

# The Nodak Neighbor

July-August 2015  
Official Publication of Nodak Electric Cooperative  
[www.nodakelectric.com](http://www.nodakelectric.com)

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner



VISITOR CENTER  
TURTLE RIVER STATE PARK

*Introducing*  
**Pay-by-Phone**

50  
YEARS

NORTH DAKOTA  
Parks and Recreation

1965-2015



# The Nodak Neighbor

Official Publication of the  
Nodak Electric Cooperative, Inc.

746-4461 or 800-732-4373

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

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Check us out  
on Facebook!

[www.facebook.com/nodakelectriccooperative](http://www.facebook.com/nodakelectriccooperative)

**On the cover:** The Turtle River State Park Visitor Center greets cars at the park near Arvilla, N.D. The park is playing host to a celebration on Aug. 8 to mark 50 years of the North Dakota Park Service and State Outdoor Recreation Agency. Read more on page 5.

# Around the co-op

## Retirement

**Dale Dahlen**, Apparatus Technician with the Grand Forks metering crew, retired in June after serving 38 years in the metering department. Dale started with Nodak in 1977 as an Apprentice Lineman with the Hatton, N.D., crew until transferring to Grand Forks in 1978 to the metering department as a metering technician. Dale served as Safety Coordinator for many years before being promoted to Apparatus Technician in 2008 where he remained until retirement. Dale graduated from Wahpeton State School of Science as an electrical technician.



Dale Dahlen  
Apparatus Technician

Retirement time will include playing with the grandkids at the lake, working on his golf game and projects at the farm in Dahlen, N.D.

## Promotion

**Derek Sondreal**, Journeyman Lineman with the Grand Forks crew, was promoted to Lead Lineman, replacing Guy Ford. Derek has been with Nodak since 2009.



Derek Sondreal  
Lead Lineman



Todd Lommen  
Meter Technician 1

## Transfers

**Todd Lommen**, Electrical Technician in the Grand Forks tech department, was transferred to the metering department as Meter Technician 1, to replace retiring Dale Dahlen. Todd has been with Nodak since 2008.

**Guy Ford**, Lead Lineman with the Grand Forks crew, transferred to the tech department as an Electrical Technician, replacing Todd Lommen. Guy has been with Nodak since 1982.



Guy Ford  
Electrical Technician



Graham Anderson  
Apprentice Lineman

**Graham Anderson**, Apprentice Lineman with the Grand Forks construction crew, transferred to the Grand Forks crew. Graham has been with Nodak since 2014.

## New hire

**Greg Anderson**, a Michigan, N.D., native, was hired as a Customer Service Representative. Greg graduated from the University of North Dakota with a degree in financial management. Greg's previous work experience includes 17 years in the banking business and the last 10 years as owner/operator of A+ Yard and Snow. Greg's duties will include administering collection policies, customer payment processing and answering member inquiries relative to billing. In his spare time, Greg enjoys going to the lake to spend time with family and friends and watching all University of North Dakota sports. Greg resides in Grand Forks.



Greg Anderson  
Customer Service  
Representative



Mylo Einarson  
President & CEO

# New payment option available

On page seven of this month's *Nodak Neighbor* you will see an article announcing the rollout of our newest option for paying your Nodak Electric bill, Pay-by-Phone. This is the newest of the many options members have for paying their bill. We brought this new service online for a number of reasons, but security and convenience top the list.

For those members who don't have a computer with Internet access, or for those who do but prefer to transact their business over the phone, this option is for you. Once your account is set up, Pay-by-Phone allows you to make a payment to Nodak without giving any of your information to a live person. In this method, the entire transaction is done directly with computerized prompts, quickly and easily, 24-hours a day, seven days a week, totally secure.

Now, if paying by phone isn't exactly your cup of tea, we have a host of options for you to choose from. Signing up for electronic

billing will get you the opportunity to view your bill online, pay by credit card or electronic check, print a receipt, review previous months' bills, etc., all online. Once a month, you will receive an email reminding you that your bill is ready, and you simply log on to our website and pay it over the Internet.

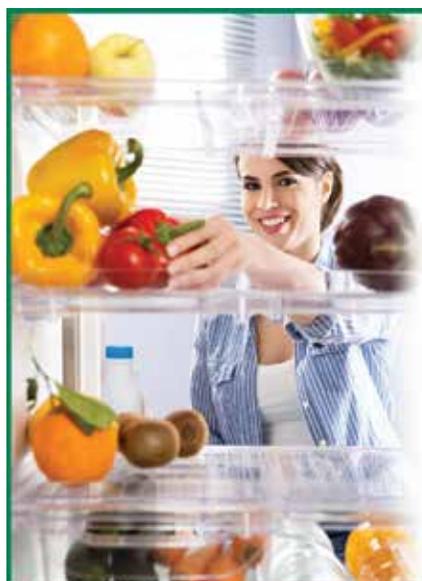
For those who prefer to have the entire process automated, as I do, Auto Pay Bank Draft is for you. When you sign up for this automatic payment plan, your payment is automatically drawn from your checking or savings account on a certain day each month. You still receive a paper "copy" of your bill for your review reminding you of when the payment will be taken out of your account, and for how much. The rest happens all by itself and you don't have to worry about remembering to pay the bill, write a check or mail it in. It's very simple.

