

**ANNUAL MEETING
SAVE THE DATE**

PAGE 3

**STAFF REPORT – POLE TESTING
AND PROJECT CONTRACTORS**

PAGE 6

**APPLE POPPY SEED LETTUCE
SALAD RECIPE**

PAGE 7



OPERATION ROUND UP® HELPS LOCAL PROGRAMS



NORTH STAR ELECTRIC COMMUNITY TRUST BOARD

(Left to right): Larry Warrington, Marjie Sporlein (*treasurer*), Gretchen Thompson (*vice president*), Marlin Ravndalen, Mary Ellen Lehman, Angela Boes (*president*) and Bruce Turban.

ARTICLE ON PAGE 2

NORTH STAR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. MISSION STATEMENT

Providing safe, reliable electric services to improve the quality of life in communities we serve.



OPERATION ROUND UP® HELPS LOCAL PROGRAMS

The North Star Electric Community Trust board met in July to review the Operation Round Up® applications, which it received requesting funding for various programs. The board awarded \$11,578.55, so it was not an easy task selecting which groups would get funding and what amount they would receive. Many local programs and organizations benefit from Operation Round Up, a voluntary, member-driven fundraising program of North Star Electric Cooperative, Inc., that is designed to provide financial assistance for worthwhile projects and charities in the area. Donations are given to organizations to help make the area a more pleasant and safe place to live. All funds for Operation Round Up are contributed by the member-owners of North Star, and the money is placed into a trust fund that is separate from electric accounts. The trust is administered by its own board of directors comprised of people from across the area.

Operation Round Up directors are appointed by North Star's board members and must be members of the cooperative. The cooperative's general manager is a nonvoting member of the board. To date, \$367,312 has been awarded to area programs and organizations.

Organizations from the area may apply for a donation from the Operation Round Up Trust (121-13-016-02, Rodney Battles). The applicant must be charitable in nature and be working to meet a need in our area. The Operation Round Up board meets twice a year and decides if an application meets the guidelines of the trust and if funds are available.

If a member chooses to be part of Operation Round Up, their bill is "rounded up" to the next highest dollar. For example, if a bill is \$96.47, the computer will round up the bill to \$97. The additional 53 cents will be placed in the trust and distributed to local charitable and community-based programs.

At the July North Star Electric Community Trust board meeting, \$11,578.55 in Operation Round Up funds was distributed to various qualifying programs and organizations in the area, including:

ORGANIZATION	PROGRAM	GRANT
Littlefork Big Falls School Second Grade	Becoming Authors	\$ 500.00
United Way of NE Minnesota	Imagination Library	\$ 250.00
Lake of the Woods Youth Hockey Squirt A	Tournament/organizational fees	\$ 250.00
Servants of Shelter of Koochiching	Pet Care and Boarding Program	\$ 250.00
Lake of the Woods Prevention Coalition	National Night Out	\$ 500.00
Oakley Cemetery Association	Gravel	\$ 600.00
City of Baudette	Timber Mill Park splash pad	\$ 500.00
Northern Options for Women	Pregnancy Resource Center/Earn While You Learn	\$ 500.00
Williams Senior Citizens Day Center	Senior Meal Program	\$ 800.00
Friends Against Abuse	Training SANE nurses	\$ 1,000.00
Lake of the Woods Food Shelf	Community food/care	\$ 1,000.00
Lake of the Woods Senior Citizens Council	Happy Birthday Brink Bop	\$ 500.00
Littlefork Community Theater	Play rights/scripts/props	\$ 500.00
Littlefork Fire Department	SCBA masks	\$ 1,928.55
Big Falls Food Shelf	Food and hygiene products	\$ 1,000.00
Falls Education Foundation	Scheela Field fencing upgrade	\$ 1,000.00
Warroad Historical Society	Newspaper digitalization	\$ 500.00


HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE BOARDROOM


These are the highlights from the June 4, 2025, regular board meeting. All current board members were in attendance. The board approved only routine actions at this meeting.

Staff reports included the safety report, the monthly financial report, the status of the new construction loan, CoBank Sharing Success grants, the bidding process for summer construction work plan projects, summer right-of-way spraying, conversion of overhead to underground lines using the boring machine, the new bucket trucks arriving this summer, outages, summer demand response system testing, ripple receiver testing, solar applications, off-peak installations, water heater sales, Dollars for Scholars scholarships, rebates, mapping system clean-up and corrections, metering training, Member Appreciation Days, manager meeting updates and building updates in both Baudette and Littlefork.


