There’s a new home in Capital Electric’s service area, and it was built by students from the Bismarck Career and Technical Center’s carpentry program.
Students from the Bismarck Career Academy and Technical Center’s carpentry program stood proudly in front of the single-family home at 3524 Meridian Drive in Bismarck. The students had spent the last year building the house, braving winter temperatures that dipped below freezing. Now, the furnished home was up for sale and featured in the Bismarck-Mandan Homebuilders Association’s Parade of Homes.

“A lot of people came in and said they liked the house,” says Connor McGregor, carpentry student. “When they were told it was built by high school students, it shocked them a bit. I don’t think they expected that a bunch of high school students could build a nice house like this. They thought college students built it, but it was 16-, 17-, 18-year-old kids that built it.”

Triton Homes partnered with the Bismarck Career Academy and Technical Center to build the 2,400 square foot house, which has four bedrooms and three bathrooms. Students worked on the frame and exterior of the house, as well as the counters and cabinets in the basement. It was the first year that carpentry students worked on a house off-campus. In the past, students...
built a smaller house on-campus, which was moved after its purchase.

“The price to move the house went way up, and people weren’t as willing to commit to buying,” says Carpentry Instructor Tony Steckler. “We reached out to local builders to see if they were willing to help us out. Mr. Wachter and Triton Homes stepped right up, and it’s an amazing partnership. And, they’re giving a bunch of money back. We gave out $6,000 in scholarships last year to three students – $2,000 a piece.”

Like all programs at the Bismarck Career Academy and Technical Center, the carpentry program aims to make high school students career ready. Some students plan to apply the skills they’ve learned by pursuing careers in carpentry and real estate.

“In the future, I’m thinking about becoming a carpenter or homebuilder, so this really starts me on my path toward learning the trade and being able to use it in the future,” says Trenton Zainhofsky, carpentry student. “It’s cool to see how the whole process works and the different people that get involved in building a house.”

Steckler says the program has something to offer to all students, even those who pursue careers in other areas.

“A majority of their grade is what is called job ready skills. Not everyone is going to go to college. At a minimum, we want to make sure they’re a good employee when they leave there. So, I’d say about 70 percent of their grade is related to job readiness skills, which includes being to class on time, being respectful to those around them, working when there is work to be done and being a team player.”

For most students, the best part of the program is getting out of the classroom to work on hands-on projects as a team.

No matter what career path students choose, the skills they learn in the carpentry program will be valuable in the future.

“It’s a great experience,” says Zainhosfsky. “Even if you aren’t thinking about going into carpentry, it’s a good class to take, because you get to learn different skills that could help you in the future. It gives you the knowledge to be able to fix things in your own house or help people with different projects.”

The Bismarck Career Academy and Technical Center and Triton Homes are continuing their partnership this year, and students have already begun work on another house, which will stand beside the home they just built. For more information or to tour the home at 3524 Meridian Drive, call Jamie Schmidt with Triton Homes at (701) 319-6000. ©

(Top left, lower right) Triton Homes furnished the house at 3524 Meridian Drive for the Bismarck Homebuilders Association’s 2018 Fall Parade of Homes. More than 2,100 people participated in this year’s tour of homes.
I
n recent months, Capital Electric Cooperative (CEC) has received an increased number of calls from its members regarding calling 811 before they dig. It’s important for you to know what to expect when you call 811 and which lines will be located by CEC and the other utility companies.

When a contractor or homeowner calls 811 to request a location of utility services, a locating service is notified and will respond within three working days. Utilities services including electric lines, cable, phone lines and gas lines will be located and flagged on behalf of each corresponding utility.

It is important to remember the locating service will only locate the electric services that are owned by these utility providers. If you have secondary buried line to other services on your property, you are responsible for having those services located by an electrician or someone else with the knowledge and equipment needed to locate them properly. Services provided by CEC end at the meter, so if the meter on your property is not attached to your home, you most likely will have some electric lines that are not owned by the cooperative.

