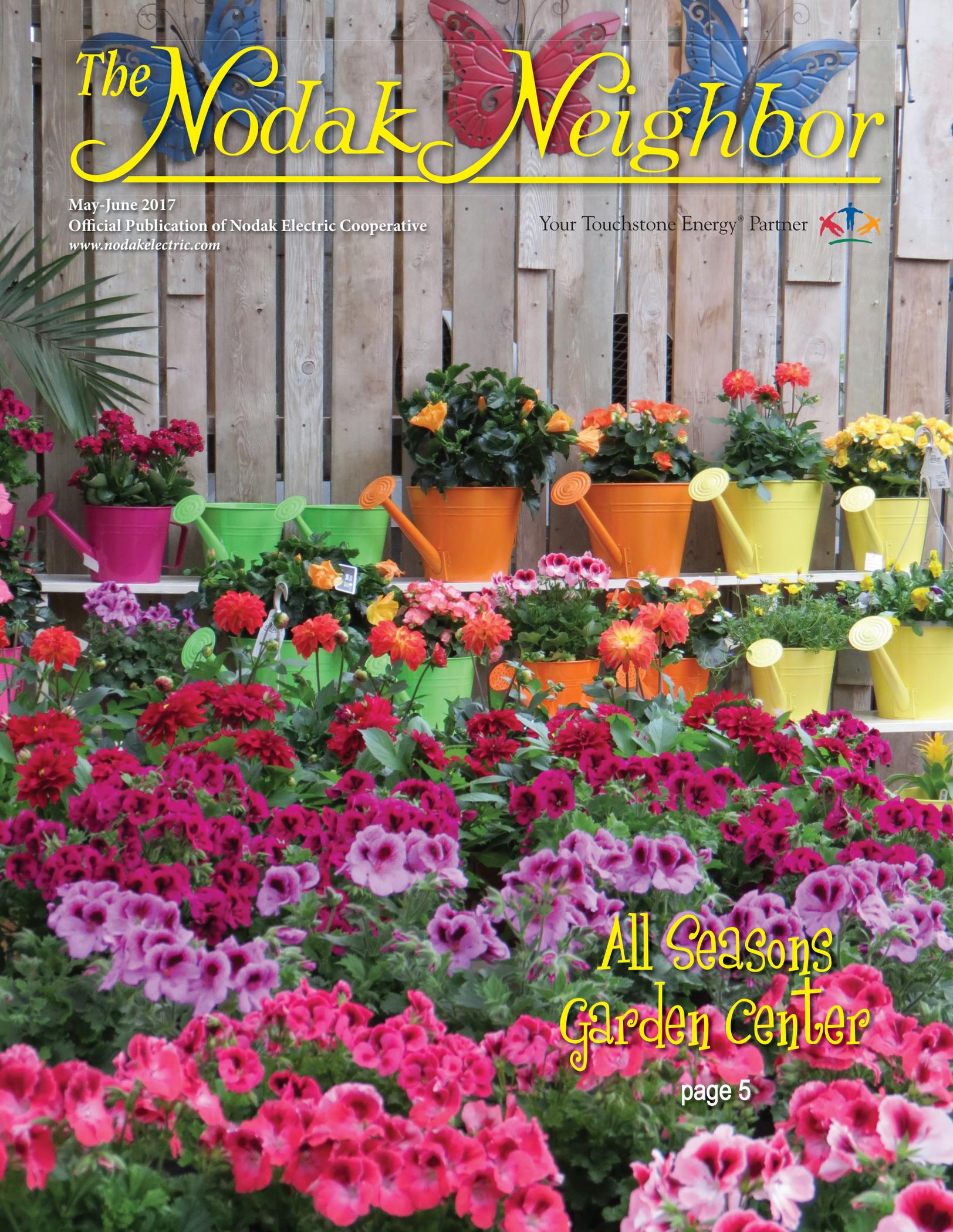


The Nodak Neighbor

May-June 2017

Official Publication of Nodak Electric Cooperative
www.nodakelectric.com

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner



All Seasons
Garden Center

page 5

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Vice Chairman Luther Meberg
Secretary/Treasurer Les Windjue
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Cheryl Osowski and Steve Smaaladen
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Table of contents

Perspective page 3
What's on that pole? page 4
All Seasons Garden Center page 5
Grant program opportunity page 6
Annual meeting highlights page 7
Devils Lake crew page 8



**Check us out
on Facebook!**

www.facebook.com/nodakelectriccooperative

Youth tour winner to visit Washington, D.C.



