

The Nodak Neighbor

May-June 2016

Official Publication of Nodak Electric Cooperative

www.nodakelectric.com

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner



A great summer destination:

Stump Lake

pages 4-5



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**Check us out
on Facebook!**

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On the cover: *Top:* Dancers kick up their heels at the PolkaFest in the Stump Lake Pavilion. *Middle:* Harlen Grovom and Laddie Bata, both from Park River, N.D., cruise the parade trail during the Threshing Bee. *Bottom:* Kylie and Addie Schmaltz take a dip in the lake.

Youth tour winner to visit Washington, D.C.



Britton Bina

Britton Bina was selected to represent Nodak Electric Cooperative at the 2016 Washington, D.C., Youth Tour. Britton is the son of Cameron and Estelle Bina

of Lankin, N.D., and is an active junior at Park River Area High School. He will join other North Dakota Youth

Tour contestants and more than 1,600 other students from across the country in D.C. the week of June 11-

17. The Youth Tour educates students about electric cooperatives, the cooperative business model and the legislative process. He will have an incredible experience visiting unforgettable historic monuments, museums and the U.S. Capitol.



New summer help



George Gardiner,
Portland, N.D., will
work with the Finley
crew.



Logan Gehrke,
Kloten, N.D., will
work with the
Michigan crew.



Braden Klose,
Kindred, N.D., will
work with the Devils
Lake crew.



Trey Lovcik,
Langdon, N.D.,
will work with the
Cavalier crew.



Travis Pederson,
Roseau, Minn., will
work with the Grafton
crew.



Sam Sjoberg,
Watertown, S.D.,
will work with the
Construction crew.



*Mylo Einarson
President & CEO*

Facility charge explained

Undoubtedly, the most unappreciated and misunderstood part of anyone's electric bill is the facility charge, the monthly fee that is there no matter how much electricity we use. From a rate perspective, it's one of the most frequent things we get questioned about, so I thought I would use my space here to shed some light on this part of your monthly bill.

There are two basic components to most power bills – the fixed monthly charges and the charges that vary with how much electricity you use. Facility charges are the fixed part of the rate that is there to help ensure equity among ratepayers. If you think about your own property – whether it is a house, farm or business – you will realize that for each of them Nodak has made a significant investment to bring power to that location.

In addition to these site-specific investments to bring power to your home or business, there are also investments needed to serve everyone and are shared by the entire system. All this initial infrastructure cost must be somehow recovered in our rates and be constantly maintained to provide safe, reliable power to our members.

In addition to the electric infrastructure investment, there are a whole host of expenses we incur that have nothing to do with how much electricity each member uses. One very simple example: at the end of each month, we read your meter, calculate and audit your bill, and have it printed and mailed to each consumer. This is a relatively small cost, but illustrates that with some expenses, regardless of how much electricity you use, it costs approximately the same to perform this function for all members in each rate class. Because of this, we include those expenses in the facility charge

for each of those rate classes.

If we didn't include these costs in the facility charge, they would have to be included in the cost of power so Nodak could bring in the proper amount of revenue each month. If we used that approach, the average energy user would pay about the same as they do now, while those who use very little electricity would pay significantly less than their share of the fixed costs of operating the business, and large users would end up paying many, many times more than their fair share of those costs.

I like to think of it in terms of billing you for the power cost in one part of your bill and billing you for what it costs us to deliver the power in another area. The facility charge is meant to cover what it costs to deliver the power to you, and the rest of the charges are meant to cover the cost of the electricity we purchase on your behalf.

Obviously, the cost to deliver power to members can vary significantly. In high-density urban areas, we typically have multiple accounts fed off the same transformer, and we use much less distribution line per metering point than we

would for a rural account that has its own transformer and significantly more dedicated distribution facilities. Conversely, some of our largest accounts have an entire substation dedicated to a single account because they have such large power requirements. For this reason, we have different monthly facility charges for the various rate classes based on the cost we incur to deliver power to members of that rate class, independent of how much power is consumed.

Consequently, urban accounts pay a lower monthly fee than rural accounts do, while commercial accounts require a higher monthly fee due to the more expensive metering and large transformers required for those accounts. All this is done in an attempt to bill each rate class an amount closely resembling what it costs to serve that particular rate class.