Of course, you can always drop a check in the mail as folks have done for many years, pay in the drop box in our parking lot or stop

into the front desk during business hours and take care of it face-to-face with one of our customer service representatives.

Offering multiple options to transact your business is important to us because we want to make it as convenient as possible for you, our member-owners. We also want to ensure the highest level of security and dependability in each of the options we provide. All of our payment methods employ the highest level of safeguards available, so rest assured your information is safe with us.

Of course, we are always happy to see our members who stop into the headquarters in Grand Forks. In fact, we look forward to it. So, if you are one of the folks who prefers to take care of business in person, stop in and say "hi" the next time you're here. If you prefer one of the more high-tech options, check out one of the many alternative payment methods we have to offer. You'll be glad you did.



**A Refrigerator Without Electricity Is Just A Pantry**

When you look inside your fridge, remember that electricity has been working nonstop to keep your food fresh and your beverages cool. You may not always think of us when you grab a snack, but you can count on Nodak Electric Cooperative for all of the necessities that affordable, reliable power supplies.

Looking out for you.

**Nodak**  
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

701.746.4461 | [nodakelectric.com](http://nodakelectric.com) Your Truehearted Energy® Partner



**CALL 811 OR CLICK BEFORE YOU DIG**

**NORTH DAKOTA ONE CALL**

ALWAYS CALL 8-1-1 OR VISIT [NOONECALL.COM](http://NOONECALL.COM) BEFORE YOU START ANY DIGGING PROJECT!

# YOUTH TOUR: A trip of a lifetime



**Kirsten Whaley**  
*Youth Tour Participant*

Kirsten Whaley never imagined that writing a two-page essay would lead to the summer trip of a lifetime.

The soon-to-be senior at Park River Area High School was one of 1,600 students from around the country selected to participate in the 2015 Electric Cooperative Youth Tour held June 13-18 in Washington, D.C.

Nodak Electric Cooperative sponsored Whaley on the all-expense-paid trip. She was chosen based on an essay she submitted to Nodak, as well as her academic performance and community service. Her parents, Lowell and Lesa Whaley, are Nodak members.

“It was such an incredible week,” Whaley said. “I met so many people and made some really great friends. The week was filled with great sightseeing and fun activities.”

Whaley had the opportunity to learn more about electric cooperatives, visit famous historical monuments and get to know fellow

students from cooperatives across the country. The action-packed tour included visits to the Smithsonian museums, Lincoln Memorial Museum, National World War II Museum, Korean War Veterans Memorial, Newseum, Thomas Jefferson Memorial, Arlington National Cemetery and Mount Vernon. Another highlight was a riverboat cruise along the Potomac River.

“My very favorite memory of the week was touring the monuments in the evenings with my new friends,” Whaley said.

In addition to sightseeing, Whaley and the other 15 North Dakotans in her tour group had the chance to meet and ask questions of Sen. Heidi Heitkamp, Sen. John Hoeven and Rep. Kevin Cramer.

Whaley submitted her winning essay on this topic: If you were asked to influence other students your age to become more actively involved in their electric cooperative – including attendance at the electric cooperative annual meeting – what would you tell them and why?

Job shadowing and internship opportunities were among Whaley’s recommendations, as well as the further utilization of technology, specifically an app that analyzes home electricity usage. After spending a week in Washington, D.C., she suggested continued support of the Youth Tour program.

“Offering the Youth Tour is a great way to challenge students to spend some time learning about their electric cooperative,” Whaley said. “To write my paper, I asked my



parents and grandparents about electric cooperatives. I learned a lot writing my paper, and even more on the trip.”

Whaley is currently undecided on where to attend college, but plans to major in business or accounting. Before she has to look ahead, Whaley is still having fun looking back on her summer trip.

“I can’t thank Nodak enough for this great opportunity,” Whaley said.

Since 1964, the nation’s electric cooperatives have sponsored more than 40,000 high school students on education sessions in Washington, D.C. Nodak will be looking to sponsor another deserving student for the 2016 Youth Tour. For more information, check our website, Facebook page and upcoming issues of *The Nodak Neighbor*.



