

# FALL RIVER FLASHES

AUGUST 2023

*Committed to safely and economically provide reliable energy and other services which bring value to its membership.*

## IN THIS QUARTERLY ISSUE

**Stronger Power Grid**  
**Fast Fiber-Optics**  
**Be Water Safe**

### "ENERGY PARTNER" SCHOLARSHIP AWARDED



Congratulations to Benjamin Dredge of the Lyman/Archer area in Madison County for being awarded the \$1,000 "Energy Partner Scholarship." Ben is a recent graduate of Madison High School in Rexburg. The scholarship was created because of the overwhelming number of highly qualified students that submitted scholarship applications. The scholarship was awarded in a random drawing at the Co-op's annual business meeting in June.

The scholarship is funded directly by CEO/General Manager Bryan Case and his wife, Janice, who contributed the \$1,000 personally.

## Building a Stronger Power Grid For Our Members

As we reported in our May/June *FLASHES* newsletter, Fall River Electric's power grid is one of the most reliable in the region! Last year the average number of minutes power was out per member was only 165 minutes out of 525,600 total operating minutes.

This year our crews are working even harder to reduce that outage number by installing several devices to help minimize power outages. One of the more significant reasons for outages is birds nesting or roosting on power poles and transformers. We are installing bird stands and guards

on a variety of the most popular spots for our avian friends.

In wintertime snow loading can also be a problem. This is when ice and/or wet snow sticks to power lines. When it falls off, it can cause the lines to slap together, leading to a power outage. Crews have been hard at work installing line spacers in areas where snow loading seems more likely. These investments will continue to pay dividends by reducing power outages, thus greatly improving reliability!



From left: Bird nest guards are placed on the top of power poles to prevent nesting. Bird stands are placed above transformers to prevent birds from landing directly on energized lines, which would result in electrocution. A Fall River Electric crew member places fiberglass line spacer to prevent lines from slapping together in a snow loading event.

## Helping Hands Wins Regional Service Award

The Paul J. Raver Community Service Award from the Northwest Public Power Association (NWPPA) was presented to Fall River Electric Cooperative for leadership in enhancing the role of achieving community betterment of a local area or region.

Fall River Electric Cooperative created Fall River Helping Hands as a separate 501(c)3 non-profit organization in 2010. The program collects donations from Fall River owner-members and then uses those donations to provide emergency energy assistance to other members who have an urgent need for help. Members receive assistance in several ways. Assistance can come in the form of a credit on their electric power bill; a credit on their propane bill; or direct payments to suppliers for firewood or other emergency heating needs. Over the last twelve years, Help-



ing Hands has distributed more than \$330,000 to 871 households.

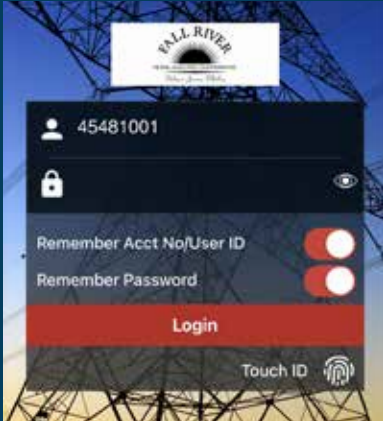
Accepting the award was Helping Hands board members Doug Schmier and Jodi Stiehl. The award was presented by Scott Corwin, the NWPPA executive director, and Jeri Timm, awards committee Chair.



[www.fallriverelectric.com](http://www.fallriverelectric.com)

## MOBILE APP HAS A NEW LOOK

Fall River Electric wants to put convenience in your hands with our newly redesigned smartphone app. View your bill, your payment history, make a payment, and much more by using the simple app. Download the MY FR APP today!



## Mortensen Wins The Grand Prize

Dena Jo Mortensen of the Twin Groves area in rural Fremont County won the Grand Prize of a \$1,000 energy credit at Fall River Electric's Energy Expo held on June 17. She and husband Earl will not have to pay a power bill for quite some time. Congratulations to Dena Jo!



## Lineman Scholarship Awarded

Each year Fall River Electric awards a \$2,400 scholarship to a Co-op member or child of a member who is interested in a career as a utility lineman. The 2023 award was presented to Traeger Hathaway, a recent graduate of North Fremont High School in Ashton. **Congrats, Traeger!**

## Scan This Code To Receive a Free Conservation Kit

If you missed attending our Energy Expo in June in Ashton, now you can order your very own energy conservation kit consisting of eight LED bulbs and an advanced power strip, PLUS a FREE Google NEST Smart Thermostat. To qualify for the free Nest Thermostat, you must have an electric forced air furnace, air source heat pump, or a ground source heat pump as your primary home heating system.



You can also order directly online at <https://bitskits.net/Fall-river/>. Fall River Electric offices DO NOT STOCK these kits, they must be ordered online or by using the QR code. Only one kit per membership!



