

Current Matters



Nobles Cooperative
Electric

® Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

July 2023
Vol. 15 Issue 7

What's the buzz at the co-op? A new pollinator site

Nobles Cooperative Electric (NCE) serves 2,271 miles of power to the rural members of Murray and Nobles counties. Those miles represent some great opportunities to preserve our natural habitat.

Minnesota was once a paradise for pollinators with 18 million acres of native prairielands. Today? Only 1% of that prairieland remains.

NCE and Great River Energy (our wholesale power supplier) are working together to bring a 1.5 acre pollinator site to the cooperative's Worthington headquarters on the same land that contains our 20 kW solar array.

As a cooperative, we care about the environment and the communities we serve. But why a pollinator site? This site is designed to attract bees, butterflies, (516-38-110) birds and insects. These animals perform the pollination that is crucial to our ecosystem—making it possible for our food and flowers to grow!

Cover photo: Drone footage of the spraying of NCE's new pollinator site.

By the time you read this newsletter, the seeds were planted and the growing process began. It is important to note that you won't see the beauty of this project right away. It takes two to three years to become fully established.

According to the USDA, three-fourths of the world's flowering plants and about 35 percent of the

world's food crops depend on animal pollinators to reproduce. More than 3,500 species of native bees help increase crop yields. Some scientists estimate that one out of every three bites of food we eat exists because of animal pollinators like bees, butterflies and moths, birds and bats, and beetles and other insects.

To learn more about pollinator habitats and how to plant yours, go to <https://greatriverenergy.com/pollinator-strong/>. We will keep you up-to-date on what's buzzing at our Pollinator Strong site.

Energy saving tip

Summer is a prime opportunity to enjoy the great outdoors. To reduce home energy use, avoid using your oven and use a grill instead. Not only will cooking outdoors eliminate the electricity used to power the stove, but it will also avoid raising the temperature inside your home, reducing the need for air conditioning or cooling. You can also avoid using the oven with tasty no-bake recipes. Get creative in the kitchen (or the backyard) and find new ways to save energy!

Source: energy.gov

Mark your calendar

July 30 Electric bills due

Aug. 1 - 3 Farmfest

July Auto Pay Winner Steven McNab

Take a minute to sign up for Auto Pay and you may win a \$25 bill credit. A winner is chosen each month.

Spot your location number

If you find your location number (as it appears on your monthly electric bill) in this issue, you will receive a \$10 credit.



Manager's Message



Help us welcome our new employee Shannon



Carla Frisvold retires after 38+ years



General Manager
Adam Tromblay

We are here to serve you

“We’re here to serve you.” We’ve all heard this phrase countless times. These words may sound generic, but to us – your local electric cooperative – they mean everything.

NCE was created to serve our community. Back in the day, neighbors banded together and formed our co-op for the common good. In our case, it was the only way the community could bring electricity to this area where there was none. In doing so, NCE helped the community thrive. That mission-focused heritage is the golden thread that is woven throughout our history.

Today, we are continuing to power the community. While our focus has remained steady on providing reliable energy to our members, today’s energy landscape and consumer expectations are far different than they were (16-17-53) decades ago. That’s why we’re adapting, to keep pace with changing technology, evolving needs and new expectations.

Serving as your trusted energy

Touch-A-Truck



One of the seven cooperative principles is “Concern for Community”. That cooperative principle is embedded in everything we do from responding to outages to volunteering for the Touch-A-Truck event. Our employees walk the walk and talk the talk, both as representatives of NCE and in their personal lives. Thank you to our employees Cody and Austin for participating in this event!

NCE participated in the Touch-A-Truck event in Slayton on June 17. Kids had the opportunity get up close and even sit inside an electric boom truck, big rigs, emergency vehicles, public works equipment and more. Kids get super excited for anything with big wheels and the parents had just as much fun!

advisor means we want to help you save energy (and money) and provide advice and information on a broad range of energy topics. For example, if you’re looking for ways to save energy, check out www.noblesce.coop and the “Save (13-24-15) Money and Energy” tab for energy-saving tips and ideas to increase the energy efficiency of your home. Understanding how your home uses energy can help determine the best ways to modify energy use and thereby keep more money in your wallet.

If you’re considering a solar installation, our energy advisors would be happy to give you an unbiased view of the pros and cons. Investing in a solar system is a major decision, and it’s important to fully understand the costs, responsibilities and potential energy savings. Unlike a solar company that has one objective—to sell their products and services—we will look at the total energy picture and help you determine the best options for your home. We understand that homeowners must undertake their due diligence, and we’re here to help you through that process.

In a similar vein, we recognize that many members are considering electric vehicle (EV) options. NCE provides information about EV charging and electrical requirements to our members so you can make informed decisions about EVs. No matter what our members drive, we want to help you achieve energy savings. Your cooperative also provides a special rate for your home when you have an EV called a Time-Of-Use (TOU) rate with only 5 cent energy.

So, the next time you hear “NCE” we hope you know that we are here to serve you and we hope you know that we mean it. Service is deeply ingrained into who we are. We continue to evolve with the times, and in return, we’ve found additional ways to serve you and provide more options for you to power your life.