CEC contracts with Summit Utility Services for the location requests of its services. Other utilities in CEC’s service area may use another contractor for the same service, but all of these companies are locating all types of utilities in that area. The co-op pays for its share of this service based on the number of utilities in the area.

It’s important to call 811 at least a few days before you intend to dig. It only takes a few minutes for the call, but it can save lives and eliminate the inconvenience of a damaged line. The cost of damaged lines from an improper dig-in can cost you a considerable amount of money. In addition, the service interruption can affect a significant area if the line you cut happens to be in a populated area.

Avoid personal and financial risk by always calling 811 before you dig. For more information, visit call811.com.

How does 811 work?
When someone calls 811 in the United States, he or she is connected to the local one call center, where a representative collects information about the caller’s planned dig site. The one call center then communicates the information to the appropriate utility companies, which send professional utility locating technicians to identify and mark the approximate location of lines within three working days of the phone call. Once lines have been marked, they are good for 21 days and the caller may dig safely around the marks.
**JUNE 15-21, 2019**

**WRITE A WINNING ESSAY AND WIN A TRIP OF A LIFETIME!**

**AN ALL-EXPENSE-PAID TRIP TO WASHINGTON, D.C.**

- To enter the essay-writing contest, you must be a sophomore or junior in high school.
- You and your parents or guardian must be served by Capital Electric Cooperative.
- If you have a question, contact Wes Engbrecht, Capital Electric, at the address listed below, or call 701-223-1513 during regular business hours.
- The deadline is Jan. 31, 2019. Emailed entries should be directed to wese@capitalelec.com, and hard-copy entries mailed to: Youth Tour Essay Contest, Capital Electric Cooperative, 4111 State St., Bismarck, ND 58502-0730.

**TOP 3 REASONS TO ENTER THE ESSAY-WRITING CONTEST**

1. All-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., compliments of Capital Electric Cooperative.
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:**

Electric cooperatives are member-owned and controlled. As a future member-owner of your cooperative, describe ways that smart technologies and social media might be used to communicate with young adults. How might they be used to increase awareness and interest in the many career opportunities with electric cooperatives?

CHECK OUT THE ESSAY-CONTEST GUIDELINES AT

www.ndyouthtour.com
**Need Help with Heating Costs?**
**LIHEAP can help.**

The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) helps eligible low-income households with home heating costs.

- Heating assistance
- Weatherization services (insulation, weather stripping, etc.)
- Furnace and chimney cleaning
- Furnace repair and replacement
- Emergency assistance

Applications are accepted from October 1 through May 31 for each heating season.

For help filling out and submitting the LIHEAP application, call 1-800-823-2417 ext: 158.

**Cooler weather is on the way and the heating season is upon us.**

**Is your electric meter breaker on?**
Members, if your home or business has a sub-meter for an off-peak or all-electric heat rate, please make sure your heat meter breaker is turned on inside your electric panel. If the breaker is off, your electric heat credit will not be reflected on your bill. Thank you.

**Off-peak rates run Oct. 1 through April 30**
Off-peak electric heat utilizes the concept of a dual-energy heating system, which simply uses two sources of fuel rather than one. With off-peak electric heat, electricity is the primary heat source. Using a control system, Capital Electric can switch from one heating source to another automatically. This maximizes efficiency and allows your co-op to offer you lower heating rates!

For more information on off-peak electric heat and Capital Electric’s heating program and incentives, visit www.capitalelec.com and click on Energy Efficiency and Load Management Programs.

**LEAVING FOR THE WINTER?**
Please contact our billing department at 701-223-1513 to let us know you are going to be gone. Without notification, we may estimate your meter reading, which could result in being over billed for several months. Thank you!
Save energy this Thanksgiving!

Thanksgiving is a great time of year to bring friends and families together. It also means spending time in the kitchen to prepare the traditional Thanksgiving feast.

According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, cooking accounts for 2 percent of U.S. residential electricity consumption. If you add the energy associated with refrigeration, freezers, water heating and dishwashers, the kitchen accounts for about 23 percent of a home’s energy consumption.

