Papa’s Pumpkin Patch, a Capital Electric Cooperative member, will welcome more than 60,000 visitors and sell about 40,000 pumpkins and other squash in 2018.
Celebrate the season at Papa’s Pumpkin Patch

BY KRISTA RAUSCH

Papa’s Pumpkin Patch by the Numbers

- More than 60,000 visitors
- 80,000 activity tickets
- 50,000 pumpkin cookies
- 40,000 pumpkins and other squash
- 1,000 bales of hay
- 600 ears of corn
- And one big red chair!

It’s one of the Travel Channel’s Top 10 U.S. Pumpkin Patches, and it grows in size and popularity year after year. Nestled in Bismarck’s backyard, Papa’s Pumpkin Patch is a one-of-a-kind celebration of – you guessed it – pumpkins.

Celebrating it’s 36th year, Papa’s Pumpkin Patch started as a happy accident.

“In 1983, a friend of my dad asked if I would raise pumpkins for him. He planned to give them away in the Oktoberfest parade. So, I raised five acres of pumpkins,” says Dave Pearce, who co-founded Papa’s Pumpkin Patch with his mother Suzie. “That was the year they changed Oktoberfest to Folkfest and moved it 30 days earlier. So, I had five acres of green as grass pumpkins when he wanted to give them away.”

When the pumpkins were ready, Pearce asked teachers to bring their students out to choose a pumpkin, and Papa’s Pumpkin Patch was born. The next year, he raised five rows instead of five acres.

“That year, we hauled them in from the field and put them in the yard because it rained. And, it looked so pretty,” says Pearce. “It started out as being pumpkins. Then, came photo opps. And then, play places.”

Decades later, Papa’s Pumpkin Patch is still all about pumpkins. This year, the patch will go through about 40,000 pumpkins and other squash – that’s about half a million pounds!

“Every pumpkin becomes the perfect pumpkin for one child. Sometimes the smallest child wants the biggest pumpkin, so they get the biggest. Sometimes they want the smallest and they get the smallest.”

Papa’s Pumpkin Patch has activities for kids of all ages.
pumpkin, and the biggest child just wants one he or she can carry,” says Pearce with a smile.

In addition to pumpkins, Papa’s Pumpkin Patch offers everything from a pumpkin cannon to pony rides to ziplines. And this year, the pumpkin patch has a fresh crop of activities. Kids of all ages can play on the new Capital Adventure Park, built by lineworkers from Capital Electric Cooperative. There’s a new mini-golf course and a human foosball game. The zip line has a new design. And, those who visit on Thursday evenings and Sunday afternoons will be greeted by live music on a new stage. With so many things to do, it’s hard to pick a favorite.

“I like] seeing all the cool, different designs on the pumpkins and the tractors and the rides – mostly the zipline. They got a new little play area, and I’m gonna want to check that out,” says Elliot Hertz-Barnett, 7, Bismarck.

Seven-year-old Tommy Carlson, Bismarck, comes to Papa’s Pumpkin Patch every year. Last fall, he celebrated his birthday at the patch. “I like the cool abandoned tractors. I like getting pumpkins and carving them. I like the cool rides and trails and play things.”

And, let’s not forget the pumpkin cookies. “They’re delicious,” says Hertz-Barnett.

It’s clear to see that Papa’s Pumpkin Patch is a fall favorite for many. On an average weekend, the patch welcomes 10,000 visitors of all ages, and most of them leave with a smile. For Pearce, it’s the ultimate reward.

“We all love that warm, fuzzy moment when joy happens,” says Pearce. “It’s when you see the perfect photo or a child with a smile as big as life running with a pumpkin and screaming with glee. That’s why this place works. It’s fun to be a part of.”

If you want to join in on the fun, carve out some time this fall and visit the spot the Travel Channel calls, “the place to be.” In case you haven’t heard – here’s the scoop – Papa’s Pumpkin Patch is the cream of the crop.

Papa’s Pumpkin Patch’s 2018 season runs from Sept. 9 to Oct. 20. The patch is open from 12 p.m. to 7 p.m. daily. For more information, visit papaspumpkinpatch.com

On average, Papa’s Pumpkin Patch sells 40,000 pumpkins each year.
Did you know October is National Co-op Month? Co-ops are different types of businesses because they are not-for-profit and are owned by the members they serve — including you!

Use the word bank to find the words associated with co-ops in the puzzle below.
JUNE 15-21, 2019
WRITE A WINNING ESSAY AND
WIN A TRIP OF A LIFETIME!

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

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?

TOP 3 REASONS TO ENTER THE ESSAY-WRITING CONTEST

1. All-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., compliments of Capital Electric Cooperative.
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3. A learning experience you’ll never forget.

CHECK OUT THE ESSAY-CONTEST GUIDELINES AT www.ndyouhtour.com

www.capitalelec.com
Capital Credit Claims
Notice of Redemption by Capital Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Listed below are names of former Capital Electric Cooperative, Inc. (CEC) members who had capital credit checks mailed to them in June of the year 2012. These checks have been returned to CEC by the postal service because they could not locate the members at the address on file. A further search by CEC personnel has not turned up their whereabouts.

If you received electrical service from CEC any time during the year 1996 and your name is on this list, please contact our office. If you know of the whereabouts of members on this list who received electrical service from CEC any time during the year 1996, please have them contact our office at (701) 223-1513.

We will redeem capital credits for those members on the following list who notify us prior to Dec. 1, 2018. Notice is hereby given that any of the aforementioned unclaimed capital credits outstanding after Dec. 1, 2018 will be forfeited pursuant to Section 10-15-34.1 and 10-15-23 of the North Dakota Century Code.

4th and Final Notice – October 2018
Financial Review:
Prior to the board meeting, Directors Sheri Haugen-Hoffart and Bill Patrie reviewed the July 2018 check register and expenditures. Patrie reported that all checks were in order. It was moved, seconded and carried to approve July expenditures in the amount of $3,928,718.28.

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. Total kilowatt hour sales for July was under budget by 2.25 percent. The actual monthly electric revenue is below budget by 1.5 percent.

Operations and Engineering, Member Services, Operations Report: The 2019 department workplan and budget are approved.

RUS Loans: CEC received confirmation that the ALB loan creation process is complete. 2018 NDAREC Office Manager and Accountant Conference. The conference, held in Bismarck, offered training regarding administration of contracts among other departments.

Statewide Report: Director Deon Vilhauer reported on statewide matters.

CFC: It was moved, seconded and carried to cast the vote for Elizabeth Huggins for CFC at-large delegate, and Director Arlene Olson was selected as alternate to the annual meeting.

Adjournment: There being no further business to come before the meeting, without objection, the regular meeting was adjourned.