To commemorate North Dakota Rural Electric Cooperative Association’s 75th anniversary, Capital Electric arranged for three trees to be planted at Summerfield Pet Memorial Park. Pictured are cemetery superintendent, Curt Ableidinger, Bob Eastgate of Eastgate/Parkway Funeral and Cremation Service, and CEC communications and public relations director, Wes Engbrecht.
North Dakota Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives (NDAREC) turned 75 years old in July. NDAREC and its member cooperatives from around the state are purchasing and planting trees as a symbol of cooperative commitment and accomplishment. The plantings coincide with the theme chosen for this 75th anniversary observance: “Grounded through the Roots of Cooperation.”

Capital Electric joined in the anniversary celebration by planting three trees for one of its members, Summerfield Pet Memorial Park. Summerfield Pet Memorial Park is a newly developed section of Fairview Cemetery in east Bismarck that will provide a final resting place for family pets. The idea for the memorial park came from Bob Eastgate, who now provides management of the cemetery through Eastgate/Parkway Funeral & Cremation Service.

Eastgate explained the reasoning behind the park, “We were asked to take over the management of Fairview Cemetery and based on our request and the generosity of Fairview, we were able to add a pet memorial park to the property. I feel it’s a need we have in the community as pet owners want the opportunity to have their pets buried somewhere they can visit and appreciate. Pets are a significant part of many lives and they deserve respect when they leave us.”

The trees were purchased from and planted by another Capital Electric member in north Bismarck, Plant Perfect. The trees chosen were two hackberry trees and one cathedral elm tree. According to Plant Perfect garden center manager Kevin Hollatz, “These trees are hardy, fast-growing and will last for many years. They should be a great addition to the park.” Jeremy Armstrong of Plant Perfect helped Kevin make short order of the planting.

Capital Electric also provided two security lights for the park as underground line was trenched in from an electrical service in the nearby cemetery. Communications director, Wes Engbrecht, saw the project as a win for everyone involved, “Capital Electric is proud to provide the trees and lights to this very worthy project, and we were happy to bring two co-op members together in the process. Both members, Eastgate and Plant Perfect, are experts in their fields and we are pleased to have them as members.”

At Capital Electric we put our members first. For many members, pets are an important part of their family. It’s our hope that these trees comfort our members when visiting the memorial park.
Keeping the lights on is not an easy job, but every day, electric cooperative lineworkers put on their hard hats to do just that. Lineworkers build, maintain and repair the electric distribution system, often working on high-voltage lines that are surging with electrical current. The ability to safely complete these tasks requires thorough training and the right equipment.

Hosted by the North Dakota Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives (NDAREC), Hotline School teaches lineworkers how to safely work on energized lines through hands-on instruction and demonstrations from experienced lineworkers.

“Hotline School provides a controlled environment for apprentice lineman and journeyman lineman to simulate working on energized lines and equipment,” says Christina Roemmich, NDAREC safety services director. “Under the guidance of skilled mentors, lineworkers apply what they learn in the classroom at six work stations. Each station requires them to identify and mitigate hazards, discuss safe work practices and identify the tools and personal protective equipment necessary to complete each task safely.”

Safety is a priority at Capital Electric. That’s why the co-op requires its lineworkers to attend the annual training.

“Hands down, our number one priority is to minimize the amount of hot work our crews do, but there are times when it’s the only option. This training is invaluable for our lineworkers in that it re-emphasizes the importance of taking proper precautions before beginning the hot work and the procedures necessary to stay safe while doing it,” says General Manager Paul Fitterer, Capital Electric.

Twelve lineworkers from Capital Electric attended Hotline School this year. “Hot work isn’t something we do every day, so it’s important to practice,” says lead lineman Matt Hagen. “It doesn’t matter if you’re old or young, there is always something to learn. At Hotline School, we network with other lineman and learn about new technologies and equipment. It’s a great way to sharpen our skills.”

This year, NDAREC welcomed 80 lineworkers and apprentice lineworkers to Hotline School. The annual field training is held at the Bismarck State College lineworker program facility in Mandan. 

