

JUNE 2022

# BUTLER PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT

BUTLER PPD'S MISSION IS TO PROVIDE SAFE, LOW COST, RELIABLE, EXCELLENT ELECTRIC SERVICE TO OUR CUSTOMERS AND BE ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN THE AREAS THAT WE SERVE.

## **Be Prepared!**

Outages can happen at any time, day or night, windy or even in the bright sun with no wind. Our linemen are always prepared and ready to answer the call when the power goes out. You, as a customer need to be prepared for it as well.

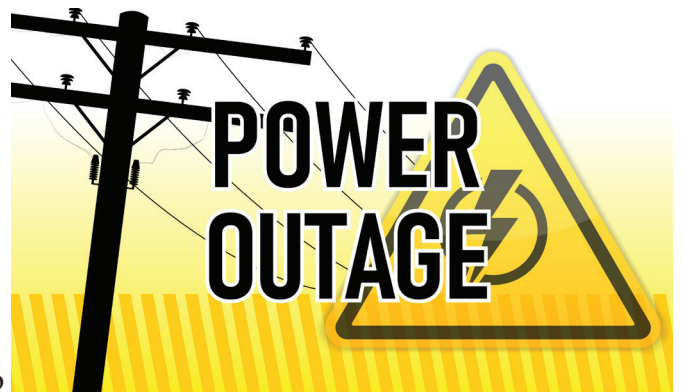
What items should we have and be easily accessible in case the power goes out? Flashlight or lantern, canned goods in the pantry that can be eaten without being prepared with any appliances. If you are in the rural area, you may want to keep a bucket of water around to flush if necessary, as well. If you have any medication that needs to be refrigerated, we recommend having a cooler to store that in with some ice packs to keep it cool. If you are on oxygen or any medical life saving device, please have a battery back-up of some sort. Yes, we do have a priority restore list because of this, however it does not mean that you may not go out.

According to [foodsafety.gov](https://www.foodsafety.gov), food will be kept safe for up to 4 hours during a power outage IF the door remains closed. **But When in Doubt, Throw it Out!** You can find more information and details about food safety during power outages at [foodsafety.gov](https://www.foodsafety.gov).

Some services, especially in the rural areas, have a backup generator. If you do have one or are thinking of purchas-

ing one, there is a proper way to wire this generator and should only be done by a licensed electrician. This is to prevent any damage to your home and a safety measure to our lineman.

Thankfully, lengthy outages do not happen on a regular basis. That does not mean you should not prepare for them, just as our office & lineman prepare in advance, we encourage you to as well!



## IN THIS ISSUE

- BE PREPARED
- MEET OUR BOARD - MARK BLAZEK
- INDEPENDENCE DAY CLOSING
- YEARS OF SERVICE
- BE SAFE CROSS-WORD

# Meet our Board of Directors....

## What do you do outside of serving on Butler PPD's Board of Directors?

I am a banker, insurance agent and tax preparer at Jones Bank in Valparaiso, NE. On a personal note, I am also an attorney, retired Nebraska Army National Guard JAG Officer and I manage a 500+ acre farming operation along with several rental properties.

I spent many years on the Raymond Central Educational Foundation Board from its formation in the early 1990's, 18 years as the Secretary/Treasurer of the Valparaiso Rural Fire District and several years on the UNL Football Walk-On Club Board. My time is now focused on both Bank and Butler Public Power District issues.

When not working, I enjoy spending time with my family and friends; spending time on the farm and following Husker Athletics.

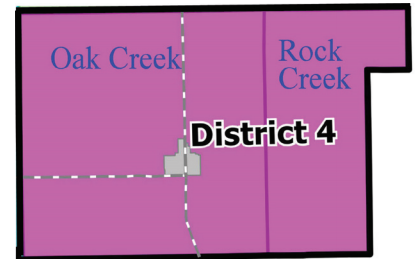


## Mark Blazek

- District 4 Board Member
- Seated on Board for 9 years
- Offices Held: Treasurer
- Certifications:  
Credentialed Cooperative Director

## What is your favorite memory serving on the Butler PPD board so far?

The favorite memory I have had serving on the Board so far has been seeing the positive results of two decisions which will have lasting effects on our District and its customers for years to come. The first was the decision to replace our aging headquarters office (the oldest Rural Power District Headquarters in the State at the time – 50+ years old) and during the construction of our new facility, the hiring of a “home grown” David City native as our new general manager. He started his career at Butler Public Power District as a lineman and came up through the ranks to become our General Manager. I felt that spoke to the training and leadership of our organization in the past to prepare our employees to be ready for the next step in their careers.