There are ways to keep the kitchen from gobbling up more energy during the holidays.

Here are some tips from your local electric cooperative to help keep your energy costs down:

### Cooking tips

- Keep the oven door closed. While you may want to check on the progress of a dish you’ve got cooking in your oven, use the light instead. Every time the oven door is opened, the temperature inside is reduced by as much as 25 degrees, delaying the progress of your dish and, more importantly, costing you more money to get that pot roast perfectly cooked.
- Don’t preheat for more than five to eight minutes.
- Clean your burners. If you have an electric range, one great way to keep your stovetop cooking efficiently is to keep the reflectors under your burners grime-free. They can be a pain to clean, but regular maintenance can go a long way. You can also invest in some better reflectors that can decrease your stovetop cooking times, which will save you energy (and money) over time.
- Cook as much of the meal as possible at the same time to decrease the use of your oven.
- Make contact. Electric stovetops can only transmit heat to pans they are in direct contact with. If cooking with your warped pan is taking longer than it should, it may be time for a flat-bottomed update.

### Refrigerator, freezer tips

- Don’t keep your refrigerator or freezer too cold. Recommended temperatures are 35-38 degrees for the fresh food compartment and 0 degrees for separate freezers for long-term storage.
- Make sure your refrigerator door seals are airtight.
- Cover liquids and wrap foods stored in the refrigerator. Uncovered foods release moisture and make the compressor work harder.
- Regularly defrost manual-defrost freezers and refrigerators; frost buildup decreases the energy efficiency of the unit. Don’t allow frost to build up more than one-quarter of an inch.
- Ensure appliances are properly maintained and operating.
- Clean refrigerator coils periodically.

### Dishwasher tips

- Check the manual that came with your dishwasher for the manufacturer’s recommendations on water temperature; many have internal heating elements that allow you to set the water heater in your home to a lower temperature (120 degrees).
- Be sure your dishwasher is full (not overloaded) when you run it.
- Avoid using the “rinse hold” on your dishwasher for just a few soiled dishes. It uses three to seven gallons of hot water each use.
- Let your dishes air dry; if you don’t have an automatic air-dry switch, turn off the control knob after the final rinse and prop the door open slightly so the dishes will dry faster.
The Board of Directors of Capital Electric Cooperative, Inc., held a regular meeting on Friday, Sept. 28, 2018, at the co-op’s headquarters building in Bismarck, pursuant to due notice to all directors. All directors were present at that time, except Sheri Haugen-Hoffart and Bill Patrie. Patrie arrived at 10:50 a.m. Also present were General Manager Paul Fitterer, Business Manager Luke Steen, Director of Communications Wes Engbrecht, Manager of Engineering Ron Lipp, Energy Services Supervisor Josh Schaffner and Attorney Carol K. Larson of Pringle & Herigstad, P.C., who acted as recording secretary.

Financial Review: Prior to the board meeting, Directors Arlene Olson and Dwight Wrangham reviewed the August 2018 check register and expenditures. Olson reported that all checks were in order. It was moved, seconded and carried to approve August expenditures in the amount of $4,331,496.50.

Batis and CEC met with the City regarding the co-op’s vacant lot. It was moved, seconded and carried to execute the Amendment to the Purchase Agreement and approve the extension.

Management Reports (Business Department, Operations and Engineering, Member Services, and Public Relations/Communications):

Business Department Report: The business manager presented the financial and statistical report to the Board. The total kWh sales for August was over budget by 14.09 percent. The actual monthly electric revenue is ahead of budget by 10.42 percent.

CEC’s load factor was lower than expected, leading to an additional power cost of $42,680. The total operating margin for August was -$278,058, versus the budgeted amount of -$180,076. The total margin for August was -$216,222 compared to the budgeted amount of -$88,394, under budget by $127,828. The total margin for August was -$278,058, versus the budgeted margin for August.