Hopefully, you can see that a lot goes into designing rates that are both fair and equitable among our members and between different rate classes. Nobody really likes the facility charge, but it is necessary to ensure we have rate equity.

811
Know what's below.
Call before you dig.

**KNOW WHAT DANGERS LIE BELOW.
DIG SAFELY.**
Accidents can happen to anyone.

Stump Lake



Craft shows offer something for everyone.



Jerry Pierce, Hatton, N.D., and his grandson cut wood from the saw mill.

Stump Lake Village



Gary Elfman, Warwick, N.D., and his team Fred and Ned, drive folks around the village.



Justin and Brandon Norlin with Norlin Petal Pull of Minot, N.D., and Kylie Schmaltz placed second in the kids' pedal pull.

Nelson County Historical Society Summer Schedule of Events

June-Labor Day: open every Sunday 1-5 p.m. for guided tours (free will donation)

- June 5** – 10:30 a.m. UCC church service in church (potluck to follow in Main Street building)
- June 12** – 3 p.m. Sully-Sibley Expedition into Dakota Territory Dean Urdahl, speaker, followed by pie social
- June 25** – Polka Festival breakfast 8 a.m.-1 p.m., Main Street (building tours 10 a.m.-1 p.m.)
- July 3** – 7 p.m. entertainment, ice cream & popcorn, followed by NC fireworks at dusk
- July 7-8** – 4-H Achievement Days (just both evenings)
- July 14** – 7 p.m. Nelson County Historical Society Annual Meeting, lunch to follow
- July 24** – 11 a.m. Morning Star Parish church service (church only)
- Sept. 4-5** – Threshing Bee & Tractor Pull

A Case steam tractor owned by David Bakke, Larimore, N.D., cruises in the parade.



A pink Edsel is shown off during the Threshing Bee parade.

A summer fun destination

Stump Lake Park & Stump Lake Village, located 12 miles south of Lakota, N.D., on Highway 1, offer unlimited enjoyment for the whole family.

The Park offers swimming, water and electric hookup campsites, ample fishing with a modern fish cleaning station, playgrounds, PolkaFest, Youth Camp, mini golf, softball games and tasty food at the Café and cool beverages at the Pub. You can even rent the pavilion for birthday parties, dances, weddings, reunions and family events.

The Pioneer Village hosts a wide variety of activities in the summer, from band concerts and craft shows to the Threshing Bee with a spectacular parade of tractors and classic cars. Speakers portray early historical characters of North Dakota. Traveling exhibits provided by the North Dakota Historical Society offer snapshots of our past. Demonstrations of early pioneer skills range from spinning wool to a sawmill cutting wood. Check out the steam engines and hand pulled fire equipment.

Stump Lake Park

A miniature golf course was recently added behind the Café.



Stump Lake Park offers spacious camping spots with electrical and water hookups.



A man fishes off the dock.



Youth Camp students creatively decorate sculptures along the shoreline.

Stump Lake Park Upcoming Events

- June 18** – Halloween in June
- June 23** – PolkaFest at Stump Lake Pavilion
- June 29** – PAF Safety Day
- July 1** – Steak fry and LFD meat raffle
- July 2** – Kiddie treasure hunt/ kids' golf/ dance
- July 3** – Golf cart parade/ root beer floats/ fireworks
- July 30** – ELVIS returns!
- Aug. 1** – Fine arts youth camp
- Sept. 2** – Steak fry/meat raffle
- Sept. 3** – Kiddie bingo/adult bingo dance/gift exchange

For camping reservations, call the Café, (701) 296-4474 or Campground, (701) 296-4561. Website: www.stumplakepark.com

Stump Lake Park Village, contact Diane Swenson, kdkkkswn@polarcomm.com

Contractors at Work

Watch for these contractors helping Nodak this summer.



RAM Utilities conducts pole inspections, which includes visual inspection of the pole from top to bottom, sound and bore inspection and GPS service of each pole to give exact location along with notation of attributes of pole and physical characteristics.

North Plains Utility Contracting plows, trenches and bores underground primary cable for telephone and power companies.



Joe Ritter Painting does metal refinishing services for updating sectionalizing cabinets and transformers on members' property.



