

PARK SPARKS

HAPPY
NEW
YEAR

JANUARY 2021

PARK ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

 Touchstone Energy[®] Cooperatives
The power of human connections[®]

NEW FACES!

Ryan Davis



Ryan is a Journeyman Lineman from Moses Lake, Washington. He was working as a lineman for the past 10 years at Grant County PUD. He is looking forward to learning our service territory as well as enjoying all that

Southwest Montana has to offer. His wife and two young sons have joined him. This spring, look for them out on the baseball field! Welcome to Park Electric, Ryan!

David Hanisch



David is a Journeyman Lineman who comes to Park Electric from Mainville, Ohio. He worked for a municipal power provider there. He has been working as a lineman for the past 6 years. He and his wife are happy to relocate to Livingston, just in

time for their second child to be born in the spring! David is looking forward to finding his new favorite hunting, camping and fishing spots here in Montana. Welcome to Park Electric, David!

Scholarships Available

Park Electric is pleased to continue a tradition of scholarship giving in 2021. We are accepting applications for the MECA Memorial Scholarship and the Basin/Park Electric scholarship from now until January 25th.

Park Electric selects the top candidate from our pool of applicants for the **MECA Memorial Scholarship**. That applicant goes on to compete against six other regional cooperative selections for a \$1000 scholarship awarded at the statewide level.

The **Basin/Park Electric** scholarship is selected from all qualified applicants by Park Electric and awarded a \$1000 scholarship.

Hurry, applications and essays are due by January 25th!

Check our website or with your school guidance counselor for applications/more information.



Retirement News: Bob Goodwine

Park Electric has been a part of Bob Goodwine's family since he was a young pup. As a kid, he remembers accompanying his dad as he cleaned the old Park Electric headquarters off of 12th Street.

Bob's wealth of knowledge and history of Park Electric will be missed. He has held many positions within the Cooperative but served the majority of his time as a Lineman. After 37 years with Park Electric, Bob has earned a much deserved rest!

While he'll miss working and helping people with their electricity, he won't miss the late nights on outages. Thank you Bob for your tremendous service!



Managers Comments *by* Matt Haggerty

Park Electric always strives for ways to continually improve member services. One way we are doing this is by updating our website and adding a tab for Energy Efficiency. For those of you that have not seen it I would like to go over some of the content it holds. We have set it up to give you “Easy saving ideas,” and “Ways to invest.” Think of the “Easy savings ideas” as small projects that most members could do on their own. Then “Ways to invest” as ideas that may need assistance from a contractor. Ultimately, either way, it’s up to each member to decide the best way to perform the upgrades.

Since our co-op is billed per KWH and per KW by our power provider, the lower we keep the demand peaks on our system, the lower all of our bills will stay. So, I highly encourage each member to review the list of ideas under the energy efficiency section on our website and pick at least one of them to do at your home. This will help you save money on your bill and ensure we all continue to enjoy low rates.

We have created six subsections under our Energy Efficiency tab on our website. The first section covers Appliances and Lighting. Did you know that appliances in the average house hold account for 12% of your power bill? By simply upgrading to Energy Star appliances you can save hundreds of dollars per year. The second section covers Building Material. If you are trying to maintain a comfortable living temperature in your home this can account for up to 40% of your electrical bill each month. A simple way to reduce your heating bill is re-caulking the areas around the existing windows and doors. The third section covers Heating and Cooling. If you would like to save as much as 10% per year on your energy bill you can set your thermostat back 7-10 degrees for 8 hours a day while you are at work.

The next topic is smart water use. This is an area most members don’t think about. The electric costs associated with watering plants or your lawn can add up. Most grasses and plants don’t need water every day unless they are newly installed. Infrequent deep watering such as every other day or every three days, helps promote strong root growth and more drought tolerant plants. The time

of day you water your plants can matter too. If you are watering in the middle of the afternoon, most of the water evaporates before it is able to soak into the ground. Another way to save water is by leaving your grass a little longer. This promotes shaded roots and less evaporation from the ground.

The fifth section of our website is for those of you interested in new technologies. It covers Smart Homes. One idea is a programmable thermostat like Nest Hub. You can program it to change the temperature at times when you don’t desire as much heating or cooling, including when you’re at work, on vacation or asleep. Some thermostats allow you to control them on a phone app or on your computer, making it easy for you to change the temperature when you’re not home.

The last section covers Touchstone Energy savings. It has energy quizzes, energy solutions, and energy videos that provide tips to conserve energy, and much more.

These tips can help all of us reduce demand on our electric systems.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Replace standard power strips with advanced power strips to save energy. Advanced power strips look like ordinary power strips, but they have built-in features that are designed to reduce the amount of energy used by standby electronics that consume energy even when they’re not in use (also known as phantom load).

The National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) estimates that the average home loses \$200 annually to energy wasted by phantom load.

Source: www.nrel.gov

