

The Nodak Neighbor

September-October 2025

Official Publication of Nodak Electric Cooperative
www.nodakelectric.com

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

WELCOME TO _____ THE SHORES

PAGE 4



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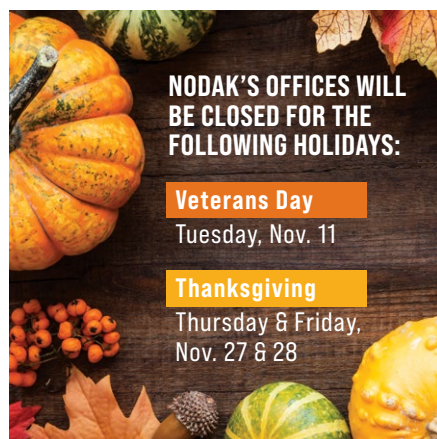
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On the cover: The outdoor ceremony space is prepared for a wedding at The Shores, a new event venue developed by Woodland Resort in Devils Lake, North Dakota.

(Photo courtesy of Brenna Berge Photography)

ELECTRIC OFF-PEAK HEAT RATES BEGIN OCT. 1

Members with subtractive or separately metered off-peak electric heating systems will be charged the applicable off-peak rate for energy usage beginning Oct. 1. The off-peak rates will continue to be charged for energy usage through May 31, 2026. Current off-peak rates are \$0.069/kWh for long-term and \$0.081/kWh for short-term controlled systems. It is a good idea to inspect, clean and test your heating system before cold weather arrives.

PLEASE MAKE SURE YOUR OFF-PEAK BREAKER IS ON PRIOR TO OCT. 1

Oct. 1 is the beginning of the heating season and the day members participating in the special electric heat programs will start receiving a lower rate on their electric heat.

If you have a heat meter and turn the breaker off during the summer, now is the time to turn the breaker(s) back on, so you can make sure to get credit for the electric heat you use.

This is important! If the breaker(s) is turned off, your heat may still work. However, your heat meter will not record the electric heat you have used. There is no exact way to calculate what you may have used for heating and you will pay the full price.

DAILY CYCLING OF ELECTRIC STORAGE HEAT TO BEGIN IN LATE OCTOBER

Members heating with electric thermal storage, such as thermal storage room units, thermal storage furnaces or slab/in-floor heating should turn on their heating system prior to Oct. 15 to allow a heat reservoir to build up before daily cycling of loads begins. The actual date cycling begins varies each season. Thermal storage heating is controlled each day from 7 a.m. to noon and 5 p.m. to 11 p.m.



Nov. 14 & 15, 2025 • Alerus Center, Grand Forks
Friday: 12 p.m. - 8 p.m., Saturday: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.



Mylo Einarson
President & CEO

The benefits of large loads

Across the country, data centers have been making headlines as large users of electricity. These facilities house computer servers and equipment that power the digital world we rely on every day — from online banking and shopping to streaming video and cloud storage. As your cooperative, we understand that when members hear about businesses using large amounts of electricity, a natural question arises: *What does this mean for me and my electric bill?*

The short answer is this: Large power users are a benefit to Nodak Electric Cooperative members and the broader membership of Minnkota Power Cooperative, not a burden. In fact, these facilities strengthen our financial position and help us keep rates stable. Let me explain why.

Our generation and transmission system — built and maintained by Minnkota Power Cooperative and the other members it serves — was designed to meet the needs of all of us on the coldest days of winter and the hottest days of summer. That means there is a significant amount of capacity in place to reliably serve our communities year-round. Most of the time, however, we are not using that full capacity.

Data centers are a good fit for that unused capability. They operate around the clock and can absorb excess capacity without jeopardizing the power we all rely on. Instead of sitting idle, those resources are put to productive use.

Every utility has fixed costs — the expenses of poles, wires, substations, generation plants and transmission lines that must be in place whether we sell a little electricity or a lot.

Traditionally, those costs are recovered through the bills paid by our members.

When a new large power user like a data center comes online, they help carry that responsibility. The additional revenue they bring in goes toward the same infrastructure we all use. In effect, they share in paying for the fixed costs that would otherwise fall only on our existing members. This reduces upward pressure on rates for everyone.