Detailed minutes are available at the cooperative for member review. Regular board meetings are generally held on the first Wednesday of every month (365-20-004-01, Steve A. Anderson). If you wish to speak with the board of directors or have an item that you would like to have placed on the agenda, please contact the cooperative at least two weeks in advance to be included on the agenda.

Did you know?





\$ FOR A WEEK OF ELECTRICITY = \$ FOR A NEW ZERO-GRAVITY LAWN CHAIR

**VALUE OF ELECTRICITY**

*comparison based on average household energy usage

ANNUAL MEETING SAVE THE DATE



Mark your calendars for North Star Electric’s annual meeting to be held on **FRIDAY, OCT. 3, 2025**, indoors at Lake of the Woods School. As an electric co-op member, you have the power to help shape our energy future.

UPCOMING DATES/EVENTS

**01
SEPT**

North Star’s Baudette and Littlefork offices will be closed on Monday, Sept. 1, in observance of the Labor Day holiday.

**03
SEPT**

North Star will hold its next monthly board meeting on Wednesday, Sept. 3. Please contact us ahead of time if you would like to be added to the agenda.

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

President
Steve Arnesen

Vice President
Michael Hanson

Secretary-Treasurer
Shelley Spears

Directors
Randy Bergan
Richard Ferguson
Douglas King
Tim Mathews

General Manager
Kevin Holen

DIGGING SOON?

One free, easy call gets your utility lines marked and helps protect you from injury and expense. Safe digging is no accident.

ALWAYS CALL BEFORE YOU DIG: 811 or 800-252-1166. VISIT WWW.CALL811.COM FOR MORE INFORMATION.



LOOKING FOR SOMETHING?

Past issues of the Enlightener are on our website at

www.northstarelectric.coop

NORTH STAR BOOTH AT LOCAL FAIRS

The LOW County Fair was held in Baudette on June 25-28, 2025

The Northern MN District Fair was held in Littlefork on July 10-13, 2025

PRIZE WINNERS

Baudette:

GRAND PRIZE (YETI cooler) -
Mary Boomgaarden

\$50 bill credit - **Shannon Lines**

\$50 bill credit - **Roger Cordray**

\$50 bill credit - **Mark Washburn**

\$50 bill credit - **Tori Spires**

Littlefork:

GRAND PRIZE (YETI cooler) -
Glenn Hendrickson

\$50 bill credit - **Holly Hoy**

\$50 bill credit - **Jacob Marty**

\$50 bill credit - **Bob Promersberger**



Mary Boomgaarden was the grand prize winner of a YETI cooler at the fair in Baudette.



Glenn Hendrickson was the grand prize winner of a YETI cooler at the fair in Littlefork.





PROBLEMS PAYING YOUR ELECTRIC BILL?

ENERGY ASSISTANCE MAY BE AVAILABLE!

If you recently lost your job or had your hours cut, the following agencies may be able to help you with your electric bill. You may have never needed help before, but maybe today you do.

LAKE OF THE WOODS COUNTY SOCIAL SERVICES

206 8th Ave SE, Suite 200
Baudette, MN 56623-2895
218-634-2642

NORTHWEST COMMUNITY ACTION COUNCIL

PO Box 67
Badger, MN 56714-0067
800-568-5329

KOOCHICHING COUNTY COMMUNITY SERVICES

1000 5th St
International Falls, MN 56649-2243
218-283-7000

KOOTASCA COMMUNITY ACTION, INC.

Grand Rapids, MN 55744-3984
Toll free 877-687-1163
Direct 218-999-0800
Fax 218-999-0220

ARROWHEAD ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY AGENCY

703 3rd Ave S
Virginia, MN 55792
800-662-5711

STAFF REPORT – POLE TESTING AND PROJECT CONTRACTORS



Tim Pelach
Operations Manager

Greetings, everyone. Well, here we are sliding into August already – the summer is passing quickly.

