



MAY/JUNE 2020

Volts & Jolts

Published monthly for the members of Red Lake Electric Cooperative, Inc.
SERVING THE FOUR-COUNTY AREA OF MARSHALL, PENNINGTON, RED LAKE AND POLK
and a portion of the lands of the Red Lake Band of Chippewa

COVID-19 pandemic

It is the mission of Red Lake Electric Cooperative to enhance the quality of life for people of our service area by safely and consistently providing quality electric service and other valued services while holding our employees, our community and our environment in high regard.

Therefore, Red Lake Electric continues to monitor recent events associated with COVID-19, and we continue to take extra precautions to keep our members and employees healthy and safe. As a provider of critical power infrastructure, we need to be able to keep the lights on.

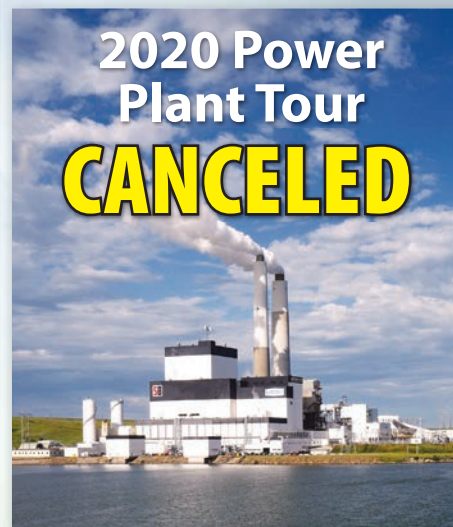
Our lobby doors continue to be closed to the public, but we continue to maintain our regular business hours by phone (218-253-2168) to help with questions as usual.

Payment options remain the same:

- SmartHub (see below for details to sign up)
- Drop box at our office
- United States Postal Service

Red Lake Electric encourages you to keep your account paid in full. If you are unable to do so, please make a payment of what you can afford. Contact your energy assistance agency, as they have received additional funding to help during the COVID-19 pandemic. RLEC wants to make sure you keep your balance manageable for when the pandemic is over. Please contact our office if you need to make payment arrangements.

Keep in mind that as you spend more time at home, you may use more electricity than you are used to.



Distance learning will be wrapping up shortly, but for many of you working from home, there is still a big question mark on (28450 Tyler Nelson) when you will return to your place of work.

Also, due to COVID-19, the Milton R. Young power plant bus tour for 2020 has been canceled. We will plan the trip for June 2021.

Register for SmartHub

For assistance, call 218-253-2168, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.



On the Web

1. Go to redlakeelectric.com and click the SmartHub icon.
2. Click the link: New User? Sign up to access our Self-Service Site.
3. Complete the Billing Account, Name and Email fields. Please call our office to get your new billing account number.
4. Complete the security questions, accept the terms and click Submit.
5. Check your email for your temporary password.
6. From the SmartHub login screen, enter your email address and temporary password to complete your registration.

On an Android Device

1. From the Google Play store, search for "SmartHub."
2. Tap the SmartHub app from National Information Solutions Cooperative (NISC). Accept the access options and install.
3. Search for Red Lake Electric and select it. Tap Confirm.
4. Fill out the fields; note that your email will be your username and you will be sent a temporary password by email.
5. Use your email address and temporary password to log in and complete the registration.

On an Apple Device

1. From the App store, search for "SmartHub" and install it from National Information Solutions Cooperative (NISC).
2. Search for Red Lake Electric, tap it to select it and then tap Confirm on the next screen.
3. Tap the New User button in the upper right corner and complete the required fields.
4. Complete the security check.
5. Check your email for the temporary password.
6. Sign on with your email and temporary password to complete the registration.

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Phone: (218) 253-2168

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Fax: (218) 253-2630



AFTER HOURS/OUTAGE CALLS

218-253-2200

Website: www.redlakeelectric.com

Email: info@redlakeelectric.com

CALL BEFORE YOU DIG

1-800-252-1166 or 811

MINNESOTA STATE ELECTRICAL INSPECTORS

Pennington and Marshall Counties:

Ronald Ditsch – 218-779-6758

Polk County and Red Lake Counties:

George Stage – 701-306-3511

Any time you or an electrician does wiring or other electrical work at your home or farm, Minnesota state law requires a state wiring inspector to conduct a proper inspection of the work. A rough-in inspection must be made before any wiring is covered. A final inspection is also required. Please visit www.dli.mn.gov for more information. The inspectors can be reached week-day mornings between 7 a.m. and 8:30 a.m.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

It is the mission of Red Lake Electric Cooperative to enhance the quality of life for people of our service area by safely and consistently providing quality electric service and other valued services while holding our employees, our community and our environment in high regard.



