

CURRENT

ACTIVITIES



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 
Website at www.clearwater-polk.com

*The Clearwater-Polk Electric Trust
awarded nearly \$21,000 in the latest chapter
of **Operation Round-Up**
on **June 10th**,
twenty-two entities were recipients.*



Operation Round Up Recipients

Back row from left: Laurie Pemberton, Clearwater-Polk Trustee; Roberta Anderson, Friends of Itasca; Becky Dorman, Clear Waters Life Center; Tim Hoyt, FHL-Math; Cheryl Grover, Northern Exposure to Lifelong Learning; Amy Kent, Fair Board; Calvin Larson, Shevlin Fire Dept.; Julie Moe, Clearwater 4-H; Cindy Benson, Director; Lloyd Engen, Clearbrook-Leonard Senior Center.

Middle Row from left: JaNelle Melbo, Bagley Elementary Math & Reading night; Wendy Nelson, FHL; Tamara Edevold, Clearwater Historical Society; Hattie Nelson.

Seated at table from left: Krysten Westrum, Clearbrook-Gonvick after prom; Vanessa Jodock, FHL; Lindy Caspers, Community Ed; Lacy Kent, Sarah Riewer, FHL; Sarah Larson, Bagley Community Vacation Bible School; Elsie Larson, Theresa Porter, Clearbrook-Gonvick School.

Spraying Vegetation to Start in July

Clearwater-Polk has contracted with NWC to spray previously brushed vegetation. Beginning in July spraying will begin, concentrating in the following areas; most of Eddy Township, parts of Rice Township, along Long Lake and Heart Lake and parts of Itasca Township along 253rd Ave, parts of 281st Ave and along Sucker Lake.

If there are areas along your property that you do not want sprayed, please have them clearly marked and contact our office at 218-694-6241.

--- OFFICE HOURS: 7:00 AM-4:30 PM ... MONDAY-FRIDAY ---

JULY & AUGUST 2021

Phone **218-694-6241** – or – Toll Free **(888) 694-3833**





BENEFITS OF TREE TRIMMING

Clearing trees and overgrown vegetation is vital to provide safe, reliable power to our consumer-members.

We clear certain areas in our service territory, known as rights of way, to:

- Keep power lines clear of tree limbs
- Restore power outages more quickly
- Keep crews and members of our community safe
- Reduce unexpected costs for repairs

Vegetation management improves service reliability for you – our members!



AMERICA'S ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVES

Clearwater-Polk Electric Linemen Teach Electrical Safety to Area 6th Graders

There were 113 sixth graders in attendance from the Clearbrook Gonvick, Bagley and Fosston school districts. 20 local volunteers taught sessions on Animal Safety, ATV Safety, First Aid, Tractor Safety, Grain Bin Safety, Lawn Mower Safety, Fire Safety, Chemical Safety and Electrical Safety. Progressive Agriculture Safety Sponsors the event and Clearwater County Extension organizes the event.



Members Enjoyed Trip To The Power Plant And Coal Mines In Center, ND



Twelve members from Clearwater-Polk Electric Cooperative and sixteen Red Lake Electric Cooperative members attended the 2021

Power Plant Tour on June 16th and 17th. The two-day itinerary included tours of Minnkota Power, Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center and a tour of Fort Mandan, the Milton R Young Station and BNI Coal Mines, along with a few stops in between.

It was an early start on Wednesday morning, June 16th, for Clearwater-Polk Electric's members. Dorman Bus Service's arrived at 5:40 a.m. for Clearwater-Polk's member pick up. We then departed by 6:00 a.m to pick up Red Lake Electric's members. Once everyone was accounted for we were on our way.

The tour started with a stop at Minnkota Power Cooperative's new headquarters in Grand Forks, ND. Minnkota Power is the wholesale power provider for both Co-ops. Ben Fladhammer, Minnkota's Communication Manager addressed tour participants and hosted a presentation highlighting the role that Minnkota plays in the generation of the electricity that co-op members receive from their respective Co-ops.

After hearing from Ben, the group was hosted by Harold Narlock, Minnkota's Power Delivery Superintendent to see the new control center. Minnkota's control center staff monitors (24/7) Minnkota's transmission lines and load levels throughout NW Minnesota and NE North Dakota.

The second stop on the first day included a visit to Lewis & Clark Interpretive Center and a tour of Fort Mandan located in Washburn, ND.