Our crews have had their work cut out for them this year with a lot of different projects around the area. Some storms mixed in have kept everyone busy. Three of North Star's lineworkers were called on to assist a neighboring co-op with restoration at the end of June after storms came through the Bemidji area. They were away for almost a week. It was quite a mess they had down there, and our digger truck alone set 86 poles while there.

Every year we test all the poles on one of our substations, and this year it will be the Wheeler substation. The inspection will be starting a little earlier than usual, so if you see crews in the Baudette, Pitt, or Morris Point area, that is what they are doing. Their equipment can be identified by a large EXO decal.

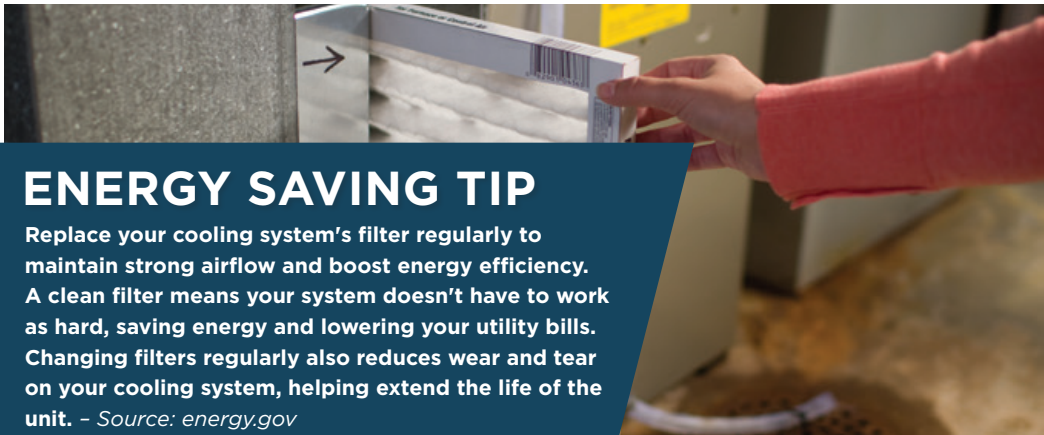
As our spray season moves along, we will be moving to the Littlefork area in August. Any affected members will get a letter from Wright Tree Service regarding the spraying of the right of way.

Our contractors for this year's work plan projects are lined up and should begin work in August (795-08-014-07, Jeff Ohman). One of them is along Highway 8 between County Road 17 and County Road 2 in Lake of the Woods County. The other is along Highway 53 around the Ash Lake area.

I would also like to remind everyone that we have a contractor that does our locating services, and they only locate the wires to the meter. After that, they are the members' wires to get located. Don't hesitate to give us a call if you have any questions about a locate at your place.

North Star is getting two new bucket trucks this summer. It has been three years since the orders, so we will be glad when they show up. As of now we are not certain what we will do with the old ones, so if anyone is or knows someone who is interested in finding out more about them, reach out to me for more details.

That's all for now, Tim



ENERGY SAVING TIP

Replace your cooling system's filter regularly to maintain strong airflow and boost energy efficiency. A clean filter means your system doesn't have to work as hard, saving energy and lowering your utility bills. Changing filters regularly also reduces wear and tear on your cooling system, helping extend the life of the unit. – Source: energy.gov

NORTH STAR ELECTRIC POLITICAL LEADERS

FEDERAL LEGISLATORS

President Donald Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, D.C. 20500
www.whitehouse.gov
202-456-1111

Senator Amy Klobuchar
425 Dirksen Senate Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
www.klobuchar.senate.gov
202-224-3244;
Fax: 202-228-2186

Senator Tina Smith
720 Hart Senate Office
Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
www.smith.senate.gov
202-224-5641

Congresswoman Michelle
Fischbach, U.S. House (7th
District)
1004 Longworth House Office
Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
fischbach.house.gov
202-225-2165;
Fax: 202-225-1593

Congressman Pete Stauber,
U.S. House (8th District)
145 Cannon House Office
Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
stauber.house.gov
202-225-6211

STATE OF MINNESOTA LEGISLATORS

Governor Tim Walz
130 State Capitol
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King,
Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155
651-201-3400

Minority Leader
Senator Mark Johnson (01, R)
2401 Minnesota Senate
Building
St. Paul, MN 55155
651-296-5782
sen.mark.johnson@senate.mn