May is Military Appreciation Month

by Stephanie Johnson

May is Military Appreciation Month and I hope you will join me in pausing to reflect on the sacrifices of our country's veterans and their families. I am especially thankful for those who gave the ultimate sacrifice so that we can enjoy the freedoms their service affords us in this great country of ours.

At Red Lake Electric Cooperative, we are grateful and proud to serve veterans and their families within our local community. In addition to providing safe, reliable and affordable energy, we care for the veteran community and show our appreciation through our actions and ongoing commitment to them and their families. RLEC employees Mick Raymond and Javen Eidsmoe both served in the military.

We are not alone in our efforts to honor and serve veterans. Red Lake Electric Cooperative is part of a network of more than 900 electric cooperatives across the country that supports and honors our nation's veterans of all generations. As part of our national association of electric cooperatives, spanning 48 states and serving 13% of U.S. consumers, there are countless programs that our family of electric co-ops has initiated.

At the national level, we support the Vets Power Us program, which aims to employ and honor veterans, active military and their spouses. This effort helps veterans understand potential career paths with electric co-ops and, in turn, provides co-ops with best practices in attracting, onboarding and retaining veterans.

The Department of Defense is one of the largest energy consumers worldwide and the single largest energy consumer in the U.S. We, like other electric co-ops across the country, work closely with (23540 Carl Clark) military installations, providing electricity and partnering on various projects.

Not only do we pause on Memorial Day to remember the sacrifice and service of those who gave their all, but the month also holds several other military anniversaries and events, including Military Spouse Appreciation Day on May 8, and Armed Forces Day on May 16.

Red Lake Electric is proud to be a part of the electric cooperative network that honors (23326 Mike Peterson) and supports veterans of all ages, ranks and branches of the military. Please join us in taking a moment to show your appreciation to a veteran – not just this month, but every month.

Memorial Day

We are thankful for the brave men and women who selflessly gave the ultimate sacrifice so that we can enjoy the freedoms their service affords us. This May, please join us in pausing to reflect on the sacrifices made by our nation's veterans.

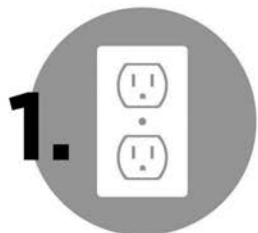
**Red Lake Electric will be closed
Monday, May 25, for Memorial Day.
If you have an electrical outage or emergency,
please call 218-253-2200.**



4 COMMON CULPRITS OF ELECTRICAL FIRES

Outdated wiring and overloaded circuits are the most common causes of electrical fires.

Check the following areas of your home to ensure your home's electrical safety is up to par.



1. Electrical outlets: Faulty electrical outlets are a leading cause of home fires. As outlets age, so do the wires behind them that you can't see. Any loose, damaged or warm-to-the-touch outlets should be repaired or replaced.



2. Electrical wiring: Outdated wiring is another common cause of electrical fires. Frequently tripped breakers, flickering lights and burning smells are clear warning signs. If your home is more than 20 years old, it may not be able to handle today's increased power load. If you suspect your home's wiring is outdated, leave this one to the pros and contact a qualified electrician.



3. Overloaded cords and outlets: Extension cords are not permanent solutions. If your big-screen TV, home theater system and other electronics are plugged into one extension cord, it's time to call an electrician and install additional outlets.



4. Old appliances: Older appliances are more likely to have loose or damaged wiring, which means they're more likely to catch fire. Check older appliances for damage and determine if it's time to upgrade or replace. Also check to ensure you're using appliance-grade outlets. A qualified electrician can help with installation.



Submit your recipes to be published in *Volts & Jolts*. Email to info@redlakeelectric.com or mail to: Red Lake Electric Cooperative, PO Box 430, Red Lake Falls, MN 56750.

