



# NorVal NEWS



January 2021

## Let's Connect!

When we say that we live in a “connected” world, most of us think about technology, like our smart phones and other devices and gadgets. But when you’re a member of an electric co-op (that’s you!), there’s so much more to being part of our connected co-op community.

As a member of NorVal Electric Co-op you help to power good in our local community through initiatives like food drives, donations to our local youth organizations, school art and sports programs and chamber events.

We depend on you because you power our success, and when NorVal Electric does well, the community thrives because we’re all connected.

We greatly value our connection to you, the members we serve. And we’d like to help you maximize the value you can get from us through a variety of programs, products and services that we offer our members. For example, we can help you save money on your energy bill through our SmartHub app, you can monitor and manage your home energy use, pay your bill online and access information at your fingertips to help save you money.

When you follow NorVal on Facebook, you can stay up to date on power restoration efforts, tree trimming planning, co-op director elections, giveaways and more. You’ll also see photos of our line crews in action and our employees helping with community service projects—and who doesn’t enjoy seeing good things happening in our community!


By connecting with us, you can get real-time updates from your co-op. That’s why we want to make sure we have your most current contact information on hand. If we can’t connect with you on these platforms or in person, you could miss out on potential savings or important information.

We rely on data for nearly every aspect of our operations, and up-to-date contact information from our members helps ensure that we can provide the highest level of service that you expect and deserve.

Updated contact information can even speed up the power restoration process during an outage. That’s because when you call to report an outage, accurate information helps our crews contact you in case they need additional information, and to check with you personally to see that power has been restored after business hours.

We hope you will connect with us whenever and wherever you can—whether that means attending our Annual Meeting in October, providing feedback on a recent visit or call with our employees, or simply downloading our app.

NorVal Electric exists to serve our members, and when we’re better connected to you and our local community, we’re better prepared to answer the call.

To update your contact information or to learn more about co-op products and services that can help you save, visit [www.norval.coop](http://www.norval.coop), or call the office at 228-9351. 

## Directors Recognized for Years of Service



**Chris Christensen**, District 4 Director, has served on the NorVal Electric Board for 15 years.


Chris was elected by the members at the Annual Meeting in 2005 to the Valley Electric Cooperative Board. He successfully assisted in navigating the two cooperatives through the merger in 2010.

His attention to detail, cooperative spirit, and dedication to the cooperative way of life led him to run for the National Rural Electric Cooperatives Association Board. He currently serves as the Secretary/Treasurer of the national board and will be the successor to the current President in the coming year.

In addition, Chris also serves on MECA’s Legislative Committee as the NorVal representative. We thank Chris for his 15 years of dedication to the Co-op!

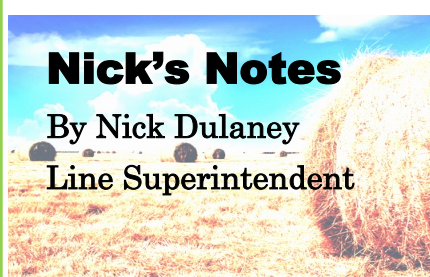


**Lee Risa**, District 1 Director has served on the Board for 15 years. He was elected by the members at the Northern Electric Annual Meeting in June of 2005. Lee serves on the Education and Training Committee for the Montana Electric Cooperatives’ Association as our representative.

His no-nonsense approach to life has served the members of the co-op and his district well. His dedication to the cooperative way of life, his community, and the area is prevalent in all that he does. NorVal Electric is lucky to have Lee and we thank him for his continued dedication to the Co-op! 

## Nick's Notes

By Nick Dulaney  
Line Superintendent




Happy New Year! The line crew has been working on retiring idle services on the system that have been identified by the landowner as abandoned and/or those they will not be energizing again. If you have a service that you own that has not been connected you may receive a

certified letter requesting information on how you wish to proceed.

The crew is also working on year-end map corrections for new services, retirements and continuing property records. The information is sent to the state as part of their annual information updates.

In the near future we will be doing line lifts for the TC Energy project so the pipeline can be laid safely in the ground.

As you prepare for the next seeding season, if you come across fields or approaches where the power line is possibly lower than it should be, give us a call! We would be happy to come out and inspect the crossing to ensure you’re in the clear for this next year. 