**Hotline School**

**BY KRISTA RAUSCH**

**Lead lineman Matt Hagen practices working with lines that would be energized under normal circumstances.**

**Lineman Lance Diebold installs a section of insulated rubber line hose to change out a three-phase pole.**
Youth Tour continues to impress

Youth Tour winner Alison Krein returned from the Washington, D.C., trip the same as many before her, with great memories and a more refined knowledge of how our government works. It was a whirlwind of a tour, all packed into one week in June when hundreds of high school students from around the country came together and experienced our nation's capital.

Alison recollected many memorable experiences from the trip. Here are some of those experiences recounted in her own words.

We toured Capitol Hill and the Library of Congress. It was really cool to see the old documents. That day included a lot of walking, but it was nice because the hard work from the exercise paid off when we got to the dance with the Youth Tour participants from the other states.

We went to Mount Vernon and got to see how beautiful George Washington’s farm was. We then made a pit stop at Ben’s Chili Bowl for some delicious grub, and then concluded that day with a tour of the Air Force, Pentagon, Jefferson, Roosevelt and Martin Luther King memorials. It was on this day that it hit me that I was really in D.C. and that tomorrow would be the day that I would have to leave it all behind.

I can say that the trip to D.C. opened my eyes to how, if you step out of your comfort zone, you can make friends that you will have forever. In fact a couple of days ago I was working and I was looking down and heard a familiar voice. When I looked up it was one of the good friends I made on the trip! It was so cool to have the connections I did with the people I met. They will never fade because of all the cool experiences we shared together. I think the coolest thing is that as the electric cooperatives that sponsor this trip connect power to people everywhere this trip connected so many of us with unbreakable bonds of friendship. This trip was like power being supplied to all of us, only in the form of friendship and bonding and I can’t thank Capital Electric enough for sponsoring me.

As you can see, Alison represented Capital Electric with great enthusiasm on the youth tour and had a life-changing experience in Washington, D.C. We thank her for taking the time to write the essay and share her thoughts on the trip. Look for information on next year’s Youth Tour in next month’s local pages.
Lincoln’s 40th celebrated by residents

There are many ways to show appreciation for our cooperative members. Participating in the recent 40th celebration for the city of Lincoln was an enjoyable one. Capital Electric Cooperative (CEC) General Manager Paul Fitterer and Communications and Public Relations Director Wes Engbrecht decided the Lincoln celebration parade was a great way to say thank you to all of the co-op members living in and around Lincoln.

The parade route was more than a mile and a half, so a good sized area of Lincoln was covered. Attendance was very strong, with a large number of kids patiently waiting for candy to be handed out along the route. Parents were treated to a brochure that highlighted CEC’s Peak Time Rebate program that will be launched on Oct. 1. They were interested to hear about the possibility of earning money back just by shaving some electricity during peak times.

“We serve the entire city and surrounding area, so today we are thanking everyone for being a co-op member,” explained Fitterer. “This is just a great way to see so many of our members in one place, share some candy and co-op information with them, and show our appreciation.”

Engbrecht summarized the day, “The weather was perfect and the people were gracious and friendly. We ran out of candy before we ran out of Peak Time Rebate brochures, but we didn’t run out of co-op members to meet and smile to exchange. It was a fantastic day!”

Congratulations to the residents of Lincoln on the development of such a thriving community over the past 40 years. Best wishes on the next 40 and more! 

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Capital Electric reaches 20,000 meter milestone

Capital Electric Cooperative (CEC) recently met with its membership at its 71st annual meeting in Bismarck. Seventy-one years is a long time for a business to be operating, and the cooperative is blessed to have a dedicated membership and continued growth, especially in recent years. This growth helped the cooperative reach a significant milestone with 20,000 active meters now being served on the system.

