

# NORRIS

ELECTRIC NEWS MAGAZINE



Celebrating Our Past  
Inspiring Our Future

"Dedicated to Serving You"

(USPS-391-880)

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NORRIS PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT  
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**Board Meeting Information**

Unless otherwise notified by the General Manager, regular meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held monthly on the first Wednesday of each month. The Directors shall hold their meetings at the principal office of the District, or at such other place or places as the Board may from time to time determine. Notice of regular meeting shall be given as provided by law.

**Officers and Directors**

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*Subdivision VIII*, Odell

**Mark Knobel**, Vice-President

*Subdivision VII*, Fairbury

**Dennis Hentzen**, Secretary

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**Gary Kroese**, Treasurer

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**Dennis Buel**, *Subdivision II*, Hickman

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**Roger Rada**, *Subdivision IX*, Tobias

**Rodney Heinrichs**, *Subdivision X*, Carleton

**Bruce Tegtmeier**, *Subdivision XI*, Jansen

**Tom Sieck**, *Subdivision XII*, Pleasant Dale

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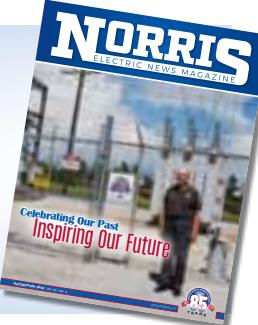
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## NORRIS PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT CONTACT NUMBERS

### Main Office-Area III

**Beatrice:** (402) 223-4038

Toll Free: 1-800-858-4707

Hours: M-F 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

### Area I

**Hebron:** (402) 768-6515

Toll Free: 1-800-827-8099

Hours: M-F 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Closed each day from 12:00 p.m. to 12:30 p.m.

### Area II

**Roca:** (402) 794-9900

Toll Free: 1-800-743-3899

Hours: M-F 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

### Area IV

**Seward:** (402) 643-2951

Hours: M-F 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

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@NorrisPPD

# Brock McDougall

## Technology Analyst

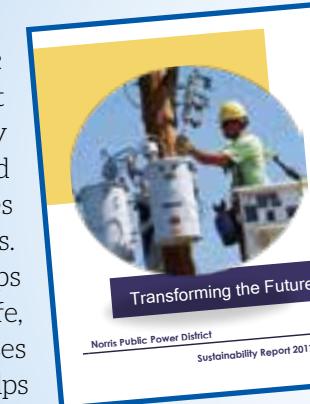


Brock McDougall has been promoted to the position of Technology Analyst. Brock began his new duties on June 4, 2018 in the District's Engineering Department. Brock is responsible for the implementation and operation of the District's Meter Data Management System (MDMS). He also assists with the installation, programming, maintaining and troubleshooting of communications and control equipment. These items include the District's Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI), Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA), and load management systems.

Brock has been employed at the District since June 1, 2010. Prior

to Brock's promotion, he worked as a Maintenance Technician in the District's Technical Services Department.

# Transforming the Future



For 85 years, Norris Public Power District has electrically powered customers' homes and businesses. Electricity keeps our families safe, it keeps businesses running and it helps our communities prosper. The District's Board of Directors and employees strive to consider social, environmental and economic impacts in all decisions.

"Transforming the Future," is Norris Public Power District's third annual Sustainability Report. The report provides information about the District's commitment to sustainable operations. The District understands the decisions it makes today can help shape the future for generations to come. To view the

**"Everyone here has the sense that right now is one of those moments when we are influencing the future."**

~Steve Jobs

2017 Sustainability Report, visit [www.norrisppd.com](http://www.norrisppd.com) or visit any District office.

# 85 Years of Transforming Rural Nebraska



**Bruce Vitosh**  
General Manager & CEO



It is hard to imagine what life would be like without electricity. When we occasionally lose power for a brief period, we quickly realize how important electricity has become in our daily lives. Berneal Warner lived the first twelve years



Earlene and Berneal Warner stand outside their home that Berneal built near Waverly. Berneal has been a Norris Board of Director since 1977.

of his life without electricity in his home, while his wife, Earlene didn't receive electricity at home until she was five years old.

On August 15, 2018, Norris Public Power District will celebrate the 85th Anniversary of its formation. On April 18, 1933, the Nebraska Legislature approved the Enabling Act authorizing the creation of public power districts and irrigation districts. A short four months later,



Berneal at nine months old in his Dad's truck.