Year-to-date sales are over budget by 7.2 percent; revenue is above budget by 4.8 percent, and total margin is above budget by $410,058.

CEC began billing 47 new services in August, bringing active services to 20,489 versus 20,056 at this time last year, or a net increase of 433 over the last 12 months.

The business manager reviewed the comparison of actual to budgeted expenses, cash flow statement, and monthly power cost for the month of August 2018. Accounts receivable balances as of Sept. 27, 2018, were also reviewed.

Software Implementation. CEC implemented NISC App Suite Timesheets for outside employees. This allows employees to enter their labor/fleet expenses in real time on their iPads.

Final RUS AK8 Loan Advance. CEC drew the final $3.3 million on Sept. 11, 2018 from its AK8 loan.

Estate Retirements: Following review of the financial condition of the cooperative and recommendation by management, it was moved, seconded and carried to authorize payment of capital credits to the following deceased members’ estates:

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>John W Irvine</td>
<td>$2,136.98</td>
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<tr>
<td>Anthony A Fleck</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kevin Warner</td>
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<td>Duane &amp; Doris Liffrig</td>
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<td>Harold “Skip” Freheim</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kenneth L Sisco</td>
<td>$1,096.41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delores H Becker</td>
<td>$520.29</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Adeline Schwalbe $48.64 $7,894.92

Engineering and Operations Report: Lipp reviewed the written report from the engineering and operations department. CEC completed 39 work orders this month, adding 42 new consumers to the system.

CEC crews are trimming trees, doing line maintenance and repairing outages.

VIP continues to rebuild old single phase overhead line.

Fisher Contracting and Geiser Utility Contracting are trenching and boring in new services and replacing old underground cable.

In September, the co-op had 25 total outages, three were dig-ins and four were primary faults.

Line crews have begun to construct temporary overhead lines for the CPEC overhead ground wire project.

Following review, it was moved, seconded and carried to approve the 2019 Update of the 2017 Load Forecast.

Energy Services Department: Schaffner reviewed the Energy Services Report.

Twenty-one service orders were completed in August.

Cass County EV Tailgate Party was held in Fargo on Sept. 13. Approximately 100 people attended the event and nearly 15 EV/Hybrid vehicles were on site.

The Chevy Bolt made the trip to Fargo without stopping to charge.

CEC employees met with the NDDOT for ideas and input on the direction of the in-state EV charging network.

Two of the solar well sites have been processed and are receiving monthly bills.

CEC is working with landscaping companies to design a water feature/fountain for under the new headquarters sign that can be operated with solar well pump systems.

ERC Loans: There are no ERC loan applications for approval this month.

Communications, Public Relations and IT Department: Engbrecht reviewed topics of interest.

A sample member satisfaction survey questionnaire was reviewed.

Operation Round Up: The CEC Charitable Trust Board reviewed 20 applications and approved 13 grants totaling $23,000.

Annual Meeting Options – 2019: Staff is investigating options for the venue and date for the 2019 annual meeting.

Youth Tour Essay Contest: The co-op is looking for sophomores and juniors to write essays to enter for the trip to Washington, D.C. The deadline for essays will be the end of January.

Safety Report: There were no lost time accidents in August.

Jeff Tweten, Safety Instructor from the North Dakota Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives, visited CEC’s shop on Sept. 4, 2018 for a field visit. Without objection, the safety report was approved.

Preliminary Budget: Steen reviewed the preliminary 2019 budget.

Foundation: Fitterer reported on Board of Directors:

Dwight Wrangham, Pres. Bismarck
Arlene Olson, V. Pres. Wing
Sheri Haugen-Hoffart, Sec.-Treas. Bismarck
Richard Koski, Asst. Sec.-Treas. Wing
Kyle Hilken Wilton
Rex Hollenbeck McClusky
William Patrie Bismarck
Deon Vilhauer Bismarck
Dave Charles Bismarck
Paul Fitterer, Mgr. Bismarck

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DAY—NIGHT—WEEKEND TROUBLE CALL: 223-1513

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