Serving large customers often requires system upgrades such as bigger transformers, additional substations or new power lines. A common concern is that existing members might have to shoulder those costs. That is not the case here.

At Nodak Electric, our stance is clear: Large new loads of any type cover the capital costs necessary to connect and serve them. That means when we invest in infrastructure for a large new load, it is not coming out of your pocket. Those expenses are built into the rates and contracts specific to the facility.

The benefits of this approach are not just theoretical — they are happening right now. A large new data center was recently announced in another part of the Minnkota system. Like any large new load, it will bring millions of dollars in additional revenue that helps pay for the shared generation and transmission assets that serve all of us. That means members across the Minnkota system, including here at Nodak, share in the long-term benefits.

Beyond the financial benefits, data centers bring stability to our cooper-

ative. Their predictable, around-the-clock demand helps us balance our system more efficiently. They also tend to be long-term partners, committing to decades of service. That kind of stability translates to more reliable revenue, which strengthens the cooperative for everyone.

It's also worth noting that the presence of data centers can spur economic activity in our region. While they don't employ as many people as a manufacturing plant, they support jobs in construction, maintenance and related services. They also contribute to local tax bases, which benefits schools and communities.

At Nodak Electric Cooperative, our mission has always been to provide safe, reliable and affordable power to our members. Every decision we make is guided by that commitment. By welcoming new large loads, we are not straying from that mission — we are reinforcing it.

Instead of seeing higher rates, our members benefit from additional revenue streams that help us keep costs steady. For many years, we were able to hold our rates stable, even as the costs of materials, labor and energy have risen. The contributions of large customers like data centers help us maintain that record.

In short, data centers are not driving your electric bill up. Quite the opposite — they are helping us hold the line on rates while strengthening our cooperative for the future.

As always, we will continue to keep you informed and make decisions with your best interests at heart. Thank you for being a member of Nodak Electric Cooperative.

WELCOME TO THE SHORES

Longtime Nodak Electric member Woodland Resort opens new event venue in Devils Lake



The large outdoor patio area of The Shores includes tables made from old equipment spools, donated by Nodak Electric Cooperative. (Photo courtesy of Tyler Wyland)

Gorgeous panoramic views. A ceremony on the shoreline. Room to celebrate with 400 friends and family.

It sounds like a wedding venue a North Dakotan would have to cross state lines to lock down. But now, it can all be found on the edge of Devils Lake, thanks to the addition of The Shores lakeside venue to the family-owned Woodland Resort.

"This is going to allow us to offer something that the community really hasn't had in the past: a modern venue with all of the things that people need in one place, whether it's a wedding or a convention," explained Kyle Blanchfield, third-generation owner of Woodland Resort.

The Shores, served by Nodak Electric Cooperative, opened its doors in May 2025 and has already

hosted four weddings, a concert and several large meetings. The 13,000-square-foot facility overlooks Creel Bay and offers floor-to-ceiling windows and a lakeside patio to experience both the beauty of the water and the modern amenities of the venue.

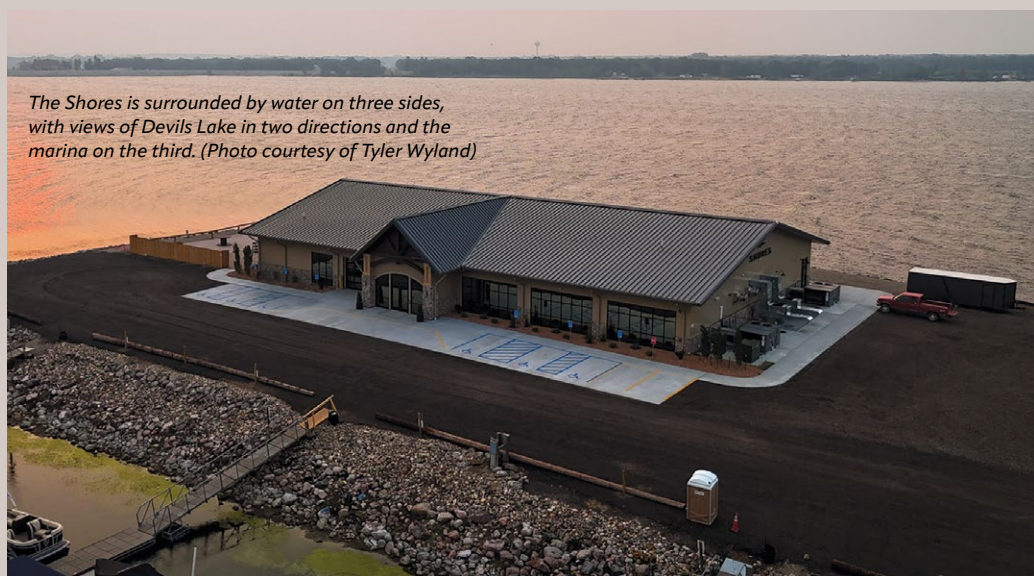
Inside, The Shores boasts a state-of-the-art audiovisual system, including two 10-foot by 6-foot