“This is a significant accomplishment for Capital Electric, which was formed in 1945 by local farmers and ranchers who wanted access to electricity. Their $5 contributions have truly paid off!” says CEC General Manager Paul Fitterer. “There is a lot of credit to pass around, starting with the original founding members, those who have served on our board of directors and advisory groups, the employees who work tirelessly to keep the power on and the bills accurate, and of course our 20,000 members.”

CEC’s member-owners will benefit from this growth. More meters means more contributions to fixed costs, which will help minimize future increases in electric rates. System reliability is also improving as new substations, major tie lines and looped feeds are minimizing power interruptions for members. Continued growth also provides margins to continue paying capital credits to our members.

“As a not-for-profit electric cooperative, we are owned by our members—the individuals and businesses that purchase electricity from CEC,” says Fitterer. “Every year, we allocate our net margins back to those members and over time return those margins, commonly referred to as capital credits, back to those members. In the last 10 years alone, we have paid back nearly $10,500,000 in capital credits.”

So we would like to thank you, our member-owners for helping us to achieve this milestone. We look forward to continued growth as we serve you into the years to come.
Peak Time Rebate sign up continues

It’s not too late to sign up for the Peak Time Rebate program that Capital Electric will launch for its residential members on Oct. 1. As you have read in the past few issues of our magazine, the program will pay you back for conserving electricity during recognized peak events. There is no cost to sign up, and Capital Electric will provide rebates to those who participate in the “called events.”

If you are considering signing up for the program and still want more information, here are some frequently asked questions (FAQ’s) that will explain how the program works in more detail. As always you can call our office at 701-223-1513 and ask for Josh or Jared in Energy Services to ask your questions.

What is a “peak event”? A peak event is a block of time, usually a few hours, when we expect the electric load to be at a very high level. For example, a very hot day in the summer or a very cold day in the winter would most likely result in a “peak event.”

When will peak events be called? A peak event can be called during any month of the year. Some months may have no events called and others may have more than one. It all depends on the expected level of electricity usage.

Why does electricity cost more during “peak times?” Capital Electric must be able to meet our electric demand, no matter how high it gets. The generation of electricity at the higher demand levels is more expensive because additional facilities are needed to generate more electricity. A good portion of our wholesale power bill is based on the demand of our entire system. When we have high system peaks our bill is affected on a much more significant basis.

How do members participate in the program? Participating members will be eligible for a rebate based on how much they reduce electric use during peak events. We will notify you of peak events the day before the event is called and then again a few hours before it is in effect. You will be contacted via email or text.

How can I earn the highest rebate possible? Simply by reducing the power you use during the peak event, you will earn a rebate. This may mean using an electrical appliance such as a clothes dryer outside of that time period or setting your thermostat a couple of degrees higher than usual. Any reduction in usage will help generate a higher rebate amount.

LET’S GET STARTED

HOW DO I ENROLL?
There are 3 ways to enroll:

1. Go to www.capitalelec.com, select My Account (located at the bottom of the screen) and login to SmartHub when prompted. If you have not already signed up for SmartHub, click on the New User link on the SmartHub login page and follow the prompts.
   In SmartHub, click on Notifications, then Manage Contacts to enter the desired phone number or email (more than one can be entered). If available, text messaging is the preferred notification method.
   To complete the PTR sign-up, click Notifications, then Manage Notifications, then Reports. Then select Peak Time Rebate and choose the contact methods for these alerts.
   Note: Restrictions apply to current off-peak and electric heat customers during the heating season. Program does not apply to commercial members.

2. Visit www.capitalelec.com and click on Our Services and Peak Time Rebate Program, then click the enrollment survey link.

3. Fill in your information below, detach, and mail it to us at 4111 State Street, Bismarck, ND 58503
   Name: ____________________________________________
   Service address: ___________________________________
   Mobile phone number: ______________________________
   and/or Email address: ______________________________

You could win a $50 gift card by signing up for PTR today!

We will be drawing two winners from those members who sign up for the Peak Time Rebate program. If you have already signed up you will also be eligible to win. Be sure to sign up soon!
Capital credit claims

Listed below are names of former Capital Electric Cooperative Inc. members who had capital credit checks mailed to them in June of the year 2011. These checks have been returned to Capital Electric Cooperative by the postal service because they could not locate the members at the address on file. A further search by Capital Electric personnel has not turned up their whereabouts.