Norris Public Power District was organized on August 15, 1933 in Gage County. After an engineer designed 400 miles of single phase line to serve 1,117 customers and obtained \$420,000 in financing through the Rural Electrification Administration (REA) in 1935, construction was under way with the first section of line being energized in December 1936.

In 1928, Berneal's dad built the home where he was raised near Waverly in northern Lancaster County. Thirteen years later, in the summer of 1941, Berneal's family received electricity from Norris for the first time. Since electricity was not anticipated when the house was built, a fuse box and wire was installed throughout the house. **After receiving electricity at his home, one of the first things Berneal's dad did was purchase a refrigerator at Christensen's, a**



This International Harvester refrigerator was purchased in the early 1940s by Earlene's parents. For nearly eight decades, the refrigerator is still cooling and in use today at the Warner residence.

**dealership that sold appliances and television sets in Davey.** This purchase removed the chore of cutting blocks of ice and keeping it in an ice box. The ice would last until early summer. Once the ice was gone, the ice man would deliver ice to his farm.



Berneal and his sister, Beverlye (Warner) Neth, sit on a 1930 steel wheel Farmall tractor.

Earlene was raised on a farm near Ithaca in southern Saunders County. Her family farm received power in 1936, when a power line was constructed between Ithaca and Wahoo. **One of Earlene's most vivid memories of receiving electricity for the first time was when Earlene's dad purchased a new radio and would loudly play the radio in the morning that would wake up Earlene and her sister.**

As a sign of the times, Earlene's dad, along with Berneal's uncle, David Warner, were farmers who also did electrical work in the area. Berneal recalls helping his uncle doing electrical work. As power lines were built in the rural areas, there was a need for people to

install fuse boxes and wiring on the farmsteads.

Back in the early 1960's, Berneal remembers driving down the road with his bulldozer. As he approached the corner one-half mile west of his house, he noticed Norris personnel preparing a site for the new Davey Substation. The Norris employees waved him down and asked if he would level the ground for the substation with his bulldozer. After two hours of moving soil, the job was finished and Berneal continued on his way.

David Warner, Berneal's uncle, was a founding director on the Lancaster County Rural Public Power District Board that was formed on September 18, 1935. The public power districts in Gage, Jefferson, Lancaster, Saline and Thayer Counties consolidated on February 1, 1941. At that time, David Warner became a member of the Norris Board and remained on that Board through 1976. In 1976, Berneal was elected to the Norris Board and began serving on the Board in 1977. He continues to serve as a director today. Berneal has been the only Norris representative on the Nebraska Rural Electric Association Board since Norris joined the organization in 1998.

Berneal said, "**I have really enjoyed representing the Norris customers and had very few complaints or visits by unsatisfied customers over the years because Norris provides such excellent service.**"

Berneal and Earlene fondly remember their childhoods and growing up in rural Nebraska without electricity. However, they would not return to life without electricity because life today is so much easier with electricity than it was in the 1930's.

► Norris became a member of the Rural Electric Supply Cooperative (RESCO). RESCO is a member-owned not-for-profit electrical wholesaling business. RESCO assists its members in obtaining their distribution and transmission electrical supplies at low and competitive prices.

► Norris completed the requirements of the Rural Electric Safety Achievement Program (RESAP) sponsored by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. RESAP is an organized analysis of the District's safety and loss control program.

► The District upgraded its online bill payment system to a new, easy-to-use system called SmartHub. The technology upgrade allowed customers to manage their account 24/7 by either a computer or a smartphone.



► The Board of Directors met in a new boardroom upon completion of renovations in the District's main office. The renovations addressed deficiencies in the facility, including employee security and remodeling areas to meet requirements for public accommodations. Renovations included the addition of a self-service kiosk.

► A press conference was held to announce Monolith Materials' plan to build a carbon black manufacturing facility located in Norris' service territory. Monolith Materials is projected to be the largest single user of electricity in the state of Nebraska.



► Centerville Substation #77-36 was built. The substation was constructed to serve loads in the immediate area as well as provide backup support to both the Hickman and Kramer Substations.

► The new 20-year Wholesale Power Contract with Nebraska Public Power District (NPPD) went into effect January 1, 2016. Norris continues to partner with NPPD to provide low cost, reliable power and other related services to customers.