Outrageously Buttery Crumb Cake

1 (18.25 ounce) package yellow cake mix
 $\frac{2}{3}$ cup water
3 eggs
 $\frac{1}{2}$ cup butter, softened
 $1\frac{1}{3}$ cups packed brown sugar
1 tablespoon ground cinnamon, or to taste
1 tablespoon vanilla extract
 $1\frac{1}{2}$ cups butter
 $4\frac{1}{2}$ cups all-purpose flour
1 tablespoon confectioners' sugar
for dusting (optional)

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Grease a 12x18-inch jellyroll pan.

Beat the yellow cake mix, water, eggs, and $\frac{1}{2}$ cup softened butter together with an electric mixer in a mixing bowl until thoroughly blended, about 2 minutes (26317 Susan Keller) on medium speed. Pour the cake batter into the prepared jellyroll pan.

Bake in the preheated oven until the edges of the cake are light brown but the middle of the cake is still slightly gooey, 15 to 17 minutes.

While the cake is baking, mix together the brown sugar, cinnamon, vanilla extract, butter, and flour in a large bowl until the mixture forms medium crumbs. Remove the cake from the oven, and press about $\frac{3}{4}$ of the crumb topping onto the top of the almost-baked cake. Reserve the remaining topping.

Return the cake to the oven and bake an additional 10 to 12 minutes until the crumb topping is firm and the cake is cooked all the way through.

Remove the cake from the oven and sprinkle with the remaining crumb topping. Let the cake cool to room temperature (31084 Sydney Parker) and sprinkle with confectioners' sugar.



Energy Efficiency Incentives

Make your home more comfortable and energy efficient with help from Red Lake Electric Cooperative. Great rebates and incentives are available to help you upgrade your heating and cooling system, water heater and electric vehicle chargers for electric vehicles. Not sure where to start? Check out our rebate list below for heating and cooling options. Contact Red Lake Electric Cooperative for expert advice on improving your home's energy performance.

Electric Heating Rebates

Must be on off-peak

Electric plenum heaters

Easily converts your existing fossil fuel furnace into a dual-fuel heating system. You are able to use the most efficient, cost-effective heating source – fossil fuel or electricity – at any time.

Rebate of \$50 per kilowatt (kW)

Electric thermal storage heaters

Draws electricity during off-peak hours when it is cheaper. Heat is stored in specially designed bricks to provide comfort 24 hours a day.

Rebate of \$60 per kW

Air-source heat pumps (including mini-split ductless option)

Works just like a central air conditioner in the summer. In the fall and winter, they provide super-efficient supplemental heat.

Up to 16 SEER: Rebate of \$300 per ton
17 SEER or greater: Rebate of \$500 per ton



Geothermal heat pumps

Provides the highest efficiency for space heating and cooling available today. The system transfers heat to and from the earth using only small amounts of electricity.

Closed loop: Rebate of \$400 per ton
Open loop: Rebate of \$200 per ton



Electric underfloor boiler

A popular off-peak option because the system transfers consistently across the floor to reach people and objects, providing both comfort and efficiency. Applications include electric boiler with hydronic tubing.

Rebate of \$50 per kW

Other electric heating systems

Options include electric baseboards, cove heaters, electric floor cable, mats and more.

Rebate of \$25 per kW

Electric Water Heater Rebates

Must be on off-peak



100 gallon or greater

\$350 rebate

56-99 gallon

\$300 rebate

55 gallon or less

\$150 rebate

Bonus rebates:

Add \$250

if converting from natural gas or propane.

Add \$100 for new building construction.

Electric Vehicle Charger Rebates

240V Level 2 Charger

Must be on off-peak



Electric vehicle or hybrid

\$50 per kW

Residential
Charger

Commercial
Charger

Commercial – Forklifts, Zambonis, etc.

\$50 per kW

All equipment must be new and installed on Red Lake Electric Cooperative's system.

Equipment must be installed on RLEC's off-peak program.

Contact Member Services for more details!

218-253-2168

Get more out of a modern cooling system.
Get year-round comfort.
Get top-notch efficiency.

GET AIR-SOURCE HEAT **PUMPED**.



Air Conditioner

Cooling during warm summer days

Absorbs inside heat and expels it from your home, then creates chilled air to push back into your home

Wall units **lack efficiency**, as they only provide spot cooling and air can leak through window seals. Central air units are comparable to ASHPs in summer

- Smaller upfront cost, but does not offer heating
- No installation rebates offered

VS



Air-Source Heat Pump

Up to
\$500/ton
in rebates!