## North Dakota state parks celebrate 50 years

The North Dakota Park Service and State Outdoor Recreation Agency turned 50 years old this year, and the state is celebrating the milestone at each park this summer. Turtle River State Park of Arvilla will celebrate on Saturday, Aug. 8. Established in 1934, Turtle River has been a recreational destination for many in eastern North Dakota and beyond.

All events begin at 12:30 p.m. at the park. Featured will be free food and refreshments, a traveling exhibit, interpretive programs, gift giveaways, entertainment, park tours and ice cream. For more information, go to [www.parkrec.nd.gov](http://www.parkrec.nd.gov).



*Join the celebration!*

**Saturday, August 8**

**at Turtle River State Park**

- Free food & refreshments
- Traveling exhibit
- Interpretive programs
- Gift giveaways
- Entertainment
- Park tours
- Ice cream
- And much more!



*All events begin at 12:30 p.m.  
and continue through the afternoon*

For more information, go to [www.parkrec.nd.gov](http://www.parkrec.nd.gov)

# FREE TREE PLANTING AVAILABLE!

## Free tree planting available for Nodak members in GF County

Nodak Electric Cooperative members living in Grand Forks County are eligible to have trees planted on their property free of charge.

Minnkota Power Cooperative, Nodak Electric's wholesale power provider, recently completed construction of a high-voltage transmission line from Center, N.D., to Grand Forks. As part of the 250-mile project, Minnkota is required to plant two trees for every one tree or shrub removed during the construction process.

Landowners and renters along the line's route were given first priority in selecting trees for their property. After contacting many individuals across the state directly affected by the project, it appears there are a significant number of trees still available. Therefore, Minnkota is reaching out to Nodak members living in Grand Forks County as potential recipients of the trees.

If you are interested in trees or have questions, please contact Kelly Anderson at 701-795-4357 or by e-mail [kanderson@minnkota.com](mailto:kanderson@minnkota.com).

### Terms and Conditions

1. All trees will be distributed on a first signed up, first served basis.
2. Members requesting trees are required to prepare in advance the planting area for the trees. The trees will be provided and planted by the Grand Forks Soil Conservation Service.
3. The minimum number of trees members must have planted in that prepared area is 100 (one hundred).
4. Minnkota reserves the right to limit the maximum trees to any one member based on the supply and demand.
5. The tree planting in Grand Forks County will be scheduled during the years 2015 and 2016.



## Safe water recreation

Whether it's swimming, boating or fishing, summertime is water recreation time for millions. Nodak Electric reminds everyone to avoid electrical hazards during water recreation.

Ground-Fault Circuit-Interrupters (GFCIs) are one form of protection from electrical hazards. GFCIs detect dangerous situations where a shock may occur, and cut the power to prevent shock. Any situation where electricity is used in close proximity to water is a shock hazard. You should have GFCI protection on underwater lighting circuits, lighting around pools, and hot tubs and spas. *Safe Electricity* offers the following tips to stay safe in or around swimming pools:

- Do not put any electrical appliances within 5 feet of a swimming pool.

- Any electrical outlets within 20 feet of a pool should be equipped with a GFCI.
- Pools and decks should be built at least 5 feet away from all underground electrical lines, and at least 25 feet away from overhead electrical lines.
- As always, never swim during a thunderstorm.
- Use battery-operated, rather than electrical, appliances near swimming pools.
- If a swimmer is electrocuted or shocked, don't dive in yourself or you could be electrocuted as well. Turn off the power, and then use a fiberglass shepherd's hook to pull the victim out of the water.

When you leave the pool, don't change the radio station or touch any electrical appliances until you are dry – never touch any electrical appliances when you are wet or standing in water. If children wish

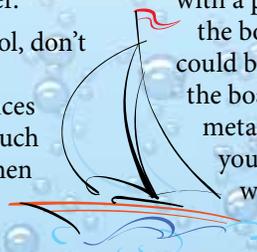
to play with sprinklers or hoses, set them up well away from any electrical outlets or appliances.

Electricity and water are dangerous around larger bodies of water as well. If you plan to go boating or fishing this summer, be aware of your surroundings and potential electrical hazards.

Always check the location of nearby power lines before boating or fishing. Maintain a distance of at least 10 feet between your boat and nearby power lines to be safe. When fishing, make sure you are casting the line away from power lines to avoid contact.

If your boat does come in contact with a power line, never jump out of the boat into the water – the water could be energized. Instead, stay in the boat and avoid touching anything metal until help arrives or until your boat is no longer in contact with the line.

Source *SafeElectricity.org*



# Introducing Pay-by-Phone



Residential and small commercial members who wish to inquire on their account balance or make a payment by credit card or E-check via phone can now use Nodak's Pay-by-Phone payment solution. Although not as convenient as E-bill, Automatic Payment Withdrawal or Online Bill Pay (through customer's bank), Pay-by-Phone is a practical solution for those members who do not have Internet access and can be used for one-time or recurring payments.