The crossroads of culture and commerce on the Northern Plains. The existing Fort Mandan is a full-size replica of the original that was built in 1805 and fully furnished with engaging exhibits and hundreds of period artifacts. The original Fort Mandan was where Lewis & Clark overwintered between 1804-1805. It was actually built 10 miles upstream from the replica along the Missouri River and is claimed to have been washed away by the river.

The final destination of the first day was the



Comfort Inn & Suites in Mandan, ND. The hotel provided complimentary soups and beverages in the early evening while our members gathered in the hotel common area for social hour. By 7:30 pm we moved to the Badlands conference room for a Minnkota presentation hosted by Tim Hagerott, plant manager of the Engineering & Environmental department, followed by an evening dinner, banquet style, courtesy of Minnkota Power.

The evening program consisted of a power point presentation that informed our members on the generation and transmission of electricity for Clearwater-Polk Electric, Red Lake Electric and nine other electric Cooperatives in NW Minnesota and NE North Dakota, along with twelve associated Municipal utilities.

The second day of the trip included a tour of the Milton R Young Station. The station



includes two coal-fired electric plants. Minnkota Power receives about 250,000 kilowatts from Young 1 and 355,000 kilowatts from Young 2 and Minnesota Power of Duluth receives 100,000 kilowatts. In 2026, Minnkota will start receiving all of the Young 2 output of 455,000 kilowatts.

The next segment of the tour included a visit to the open-pit lignite coal mines of BNI Coal. BNI has the contract to supply the lignite for the Young Station. Combined, the two electric generating plants consume over 4 million tons of lignite coal annually. BNI has very large equipment that is used in the lignite mining process. Equipment used for stripping the overburden is called a dragline. BNI's largest dragline is named Liberty, model 8200, which has a 355 ft long boom and is equipped with a 77 cubic yard bucket. BNI has a new arrival on the horizon for their Center Mine, another dragline, model 757 built in 1991 at British Coal Opencast Stobswood site, Northumberland, England. This dragline will be replacing "Big Jake" model 757 that was built in 1967, also currently the oldest known dragline in the world.

Seeing the process first-hand gives partici-

pants a much better understanding and often a better appreciation of what is involved in the generation and transmission of electricity. It is a complex process to get energy from a coal field in SW North Dakota to an appliance in NW Minnesota.



The Power Plant Tour is offered once every two years. The next tour will be held in June of 2023, tentatively. If you would like more information about the Power Plant Tour, please contact Tara in Member Services at Clearwater-Polk, 218-694-6241 or Ext 1006

CHEF'S CORNER



Beef Kabobs
Debbie Olson, Bagley

Ingredients:

- 1 cup chili sauce or Catsup
- 2 tsp prepared mustard
- 2 tsp vinegar
- 1 T Worcestershire sauce
- 1 tsp sugar
- 1 tsp salt
- 1 T. steak sauce
- 1 tsp meat tenderizer
- 2 lb lean beef, cut into 1" cubes

Preparation: Combine all ingredients except beef. Heat sauce to boiling. Cool. Pour sauce over beef and marinate at least overnight.

YOU COULD WIN



\$25

To reward our faithful readers, one member's name will be drawn at random each month and placed somewhere in the newsletter. If you should find your name, let us know before the 15th and win \$25 off your next bill.

SWAP SHOP

RULES: Ads for Clearwater-Polk Electric members only. Current Events newsletter will only be published every other month. Ads must be received by the 10th of the print month. Limit your ads to two items. No commercial ads, please.

FOR SALE: Tractor mounted 3 pt back hoe, \$800. 218-785-2115.

FOR SALE: Husqvarna 240 chain saw. If interested please call 218-785-2250.

FOR SALE: Cub Cadet Chipper Vac., 6.5 HP, approximately 6 years old. If interested please call 218-785-2250.

WANTED: Trailer Tires size 31 x 10.50 R16.5 LT. Call 218- 776-3281.

WANTED: Willy's jeep, Jon boat, skid steer. 218-766-8176.

FOR SALE: 3 point snowblower, \$150. Richard 218-266-3366 or Randy 320-290-4930.