If you received electrical service from Capital Electric Cooperative, Inc. any time during the year 1995 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 Capital Electric Cooperative Inc. any time during the year 1995, please have them contact our office at 701-223-1513.

Please keep in mind that not all of the capital credit amounts are large. However, we desire to get the money due to those who earned it, and clear up our records.

We will redeem capital credits for those members on the following list who notify us prior to Dec. 1, 2017. Notice is hereby given that any of the aforementioned unclaimed capital credits outstanding after Dec. 1, 2017, will be forfeited pursuant to Section 10-15-34.1 and 10-15-23 of the North Dakota Century Code.

3rd notice – September 2017

Agrilance
Albert, Dorothy
Albin, Terry R.
Anderson, Mark
Anfinson, Mike
Anfinson, Shyla
Bachmeier, Melissa
Baker, Mark A.
Baker, Susan M.
Barnes, Jon D.
Bauer, Dan
Bauer, Jay B.
Baumann, Terence T.
Beasley, Pam
Beasley, Scott
Becker, Ted
Beheiler, William
Belgarde, Brandie
Benham, Esther R.
Binstock, Dawn
Bismarck MSA Ltd Partnership
Boss, Patrice
Brackett, Brenda
Carter, Kay
Century Associates
Cermak, Darcy
Cermak, Troy
Coffey, Lillian A.
Cooper, Kimberly J.
Dakota Trust
Dakota Wood Truss Inc
Davis, Earl
Davis, Paul C.
Deboer, Bart
Deboer, Sherry
Demery, Melissa
Dillow, Joan L.
Ding, Blane
Dixon, Allan
Dixon, Cherri
Dremann, Thomas R.
Ehli, Candace
Faber, Tina
Farnsworth, Leita E.
Farnsworth, Scott M.
Feist, Rebecca
Felker, Rachel
Feltch, William
Fischer, Stacey J.
Frank, Victoria
Frick, Scott
Freis, Richard
Fritz, Tom
Garage Doors Llc
Garceau, Lavon
Garden, Designs
Geary, Theresa
Gebhardt, Blanche
Geschlchten-Osborn, Michelle
Gillingham, Peggy
Gondronas, Nick
Gorham, James
Gr Graphics
Grad, Glen
Gregoryk, Jon
Guthmiller, Terry
Hanson, Daryl N.
Hanson, Lana
Hanson, Michael
Hardy, Linda
Hargiss, Sharon K.
Hart, Shari L.
Hartwig, Robert B.
Heit, Michelle
Helgesen, Jennifer
Hellman, Anita M.
Hellenstein, Teresa
Heupel, Jim
Hillestad, Lori E.
Hinnersgard, Tamara M.
Holter, Jend
Holter, Joe
Housley, James F.
Housley, Shandra R.
Hurlcy, Lisa
Hurlcy, Patrick
Irmen, Mindy
Irmen, Scott
Jansen-Rossow, Kristi
Jensen, Debra
Jensen, Michael
Jewett, Gowendolyn
Johnson, Carol L.
Jones, Marty
Julsen, Del
Julsen, Helen
Juntz, Joel
Jung, Anita
Keepsangle, Wade
Keller, Jeff
Keller, Nancy Carol.
Koplun, Sharon
Kittle, Daniel K.
Kittle, Vonda L.
Klein, Delmer A.
Klein, Julie
Klein, Lori J.
Kolb, Alan
Kolb, Roberta
Kram, Leslie
Kremmer, Eric
Lafond, David
Lafond, Jennifer
Lammert, Tracy L.
Landgrebe, Jim
Lang, Bradley
Lanquist, Randy
Los International
Lowe, Robert C.
Lewis, Melanie
Liebig, David
Link, James M.
Logan Hill Gmac
Lynch, Kathy T.
Maas, Gilbert
Maier, Florence
Martin, Gary C.
Massine, Candace
Maxson, Angela J.