CAN I USE IT
YEAR-ROUND?



Heating and cooling through every season

IS IT
VERSATILE?



Works like an air conditioner in the summer, but offers the **versatility** of the reverse process to heat your home in the winter

IS IT
EFFICIENT?



Super energy efficient, as the unit moves both cooled and heated air throughout the home

CAN I SAVE
MONEY?



- **Large rebates** available for unit installation
- **Sustained savings** through energy efficiency

Bonus Winter Benefit:

Electric ASHP heating is **much more efficient** and **cost-effective** than fuel heat technology, delivering up to three times more energy than the electricity it uses.

PUMP UP YOUR SAVINGS WITH AN AIR-SOURCE HEAT PUMP!

Contact Member Services at 218-253-2168 or visit **redlakeelectric.com**

Electrical safety and conservation websites

The following is a list of websites that can provide information and education in reference (30755 Lynsey Huseth) to electrical safety and energy conservation. These websites are listed as links on Red Lake Electric's website at www.redlakeelectric.com.

- Electrical Safety Foundation International: www.esfi.org
- Alliance to Save Energy: www.ase.org
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency: www.epa.gov/greenhomes
- Energy Star: www.energystar.gov
- Minnesota Safety Council: www.minnesotasafetycouncil.org
- Safe Electricity: www.safeelectricity.org
- Lighting Controls Association: www.aboutlightingcontrols.org
- U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission: www.cpsc.gov

NOTICE OF NAMES

Hidden within the text of the articles of this issue of *Volts & Jolts* are the names and account numbers of some Red Lake Electric Cooperative members. They will appear within the articles in parentheses as such (9999999.99 Willie Ray Member). If you find your name and account number, clip it out and send it with your next payment. You will be credited with \$5 on your electric bill.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

When the weather is nice, put your grill to use! During summer months, cooking outdoors is a great way to save energy and eliminate unwanted heat from cooking indoors.

Source: energy.gov



Like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/redlakeelectric

LOVE THE OUTDOORS? BE SAFE OUT THERE

2/3 of lightning fatalities are associated with outdoor **recreational activities**.

Pay attention to weather forecasts **before you go canoeing or boating**. Get off the open water as soon as you **hear thunder**.

Do not use generators in enclosed areas. The same goes for grills, camping stoves or other small appliances that produce carbon monoxide.

Look up for power lines while fishing or sailing.

FACT: Fishing is the most common outdoor activity associated with lightning-related deaths.

Going for a hike? If you hear thunder or see lightning, **do not seek shelter under a tree.**

Tent camping? Plan ahead, seek shelter in a hard-top vehicle or four-sided building during a storm or at the first sight of lightning.

Safe Electricity.org

DOWNED AND DANGEROUS

Downed power lines can be deadly. **ALWAYS** assume a downed power line is live and avoid going near it or anything in contact with it.

USE PRECAUTION

Cards of Thanks

Red Lake Electric reserves the right to edit
thank you notes when being published.



Dear RLEC Trust,

Thank you for your grant to the Strandquist food shelf. Your money will be used to buy more food to feed those who use our food shelf.

Gula Stromgren

A big thank you to Operation Round Up for the grant given to the Goodridge Lion Tamers to help replace refrigerators at the Lions Hall.

The Goodridge Lion Tamers

Thank you for the Operation Round Up grant. It is only with supporters like you that we are able to continue to serve the city of Viking and the Viking and New Solem Townships. We have been able to upgrade our vehicles and improve our equipment.

Viking Fire and Rescue

A "thank you" is not enough for those who give any type of donation

to support our endeavor – food, hygiene or household items – to fill up our food shelf. Our community is a gift for everyone living in it. I have seen it evolve and grow firsthand since beginning (22722 Richard Filpula) my position here. Thank you for your generosity and thank you for being you.

*Alicia Hunt, Executive Director,
Thief River Falls Food Shelf*

Thank you so much for the recent Operation Round Up grant gifted to our agency. It will be used to benefit the Marshall County Social Services Little Brother/Little Sister program. Your gift is appreciated and will be used to help fund group events we sponsor for the mentors and youth involved in the Little Brother/Little Sister program. Thank you for your generosity and for your support of this program.