Senator Steve Green (02, R)
2319 Minnesota Senate
Building
St. Paul, MN 55155
651-297-8063
sen.steve.green@senate.mn

Senator Grant Hauschild
(03, DFL)
3111 Minnesota Senate
Building
St. Paul, MN 55155
651-296-1789
sen.grant.hauschild@senate.
mn

Representative Bidal Duran, Jr.
(02A, R)
Centennial Office Building
(Second Floor)
St. Paul, MN 55155
651-296-4265
rep.bidal.duran@house.mn

Representative John Burkel
(01A, R)
Centennial Office Building
(Second Floor)
St. Paul, MN 55155
651-296-9635
rep.john.burkel@house.mn

Representative Roger Skraba
(03A, R)
221 State Office Building
St. Paul, MN 55155
651-296-2190

CURRENT ELECTRICAL INSPECTORS

State law requires that every new electrical installation in any construction, remodeling, replacement or repair shall file a certificate for inspection and be inspected by a Minnesota electrical inspector. For more information, go to the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industries website (dli.mn.gov) and go to the electrical page.

ST. LOUIS and KOOCHICHING COUNTIES

Brian Johnson
612.757.9458

Call to set up an appointment
7 a.m. - 8:30 a.m., Monday - Friday

LAKE OF THE WOODS and ROSEAU COUNTIES

Ronald Ditsch
651.368.2195

Call to set up an appointment
7 a.m. - 8:30 a.m., Monday - Friday

HOME COOKING

Apple Poppy Seed Lettuce Salad

A crunchy and delicious salad with layers of goodness in every bite. The dressing adds a sweet and tart combination that makes every ingredient pop with flavor.

Prep Time	Chill Time	Total Time	Servings
15 mins	As needed	15 mins	8



DRESSING INGREDIENTS

- ½ cup salad oil
- ½ cup sugar
- ⅓ cup white wine vinegar
- ½ tsp dry mustard
- 1 tsp grated onion
- 2 Tbsp poppy seeds

- Dash of salt and pepper

SALAD INGREDIENTS

- 2 bunches Romaine lettuce, *chopped into pieces*
- 1 cup cashews (*or any other type of nut you prefer*)
- 2 red apples, *chopped*
- 1 cup Swiss cheese, *shredded*

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Mix dressing ingredients well and chill.
2. Mix well again and pour over salad when ready to serve. Keeps for two weeks in fridge.

From the kitchen of Karen Ryba.

Receive a \$20 energy credit if you submit a recipe and it is selected to run in a future issue of the Enlightener newsletter.

4 WAYS to Reduce Use During Extreme Heat

During periods of extreme heat, the demand for electricity can skyrocket, placing additional strain on the grid. By working together to lower our electricity use, we can reduce pressure on the grid.

Here are four effective ways to lower use at home.

1. Raise your thermostat setting a few degrees higher than usual. Every degree can reduce cooling energy consumption.
2. Cook with smaller appliances to save energy and reduce heat gain in the kitchen.
3. Keep blinds, curtains and shades closed during the hottest part of the day to block direct sunlight.
4. Use fans to circulate air, which can make you feel cooler without needing to lower the thermostat.



OFFICE HOURS | 7:30 A.M. - 4 P.M. | MONDAY - FRIDAY

Baudette 218-634-2202 or 888-634-2202 | **Littlefork** 218-278-6658 or 888-258-2008

For credit card payment 855-938-3492 | **Online billing** info available via SmartHub app

Electrical after-hours emergencies 1-888-6OUTAGE (1-888-668-8243)

Email us at nsec@wiktel.com | **Visit our website at** northstarelectric.coop

The Enlightener (USPS 024959), is published monthly by North Star Electric Cooperative, Inc., 441 St. Hwy 172 N.W., Baudette, MN 56623-8942.

General manager – Kevin Holen | Editor – Kevin Holen

Subscription price \$1/year. Periodicals postage paid at Baudette, MN 56623. POSTMASTER: Send address corrections to the Enlightener, North Star Electric Cooperative, Inc., PO Box 719, Baudette, MN 56623-0719.

'LIKE' US ON FACEBOOK TO STAY UP TO DATE

Like your cooperative for outage updates during the summer season and other useful information.

 /northstarelectric

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.