Maxson, John M.
Maychrzak, Clifford
Mcclymont, Mary Rebecca.
Mcclymont, Troy
MCF
Telecommunications Corp
McIvor, Audrey
McIvor, Shawn
Mckelvey, Roger
Mckenzie, Gerard
Mckenzie, Susan
Meduna, Kathy
Meidiratta, Atom I.
Meidiratta, Terrie L.
Mertz, Brenda
Mertz, Mary A.
Meske, Gerald H.
Netter's
Appliance Warehouse
Midwest Mech Exh Co Inc
Muller, Stanton
Monty, David
Monty, Michelle
Morris, Cherie A.
Morris, Daniel W.
Morris, Donna
Morris, William R.
Mueller, Jeffrey L.
Nelson, Debra
Nelson, Denise M.
Nelson, Rodney A.
Nelson, Brandie
Olheiser, Bryan
Olheiser, Cheryl
Olson, Tim
Patterson, Everett
Peiler, Alan H.
Perrins, Leticia
Perry, Craig
Perry, Jackie
Pulklich, Steve
Quenette, Dylan
Rask, Ryan
Rask, Shannon R.
Rasmussen, Tami
Rausing, Clare
Rausing, Harold S.
Red Fox, Esther
Reich, Richard A.
Reinswig, Sandi
Renachler, Raymond
Richardson, John W.
Richter, Michelle R.
Ridl, Denise
Ridl, Ervin L.
Rivard, Darcie A.
Rivard, Perry L.
Robertson, Gayle
Robinson, Dean
Roesler, Eleanor
Rolling Hills Arena
Rosemore, Linda
Sacco, Carmen
Sackman, David K.
Sackman, Patricia
Samuelson, Melissa
Sanders, Patrick A.
Sandwick, Eugene N.
Sandwick, Joanne E.
Saunders, Richard
Schafer-Hanson, Randi
Schafer, Shannon
Schantz, Tina
Schlabot, Greg
Schmidt, Bonnie
Schmidt, Dor M.
Schmidt, Kathy
Schneider, Chuck
Schneider, Lori
Schnoor, Robert Lee.
Schnoor, Ronda Joy.
Schrode, Trina J.
Schumacher, Jennifer L.
Sharp, Michael T.
Sheldon, C. Gary.
Sheldon, Joan
Simonson, Kristie
Skoherew, Nancy
Smith, Sherrri
Snyder, Dan
Sova, Barry
Sova, Elizabeth
Stadel, Edwin
Stadel, Ilia F.
Stanislawski, Edwin
Stein, Rick
Strand, Carla M.
Strang, Bobbette
Strang, Michael
Sutton, Renee
Svistun, Gabriela
Swanson, Daniel
Tangen, Randy D.
Thermo-Cool Products Inc
Thompson, Betty C.
Thompson, Ron
Throeden, Julie
Tiff, Charles M.
Tiff, Martha L.
Timothy, Lee S.
Tomkins, L A.
Tulby, John P.
Vandenburg, Keith A.
Vogel, Craig A.
Volk, Dean
Volk, Tom
Wagner, Tonya
Wahner, Valerie
Ward, Jessie
Weber, Lori
Weber, Steve
Weight, Lisa K.
White, Rita M.
Wiers, Joy
Wilson, Edith
Schobtger, Trina J.
Schumacher, Jennifer L.
Sharp, Michael T.
Sheldon, C. Gary.
Sheldon, Joan
Simonson, Kristie
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Sova, Barry
www.capitalelec.com
Board minute excerpts  
July 21, 2017

The regular meeting of the board of directors of Capital Electric Cooperative Inc. (CEC) was held Friday, July 21, 2017, at the Wing Theatre in Wing, pursuant to due notice to all directors.

All of the directors were present at that time except Vilhauer and Haugen-Hoffart:

Financial review: Prior to the board meeting, Directors Patrie and Olson reviewed the June check register and expenditures. They reported that all checks were in order. It was moved, seconded and carried to approve June expenditures in the amount of $3,459,504.11.