Nodak has implemented this payment solution for two reasons: member convenience and security.

## For first time call and setup, customers must complete the following steps:

1. Call 1-844-846-2690. Enter the Nodak Electric billing account number or phone number that is on file in the member record with Nodak Electric. If Pay-by-Phone automatically recognizes caller's incoming phone number is in the member record, skip to #3.
2. Enter the last four digits of the social security number or date of birth that is on file in their member record with Nodak Electric. If no member information requested is on file, the caller is prompted to enter the amount of their last payment.
3. The caller is asked if he/she is calling in regard to the electric service identified by a billing address prompted.
4. The caller is asked to enter a four digit personal identification number (PIN) with at least one non-zero number. Account access after setup will only require the caller to enter their account number if the incoming phone number is not recognized and the four digit PIN.
5. Call Nodak at 746-4461 or 1-800-732-4373 for assistance if needed.

## Choose from these convenient payment options:

- Credit card (Visa® or MasterCard®)
- Checking account
- This service is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

## Please have the following information ready:

- Pay-by-Phone access number **1-844-846-2690**
- To access your account
  - Your Nodak Electric billing account number, or
  - Your phone number on file with Nodak and
  - Your Pay-by-Phone personal identification number (PIN), when created
- To make a credit card payment
  - Your credit card number on the front of your card
  - Month/year expiration date of credit card
  - Zip code where the card statement is mailed
- To make a payment by check
  - Your bank's nine digit routing number
  - Checking account number
- Pen and paper to write down confirmation number

## Nodak's electric heating rebate program!

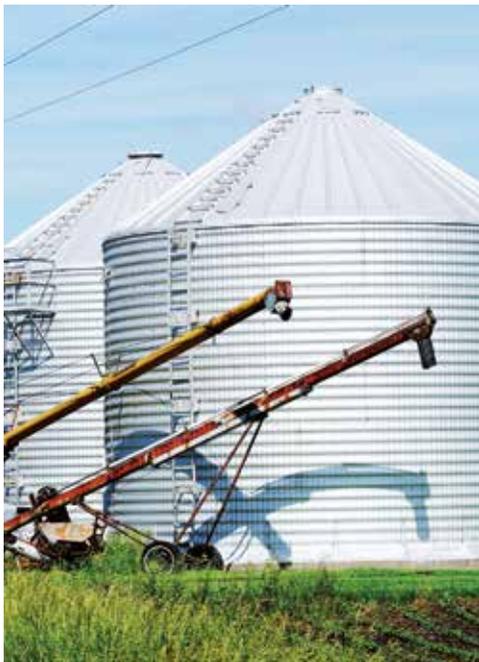
### Incentives available for installation of an off-peak electric heating system



- Receive \$20/kW rebate for the installation of a qualifying electric heating system that is on off-peak.
- Air-source heat pump incentive is \$100/ton – heating mode must be controlled on off-peak.
- Ground-source heat pump incentive is \$200/ton – heating mode must be controlled on off-peak.
- Equipment must be new and off-peak systems must have a qualified backup.
- Homeowner will receive a rebate check after a visit from a Nodak Electric technician.
- Maximum incentive per off-peak meter is \$600.

**Homeowners adding  
new off-peak heating systems  
qualify for these rebates.**

**Contact our Energy Services Department  
for details at  
746-4461 or 800-732-4373**



## Think safety this harvest season

Always lower grain augers when moving from bin to bin. Lower tillage equipment before pulling it under power lines. Make sure that truck beds are completely lowered.

If you must go under or near a power line, have someone spot for you to make sure there is plenty of clearance.

If your machinery or vehicle comes in contact with a power line, stay inside your vehicle and wait for utility personnel to de-energize the line. If there is danger of fire, jump clear. Be careful not to touch the ground and the vehicle at the same time. Land with your feet close together. Keeping your feet together, shuffle or hop away until clear of danger.

## Celebrating 75 Years

### I remember when the lights came on ...

*It was Nov. 1, 1951, and it was a big day for our farm life. Mom, Dad, my five brothers and one sister were all so happy and thankful.*

– Patty Grandalen  
Portland, ND

*We received our electricity in 1948; I was 5 years old. One of the things I will always remember is the string of seven bulbs on our Christmas tree, which I still have today.*

– Marlene and Dennis Kovorik  
Lankin, ND

*What a great thing it was. We could now have a refrigerator, deep freezer and much more.*

– Don Eastland  
Larimore, ND

*The first electric appliances we bought were an electric iron and a dryer – no more wet clothes hanging in the house or freezing outdoors in the winter.*

– Cecilia Durand  
Grafton, ND