► The District's Avian Protection Plan was approved by the Board of Directors. The Avian Protection Plan was developed with the assistance of the Nebraska Rural Electric Association and other rural electric utilities who worked cooperatively with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission.

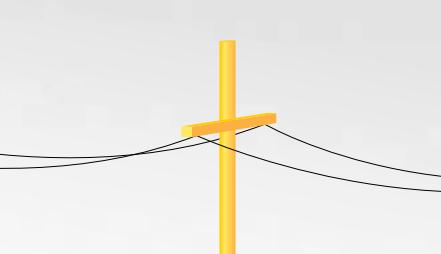
► On May 6, 2015, a storm hit Gage, Jefferson, Lancaster, Saline and Thayer Counties resulting in substantial damage to District infrastructure and the loss of 51 poles. Repair costs totaled \$241,000.

► The Norris Area II Operations Center relocated to 15801 SW 14th Street, Roca. The new center opened on May 9th.

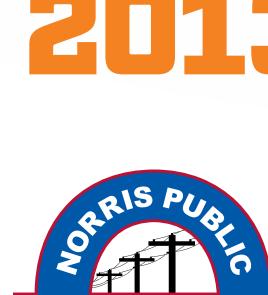
► On May 1st, Norris Public Power District and Seward County Public Power District merged to form one District.



► On June 16, 2017, all six counties in Norris' service territory had outages with the most significant damage being in Gage County. The storm caused 3,000 customer power outages and it took 48 hours to restore power to all customers. Five neighboring utilities sent employees to assist in restoration. The District lost 102 poles and spent \$530,000 repairing District infrastructure.



► Following four consecutive years of no customer rate increases, Norris lowered customer rates by slightly less than one percent overall in 2018.



## MONUMENTAL DISTRICT EVENTS 2013-2018



# Diller Community Foundation Fund

## YOUTH PHILANTHROPY CONTEST WINNERS

Giving back to enrich the Diller community with a beautification project, the Happy Harbiners 4-H Club was chosen to receive a grant from the Diller Community Foundation Fund Youth Philanthropy Contest. Happy Harbiners 4-H Club members that volunteered for the project are (front row-left to right) Sidney Engelman, Morgan Kapke, Teagan Kapke, Josie Hennerberg, (second row-left to right) Allison Engelman, Keira Hennerberg, Kellan Schlichtman, Preston Engelman, (back row-left to right) Kelsay Schlichtman and Chris Schmidt.

### **Philanthropy is giving of your time, talents and treasures for the benefit of many.**

The Diller Community Foundation Fund, an affiliated fund of the Nebraska Community Foundation,



Serving as a community volunteer, Tammy Weers - Diller Community Foundation Fund Advisory Committee Member, assists Allison, Keira and Morgan with the planting in one of the many planters in Diller.

invited young citizens in their community to use their creativity, energy, passion and interest to serve the Diller community or an area within the Diller-Odell school system. Beginning in 2017, young community members could apply for \$500 grants to help their community change and grow. Diller Community Foundation Fund members were looking for projects that would have a positive impact in the community. The contest was open to individuals, teams or groups.

The committee members considered how the applicants would save something, create

something or change something. Two winners were chosen to receive grants in the inaugural Youth Philanthropy Contest. Each award recipient was partnered with a community member who served as their mentor and assisted in paying expenses for the project.

***The Diller Community Foundation Fund places an emphasis on youth and wants to encourage them to contribute to their community. By becoming involved, we hope to create a desire for them to return or maintain a connection to their hometown in the future," said Tammy Weers.*** The Diller Youth Philanthropy Contest will be an

annual opportunity for young people to help their community and school change and grow.

### **Beautification Project**

The Happy Harbiners 4-H Club was selected as a winner in the contest. The club applied to beautify downtown Diller by planting a variety of flowers and succulents in planters along main street. The club consists of approximately 25 members who are led by Kristen Hennerberg and Stacy Schlichtman.

Kathy Engelman, a former leader of the club, assisted the 4-H members with purchasing and planting the flowers. Kathy showed the members the proper way to plant flowers and how to care for them throughout the summer. She also taught them about different flower and plant specimens and how much water each specimen would require to grow and thrive in the hot summer months.