LED screens, a projector system, an indoor/outdoor public address system and adaptable lighting to match company or wedding colors. Plus, Blanchfield made a special request for the presenting and teleconferencing capabilities to be foolproof.

"How many times have you been to a meeting or event where the audiovisual doesn't work? It's almost every time," he said. "So, I really challenged this team. I said, it has to work, and it has to be simple.

The quality of the Shores experience was of ultimate importance to Blanchfield and his family – wife Karin and sons Warren and Landen – throughout the planning process, which began shortly before COVID-19 put the hospitality industry in a spin in 2020. The Blanchfields were conceptualizing a building that would help diversify the fishing resort. But between a pandemic of social distancing and the high interest rates and supply costs that followed, it was hard to gain footing to launch an event space.

Then, in 2023, the North Dakota legislature approved funding for the Tourism Destination Development Grant Program, which provides financial support for the development of new



The Shores is surrounded by water on three sides, with views of Devils Lake in two directions and the marina on the third. (Photo courtesy of Tyler Wyland)

The Shores creates a versatile space for conferences or weddings, with meeting spaces, bar and catering areas, bride and groom suites, and room for 400 guests. (Photos courtesy of Woodland Resort)



experiences and attractions in the state. The Shores project fit the bill, so the Blanchfields spent the summer perfecting their application. The work paid off. They were ultimately awarded \$1.75 million.

It was a huge step, but it was still a tight financial situation. The team at Nodak Electric understood the community potential of the project. With the help of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Nodak was able to facilitate a Rural Economic Development Loan for The Shores, which provided \$2 million at 0% interest.

"If you take one of those pieces of the puzzle out, it doesn't work," Blanchfield said. "That was finally the point where we said, OK, we are definitely going to go for it now."

"Cooperatives exist to support our members and the communities they live in and do business in. Woodland Resort is a long-term

member, and we've grown along with them over the years," said Nodak CEO Mylo Einarson. "We see The Shores as an opportunity to attract more out-of-town visitors to Devils Lake and give residents another great option for their events."

Woodland Resort broke ground for The Shores in August 2024 and opened its doors just 10 months later in May 2025, thanks in part to the planning and execution of Consolidated Construction Company and other local contractors. A grand opening celebration was held in August, which brought many statewide guests, including Gov. Kelly Armstrong.

In its first summer, The Shores has already set a solid foundation for what guests can expect in the decades to come.

"A year ago, all we had were these renderings that looked like cartoon images to show brides,"

Blanchfield laughed. "And we were very fortunate to have four of them say, 'You know what? I think you guys can pull this off and it's going to be amazing. We trust you to do it.' And thank God they did, because that really helped us get started."

Woodland Resort has evolved since the Blanchfield family established it in 1988, back when it was just a handful of fishing cabins. The opportunity to offer more to the community they love was always there, swimming just below the surface.

"I think this is going to bring more people to Devils Lake, and it's going to keep more people in the community," Blanchfield said. "Instead of traveling to other places to do a wedding or an event, we'll be able to do it locally now. And I think we're going to be able to enhance the quality of life here."

AROUND THE CO-OP



NEW DIRECTOR Luke Ressler

Luke Ressler has been chosen to fill the unexpired term of David Hagert, who retired in July 2025.

Luke, along with his wife Elli and their young daughter, are deeply rooted in the Hillsboro area, where they are actively involved in farming and raising cattle. They also run a small direct-to-consumer beef business, selling beef raised on their farm to customers throughout Traill and Grand Forks counties.