WANTED: Ramps to take boat and pontoon out of the lake. 218-368-4645

OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

Greg Spaulding, *President* Bagley
 Greg Renner, *Vice President*..... Shevlin
 Harlan Highberg, *Treasurer*..... Bagley
 Kim Solberg, *Secretary* Gonvick
 Robert Johnson Bagley
 Bill Lanners Shevlin
 Dennis Engebretson Clearbrook
 Deanna Lefebvre..... *General Manager*

Office Closed

Sept. 6th
for Labor Day

SCHEDULED BOARD MEETING

Held at the Clearwater-Polk Electric board room at 8:00 a.m. on the last Wednesday of each month.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE TO HELP WITH UTILITY BILLS

We know that COVID-19 has created additional financial hardships, placing an even larger burden on families already struggling to pay their bills or bring their accounts current. If you are experiencing difficulty paying your electric bill, the Energy Assistance Program (EAP) helps pay for home heating costs and furnace repairs for income-qualified homeowners and renters.

EAP primary heat grants range from \$200 to \$1,600 depending on family size, income and energy costs. In addition to primary heat grants, crisis-benefit grants are also available. For the second year in a row, the Minnesota Department of Commerce has increased the maximum annual crisis-benefit grants for qualifying households from \$600 to \$1,200.

Despite the large infusion of dollars into the EAP program, applications for primary heat benefits are down by about 10%, and applications for crisis benefits are down by about 30%. The EAP application deadline

is May 31, 2021, but may be extended until September 1, 2021.

To learn more about the EAP program or to apply for assistance:

- Visit the Minnesota Department of Commerce Energy Assistance website, <https://mn.gov/commerce/consumers/consumer-assistance/energy-assistance/>, for more details and to access the application portal.
- Contact your county EAP service provider for additional information and assistance.

Minnesota's Cold Weather Rule also helps to protect and reconnect residential heat from Oct. 15 through April 15.

Household Size	3 Month Max. Guidelines
1	\$7,066
2	\$9,240
3	\$11,415
4	\$13,589
5	\$15,763
6	\$17,937

SIGN UP FOR AUTO-PAY AND YOU WILL BE ELIGIBLE TO WIN \$25.00

EACH MONTH WE DRAW TWO MEMBER'S NAMES THAT HAVE CHOSEN TO PAY BY AUTO-PAY. THEY WILL RECEIVE A \$25.00 CREDIT TOWARDS THEIR ELECTRIC BILL.

CURRENT WINNERS

MARCUS JOHNSON,
SHAWN BUSHELLE,
AMANDA GROVER
& JOE BELLEFY

ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROVIDERS:

Clearwater County Social Services
216 Park Ave NW
Bagley, MN 56621
218-694-6164

Polk County Social Services
240 SW Cleveland Ave
McIntosh, MN 56556
218-435-1585

White Earth Energy Assistance
PO Box 418
White Earth, MN 56591
218-473-2711

Inter-County Community Council
207 Main St
Oklee, MN 56742
888-778-4008

Red Lake CAP Program
15533 Main Ave
Red Lake, MN 56671
(218)-679-1880

MAHUBE-OTWA (For Hubbard Co.)
120 North Central
Park Rapids, MN 56470-0229
218-732-7204

Bi-County Cap
6603 Bemidji Ave N.
Bemidji, MN 56601
800-332-7161

Managers Message

Our Goal is to Keep You and Our Linemen Safe!

Working with electricity can be a dangerous job, especially for lineworkers which is why for Clearwater-Polk, safety is the number one priority. This is not empty talk. Over time, we have created a culture of putting our crews' safety and that of the community above all else.

Our mission is to provide safe, reliable and affordable energy to you, our consumer-members. Yes, we strive to deliver affordable and reliable electricity to you, but equally important, we want our employees to return home safely to their loved ones. This requires ongoing focus, dedication, vigilance – and your help!

Distractions Can Be Deadly

While we appreciate your kindness and interest in the work of our crews, we ask that you stay back and let them focus on their task at hand. Even routine work has the potential to be dangerous, and it takes their full attention and that of their colleagues, who are also responsible for the team's safety. Distractions can have deadly consequences. If a lineman is on or near your property during a power outage, for vegetation management or for routine maintenance, please allow them ample room to work. These small accommodations help protect our crews— and you.

If you have a dog, try to keep it indoors while lineworkers are on or near your property. While most dogs are friendly, some are defensive of their territory and can't distinguish between a burglar and a utility worker. Our crews work best without a pet "supervising" the job.

We recognize that for your family's safety, you want to make sure only authorized workers are on or near your property. You will recognize Clearwater-Polk employees by their lineman uniform, logo, etc. and the service trucks with our name and logo on them. You may also recognize our linemen because they live right here in our local community.