Wright Tree Service clears trees and brush hanging over or near power lines to prevent power disturbances and follows the standards for tree care practices.

Can I plant around the green box in my yard?

You may have a green metal box near or in front of your home. These are called pad-mounted transformers and are a key part of the electrical system that delivers power to your home. They are only found in areas where electric

service is buried underground.

Planting shrubs or trees too close to these boxes creates a hazard for linemen. At times, crews need quick access to unlock and open the cover. Two examples of this are in a power outage when linemen need to access the equipment inside, or in the event of a fire at your home when power would need to be turned off.

When considering landscaping near electrical equipment, please keep these guidelines in mind:

1. Always maintain a clearance of 10 feet in front of the transformer. This is the side with the lock, generally facing the front of your house.
2. Maintain a clearance of 5 feet on the other three sides of the transformer.
3. Never dig beside the transformer.



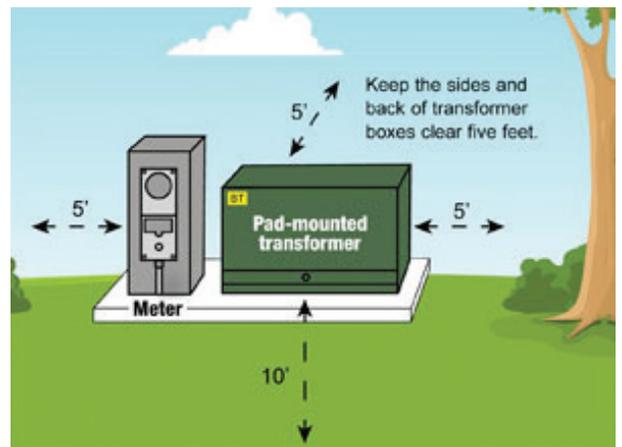
4. Adequate space is needed for air circulation around transformers. This allows heat to escape during hot weather and extends the life of the equipment. Please do not cover this equipment in any way.



Applications due July 1

Next deadline for submitting grant applications is July 1.

If you would like to join our Operation Round Up program and have your electric bill rounded up to the nearest dollar each month, please call 800-732-4373 or 701-746-4461. You can make a difference!



New electric water heater rebates available!

Enjoy reliable hot water and save money at the same time with Nodak Electric Cooperative's electric water heating rebate program.

Water heating is one of the largest energy expenses in most households, making it a smart area to try to improve efficiency. New electric water heaters are among the most efficient and durable products in the market today. With great new incentives from your cooperative, it has never been more affordable to upgrade.

All rebate-qualifying water heaters must be on the off-peak program, which allows your water heater to draw electricity during times of low demand, such as late at night, when it's less expensive. The water heater is temporarily turned off during high demand periods, both saving energy and money on your monthly bill. Participants in the off-peak program also receive a lower monthly rate for the electricity their water heater uses.



Electric Water Heaters (must be on off-peak)	Incentive Per Unit
55 gallon or less	\$100
56-99 gallon	\$150
100 gallon or greater	\$200
Additional rebate for new building construction	\$100
Additional rebate for conversion from existing natural gas or propane	\$250

Rebate requirements:

- Must be new purchased electric water heater installed on Nodak Electric's system.
- Must be on off-peak/load control.
- Must be 240 volts and hard-wired.
- Tankless water heaters do not qualify for rebate.
- Hybrid heat pump water heaters do not qualify for rebate.
- Rebate limit of \$500 per member-account.
- Maximum \$300 rebate for coupling of two water heaters in parallel or series.
- Multifamily dwellings do not qualify for rebate; exceptions considered on case-by-case basis.

Contact Nodak Electric Cooperative today to find out more about the water heater rebate program!

Nodak's electric heating rebate program has been extended!

Take advantage of these rebates on installation of an off-peak electric heating system!

- \$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.

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

- 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.

Contact our Energy Services Department for details at 701-746-4461 or 800-732-4373



Meet your Grand Forks crew

Grand Forks crew – (from left) – Ben Haarstad, apprentice lineman; Travis Vathauer, apprentice lineman; Mark Nipstad, crew foreman; Derek Sondreal, lead lineman; Jared Stadstad, journeyman lineman; Jared Lothspeich, apprentice lineman; and Graham Anderson, apprentice lineman.