***"Those who are happiest are those who do the most for others."***

- Booker T. Washington

The 4-H members quickly went to work planning, planting and watering several planters along main street. The members also enjoyed creating an enchanting fairy garden in one of the planters. The 4-H Club members will take turns watering and caring for the plants throughout the summer.

The planters will be enjoyed by local business owners, community members and everyone who visits downtown Diller.



Ashtyn Humphreys speaks to students about food production.

### **Hydroponic Classroom Gardens**

Ashtyn Humphreys was awarded a grant for her project by participating in the Youth Philanthropy Contest. For her community project, Ashtyn chose to set up vertical hydroponic garden systems in the Diller-Odell elementary classrooms. The system Ashtyn selected for use in the classrooms is called Mr. Stacky. Mr. Stacky is a five-tier system that makes it easy to maintain an organic garden. The advantages of hydroponic gardens is that larger vegetables can be grown faster utilizing a smaller footprint and conserving water all at the same time.



Ashtyn Humphreys teaches Hannah Penner, Brooklyn Barr, Richard Colgrove and Catelynn Petersen how to plant seeds in their classroom's hydroponic garden.

***"Tell me and I forget, teach me and I may remember, involve me and I learn."***

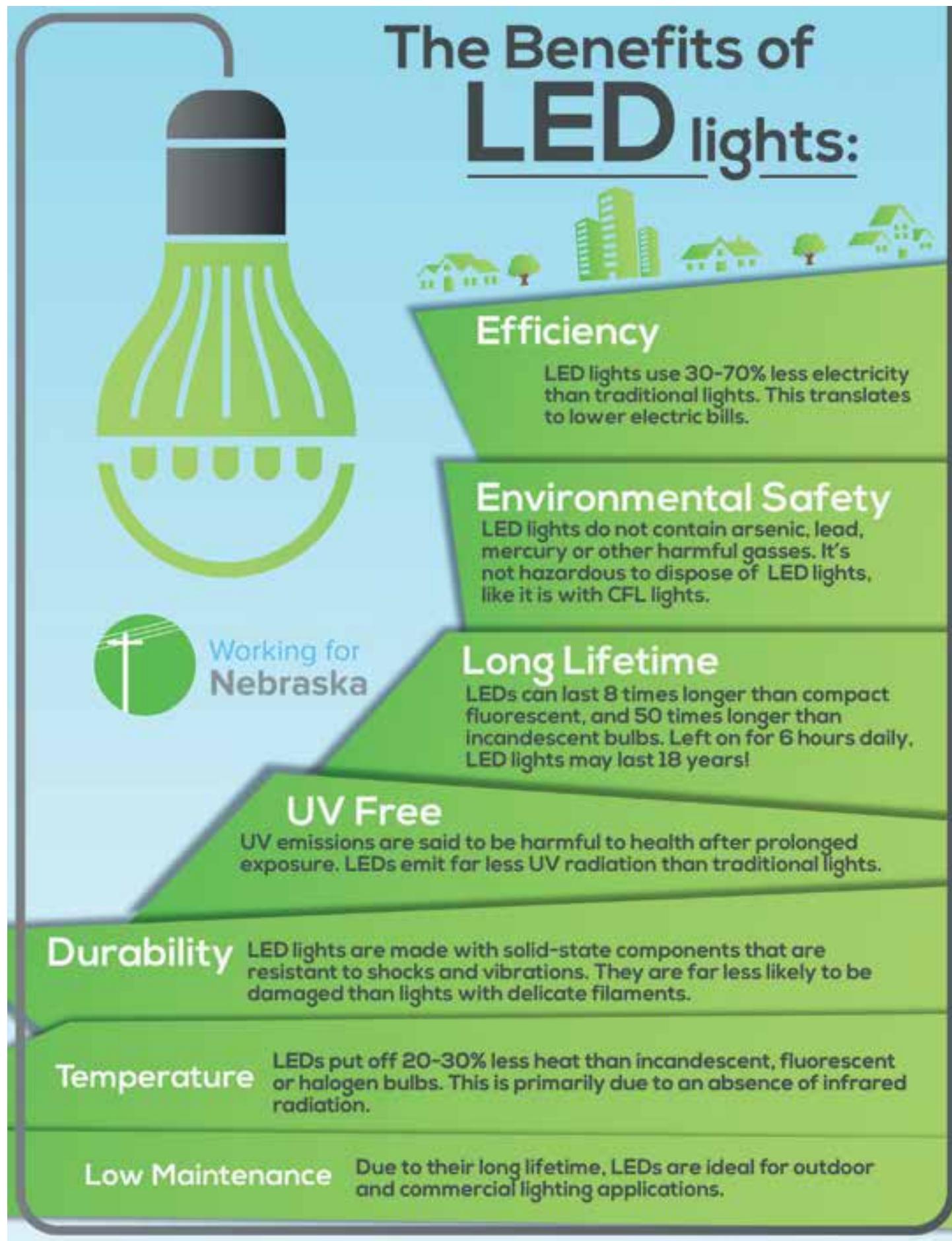
- Benjamin Franklin

For questions regarding the Youth Philanthropy Contest, contact Beth Roelfs, Coordinator - Diller Community Foundation Fund, at 402-793-5556.

opportunity to plant gardens. The younger students learned that at harvest time, you are able to eat what you have grown on your own."

Ashtyn will use this activity as her 4-H Diamond Clover program project. The Nebraska 4-H Diamond Clover program encourages 4-H youth to engage in a variety of projects and activities that will enable members to acquire the life skills necessary to lead successful lives as a competent, caring and contributing citizen. Her other 4-H projects include showing cattle and hogs, sewing and modeling.

Ashtyn is the daughter of Jeff and Andrea Humphreys and is a sophomore at Diller-Odell High School. Ashtyn said, "My parents offer help whenever I need it and are a tremendous support system for me." In the future, Ashtyn plans to be an agriculture teacher.



**The Benefits of LED lights:**

- Efficiency**: LED lights use 30-70% less electricity than traditional lights. This translates to lower electric bills.
