



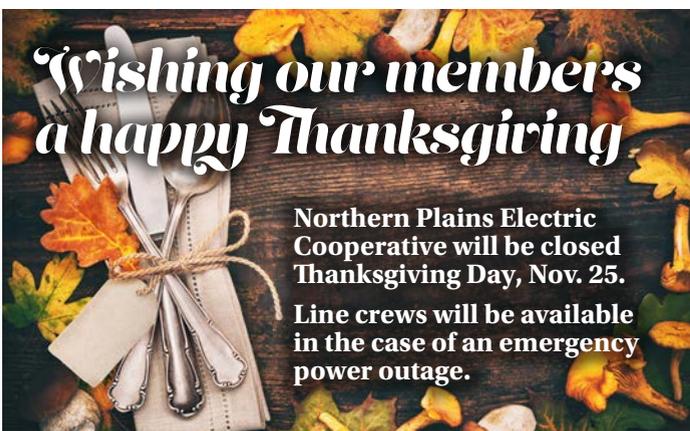
## New substation energized

In September, Northern Plains Electric Cooperative energized our newest substation, the West Jamestown Substation. This substation, built by Central Power Electric Cooperative, is located west of Jamestown, and currently provides service to 240 meters.

As a part of our 2020 construction work plan, Northern Plains buried 5.5 miles of three-phase

overhead line to the new substation, to make room for the new transmission line taking its place.

This project is intended to serve as a tie between the existing Jamestown Substation and the new West Jamestown Substation to provide better reliability west of the new substation and to help feed critical loading in the Jamestown area. ■



NOVEMBER 2021

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PHOTO COURTESY NDFU

North Dakota Farmers Union's camping program and activities are designed to highlight the individuality in all youth, focus on cooperative education and promote leadership skills.

## NPEC invests in cooperative education

BY BRITTNEE WILSON

For North Dakota youth, one of the most popular summertime activities is attending the North Dakota Farmers Union (NDFU) Camp. Each summer, the camp attracts nearly 1,200 young Farmers Union members in grades 3-12. Here, they not only trade stories over a campfire while making lifelong friendships, but they also gain leadership skills and learn how cooperatives operate and function.

Over 85 years ago, the first Farmers Union Camp was held at Spiritwood Lake. Today, campers can attend camp at two different sites, one near Elgin and a new location in Jamestown. The newly built camp is situated on 19 acres of land along the Jamestown Reservoir and includes a state-of-the-art lodge with indoor gymnasium,

STEM classroom, game room, co-op store, a dormitory, outdoor volleyball court and softball field.

Recognizing the importance in cooperative education, numerous cooperatives donated to the new camp facility, including Northern Plains Electric Cooperative (NPEC). At its July board meeting, NPEC's board of directors approved a donation of \$2,500 toward the building process of the new Jamestown camp.

"Thank you to all of our sponsors for being a part of this amazing project. Farmers Union Camp has been going strong since 1934 and with the help of our sponsors, community and leaders, we are able to continue this great legacy and give back to today's youth," says Bri Sorensen, NDFU education director. ■



## NPEC hires LaRocque as staking engineer

Clay LaRocque is the newest employee at Northern Plains Electric Cooperative (NPEC). In October, LaRocque was hired full time to work out of the Carrington office as a staking engineer for the southern half of our system.

His responsibilities include working with members on requests for new services, line conversions and capacity increases, along with identifying projects to improve system performance and the accuracy of the cooperative's mapping system.

LaRocque, a native of St. John, was first hired by NPEC in May with our Carrington West line crew as temporary help during our construction season. In his spare time, he enjoys golfing, cooking and spending time with family at the lake.

Congratulations Clay, Northern Plains Electric is happy to have you on our team full time! ■

# Hear the **BEEP** where you **SLEEP**

## Every Bedroom Needs a Working Smoke Alarm!

Half of home fire deaths happen between 11 p.m. and 7 a.m., when most people are asleep.



Install smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each separate sleeping area, and on every level of the home, including the basement. Larger homes may need more alarms.

For the best protection, install interconnected smoke alarms in your home. When one sounds, they all sound.



Test alarms at least once a month by pushing the test button.



Replace all smoke alarms when they are 10 years old or if they do not sound when tested.



Some people, especially children and older adults, may need help to wake up. Make sure someone will wake them if the smoke alarm sounds.



When the smoke alarm sounds, get outside and stay outside. Go to your outside meeting place.