Isaac Joerger was selected to represent Nodak Electric Cooperative at the 2017 Washington, D.C., Youth Tour. Isaac is the son of Bob and Melanie Joerger of Mayville, N.D., and is home schooled.

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 10-16. 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.



Seasonal Apprentices for this construction season



Trenton McCloud
from Rolla, N.D.,
will work with the Michigan and Devils Lake crews.



Brock Janikowski
from Grafton, N.D.,
will work with the Cavalier and Grafton crews.



Jacob Ihry from Hope, N.D., will work with the Construction crew.



Alex Schultz from Thompson, N.D., will work with the Grand Forks crew.

Manage your electric account with smart hub



- Create and log in to your Nodak Electric account
- Access the cooperative Facebook page and Twitter feeds
- Make payments
- Update your personal/payment information
- View past billing history
- View past service requests
- Receive email or text alerts
- Check electrical usage
- Contact the cooperative via a Web form

Access SmartHub by visiting our website at www.nodakelectric.com



*Mylo Einarson
President & CEO*

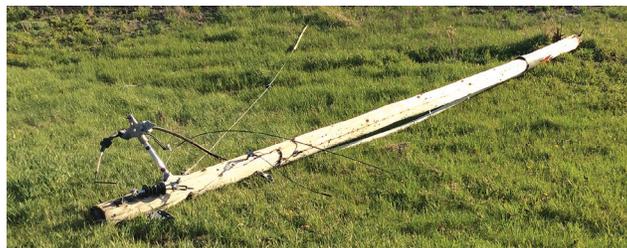
See something, say something

There is a well-known proverb that says it takes a village to raise a child. What is meant by that is a child has the best ability to become a healthy adult if the entire community takes an active role in contributing to the rearing of the child. In all aspects the village takes an active role in teaching, nurturing and protecting the child.

In much the same way, we take that approach to electrical safety at Nodak. The idea is that safety is everyone's business and their most important responsibility. Each employee needs to act in a safe manner so they don't get injured and so they don't hurt anyone else, but it's also incumbent upon every employee to do the best we can to ensure our co-workers don't hurt themselves. From this aspect, co-worker safety can come from seasoned employees properly training others by passing along the knowledge they've gained through experience, or it could come from a new employee speaking up about something they see as a potential hazard. Together we look out for each other's safety.

It's also a high priority at Nodak to do what we can to help our members stay safe. Electrical accidents and fires in homes across the country are responsible for thousands of injuries and

electrocutions annually. To do our part to bring those numbers down, we frequently provide safety content in our newsletters and our social media. We also take great care to construct and maintain an electrical distribution network that meets all codes and requirements and is as



safe as possible from the public's perspective.

This is where you come in. Although we continually watch for potential hazards on our system, sometimes you may notice an issue before we do. Vehicles can damage electrical equipment without de-energizing it, or sometimes nature can cause overhead wires to hang lower than they should, or even fall to the ground. We would like you to join the village and help us keep everyone safe by contacting us if you see any potentially dangerous situation. With your help, we can make sure everyone goes home safely.

Electricity doesn't have to be unsafe, but it is unforgiving. As long as we treat it with the caution and protocol it demands, it is safe and it does its job to better our lives. If we don't treat it properly, its unforgiving nature can have disastrous consequences. In short, that is why we continually try to raise awareness about the dangers of electricity. We all depend on electricity to power our lives, but accidents can happen. With your help, we can reduce those numbers and enjoy the benefits of safe, reliable and affordable electricity.

Thank you for doing your part to stay safe and promote electrical safety.

**ELECTRIC CO-OPS
are committed to
keeping members
and employees SAFE.**

**May is National
Electrical Safety Month**

plug into safety

Nodak
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE
Your Touchstone Energy® Partner

What's on that pole?

You probably don't pay much attention to the utility poles found throughout Nodak's service territory, but did you know these tall structures are the backbone of our distribution network? Strong, sturdy utility poles ensure a reliable electric system, which is why we routinely inspect the thousands of poles found on our lines.

Throughout the year, our crews check poles for decay caused by exposure to the elements. They know which poles are oldest and conduct inspections through a

rotational process. Typically, a standard wooden distribution pole is expected to last more than 50 years. Occasionally, poles need to be replaced for other reasons besides decay and old age. Weather disasters, power line relocation, car crashes and machinery damage are potential causes for immediate replacement.