We’re here whenever you need us. Connect with us online, in person, through our MyMeter app or our Facebook page. However you choose to connect, please let us know how we can serve you better.

Welcome
To the Team!



Meet Shannon! Shannon Bakke recently began employment at NCE as a member services representative.

Shannon lives with her husband, Craig, in Fulda. She graduated from Fulda High School, and also from Southwestern Technical College in Granite Falls (now Minnesota West) with an Associate of Applied Science degree in Customer Service.

She has worked at Murray County Central, Purnet, Murray County Medical Center and CenturyLink.

In her free time, Shannon enjoys reading, walking, playing games and spending time with her family, which includes 4 children and 4 grandchildren.



Adopt-A-Highway

Another way employees give back



Living and working by our values

- Safety
- Team
- Accountable
- Responsive
- Transparent

Vision

Committed to improving the quality of our members' lives.

Mission

To distribute energy and services to benefit members and to be valued by our communities.

Join us at Farmfest August 1-3

Top reasons to attend:

- Grow your business and network with others
- Experience educational opportunities and live demonstrations
- Visit with 500+ exhibitors showcasing the latest in agriculture
- See displays that include farm machinery, livestock equipment and more
- Explore demonstration plots
- Participate in political (20-34-28) forums and debates
- Take in livestock cattle chute demonstrations, livestock seminars and product presentations
- Register to win huge prizes at the gate and from dozens of exhibitors
- Don't forget to bring your coupon below to register at the Touchstone Energy Cooperative's booth #2301



Visit Nobles Cooperative Electric, along with other Touchstone Energy Cooperatives, at Farmfest 2023 and enter for a chance to win a grand prize!

FARMFEST 2023 • AUGUST 1 - 3 • REDWOOD FALLS, MN

Bring this coupon to Booth #2301.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

You must be a member of one of the participating electric cooperatives to win.



Carla Frisvold retires after nearly 39 years of service



After a nearly 39-year career at NCE, Member Services Representative Carla Frisvold retired on June 19, 2023.

Carla joined the cooperative in October 1984, and worked in the Slayton office until 2015 when she began working at NCE's headquarters in Worthington.

She has seen the cooperative through many changes throughout the years including ice storms, the offering of more services and products, as well the adoption of more innovation and technology.

CEO/General Manager Adam Tromblay has worked with Carla for the past 16 years and says she will be truly missed at the cooperative. "I want to congratulate Carla on her retirement," remarked Tromblay. "Her hard work, loyalty

and dedication to the membership will be greatly missed."

Carla has been key to the cooperative's commitment to our community with her help with community projects including serving on the Slayton Area Chamber of Commerce board, giving Slayton's Pocket Park (13-16-48) a seasonal facelift, her work with the emergency response phone system and her commitment to the membership.

"I want to sincerely thank Carla for her service to the cooperative," said Tromblay. "She has been an integral part of NCE and her contributions will always be valued and remembered."

In her time at NCE, she's been the friendly face people see when they come by the office or the voice on the other side of the phone. In her years of service, she's developed relationships with so many of our members. To our employees she has been a mother figure, a role model and a friend.

Carla plans to spend her retirement with her family, enjoy time on the lake and travel.



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nce@noblesce.com

Office hours

7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Monday through Friday
May 1 - September 30

24-Hour outage service

800-776-0517

Gopher State One-Call

800-252-1166 or 811

Electrical inspectors

Murray County
Randal Maha - 507-274-5261
Nobles County
Austin Kurtz - 651-368-3021

General Manager

Adam Tromblay

Board of Directors

Ronald Schwartau, President - 220-8148*
Lee York, V. President - 879-3497*
Cindy Hokeness, Sec./Treas. - 478-4965*
Jerry Beckering, Director - 227-4074*
Timothy Bickett, Director - 605-670-5294
Gary Clarke, Director - 605-201-1903
David Dorpinghaus, Director - 605-695-7816
**Telephone prefix 507*

Next Board Meeting

July 24, 2023

*This cooperative is an equal
opportunity provider and employer.*



Country Cupboard

Tator Tot Hotdish

- 2 lb. ground burger (beef, pork, venison or goat)
- 2 lb. tator tots
- 2 lb. corn
- 2 lb. green beans
- 2 - 10.5 oz. cream of mushroom soup or other cream soup
- 1 - 8 oz. shredded cheddar cheese or other cheese
- 2 tsp. cinnamon (optional)

Brown and drain burger. In a 9 x 13" pan, combine burger, corn, green beans and soup. It can be mixed together or layered. Level out and spread cheese layer, followed by layer of tator tots and then sprinkle cinnamon on top. Bake at 375 degrees for 45 to 50 minutes on middle shelf in preheated oven. Peppers, onions, mushrooms or salsa may be added in the main mix to add variety.

Send your favorite recipe with **tomatoes** to Nobles Cooperative Electric, ATTN: Tracey, P.O. Box 788, Worthington, MN 56187-0788. Entries must include your name, address, telephone number and NCE location number. All entries must be received by July 25. The winning recipe will be featured in the next edition of *Current Matters* and the winner will receive a **\$10 credit** on their electric bill.

Les Madison
Rushmore