Slow Down and Move Over

In addition to giving lineworkers some space while they are near your property, we also ask that you move over or slow down when approaching a utility vehicle on the side of the road. This is an extra barrier of safety to help those who help all of us.

Safety Tips for Portable, Standby Generators

Generators can be a lifesaver for some and make an extended outage much more bearable. However, it's critical that proper safety precautions be taken to prevent accidents that could affect you, a family member, neighbor, or our lineman!

Read and follow all manufacturer operating instructions and properly ground the generator. Be

sure you understand them before starting it up.

The primary hazards to avoid when using a generator are carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning from the toxic engine exhaust, electric shock or electrocution, and fire. Never operate a generator in a confined area, such as a garage. They require proper ventilation. Follow the directions supplied with the generator.

Generators can be temporarily or permanently installed. A permanent generator is wired into a house by a qualified electrician using a transfer switch. Portable generators should **NEVER** be plugged directly into a home outlet or electrical system. Known as "backfeeding," this practice puts our linemen, your neighbors and your household at risk of electrocution. Plug appliances directly into the generator, or use a heavy duty, outdoor-rated extension cord that is rated (in watts or amps) at least equal to the sum of the connected appliance loads. Check that the entire cord is free of cuts or tears and that the plug has all three prongs, especially a grounding pin.

There should be nothing plugged into the generator when you turn it on. This prevents a surge from damaging your generator and appliances.

Remember, even a properly connected portable generator can become overloaded, resulting in overheating or generator failure. If necessary, stagger the operating times for various equipment to prevent overloads.

When venturing outside after a severe storm, stay away from downed power lines and be alert to the possibility that tree limbs or debris may hide an electrical hazard. Assume that any dangling wires you encounter are electrical, and treat all downed or hanging power lines as if they are energized. Warn others to stay away and contact the electric utility.

Generators pose electrical risks, especially when operated in wet conditions. Use a generator only when necessary when the weather creates wet or moist conditions. Protect the generator by operating it under an open, canopy-like structure on a dry surface where water cannot form puddles or drain under it. Always ensure that your hands are dry before touching the generator.

Be sure to turn the generator off and let it cool down before refueling. Gasoline spilled on hot engine parts could ignite.

Make sure to keep children and pets away from the generator, which could burn them.

If you are considering purchasing a generator or have questions about using your existing generator, please give us a call. We are here to serve you in any way we can.

Spraying Vegetation to start in July

Vegetation Management plays a key role when



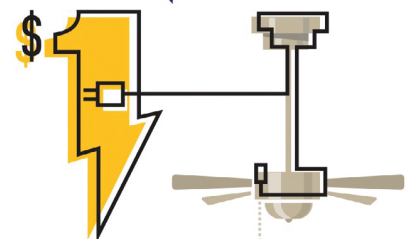
Deanna Lefebvre
General Manager

it comes to reliability and takes an ongoing effort to help keep the lights on for our members. Clearwater-Polk has contracted with NWC to spray previously brushed areas along the utility right-of-way. This summer concentrated efforts will include the following areas: most of Eddy Township, parts of Rice Township along Long Lake and Heart Lake, and parts of Itasca Township along 253rd Ave, parts of 281st Ave and along Sucker Lake. ***If there are areas along your property that you do not want sprayed, please have them clearly marked and contact our office. If you have any questions or concerns about the spraying, please contact our operations department at 218-694-6241.***

Summer is finally here and I want to wish you all a safe and enjoyable summer season!

Deanna

What can you get for \$1?



120 hours of ceiling fan use

In the hot summer months, don't sweat the cost of electricity. Did you know \$1 of kilowatt power can run your ceiling fan for about 120 hours? So don't worry about skimping on that cool breeze – you can keep the air flowing without your cash flowing.



WAIT! DON'T EAT THAT
MAKE SURE FOOD IS SAFE TO EAT
AFTER AN OUTAGE

If there is a power outage for more than an hour or two, the food in your refrigerator or freezer may not be safe to eat.

Unlike mold that visually warns you not to eat old bread or cheese, many foods do not scream don't eat me, I'll make you sick. They can look harmless, but bacteria growing in them can bring on a slew of symptoms like nausea, chills, cramps, vomiting, and other unwanted visitors.