When a pole needs to be replaced, crews will start the process by digging a hole, typically next to the pole being replaced. The depth of the new hold must be at least 6 feet of the new poles height. Next,

the new pole must be fitted with bolts, crossarms, insulators, ground wires and arm braces – all of the necessary parts for delivering safe and reliable electricity. Then, crews safely detach the power lines from the old pole. The new pole is then raised and guided carefully into position, and the lines are attached, leaving the new pole to do its job.

So, the next time you come across a Nodak crew replacing a pole, use caution and know that this process ensures a more reliable electric system for you, our members.

Spiral vibrator damper – reduces vibration in lines generated by wind.

Insulators – prevent energized wires from coming in contact with each other or the utility pole.

Cutouts – hold a fuse and open when there is a problem with the line or a section of it.

Lightning arresters – protect the pole and equipment from lightning strikes.

Transformers – convert higher voltage electricity carried by primary wires to a lower voltage for use by members.

URD riser – primary underground cable feeding the member.

Primary wires – on top of the pole and carry 7,200 volts of electricity.

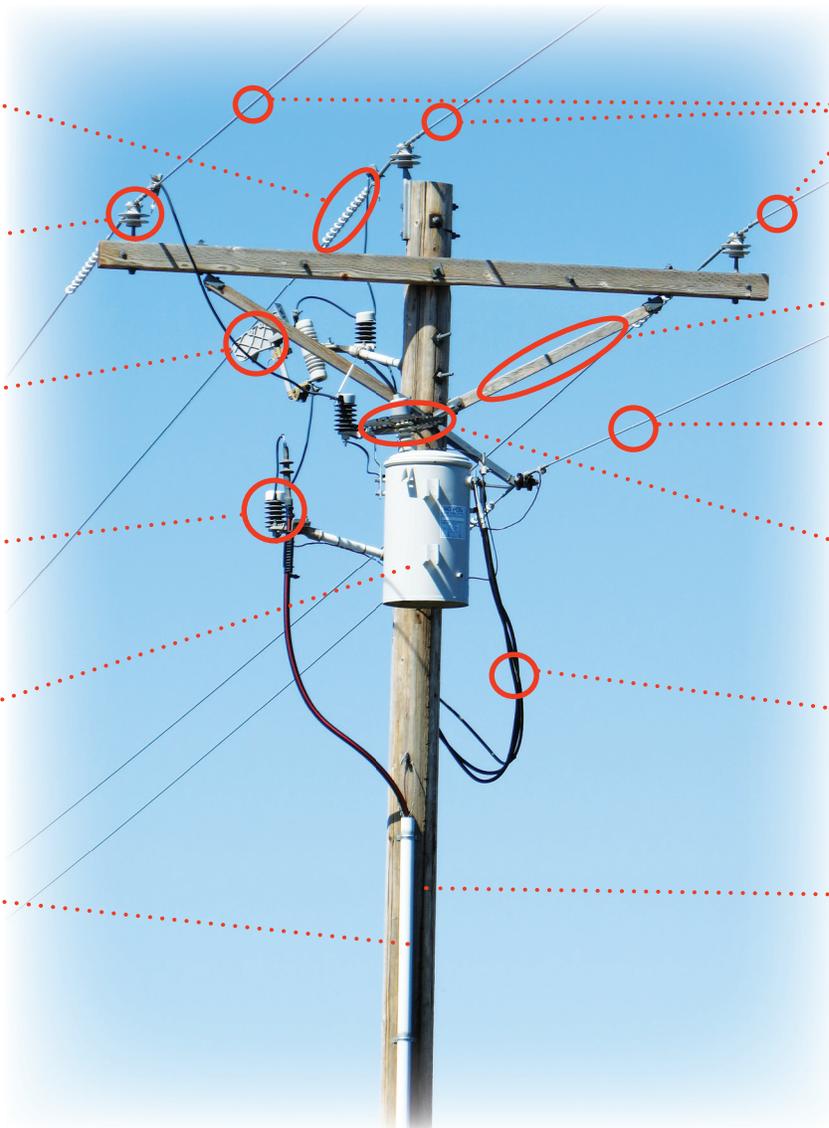
Crossarm brace – holds up the crossarm which holds the wires on multiphase poles.

Neutral wire – below the primary and acts as a ground wire.

Squirrel guards – protects animals and prevents outages.

Secondary wire – carries the lower voltage electricity to the member's meter after it passes through the transformer.

Ground wire – runs the entire length of the pole. It directs any electricity on the pole safely into the earth.