## Why is serving on the board important to you?

I became interested in Public Power and the electric utility industry years ago while practicing law and working with NPPD. I saw the importance of public power to our state and the need for setting fair rates for all customers and being fiscally responsible. I saw representing customers on this Board as a way to protect safe, low cost and reliable electric service for our communities.

I continue to run for this Board because local control and Public Power in Nebraska is always at risk. Outside interests and those looking to make a quick profit can undermine what has become one of Nebraska's greatest assets. I continue to focus my efforts on being sure our District is managed with our customers in mind and for our collective long-term benefit.

I think the District's focus has been and needs to continue to be the safety of our employees and our customers while providing safe, low cost and reliable electric service. That also means continuing to invest in transmission and distribution projects as well as new technologies that allow us to continue to serve both existing and new customers. I have also used my banking and financial background to help guide the district to take advantage of the record low interest rate environment to substantially lower the District's bonding costs for past capital improvements.

## Butler PPD's mission is to provide safe, low cost, reliable, excellent electric service to our customers and be actively involved in the areas that we serve. What does this mean to you?

This is more than just our mission or goal; it is our guiding principle that drives every decision the Board and District make. I am committed to this mission and will always make decisions for the long term and not for any short-sighted or limited benefit.



### **What does Public Power mean to you?**

Public Power is important to our customers because it gives us ownership and control of our own future. Many customers may not know that Nebraska is the only Public Power State in the Nation. This is a tremendous asset and resource that we should cherish. All power district boards in Nebraska are occupied by not only fellow Nebraskans, but by customers of the very utility they help oversee. We answer to our neighbors and friends who have the very same interests we do!! We do not answer to investors or shareholders demanding high profits and do not need to worry about a “short-term stock price,” but instead on the long-term interest of our State and local communities.

### **What is something you want our customers to know?**

I want customers to know that I am, and I believe the employees and Board of BPPD are always looking for and monitoring industry trends and new ways of looking at things to be sure we can continue to meet the future needs of our customers. This includes trying to hold our power supplier's feet to the fire on issues that we think are important and trying to help manage the carbon footprint of our utility. We continue to explore and investigate alternative energy generation sources permitted within our supply contract and to work with individual customers who want to move in that direction.

**In the upcoming months, we will continue to introduce our Board of Directors for Butler Public Power District. We feel it is very important for each of our customers to get to know not only the Director that represents them but know all of them.**



### *~ 10 Years of Service ~*

## **Austin Zeilinger**

Journeyman Lineman

Austin joined Butler PPD on  
June 1, 2012.



*\*\*Starting in 2021, we began recognizing our Employees and Board of Directors for their dedication to the District on their milestone anniversaries.*