- Environmental Safety**: LED lights do not contain arsenic, lead, mercury or other harmful gasses. It's not hazardous to dispose of LED lights, like it is with CFL lights.
- Long Lifetime**: LEDs can last 8 times longer than compact fluorescent, and 50 times longer than incandescent bulbs. Left on for 6 hours daily, LED lights may last 18 years!
- UV Free**: UV emissions are said to be harmful to health after prolonged exposure. LEDs emit far less UV radiation than traditional lights.
- Durability**: LED lights are made with solid-state components that are resistant to shocks and vibrations. They are far less likely to be damaged than lights with delicate filaments.
- Temperature**: LEDs put off 20-30% less heat than incandescent, fluorescent or halogen bulbs. This is primarily due to an absence of infrared radiation.
- Low Maintenance**: Due to their long lifetime, LEDs are ideal for outdoor and commercial lighting applications.

**Working for Nebraska**

# Ready, Set, Enter, Win!

In celebration of Norris Public Power District's 85th Anniversary, the District will be giving away five \$85.00 Gift Certificates to be applied to your Norris Public Power District electric account balance.

You may register either online by submitting your entry on our



website at [www.norrisppd.com](http://www.norrisppd.com) or you may visit one of our District offices located in Beatrice, Hebron, Roca or Seward to enter to win one of the five \$85.00 Gift Certificates. (Only one entry per customer please.)

## ENTER TODAY!

*The last day to register is Tuesday, August 14th.  
Winners will be notified on our 85th Anniversary - Wednesday, August 15th.*

**NORRIS PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT** promises to always listen to **YOU**, our valued customer.

**NORRIS** will never forget that  **YOU** are why we do what we do.

**NORRIS** promises to constantly work to earn **YOUR LOYALTY**.

**YOU**, our customer, always comes first. 

Dedicated to serving **YOU SINCE 1933**, and dedicated to serving **YOU** well into the future.

# NEW FACES IN DISTRICT PLACES

## Tyson Leise

Tyson Leise joined Norris Public Power District on May 21, 2018 as a Lineman in the District's office located near Roca. He grew up in Hartington and graduated from Cedar Catholic High School. Tyson completed his lineman's internship in 2010 at Norris and graduated from Metropolitan Community College with an Associate of Applied Science Degree in Utility Line. Following graduation, Tyson was employed at Schmader

Electric and most recently worked at Howard Greeley Rural Public Power District located in St. Paul for six years.