During and after an outage, keep these food safety tips in mind:

- Keep refrigerator and freezer doors closed to keep in the cold air.
- Time the outage. Foods in an unopened fridge up to 4 hours should be safe to eat.*
- Know the numbers:
 - A freezer that is half full (and is kept closed) can keep foods frozen for 24 hours.*
 - A freezer that is full (and kept closed) can keep foods frozen for 48 hours.*
 - Never taste food to determine if it is safe to eat: **WHEN IN DOUBT, throw it out.**
 - Throw out perishable food in your refrigerator after 4 hours without power or a cold source like dry ice.
 - Perishable foods include meat, fish, cut fruits and vegetables, eggs, meats and leftovers.
 - Throw out any foods with unusual color, odor, or texture.

**According to the CDC*

**REMEMBER, WHEN IN DOUBT,
 THROW IT OUT.**

Learn more at:



STORMS CAN BRING



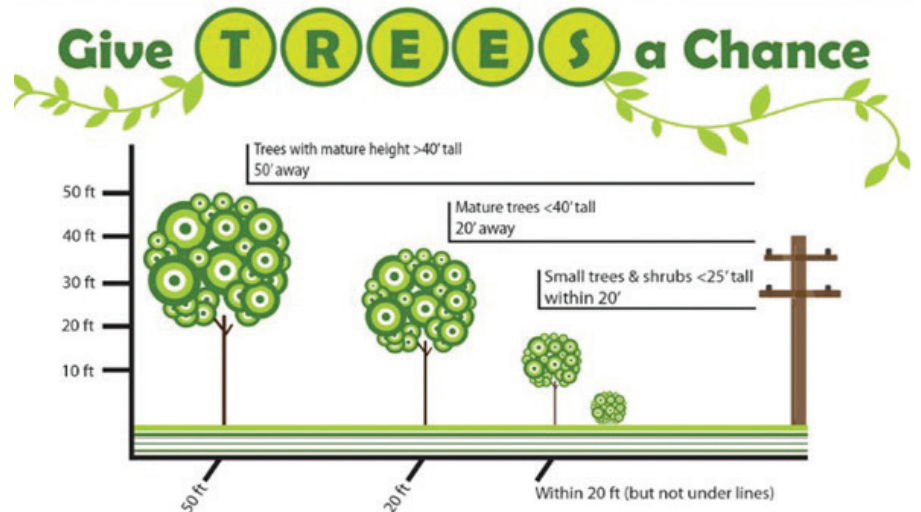
OUTSIDE - Severe weather can sometimes cause damage to overhead power lines. That damage could be noticeable — a downed line across an open road, for instance. However, it may not be as obvious if it is camouflaged by storm damage.

In either case — whether you see a downed line or you suspect one could (Roelf F. Aufforth) be hidden under debris or standing water — do not go near the area. Stay away and call 9-1-1, and a crew will be dispatched to deenergize the line. Warn others to stay away as well.

Power lines and other electrical equipment do not have to be sparking, arcing (giving off a flame), or on fire to be energized.

AT HOME - Never step into a flooded basement or other standing water. The water could be covering electrical outlets, appliances, or cords. If your home's electrical system has been damaged, waterlogged or otherwise compromised, have it thoroughly inspected by a professional electrician before using any electricity (inside or out). Learn more at safeelectricity.org

Always assume a downed power line is energized, dangerous and deadly.



Trees planted too close to power lines grow into BIG problem. To prevent power outages and safety hazards, these trees need to be trimmed and sometimes removed. Do your part to keep trees healthy and prevent power outages.

Plant trees a safe distance from power distribution lines.

With all planting and landscaping work, please be aware of overhead and underground power lines. Keep yourself and equipment clear of power lines, and do not plant something close to power lines that may one day become a hazard. To avoid future electrical hazards, planting tips included below:

- **Consider mature height of trees.** Do not plant near overhead power lines any tree that can grow to 25 feet tall. A mature height of less than 15 feet is recommended.
- **Do not plant near underground utility services.** Roots can grow and interfere with underground pipes, cables and wires. Future repairs to these facilities also could damage the health and beauty of nearby plants and trees.
- **Keep areas around electric meters, transformers or other electrical equipment free of any vegetation that could limit utility service access.**
- **Before digging, always call 8-1-1** to have underground utility lines marked so that accidental contact, damage and injuries can be avoided. For more information about local services, visit www.call811.com

TROUBLE CALLS

DURING OFFICE HOURS

7:00 am - 4:30 pm,
 Mon. - Fri.

CALL 694-6241

or 1-888-694-3833

AFTER HOURS OUTAGES CALL

1-877-881-7673

