

PARK SPARKS

The Park Electric Cooperative Newsletter

OCTOBER 2022

We hope to see everyone on Friday, October 21st at the Park County Fairgrounds. Check in begins at 10:30 and the meeting will start at noon. We are hosting a remote meeting again this year with a goodie bag giveaway and a \$5 bill credit. Voting will take place for the board of Trustees and the winners will be announced at the meeting.



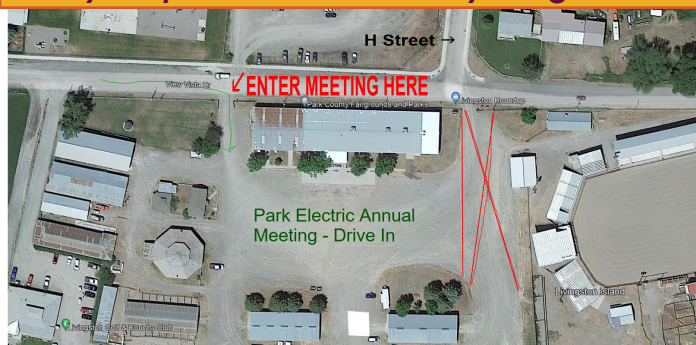
ANNUAL MEETING OCTOBER 21st



LUCK OF THE DRAW

This year, Park Electric is pleased to announce that we will be giving away **20** \$2000 Luck of the Draw scholarships! Drawing entries will be passed out during meeting registration and gathered at ballot collection time. Winners will be announced during the meeting and must be present to win. Parents or guardians of students on our lines and students living on our lines who are attending an accredited college in the fall of 2023 are eligible to win.

Entry map for the Park County Fairgrounds



We have a winner!

Thank you to everyone who participated in our annual ACSI survey. Randy Petrich was our lucky winner of the \$100 bill credit. Next summer, we will be sending out our last round of surveys, so be on the lookout if you have not received one yet.

October is National Co-op Month

From booming suburbs to scenic countrysides, electric co-ops play a vital role in shaping the local communities they serve.

Managers Comments

by Matt Haggerty

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BUILDING FOR TODAY AND THE FUTURE

Each year Park Electric makes a construction and maintenance work plan. This plan allows us to complete necessary repairs and upgrades while also installing new services. Some of

the items included in the plan are: areas of our right away that need trees trimmed, underground cable that needs to be replaced, pole testing and replacement, system upgrades of wire sizes to better serve the demand on the lines, substation upgrades, and line patrol just to name a few.

Tree trimming is one of the many important tasks that need to be completed each year. As the linemen patrol the lines, they help determine which areas most need trimming. Since our coverage area encompasses four counties, and has over 800 miles of overhead lines, one can only imagine how this is a never-ending task. This year, a tree trimming service was hired that will be working on trimming the right of way on our transmission lines in the Boulder area. They started this work in early September, and expect to be done in late October. There will also be a tree crew trimming around our distribution lines northeast of Wilsall. This work is planned to be completed by the end of October as well. In the winter months, our crews spend a lot of time clearing areas that can be easily accessed that time of year. All the time and effort put into maintaining vegetation around the lines will help reduce blinks, and power outages.

Another ongoing task is underground cable replacement. Did you know that Park Electric has 746 miles of underground cable? This type of job is more complex, due to the nature of cable installation.



Sometimes a new cable can be laid next to the old cable and other times the new cable has to be re-routed entirely. If the route of the cable needs to change, this often requires new easements and permitting. The staking department usually draws up work orders in the

winter months. These work orders map out cable replacements that will happen the following summer or fall. In the end, the goal is to replace about twenty sections of cable each year.

Finally, Park Electric has been working with an engineering firm that allows us to make longer-term plans to try and stay ahead of growing loads. One of the current projects being worked on is upgrading the power transformers in the Springdale and Pine creek substations. These types of projects will allow our current and future members to connect to our lines for years to come and the infrastructure will already be in place to handle the additional loads.

Planning for the future is very important to Park Electric. The plans the coop makes put the reliability of the electric service we provide at the forefront. Informing our members about how we plan and what the plans are gives our members the power of staying informed about the future of their coop.



Park Electric Board of Trustees

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