Business department report: The business manager presented the financial and statistical report to the board. The total kilowatt-hour sales for June were over budget by 0.14 percent. The actual monthly electric revenue is above budget by 0.9 percent.

CEC began billing 36 new services in June, bringing our active services to 19,975 versus 19,497 at this time last year, or a net increase of 478 over the last 12 months.

The business manager reviewed the comparison of actual-to-budgeted expenses, cash flow statement, and monthly power cost for June. Accounts receivable balances as of July 20 were also reviewed.

Property tax update: The state will meet in August to calculate the in-lieu tax change. We anticipate we will not receive the level of relief we received in the past. It is expected that we will receive a 5-7 percent discount rather than the 12 percent.

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:

- Theodore Rybert $2,041.54
- Richard Rasmussen $650.72
- Joseph Kalberer $149.91
- Anton Gleich $1,420.19
- Richard Hammond $1,231.29
- Robert Evans $2,372.90
- Dennis Fibestad $177.48
- Leo Swenson $935.71
- Ray Benfer $42.52
- Sally Speidel $608.11
- Louise Heupel $917.96
- Anna Burgard $249.57
- Total $10,797.90

Quarterly write-offs: After discussion, it was moved, seconded and carried to approve write-offs for the second quarter.

National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) adoption agreement: Following review, it was moved, seconded and carried to approve the restatement of the NRECA plans as they have been.

Engineering and operations report: The manager reviewed the written report and outage report from the engineering and operations department. We completed 53 work orders this month, adding 51 new consumers to the system.

RAM Utilities finished testing poles on approximately 100 miles of overhead line. Our crews have been replacing yard lights with LED lights.

HDR engineering firm continues to work on our four-year work plan.

REAP grant planning: Fitterer outlined the opportunities for energy-efficiency projects and renewable energy grants. It was moved, seconded and carried to submit grant requests as proposed.

Energy services department: Schaffner reviewed the energy services report.

Ten service orders were completed in June and we continue to collect subscriptions for the peak time rebate (PTR) and load-control programs. We are planning to expand our Westinghouse water heater products to include the HTP heat pump water heater.

We have registered with Sun Pumps Inc. for a distributorship of its solar equipment.

ERC loans: There were no loans for board approval this month.

Communications, public relations and IT department: The manager reviewed topics of interest.

Following discussion, it was moved, seconded and carried to contribute to the rework of the electrical system at United Tribes and seek Basin Electric Power Cooperative and CoBank funds.

Following discussion, it was moved, seconded and carried to support the University of Mary engineering program.

CEC’s 2018 annual meeting shall be held on June 12.

IT department updates: The new security system has been installed. We are currently evaluating changes to the phone system. We are preparing the network for a firewall change in August or September.

Know your Co-op: The Know your Co-op session held on July 11 went very well with approximately 20 members attending.

Safety report: There were no lost-time accidents this month.

Without objection, the safety report was approved.

Policies: Following discussion policies were reviewed:

- Policy No. III-10 – Material Adjustments.
- Policy No. III-11 – Power Quality.
- Policy No. III-12 – Encountering Historical Artifacts in a Project Area.
- Rate Schedule IV-1 “SP” (Solar Pasture Well) – It was move, seconded and carried to approve the policy as revised.

Central Power Electric Cooperative (CPEC) and Basin: Troy Presser, CPEC and Basin delegate, presented the CPEC and Basin report. Regarding Basin, he outlined the various subsidiaries owned by Basin and their relationship to Basin’s operations.

NDAREC report: NDAREC matters were reviewed with the board.

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

CAPITAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE
4111 State St. N.
Bismarck, ND 58503
Website: www.capitalelec.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:
Dwight Wrangham, Pres. ........................................ Bismarck
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Sheri Haugen-Hoffart, Sec.-Treas. ...................... Bismarck
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Kyle Hiiken .......................................................... Wilton
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A ‘Touchstone Energy’ Cooperative