*Stacey Urbaniak, Case Aide,
Marshall County Social Services*

Thanks to neighbors like you, children are being adopted to loving families. Youth and families are finding a stable way forward out of homelessness. Minnesotans at risk of hunger can count on affordable, nutritious meals. Older adults are living longer, healthier, more connected lives. Thank you for your generosity and for joining our movement of neighbors helping neighbors.

*Lutheran Social Services of
Minnesota*

FEDERAL/STATE ENERGY ASSISTANCE

If you need help paying your electric utility bill, you may qualify for state or federal fuel assistance. For complete qualification and application information, contact your local county welfare or community/citizen's action council listed below. These organizations may also provide budget counseling.

Inter-County Community Council Oklee, MN

Serves East Polk, Pennington
and Red Lake Counties
218-796-5144
Toll-free: 1-888-778-4008
Fax: 218-796-5175

Northwest Community Action
Badger, MN
Serves East Marshall County
218-528-3258
Toll-free: 1-800-568-5329
Fax: 218-528-3259

Tri-Valley Opportunity Council
Crookston, MN
Serves West Polk and
West Marshall Counties
218-281-9080
Toll-free: 1-866-264-3729
Fax: 218-281-0705

**Red Lake Community Action
Agency**
Red Lake, MN
Serves Beltrami County
218-679-1880

Take control of your account with SmartHub!



Now you can see your daily and monthly usage, pay/view your bill online, plus a whole (22024 Deb Dietz) host of other useful services with SmartHub. SmartHub is a free and secure online energy portal at www.redlakeelectric.com that allows members to do the following things:

- View daily and monthly energy use.
- View and pay your bills online.
- Go paperless and receive an email notice when your bill is ready to view.
- Compare energy use to changes in temperature.



Scan the QR code
for online access to
SmartHub

If you have questions regarding SmartHub, call us at 218-253-2168
or send an email to info@redlakeelectric.com.

ALWAYS CALL BEFORE YOU DIG

Call 48 hours before digging



Many of us have our sights set on completing outdoor projects this spring. Whether you plan to dig posts for a deck, plant a tree or trench in electric lines for an outbuilding, it is important to understand and utilize Gopher State One Call (GSOC).

The GSOC system is designed to notify utilities that might have underground facilities in the area where digging is planned. That call needs to be made at least 48 hours (excluding weekends and holidays) before you plan to dig. If a homeowner hires a contractor to do the work, (24284 Perry Lundeen) then by law the contractor must obtain the ticket that allows digging to proceed.

When you contact GSOC, you may call 811 or 1-800-252-1166. You may also visit www.gopherstateonecall.org to submit your ticket application online. Be prepared with the following information: your name, home phone number and work/cell phone number, when you plan to begin work, how many days the digging will take, type of work you will be doing, county and city/township where work will be done, address and nearest cross streets or township range/section where work will be done, where you will be digging on the

property (also mark the area with white paint) and whether any digging will be done in the road right of way.

Since most private facilities are not listed on GSOC, it is the homeowner's responsibility to hire someone to locate their private underground facilities.

What are private electric underground facilities?

Private underground facilities, or member-owned facilities, are those facilities that were installed behind or after the meter. Whether you have overhead or underground distribution lines coming into your property, the underground wires installed from your electric meter to your house, shop, garage, etc. belong to the member/property owner.

Where are private facilities found?

Private facilities are found everywhere, including single-family homes, multifamily housing units, industrial areas, trailer parks, shopping centers and sometimes in the road right of way. Other private facilities can include: natural gas

farm taps, natural gas or propane gas underground piping to buildings, gas grills and pool heaters, private water systems, data communication lines, underground sprinkler systems, invisible fences and many others. If you have a question on whether a facility in your excavation area is considered private, please contact that local utility office.

Whose responsibility is it to locate private facilities?

When a property owner or tenant has any type of private underground facility, they are responsible to locate those facilities, or hire someone to locate them. If you need help finding electrical contractors in your area, please call our office at 1-800-245-6068.

No one should ever remove flags before work is completed as they are there to mark lines (20114 Randy Henrickson) for the safety of all digging in the area.

If you come in contact with an underground utility, evacuate the area for safety, notify your utility provider and do not attempt to fix the problem yourself.