you and grateful for all you do.

THANK YOU to our line technicians at the Albion Service Center: **Marty McKay, Scott Miller, Charles Fox, and Marc Pelster**. At the Fullerton Service Center: **Troy Norman, Corey Boryca, Griffin Babb, and Mason Prosocki**. In Columbus: **Jim Baumert, Michael Jacobi, Bryce Theilen, Jon Ramaekers, Austin Urkoski, Riley Reeder, Cameron Menke, Matt Lech, Cameron Houfek, and Keaton Zarek**.

The parts of a **POWER POLE**

Ever wonder what's on a power pole and how it delivers electricity to your home? Learning about each part can help you and your family stay informed – and safe.

Here are some common parts found on power poles.

Equipment can vary depending on location and service needs.

Insulators

Keep energized wires from touching the pole or other wires, preventing dangerous contact.

Primary wires

The main series of wires that carry high voltage electricity (7,200 volts) from substations through the distribution system – about 60 times higher than household voltage.

Lightning surge protectors

Shield equipment from lightning or sudden voltage spikes.

Transformers

The round, metal tank-like devices – reduce high-voltage electricity from primary wires to a safer level for homes and businesses. Many include a lightning arrester for protection.

Neutral conductor

Wires provide a return path for electricity to the substation and are grounded to balance the system.

Ground wires

Run the entire length of the pole and safely channel electricity and lightning into the earth.

Secondary wires

Deliver lower-voltage electricity directly to homes and businesses.

Communication lines

For phone, cable, or internet – are usually the lowest wires on the pole.

Guy wires

Anchor poles to the ground for stability. Stay clear of them when walking, playing, mowing or driving nearby.



Safety Tip: Never attach signs or posters to utility poles – it creates serious hazards for lineworkers.

Grow your savings with landscaping to cut energy costs

When most people think about saving energy, they picture insulation upgrades, efficient windows, and appliance swaps. But your yard can play a major role, too. According to the U.S. Department of Energy, a well-planned landscape can reduce air-conditioning costs by up to 25% and pay for itself in less than eight years.

Choose the right trees: Deciduous or evergreen

- Deciduous trees block sunlight in the summer and allow light in during the colder months, helping to regulate indoor temperatures year-round.
- Evergreen trees provide consistent shade and can serve as windbreaks, which is especially helpful in cool climates.

Tip: In hot climates, choose native or drought-tolerant species. They require less water and are typically more resilient.

Placement matters

- West and northwest sides: Plant trees to block strong mid- to late-afternoon sun.
- East and west windows: Use deciduous trees to block summer sun but still allow winter light.
- South side: Tall trees planted at a distance equal to two to five times their mature height can shade your home without blocking winter sun.
- West side: Shorter trees and shrubs help shield against intense, low-angle afternoon sun.
- Patios and driveways: Shade these areas to reduce reflected heat.
- Home perimeter: Bushes can absorb sunlight and reduce heat transfer, but avoid dense plantings in humid climates, where airflow is important to prevent excess moisture.



Tip: Be mindful near solar panels. Avoid planting tall trees on the south side of panels to prevent shade during peak sun hours.

Plan for a tree's mature height

- Avoid planting trees that will grow taller than 15 feet near power lines.
- For taller species, plant at least 20 feet away — 45 feet is even better — to prevent safety hazards and avoid future pruning.

Call before you dig!

Before you plant anything, call 811 to check for underground utilities. This free service marks public lines, like electricity, water, and gas, so you avoid costly and dangerous mistakes. Call several business days before you plan to dig.

Source: SafeElectricity.org



PAY YOUR BILL ONLINE

myaccount.cornhusker-power.com/onlineportal/



VIEW OUR OUTAGE MAP

cornhusker-power.com/services/power-outage/



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AVOID LATE FEES

Never miss a payment. Sign up for e-bill by scanning the QR code. Bills are due on the 20th of each month, regardless of when you receive your bill in the mail.