In Tyson's spare time, he enjoys hunting, fishing and playing golf. Tyson is happy to be back working at Norris Public Power District. The District welcomes Tyson back to the area and the Norris family.

## Nick Zarek

Nick Zarek joined Norris Public Power District on May 21, 2018 as a Lineman in the District's office in Seward. Nick received an Associate of Applied Science Degree in Utility Line from Northeast Community College.

Nick was previously employed at Mid-Plains Power, Inc. in Grand Island from 2010 to 2012, and most recently was employed at Dawson Public Power

District in Lexington from 2012 to April 2018.

Nick's wife, Gia has worked at Lexington Public Schools the past three years. Nick and Gia have one son, Sullivan, who is one year old.

In Nick's spare time, he enjoys golfing, camping with his family, four-wheeling on the river and Husker football.

Please join us in welcoming Tyson and Nick to the Norris Public Power District.

# 2018 Interns and Summer Staff

Norris Public Power District has temporarily hired utility line student interns and summer employees to assist District personnel during the demanding

construction season. Working with experienced linemen, interns gain skills and knowledge that cannot be found in textbooks or learned in the classroom. Interns have

hands-on opportunities to work with equipment and technology that may not be available on college campuses.

## Area I - Hebron

From left to right:



**Brendan Fangmeier** is from Hebron and plans to attend Chadron State College, majoring in Medicine.

**Preston Brinegar** (Intern) is from Hebron and attends Metropolitan Community College, majoring in Utility Line.

**Aubrey Fangmeier** is from Hebron and plans to attend the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, majoring in Secondary Social Sciences Education with a History Certification and Coaches Endorsement.

## Area II - Centerville

From left to right:



**Spencer Thompson** is from Wilber and plans to attend Southeast Community College-Milford, majoring in Diesel Mechanics.

**Trent Anderson** (Intern) is from Holdrege and attends Northeast Community College, majoring in Utility Line.

**Dylan Osterhaus** (2017-2018 Lineman Scholarship Recipient, Intern) is from Firth and attends Northeast Community College, majoring in Utility Line.

**Riley Wehrer** is from Firth and plans to attend Doane University, majoring in Electrical Engineering.

## Area III - Beatrice

From left to right:



**Jackson Reed** (Intern) is from Arlington and attends Northeast Community College, majoring in Utility Line.

**Jackson Kroese** (Intern) is from Hickman and attends Northeast Community College, majoring in Utility Line.

## Area IV - Seward

**John Trefz** (Intern) is from Papillion and attends Metropolitan Community College, majoring in Utility Line.



## Right-of-Way Department - Beatrice

**Logan Hutt** is from Beatrice and plans to attend the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, majoring in Psychology.





Cory Lamprecht and Derek Kinnett provide assistance in moving a house that was relocated from west of Hallam to Southwest 58th Street near Martell.

# Moving Down The Road

## Location, Location, Location

Structure relocations range from single family residential homes to historic buildings in need of preservation. Norris Public Power District assists with moving houses, buildings and large equipment through the District's service territory.

Per Nebraska State Statutes, any person moving a building or an object with a loaded height of over fifteen feet, six inches or wider than the roadway of a county or township road shall notify local authorities and Norris. Notification must be made at least ten days prior to the move.

The District will coordinate the route and will schedule for the move to limit or avoid disruption of power to District customers. If

a scheduled outage is planned, the duration will be kept to a minimum and affected customers will be notified in advance.

If you are planning to move a house, grain bin or any large structure, please give Norris a call at least ten days prior to the planned move. District personnel will record the loaded height of the structure and verify the ground clearance of lines that are along the route.

### Information Required:

- Date and hours in which the building or object will be transported
- Loaded height of the structure
- Proposed route

Each structure relocation job that the District supervises is unique and requires a great deal of attention. It is Norris District policy to recover the actual costs involved with structure moving jobs.

For questions and costs pertaining to moving a large structure through the District's service territory, please contact any District office.

For your safety and the safety of others, please do not attempt to raise high-voltage lines in the path of the move. Doing so may cause serious injury or death.

# EMPLOYEE SERVICE ANNIVERSARY

## Matthew Stone - 5 Years

Matt began working at the District as a Lineman on July 1, 2013 at the District's office in Roca. Prior to working at the District, Matt worked for Schmader Electric.