All Seasons Garden Center

Temperatures are warming up, flowers are blooming and the planting season is upon us.

Whether you are looking to beautify your lawn this summer or simply want a bouquet of flowers, All Seasons Garden Center in Grand Forks is ready with a wide array of products and services. For nearly four decades, All Seasons, a Nodak Electric Cooperative member, has been providing the region with floral arrangements for fresh and silk flowers, landscaping and nursery services, a well-stocked garden store and an amazing gift stop. In addition to a great selection, the family owned business prides itself on knowledgeable and personable service.

As its name would suggest, All Seasons is the only local florist with growing greenhouses that are open year-round. That level of service attracts passionate and loyal customers from across North Dakota, Minnesota and other areas of the country.

Visit All Seasons at 5101 South Washington Street in Grand Forks, or learn more at www.allseasonsgardencenter.net.



THINKING ABOUT SPRING LANDSCAPING PROJECTS?



Call before you dig!

If your project includes planting trees or making an addition to your property, remember to call 811 within two business days. Your project area will be marked for free, allowing you to safely begin digging.



Know what's below.
Call before you dig.

Grant program opportunity



Rural Development Finance Corporation
GROWING COMMUNITIES

The Rural Development Finance Corporation (RDFC) is pleased to announce it has approved a 2017 grant allotment of \$2,000 available to Nodak Electric Cooperative, Inc., to be used to support community-owned entities, non-profits and community-based projects.

- **Eligible projects:** include community-owned businesses (café, grocery store, motel, other); community facilities (such as ambulance services, fire districts, recreation, hospital/clinic, community center, etc.); or community-based projects (such as school/youth projects, other) that benefit rural areas.
- **Matching funds:** \$4 of other funds to every \$1 of RDFC funds.
- **Maximum/minimum grant amounts:** The minimum grant amount is \$500; the maximum is \$2,000 for year 2017.

For more information or to apply, please call Gretchen Schmaltz at 1-800-732-4373.

ELECTRIC SHOCK DROWNING

UNKNOWN DANGER LURKING IN THE WATER

Docks and boats carry sources of **electricity**. Faulty wiring or the use of damaged electrical cords and other devices can cause the surrounding water to become **energized**. NEVER swim near a marina or a near a boat while it's running.



There is **no visible warning** to electrified water.

Electric current in the water causes the **paralysis of muscles** which results in **drowning**.





The 2017 NEC now **requires** marinas and boatyards to have **ground-fault protection** to help prevent water electrification. Check to see if your marina, and the boats in the marina, have proper **GFCI protection**.



As little as **10 milliamps**, 1/50th the amount used by a 60 watt light bulb, can cause **paralysis and drowning**.



WHAT TO DO IF YOU SEE **ELECTRIC SHOCK DROWNING** TAKING PLACE

Turn power **off**



Throw a **life ring**



Call **911**



NEVER enter the water



You could become a victim too.

WARNING – POTENTIAL SHOCK HAZARD: ELECTRICAL CURRENTS MAY BE PRESENT IN THE WATER

The 2017 National Electrical Code **requires** marinas and boat docks to post electric shock **warning signs** where electricity is used **near water**.

MAY IS NATIONAL ELECTRICAL SAFETY MONTH

ESFi.org www.facebook.com/ESFi.org www.twitter.com/ESFiDotOrg www.youtube.com/ESFiDotOrg

MAY IS NATIONAL ELECTRICAL SAFETY MONTH



Annual meeting *Highlights*

More than 400 members and guests attended Nodak Electric Cooperative's 77th annual meeting Thursday, April 6, 2017, at the Alerus Center in Grand Forks. Members enjoyed a beef rouladen dinner served by the Alerus staff.

During the meeting, the cooperative's board of directors was seated for the upcoming year, including the selection of officers and three director elections. Cheryl Osowski, Grafton, N.D., was elected to represent District 1. This is her first time serving on Nodak Electric Cooperative's board of directors. Pete Naastad, Hatton, N.D., was re-elected to represent District 2 and Steven Smaaladen, Aneta, N.D., was re-elected to represent District 3. Following the meeting, Nodak's board of directors elected Paul Sigurdson as its chairman. In addition, Luther Meberg was named vice chairman and Les Windjue was named secretary-treasurer.





Meet your Devils Lake crew

Devils Lake crew – (from left) – Jeremy Steinhaus, journeyman lineman; Trey Lovcik, apprentice lineman; Jake Lamb, journeyman lineman; and Cory McKelvey, crew foreman.