Call the fire department from a cellphone or a neighbor's phone. Stay outside until the fire department says it's safe to go back inside.



## Three easy DIY projects to save energy

**W**inter weather can have a big impact on your energy bills, hitting your pockets a little harder than you would have liked. Now is the perfect time to tackle a few DIY efficiency projects for your home. The good news: You don't have to be an energy expert to do this!

There are several easy ways to save energy, but if you're willing to take a hands-on approach, here are three projects you can do now to start saving.

### **Make the most of your water heater**

Let's start with one of the easiest

projects: insulating your water heater. Insulating a water heater that's warm to the touch can save 7 to 16 percent annually on your water heating bills. It should also be noted that if your water heater is new, it is likely already insulated. But if your water heater is warm to the touch, it needs additional insulation.

You can purchase a pre-cut jacket or blanket for about \$20. You'll also need two people for this project. Before you start, turn off the water heater. Wrap the blanket around the water heater and tape it to temporarily keep it in place. If necessary, use a marker to note the areas where the controls are so you

can cut them out. Once the blanket is positioned correctly, tape it permanently in place, then turn the water heater back on. If you have an electric water heater, do not set the thermostat above 130 degrees, which can cause overheating.

### **Seal air leaks with caulk**

The average American family spends \$2,000 annually on energy bills, but unfortunately, much of that money is wasted through air leaks in the home. Applying caulk around windows, doors, electrical wiring and plumbing can save energy and money. There are

many different types of caulking compounds available, but the most popular choice is silicone. Silicone caulk is waterproof, flexible and won't shrink or crack.

Before applying new caulk, clean and remove any old caulk or paint with a putty knife, screwdriver, brush or solvent. The area should be dry before you apply the new caulk.

Apply the caulk in one continuous stream, and make sure it sticks to both sides of the crack or seam. Afterward, use a putty knife to smooth out the caulk, then wipe the surface with a dry cloth.

## Weather strip exterior doors

One of the best ways to seal air leaks is to weather strip exterior doors, which can keep out drafts and help you control energy costs. Weather stripping materials vary, but you can ask your local hardware or home store for assistance if

you're unsure about the supplies you need.

When choosing weather stripping materials, make sure it can withstand temperature changes, friction and the general "wear and tear" for the location of the door. Keep in mind, you will need separate materials for the door sweep (at the bottom of the door) and the top and sides.

Before applying the new weather stripping, clean the moulding with water and soap, then let the area dry completely. Measure each side of the door, then cut the weather stripping to fit each section. Make sure the weather stripping fits snugly against both surfaces so it compresses when the door is closed.

By completing these simple efficiency projects, you can save energy (and money!) while increasing the comfort level of your home. And you can impress your family and friends with your savvy energy-saving skills. ■

## Looking to update your home or business with an energy efficient project? Northern Plains Electric can help!

Northern Plains offers energy efficiency loans to members receiving electric service from the cooperative.

Qualifying projects for energy efficiency loans

- Caulking and weather-stripping
- Insulation for the floor, walls, ceiling and foundation
- Insulation for heating/cooling ducts and pipes
- Electric water heaters
- Storm or thermal windows and doors
- Attic ventilation
- Installation of electric heating systems
  - Dual heat
  - Storage or slab heat
  - All-electric heat
  - Air-to-air heat pump
  - Ground-source heat pump

Members must own the residence for at least 12 months and have a positive credit rating with Northern Plains Electric Cooperative to qualify. To find out more about the terms of an energy efficiency loan, contact us by calling 800-882-2500.



## Attention snowbirds! SIGN UP FOR SMARTHUB BEFORE HEADING SOUTH

Calling all snowbirds! Before you migrate south for the winter, sign up for SmartHub and leave the worries about your electric bill in North Dakota!

No matter where you choose to spend your winter, you can always manage your Northern Plains Electric Cooperative account from anywhere you can access the internet. You can use SmartHub to manage your payments, update your contact information, notify customer service of account issues, check your usage, and receive special messages from Northern Plains Electric. You can even report an outage with the click of a button!

To sign up for SmartHub, visit [www.nplains.com](http://www.nplains.com) and click on the SmartHub link to register at the top of our homepage. Or you can download the SmartHub app from the app store to access SmartHub from your iPhone or Android phone.

SmartHub is FREE to members. Need help signing up? Call our office at 800-882-2500 for assistance.



