



# NorVal

## NEWS



May 2020

### Manager's Column By Craig Herbert



#### COVID 19 Update

**W**e strive to continue normal day-to-day operations per our continuity plan. Billing, bill questions, line maintenance, new construction and other various operations that you have come to expect from NorVal Electric continue to be performed. However, for the safety of our community and our employees, we have discontinued public access to the office during this time.

With that being said, should you have any questions or concerns about your bill please give us a call. Our friendly staff is here to answer any questions you have, assist with bill payments or direct you to the department you wish to speak to! For contactless payment options please utilize the drop box located on the side of the office, download the SmartHub app on your smartphone or device, or access SmartHub on your pc or laptop from the [www.norval.coop](http://www.norval.coop) website, or call the IVR interactive telephone system to pay, check your balance or set up recurring payments at 1-844-252-5271. We appreciate your assistance to ensure adequate social distancing for our crew as well. Please maintain a 6 foot space between you and the line crew if you have questions or concerns when you come into contact with them. We look forward to the day we can re-open our doors and welcome you back inside our lobby with smiling faces

and open arms. Until then, we appreciate your patience during this unprecedented and rather unusual time.

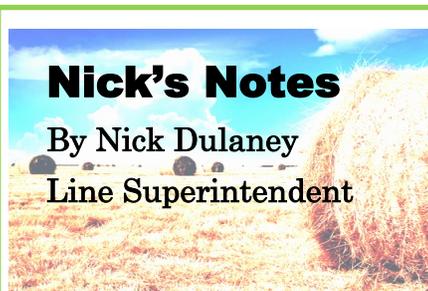
In addition, many Americans are facing financial insecurity in direct correlation to this pandemic. If you are one of them, please give our office a call and we will work with you on a payment plan for your electric bill. We are happy to help!

#### TC Energy

This historic Keystone XL Pipeline project has been over a decade in the making, and it's exciting to finally get started on construction.

The first project on our list for this is to install power to the contractor camps.

In addition to the contractor camps, we will be beginning construction on the pump stations. Pump stations play a vital role in moving crude oil through the pipeline system. In general, pump stations contain one or more electrically driven pumping units, and they are strategically located to boost internal pipeline pressure and flow within the pipeline itself. The electrical load for each of the two pump stations on NorVal's system will be incredibly huge, so much so that they will be more than double the entire years' worth of power sold in a normal year. In essence, we will be more than doubling our power sales when they are online. The impact this will have will be incredible for our tiny cooperative, the counties that are in the path, and at the state wide level as well. 



### Nick's Notes

By Nick Dulaney

Line Superintendent

**I**n Spring every year, the crews begin longer work days. This new schedule allows for more work in the field and begins earlier in the day so that they can accomplish more during the cooler parts of

the hot summer days. With social distancing protocols in place, even the 10-hour day has taken on a new look. We have split the crews into sections, so that all of them aren't arriving at work at the same time, and leaving at the same time. By using flexibility, this ensures that we are compliant with the recommendations by the CDC, and can still ensure that the work that needs to get accomplished can be done in a timely fashion.

The line crew has successfully completed changing out the primary metering in the Kronebusch Substation. The aging wiring and equipment in the sub was slated for replacement and will help with more accurate month-end reporting to the office.

The crews have also worked on the annual overhead and

underground line patrol. Every year our insurance carrier requests that we physically inspect the lines for repairs and potential problems that may arise. The patrol helps us create a list of projects to complete, and helps us determine which section of line is most in need of replacement.

The linemen continue to work on the Rorvik three phase line rebuild, and have gathered information on the various irrigation services that we serve. They are also working on burying three phase power South of Nashua to convert the line from overhead to underground. We have also installed new services North of Fort Peck.

As a reminder, with seeding, tree planting, fence building and any other projects you have planned be sure to call 811 at least 48 hours before you begin your work to have all underground water, electric, gas and phone or internet lines located. It's a free service, and it's the law!

If you have additional projects that may require electrical service, please call the office to get those scheduled. With the numerous projects on the books this year, the more advanced notice you give us, the better! 



## Recipe of the Month

### Easy Baked French Toast

*In honor of Mother's Day, we've found a delightful recipe you can make ahead and bake the morning of, or later in the day for a delicious brunch.*

#### Ingredients

- 6 tbsp. melted unsalted butter, plus more for preparing the pan
- 1 lb. loaf bread, preferably a few days old
- 2 c. half and half
- 4 eggs
- 1/2 c. dark brown sugar
- 1 tsp. vanilla extract
- 1 tsp. ground cinnamon
- Zest of 1 orange
- 1 tbsp. flaked almonds, toasted (optional)
- 1 heaping c. berries or sliced fruit
- Powdered sugar, for garnish
- Maple syrup, for serving

#### Directions

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Butter an 8x8 inch glass baking dish and set aside. Slice the bread into approximately 1 inch pieces. Spread over a rimmed sheet pan or in a large bowl and toss with melted butter. Pack the bread into the prepared baking dish. In a separate bowl, whisk together half and half, eggs, sugar, vanilla, cinnamon and orange zest. Pour over the bread and allow to sit for 30 minutes. Bake until custard is set and the top is golden brown and nicely puffed (approximately 40 minutes). Cool 5-10 minutes. Sprinkle with toasted almonds (if you desire), fresh fruit and a dusting of powdered sugar. Serve with a warm drizzle of maple syrup.



## Reflect and Honor: May is Military Appreciation Month

While enjoying various Memorial Day festivities this month, we hope you will join us pausing to reflect on the sacrifices of our country's veterans and their families. We are 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.

May is Military Appreciation Month, and in the words of John F. Kennedy, "As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them."

At NorVal Electric Cooperative, we are grateful for all those who've served. 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.

This Memorial Day, we salute all veterans and their families. We also partner with local charitable and business organizations that support veterans and their families, such as the American Legion and Veteran's of Foreign Wars and to have helped in a small part to the creation of the Veteran's Memorial at Fort Peck.

We are not alone in our efforts to honor

and serve veterans. NorVal Electric Co-op is part of a network of more than 900 electric cooperatives across the country that support and honor 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 is aimed at employing and honoring 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.

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

NorVal Electric is proud to be a part of the electric cooperative network that honors 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.



The Northeast Montana Veteran's Memorial in Fort Peck.



#### Connect With Us

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District 6	Ron Reddig <b>President</b>	392-5257
District 7	Rocky Kittleson	367-5366
District 7	Gary Meyer	526-3600

### 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.