## Recipe of the Month

### Ranch Pork & Potatoes

#### Ingredients

- 2 pounds red potatoes (about 6 medium) cut into 3/4 inch cubes
- 1/4 c. water
- 6 boneless pork loin chops (6 oz each)
- 2 cans (10.75 oz) condensed cream of chicken soup, undiluted
- 1 c. 2% milk
- 1 envelope ranch salad dressing mix
- Minced fresh parsley, optional

#### Directions

Place potatoes and water in a large microwave safe dish. Microwave, covered, on high for 3-5 minutes or until potatoes are almost tender; drain. Transfer potatoes and pork chops to a 4 or 5 quart slow cooker. In a bowl, mix condensed soup, milk and salad dressing mix; pour over pork chops. Cook covered on low 4-5 hours or until pork and potatoes are tender (a thermometer inserted in pork should read at least 145 degrees). If desired, sprinkle with parsley.



Winter can often take a toll on power bills, driving the cost of heating your home higher. Here are 11 tips and tricks to help keep that bill low this winter.

**Take advantage of heat from the sun:** open curtains on your south-facing windows during the day to allow sunlight to naturally heat your home, and then close them at night to reduce the chill you may feel from cold windows.

**Cover drafty windows:** use a heavy-duty clear plastic sheet on a frame or tape clear plastic film to the inside of your window frames during the cold winter months. Make sure the plastic is sealed tightly to reduce infiltration.

**Adjust the temperature:** when you are home and awake, set your thermostat as low as comfortable. When you are sleeping or out of the house turn your temp back 10-15 degrees for eight hours, which can save you up to 10 percent on your heating and cooling bills.

**Find and seal leaks:** seal air leaks around utility cut-throughs for pipes, gaps around chimneys and recessed lights in insulated ceilings, and unfinished

spaces behind cupboards and closets. Add caulk or weather stripping to seal air leaks around leaky doors and windows.



## Save \$ This Winter

**Maintain your heating system:** schedule service for your heating and cooling unit. Change your air filter once a month. For wood and pellet burning heaters

clean the flue vent regularly and clean the inside of the heater with a wire brush periodically to ensure your home is heated efficiently.

**Reduce loss from the fireplace:** keep your fireplace damper closed unless a fire is burning. If you never use your fireplace, plug and seal the chimney flue. Add caulking around the fireplace hearth.

**Lower your water heating costs:** Turn down the temperature of your water heater to the warm setting (120 degrees). You'll save energy, money, and keep your family safe from burns.

**Conserve in the laundry room:** Doing laundry can use a lot of energy. To keep costs down, try using the heating element as little as possible. Wash and dry full loads of laundry and try washing as much as possible in cold water. If you can, hang your laundry to dry. This will also reduce wear and tear on your clothes.

**Unplug unused electronics:** Standby power accounts for an average household energy cost of \$100 per year. Use surge protectors to easily turn these electronics all the way off and prevent them from using standby power.

**Snuggle up:** Wear warm clothes, wrap yourself in a blanket, fuzzy socks and enjoy warm tea or soup.

If you have questions or would like more money saving tips, be sure to check out our website [www.norval.coop](http://www.norval.coop) and follow us on Facebook!



## HISTORY CORNER



Picture at left: Northern Electric Crew, circa 1978.

Front row left to right: David Leahy, Lee Kronebusch, Dennis Boreson. Back Row Archie Anderson, Bill Sheets & Joe Connot.

#### Connect With Us

- 54091 US Hwy 2 W., Glasgow
  - PO Box 951, Glasgow, MT 59230
  - 406-228-9351
  - [www.norval.coop](http://www.norval.coop)
  - [facebook.com/norvalelectric](https://facebook.com/norvalelectric)
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#### NorVal Electric Cooperative Directors

District 1	Lee Risa	762-3247
District 2	Sam Gundermann	724-3405
District 3	Rick Molvig <i>Vice Pres.</i>	367-5328
District 4	Chris Christensen	364-2367
District 5	Kurt Breigenzer <i>S/T</i>	228-9465
District 6	Ron Reddig <i>President</i>	392-5257
District 7	Rocky Kittleson	367-5366
District 7	Gary Meyer	526-3600

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Use wool or rubber dryer balls in the clothes dryer to reduce drying time and static.

Wool dryer balls can also absorb extra moisture. These are an efficient alternative to dryer sheets, which can create buildup on the dryer's filter and reduce air circulation. If you prefer dryer sheets, scrub the filter once a month to remove buildup.

Source: [www.energy.gov](http://www.energy.gov)

