

PARK SPARKS

DECEMBER 2021

PARK ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

 Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives

STAY CONNECTED

Staying connected is something we all think about, especially this time of year. Park Electric would like you to stay connected with us!

When was the last time you updated your account information with Park Electric? Keeping your contact information current is very important, as our staff and crew may need to contact you regarding planned outages or account queries. The most important member information items are listed below:

- Billing Address
- Phone Number
- Email

Updating your contact information is easy by logging on to our new customer portal, located on our website. Or, you may call our office and speak to one of our friendly staff members.

Another way to stay connected with Park Electric is to follow our Facebook page. We update the page regularly with photos from the field, energy efficiency tips, and outage information. Our Facebook page is also visible from the website home page.

We encourage our members to spend time navigating our new customer service portal. The new portal allows members to view and pay their bills on-line and setup recurring payments. Available payment methods include e-check and credit card. A *Quick Pay* option is available allowing anyone to pay a bill without logging into the customer portal.

Remember, we all like to stay connected! If you need help updating your contact information or help with the new customer service portal, please call the office at 406-222-3100 or send us an email at info@parkelectric.coop.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

The Park Electric office will be closed Thursday December 23rd Friday and December 24th for Christmas and Friday, December 31st for New Years.

10 WAYS TO SAVE ELECTRICITY AND MONEY THIS HOLIDAY SEASON:

1. Switch your holiday decorative lights to LED's! They consume less electricity and will last years longer.
2. Use a programmable timer for both outside and inside lights. Setting the timer provides a set time-frame for the lights to be on.
3. Go solar! Many exterior lighting options come in a solar version that uses no electricity.
4. Invest in an advanced power strip to manage unwanted phantom loads from your indoor electronics. This minimal investment can make a significant dent in your electronic usage.
5. Use smaller counter top appliances for cooking your holiday meals. They use less electricity overall.
6. Remember to use a programmable thermostat for your heating needs. Setting the thermostat back 7-10 degrees at night and when you may not be home during the day is best. This reduction in temperature could save you as much as 10% a year on home heating costs!
7. Leaving town for the holidays? Remember to unplug anything that won't be necessary when you are gone like TV's, phone chargers, and gaming consoles.
8. Try rechargeable batteries for all your battery loving toys and gadgets. Rechargeable batteries save money and create less waste.
9. When shopping for new TVs or appliances, look for the Energy Star logo to ensure an energy efficient purchase.
10. Seal air gaps around windows and doors to help keep out the winter chill and reduce your heating bill.

Managers Comments *by* Matt Haggerty

The 2021 annual meeting of membership commenced on October 22nd, celebrating 82 years in service since our incorporation in 1939. Due to safety and health concerns, the board of trustees decided to hold a drive-in style annual meeting. This was the first year members had the option to vote either by mail or in person at the meeting. Craig Yost retained his seat for district three and Brad Hanson retained his seat for district four. Lois Olmstead started the meeting with a heart felt invocation. President Alan Johnstone called our meeting to order and gave his report summarizing Park Electric's accomplishments over the last year. He discussed the board's goal and mission to bring value to our member-owners and communities by providing reliable electricity and superior customer service at fair and reasonable prices.

In the manager's report I highlighted the 60% growth in services over the last 20 years including 149 new

services installed in 2021. In 2000 we served 4,238 meters; today that number is nearly 7,000. Additionally, I informed the membership of the updates to our website including on-line billing options and energy efficiency resources available through our energy efficiency program. This program includes rebates for energy efficient appliances, smart thermostats, water heaters, and provides information on DIY projects helping to reduce energy consumption resulting in a lower power bill. Park Electric Cooperative offers green power through Basin Electric Power Cooperative's Prairie Winds – Energy in Motion Green Tag Program. Green Tags are an intangible environmental benefit associated with energy produced from renewable resources. It allows our members to voluntarily contribute to the development of alternate energy production facilities such as wind energy. The Green Tags do not purchase the alternate power, rather the funds are used to participate in the development of green power. The premium is an additional expense above normal rates for each kilowatt-hour consumed.

On the operations side I reported completing line improvement projects to reduce line loss. In the field, our crews have been working on installing new services and focusing on improved reliability. As part of our strategic plan, we contracted with a tree removal company to clear trees in the Boulder area which should reduce outage times in the future. Our line crews have replaced 20 sections

of aging underground cable throughout our coverage area which should help reduce the number of future underground faults.

Also in my report, I reviewed our current Power supply. Our power comes from 2 entities, Western Area Power Association (WAPA) located in Lakewood Colorado and Basin Electric Coop located Bismark North Dakota. WAPA provides 65% of our supply and is 100% non-carbon emitting hydro generation. The remaining 35% comes from Basin which includes hydro, wind, coal, solar, natural gas, nuclear, and oil. Pricing remains stable, therefore we do not expect a rate increase for 2022.

Though we do not expect rate increases, Park Electric is billed demand charges during peak electric use times. Peak times are from 6-9 am and 5-8 pm. To help maintain

low customer rates, we suggest our members use electricity during non-peak times of day.

In closing I thanked our staff for another exceptional year of customer service. Toni, Sarah Ann, Sarah S., Tiffany, Jan, Tom, Carol, Matt, Darrin, Ryan, Josh F, Josh W, Brady, David, Sawyer, Dane, and Cole.

What's coming in 2022? Park Electric's Board of trustee's accepted a building expansion project with construction to start in April. The expansion will provide necessary space to maintain operations serving our growing customer base.



Attention Members that are part of our Green Tag program. The Green tag rate will be changing in January 2022 to .187 cents (\$0.00187/kWh). Feel free to call the office if you have any questions.