Matt is originally from Newman Grove and graduated from Newman Grove High School. Matt received an Associate of Applied Science Degree in Utility Line from Metropolitan Community College in Omaha.

Matt and his wife, Stephanie, have one daughter, Faith who is two years old. Stephanie is a Licensed Practical Nurse and works at Family Physicians in Lincoln.

In Matt's spare time, he enjoys spending time with his family,

hunting, fishing and riding his motorcycle.

Matt said, "The thing I enjoy most about Norris is the great people that I get to work with. The camaraderie amongst us linemen stems from working long hours together in all kinds of situations and continually looking out for each other's lives. Restoring power to customers is one of the most rewarding responsibilities of being a lineman."

Congratulations Matt on your 5th Anniversary of dedicated service to the District. The District wishes you many more safe and successful years serving the District's customers.

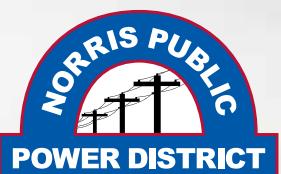


Matt Stone spends many hours of his life working 30 feet or higher in the air.

# TRUTH BE TOLD, YOUR ELECTRICITY COMES FROM PEOPLE POWER.



Thankfully, Norris customers can always depend on the District's hard-working, dedicated and efficient linemen.





# COMMUNITY EVENTS CALENDAR

SUNDAY  
**JULY 29**

**Cruis'n Classics Auto Show**  
1050 Saltillo Road, Roca  
Registration:  
8:00 – 11:00 a.m.  
Show:  
11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.  
For information  
call 430-0699 or email  
[cruisnclassics@gmail.com](mailto:cruisnclassics@gmail.com)

**FRIDAY AUGUST 17**

**Daniel Christian Concert**  
Olde Glory Theatre,  
Seward  
Social hour: 6:00 p.m.  
Concert: 7:00 p.m.  
For information call  
304-5392  
or visit [www.oldegloyrsewardne.com](http://www.oldegloyrsewardne.com)

**SATURDAY AUGUST 18**

**Hallam Fest**  
8:00 a.m. – midnight  
Crafts, farmers market,  
splash pad and car show,  
Band featuring City  
Limits  
For information  
call 450-2154  
or see Hallam Area  
Foundation on Facebook

SUNDAY  
**AUGUST 19**

**Malcolm Auto Show and  
Antique Tractors**  
*In the park, rain or shine*  
Registration:  
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.  
Show:  
12:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.  
For information  
call 580-3959

**SATURDAY AUGUST 25**

**Odell Community Day**  
Sand volleyball  
tournament, car and  
antique tractor shows,  
firemen's water shoot,  
ice cream social, rib  
cooking contest, chicken  
BBQ, parade, street  
dance featuring Repeat  
Offenders and more.

**SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 2**

**Cars of the Homestead Era  
Car Show**  
*Homestead National  
Monument of America*  
Homestead  
Education Center  
10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.  
For information contact  
223-3514  
For a complete listing  
of special events and  
programs visit  
[www.nps.gov/home](http://www.nps.gov/home)

SAT - SUN.  
**SEPTEMBER 15-16**

**Tractors and Treasures-  
Steele City Flea Market**  
For flea market  
information  
contact 729-5131  
For vendor information  
contact 442-2367  
For tractor show,  
drive and parade  
contact 446-7486

**SUNDAY  
SEPTEMBER 16**

**Gold Crest Retirement  
Center Fall Benefit**  
200 Levi Lane, Adams  
BBQ Chicken:  
11:15 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.  
Live Entertainment:  
12:15 – 1:15 p.m.  
Kids Activities:  
12:00 – 1:30 p.m.  
Silent Auction  
until 1:30 p.m.  
For information call  
988-7115 or email  
[rdorn@goldcrest.net](mailto:rdorn@goldcrest.net)

Community events are provided as a courtesy based on information submitted by the public.

Norris Public Power District is not responsible for errors. Events are subject to change, please check with sponsoring organization for updated information.

To have a community event published on this page, please submit the event information to [vickyjur@norrispower.com](mailto:vickyjur@norrispower.com) or by calling Vicky at 1-800-858-4707. Norris Public Power District reserves the right to accept or decline event submissions and to edit material submitted due to space availability limits.

With a bi-monthly publication, calendar items must be submitted on a timely basis to ensure that the event will be published.