### *~ 10 Years of Service ~*

## **Nick Romshek**

Staking Superintendent

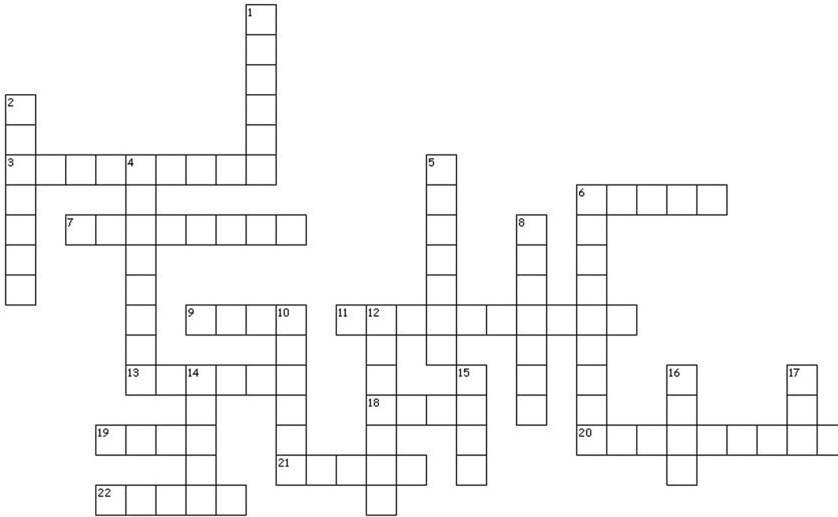
Nick joined Butler PPD on  
June 1, 2012.



*\*\*Starting in 2021, we began recognizing our Employees and Board of Directors for their dedication to the District on their milestone anniversaries.*

# Be Safe with Electricity!

Read the Safety Tips to Find the Missing Words



## Across

3. Use extension cords on a \_\_\_\_\_ basis - not as permanent household wiring.
6. Run lamp \_\_\_\_\_ along walls and behind furniture so they're safely out of the way.
7. Screw light bulbs in securely. Loose bulbs may \_\_\_\_\_ and cause a fire.
9. Before you dig, \_\_\_\_\_ your local underground utility locator service to avoid damage and injuries.
11. Prevent electrical shocks and fires by using safety-tested \_\_\_\_\_.
13. If you see a \_\_\_\_\_ or sagging power line, stay far away, warn others to stay away and call the utility company.
18. Make sure outlets in the kitchen, bathroom, laundry, workshop, basement and garage have \_\_\_\_\_.
19. Unplug \_\_\_\_\_-producing appliances like irons and toasters when not in use.
20. Don't remove the \_\_\_\_\_ pin to make a three-prong fit a two prong outlet.
21. Make certain extension cords are \_\_\_\_\_ to handle the lamp, tool or appliance you are using.
22. Have your home's wiring checked regularly, at least every 10 \_\_\_\_\_.

## Down

1. Use \_\_\_\_\_ covers or special outlets if you have young children in the home.
2. All \_\_\_\_\_ sockets should have ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs). Use a portable GFCI if those outlets don't have them.
4. Flickering, blinking and dimming lights can be a sign of home electrical \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Test ground-fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) \_\_\_\_\_.
6. Keep cords out of walkways. Don't cover cords with \_\_\_\_\_ or rugs. The cords could overheat.
8. Go indoors when \_\_\_\_\_ roars.
10. Never place tall items like a \_\_\_\_\_ or antenna near a power line.
12. Never reach into water for a \_\_\_\_\_-in appliance. Unplug it first.
14. Keep appliances away from \_\_\_\_\_.
15. Overloaded outlets and extension cords can overheat, increasing the risk for \_\_\_\_\_. Limit the number of appliances plugged into each outlet.
16. Pull by the \_\_\_\_\_, not the cord when unplugging appliances.
17. Keep all objects at least \_\_\_\_\_ feet away from overhead lines.

Across: 3. temporary 6. cord 7. overheat 9. call 11. appliances  
Down: 1. safety 2. outdoor 4. overloaded 5. monthly 6. carpeting  
8. thunder 10. ladder 12. plugged 14. water 15. fire 16. plug 17. ten

**Safe Electricity.org**

*Congratulations*  
**GRADUATES!**

May you always have new opportunities come your way, and may you be always successful in your life. Happy Graduation!



## BUTLER PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT

1331 N 4th St  
David City, NE 68632  
(800) 230-0569  
402-367-3081

### Office Hours:

Monday - Friday  
7:30am to 4:00pm

### Website:

[www.butlerppd.com](http://www.butlerppd.com)

### General Manager:

Mark Kirby

### Board of Directors:

Daryl Crook, President

Mike DeWispelare, Vice President

James Papik, Secretary

Mark Blazek, Treasurer

Larry Dauel

Gary Kucera

John Schmid

Gary Yindrick