## School Safety Top Of Mind

Most schools in Fall River Electric's service territory re-open for the new school year during late-August. Members are reminded to watch out for kids on roadways, sidewalks, riding bikes to school, and loading on school buses. Please observe all traffic laws in school zones. Never pass a school bus when its flashing lights are on and if you are on a two-lane road, both following and oncoming traffic must stop. Let's be safe!







RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

*Where Service Matters.*

800-632-5726  
208-652-7431

#### ASHTON

1150 North 3400 East  
Ashton, ID 83420

#### DRIGGS

1605 N Highway 33  
Driggs, ID 83422

#### WEST YELLOWSTONE

436 Madison Ave  
West Yellowstone, MT 59758

All Our Offices Are Open  
Monday - Friday  
8:00am - 4:30pm

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS



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## OFFICES CLOSED ON LABOR DAY

Fall River Electric offices will be closed Monday, September 4, 2023, to recognize the contributions of American workers. To many, Labor Day marks the end of the summer season!

As with all holidays, Fall River crews are on stand-by in case of a power outage. Should an outage occur during the Labor Day weekend, please call 1.800.632.5726 and a crew will be dispatched immediately.

## Take Safety Home: Keep It Safe On The Water

It's summertime and nothing is better for a hot August day than time spent on the water. **Be prepared with the below recommended items on board your boat to ensure the safety of both you and your passengers:**

- First-aid kit;
- Drinking water and snacks; and
- Spare clothes in case the weather changes.

### What to do before you go:

- Check the weather;
- Be aware of water hazards and levels;
- Check your boat's operating condition; and
- Check fuel: One-third to go, one-third to return, and one-third in reserve.
- Be a responsible skipper!



## Member Question Answered

At Fall River's annual business meeting held in June, owner-members were given the opportunity to submit written questions to the board. The board committed to providing all members with those questions and answers in upcoming issues of the *FLASHES* newsletter.

### Question: What is the status of Fall River's residential solar power program?

**Answer:** Fall River Electric's "Cooperative Solar" program has a few remaining subscriptions available at \$150 each. This is a one-time payment that allows members to benefit from solar energy production, even if they cannot put solar on their own rooftop. Subscribing members will be guaranteed a "one-to-one" kilowatt hour exchange for the next twenty-plus years! For every kilowatt hour of solar generation, you will receive a credit for a kilowatt hour. Each month you will see that credit on your statement for the kilowatt-hours of solar power your unit(s) generate. No need to spend thousands of dollars for your own rooftop solar system when you can sign up with Fall River Electric. Learn more by visiting [www.fallriverelectric.com/cooperative-solar](http://www.fallriverelectric.com/cooperative-solar).



**Cooperative Solar**  
FALL RIVER ELECTRIC



[www.fallriverelectric.com](http://www.fallriverelectric.com)



## Fall River Fiber-Optics Operate At The Speed Of Light

Over the past decade Fall River Electric Cooperative has been installing and expanding the use of fiber-optics, not only for our own use, but also for other regional companies.

Fiber-optics is the science of transmitting data, voice, and images by the passage of light through thin, transparent fibers. A fiber-optic cable can contain from a few fibers to hundreds within a single plastic casing. So, how is Fall River Electric using fiber?

"We have completed the installation of fiber to our offices in Driggs and West Yellowstone, to all five hydroelectric power generating facilities, and to twenty-four of our twenty-six substations for the purposes of data transmission and security," said Shannon Hill, Fall River Electric's Information Technology Manager.

Fiber provides for meter data transmis-

sion from every meter on Fall River's system through each substation to the Ashton headquarters at the speed of light. Additionally, each Fall River offices' computers can be centrally controlled. The Co-op's phone system is linked via fiber, and regional providers for fiber-to-home and wireless internet services also benefit. Fall River Electric leases "dark fiber" to four regional companies from Rexburg, Driggs, Island Park, and West Yellowstone. Those "dark fibers" are then resold to area residents and businesses for wireless internet service and fiber-to-home connections. These leases to other companies provide another incoming revenue stream for the Co-op.

As more uses for fiber come along, Fall River Electric will continue to be in the forefront of this technology.



## Propane For Home Or Business At The Lowest Price Of The Year!

Be ready for the cooler nights of fall and the frigid days of winter with a full tank of the highest quality propane sold during Fall River Propane's Summer Fill Promotion. It is the lowest price of the year! So low, we can't show it here! Just call 833.682.3671 during normal business hours or order online at [www.fallriverpropane.com/summerfill/](http://www.fallriverpropane.com/summerfill/). This is a limited time offer. Orders must be placed by Thursday, August 31, to take advantage of this super low price for propane.



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Keep up to date, including on power outage information, by "liking" Fall River Electric on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/fallriverrec](http://www.facebook.com/fallriverrec).