# High school sophomores & juniors

## Write an essay and win an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C.

Every June, as many as 1,500 high school students from across the country spend a week in the nation's capital as part of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Youth Tour. The students are sponsored by electric cooperatives – cooperatives that are committed to educating America's rural youth about America and the role electric cooperatives play in developing strong rural communities.

Participating in the Youth Tour is an awesome way to learn about this great nation, develop leadership skills, gain a better understanding of electric cooperatives, and make friendships that will last beyond the week!

### Top 3 reasons to enter the essay-writing contest:

1. All-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., compliments of Northern Plains Electric Cooperative. Tour dates are June 19-24, 2022, with an orientation on June 18.
2. A whole week to visit unforgettable historic monuments, museums and the U.S. Capitol.
3. A learning experience you'll never forget.

### ESSAY QUESTION:

*If you were asked to help promote your cooperative's annual membership meeting, what ideas do you have for increasing attendance among young member-owners and students? Please provide specific examples for unique communications strategies, scheduling and special activities for member-owners and their families.*

### To enter 2022 essay writing contest, students must:

- Be a sophomore or junior in high school.
- You and your parents/guardian's primary residence must be served by Northern Plains Electric Cooperative.
- Write an essay. Include a cover page with your name, date of birth, name of high school and grade in school, parent or guardian's name, address, and telephone number. The essay is not to exceed two, standard 8.5- by 11-inch typewritten, double-spaced pages. Essay topic listed below.
- The deadline is Dec. 10, 2021. You can email entries to [brittneew@nplains.com](mailto:brittneew@nplains.com) or mail a hard copy to: Northern Plains Electric, Youth Tour Essay Contest, P.O. Box 608, Cando, ND 58324.



### Have any questions?

Contact Brittnee Wilson, Northern Plains Electric, at 701-968-3314 during regular business hours.



FIND MORE INFORMATION AT  
<https://nplains.com/youth-tour>



## Small change changes lives

**A**t its September meeting, the Northern Plains Electric Cooperative Operation Round Up board of directors approved grants totaling \$9,200 to help support worthy causes.

The board meets quarterly to disburse funds to help Northern Plains members with medical expenses and area nonprofit organizations. Participating Northern

Plains members voluntarily round up their electric bill to the next whole dollar. The donation averages 50 cents a month and raises about \$37,000 each year. Since the program's beginning in October 1998, grants totaling \$855,166.37 have been awarded to 1,189 local charitable causes.

### Grants approved in September include:

- Pierce County Fair Association, exhibit building construction
- Grandfield Lutheran Church, Sheyenne, new roof
- Dave Moe, Pingree, home fire
- Mark Paulson, Starkweather, medical expenses
- Ron Lunde, Cando, medical expenses
- Sylvia Martin, Pettibone, medical expenses
- Irene Steckler, Jamestown, medical expenses
- Tiffiney Dick, Courtenay, medical expenses
- Benson, Eddy, Carrington Daily Bread, Griggs, Kidder, Pierce, Rolette, Stutsman, Cando Area Food Pantry, Wells, Ramsey County (The Hope Center), food banks

If you would like additional information about this worthy program, please contact Northern Plains Electric Cooperative by calling 800-882-2500; or, you may obtain guidelines or download applications at [www.nplains.com](http://www.nplains.com). The board will meet again in December to review applications. Application deadline is Nov. 20. ■



## Program offers heating assistance

**A**re you or someone you know having difficulty paying home heating bills? If so, there is a federal program that could help. The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) helps eligible low-income households with home energy assistance.

Eligible households are encouraged to apply for assistance for:

### HEATING ASSISTANCE

LIHEAP can pay for a portion of fuel or electricity used to heat your home between the months of Oct. 1 and May 31. The amount of benefit depends on your income, the type and size of your home, and the type of fuel used to heat your home.

### WEATHERIZATION SERVICE

The weatherization program helps low-income families make

their homes and apartments energy efficient. Weatherization seals a home to keep warm air in and cold air out during the winter.

### FURNACE AND CHIMNEY CLEANING

The program can pay (up to a certain amount of monies dependent on the service) to clean and inspect your furnace and/or chimney.

### EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

LIHEAP funds are available when there is a home energy emergency that may threaten the life of your family.

### ENERGY COST REDUCTION DEVICES

Funds are sometimes available to help with installation costs of energy-reducing device to qualify for lower electric heat rates.

Applications are accepted from Oct. 1-May 31 of each heating season. For LIHEAP services, call your local county social services office or contact: Energy Assistance Program N.D. Department of Human Services at 800-755-2716. ■



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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