A 2017 graduate of North Dakota State University (NDSU) with a Bachelor of Science in Crop and Weed Sciences, Ressler went on to work for the NDSU Soil Health Department before moving home to the farm. His commitment to the community is evident through his past service as the District 2 representative on the North Dakota Farm Bureau Young Farmers and Ranchers Committee from 2019-2022. He currently serves on the Traill County Farm Bureau Board. Ressler is dedicated to serving rural communities and connecting with members across Nodak's service territory.



NEW HIRE Cari Scarborough

Cari Scarborough, a native of East Grand Forks, Minnesota, joined the Nodak team in July as a receptionist. Her duties include handling inbound phone traffic,

assisting walk-in members, processing cash receipts and setting up service orders.

Cari received an associate's degree as an Administrative Professional from Northland Community and Technical College.

Her previous work experience includes customer service at Hugo's Marketplace and Opticare Forks Vision Clinic as a receptionist and accounts payable.

In her spare time, Cari and her husband Noah spend time with family and friends. She also loves to read and chat about the day with their two little parakeets, Rue and Jenkins.



PROMOTION Bryce Hastings

Bryce Hastings was promoted to member services representative on July 1.

She began her career with Nodak in 2023 as a receptionist, and her new role will include answering and directing phone calls, assisting with member-related issues, account changes, resolving concerns and processing transactions. Bryce has strong member service skills and enjoys working with people. Congratulations, Bryce.

5 REASONS TO CELEBRATE

NATIONAL CO-OP MONTH

Every October for National Co-op Month, Nodak Electric likes to take a moment to reflect on how grateful we are to be serving you – our friends and neighbors. You see, being a member of a co-op has a lot of perks that you won't find as a customer of an investor-owned utility (IOU).

1

**EVERY MEMBER
IS AN OWNER, NOT
JUST A CUSTOMER.**

2

**YOUR COMMUNITY.
YOUR DECISIONS.**

3

**FOCUSED ON
SERVICE, NOT
PROFITS**

4

**MORE VALUE STAYS WITH
YOU, NOT WALL STREET.**

5

**WHEN YOU SUPPORT YOUR CO-OP,
YOU SUPPORT YOUR COMMUNITY.**

***Add comfort and energy efficiency to your home
with help from Nodak Electric Cooperative!***

ELECTRIC HEATING

(Max rebate \$1,500)



Heating Systems	Rebate
Plenum heaters, baseboard, electric furnace and hanging unit heater	\$25/kW
Cable floor heat, electric boiler and brick storage unit	\$45/kW
Mini-split or air-source heat pump	\$150/ton
Ground-source heat pump	\$250/ton

WATER HEATERS



Electric Water Heaters	Rebate
55 gallon or less	\$125/unit
56-99 gallon	\$200/unit
100 gallon or greater	\$300/unit
Additional rebate for new building construction	\$100
Additional rebate for conversion from existing natural gas or propane to an electric water heater	\$250

ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGERS




Electric Vehicle Chargers	Rebate
Electric vehicle (EV)	\$50/kW
Commercial – forklifts, Zambonis, etc.	\$50/kW

Rebates are available to help you upgrade your heating and cooling system, water heater and chargers for electric vehicles. Nodak Electric offers these rebates to encourage load development, load retention and wise use of energy.

All electric technology rebates/incentives must adhere to the requirements of the Value of Electricity program. All systems must be new equipment and controlled on Nodak's off-peak program. A check will be issued to participating members after a visit from a Nodak technician.

Please call our Energy Services team at 701-746-4461 or 800-732-4373 if you have any questions about off-peak or the rebate program. Visit nodakelectric.com/rebates to learn more about incentives and criteria.

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A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



WATCH THE WIRES.

The idea seems easy enough.

But when you're rushing to plant or get the harvest out of the ground, you might forget about those power lines on the field's edge.

Take a moment to talk to your team about how to avoid equipment contact with power lines and poles – and what to do if contact occurs.

The reminder could save a life.

Learn more and request a free safety kit from your electric cooperative system at WatchTheWires.com.



Watch the Wires is a safety campaign developed by Minnkota Power Cooperative and its member cooperatives in eastern North Dakota and northwestern Minnesota.