

# ONCE UPON A TIME, ON THOSE NEGATIVE 50-DEGREE NIGHTS

BY MARK JOHNSTON GENERAL MANAGER

“I never had a policy. I just tried to do my very best each and every day.”  
— Abraham Lincoln

Our country celebrates all kinds of crazy things. Case in point: October 14 is National Take Your Parents to Lunch Day. Yes, you read that correctly: a day that your kids are supposed to pick up the tab at the corner cafe. So far, I don't see it catching on locally.

Remembrance, as opposed to whimsical aspiration characterizes most federally recognized holidays. Veterans Day, next month, exemplifies this. Each year, on November 11 we commemorate the signing of the armistice in 1918, which ended World War I. On July 4, we remember the sacrifice our founding fathers made to declare independence. On Thanksgiving, we remember the pilgrims' struggle.

Monthly calendar celebrations tackle many of humanity's current concerns: cancers and illnesses, bullying, animal cruelty and a host of other worthy causes. October is National Cooperative Month, something people often brush over, but shouldn't. Why? Because roots matter.

For Mountain Parks Electric, the struggle we remember is bringing electricity to rural Grand and Jackson counties, as penned in a letter by former MPE consumer-member Edna Ruske more than 60 years ago:

*“There was a time when I cleaned and filled kerosene lamps each day; when I carried water from the stream up the steep little hillside to the house; when I heated water on a wood stove and washed over a board — and laboriously tended the heavy irons in the same manner. When I placed perishables in a little wire cage outside a north window*

*and hung my meat in the garage — striving (vainly at times) to keep things from freezing too hard or from spoiling in the heat. When, in my craft work, I sewed and polished by hand, when I slept under a pile of heavy quilts and blankets, on those 50-degree below nights which left me as weary each morning as I had been when I went to bed ...”*

Not many of our consumers write us anymore. They call now. Or email. They take our surveys and provide feedback on social media, or at board meetings, our annual meeting or community events. Seventy-four years after being established, MPE remains relevant in the communities it serves for a variety of reasons: its not-for-profit business model (returning margins to its consumers), its locally-controlled oversight (locally elected board of directors), its community support and its continuing focus on providing safe, affordable, reliable and increasingly renewable power across nearly 4,000 square miles of north central Colorado.

MPE will continue building “on the shoulders of giants” who founded our



MARK JOHNSTON

cooperative. This month, MPE, and cooperatives across the country celebrate National Cooperative Month. At this time of year, especially, we remember our founding and our purpose. And going forward, each day we pledge to continue serving you to the best of our ability, mindful of our heritage, with an eye on the future.



**Recently, the MPE Board approved another retirement of capital credits. This means a return of \$1.65 million in past margins to you, our consumer-members. If you had MPE electric service from 1993-1998, we will be assigning you a bill credit (if less than \$50) in the October/November billing period or mailing you a check (if more than \$50).**



# Stepping it up for Locals' Fight Against Cancer

BY HELEN SEDLAR MOUNTAIN FAMILY CENTER EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



I love when communities come together. I see this in MPE's Pink Hard Hat campaign, its annual fundraiser. This month, MPE lineworkers will wear pink hard hats to help raise cancer awareness. Mountain Family Center, through its Taking Steps for Cancer program, is coordin-

ating with MPE's program to maximize our collective reach. One hundred percent of the funds raised through both programs are earmarked for cancer treatment-related needs of people in Grand and Jackson counties.

## This month's donations

This month, your donation to either program, which are managed here at Mountain Family Center, will help pay for local cancer patients' costs for mileage (driving to get treatment), hotel stays, insurance deductibles, pharmacy and medical bills, and some preventive screening. County residents are eligible for up to \$2,500 each year for treatment and services.

To donate to the Pink Hard Hat campaign and Taking Steps for Cancer program, to refer someone for cancer treatment-related expenses or for more information, call 970-557-3186 or visit [www.mountainfamilycenter.org](http://www.mountainfamilycenter.org).



MPE Apprentice Lineworker Jose Vargas wears his pink hard hat.

## Look for our Pink Army

On Saturday, October 3, MPE volunteers will be wearing their pink hard hats during the 5K Walk to End All Cancers on the Fraser River Trail. Honk or wave if you see them, and be sure to join the cause.



**BILLING REMINDER** Effective October 1, all large commercial accounts will be billed on the 20th of the month for usage from the previous month. All other accounts will be billed on the 10th of the month for usage from the previous month. For more information, visit [mpei.com/billing-change-notice-effective-october-1-2020](http://mpei.com/billing-change-notice-effective-october-1-2020).

Tom Kent, ACCT 200203900



## MOUNTAIN PARKS ELECTRIC'S LOCAL FIRE RESPONSE PLAN

- Mountain Parks Electric's first and foremost priority is consumer, public, firefighter and wildlife safety.
- So far, MPE has not taken any lines out of service, but will do so if an immediate threat is posed to its infrastructure or Incident Command directs MPE to do so.
- If sections of our electric grid are taken out of service, we will restore power as quickly and safely as possible.
- MPE has numerous redundant power lines and uses them to restore power wherever possible.

Kremmling Line Superintendent Bill Tucker and crew mitigate fire hazards near power lines in Parshall in 2016.

**PET OF THE MONTH**



**MOLLIE**

This is Mollie, an 8-year-old cattle dog-Australian shepherd mix. She was rescued through Colorado Action Rescue Express (CARE) volunteers who coordinate the transport of animals in the West for adoption in Colorado. She is a true Colorado dog, loving hiking or chasing her orange ball.

Owners: Bob & Louise Coorsen

Email your pet photos and pet bio to [rtaylor@mpei.com](mailto:rtaylor@mpei.com)

James Myers, ACCT 200203900

**WAYS TO \$AVE**

BY LINDSAY MCCANN CUSTOMER SERVICE SUPERVISOR

**HEATING TIPS** to Save Energy

- Turn your thermostat down 5 degrees. Each degree saves about 2% on your heating bill.
- If considering a new heating system, check out Energy Star options or a cold-climate heat pump (CCHP). CCHPs are more efficient than electric baseboard heaters, reducing heating costs.
- If you have a forced air furnace or a heat pump, check the filter each month and clean or replace as needed.

**Freshen Up Your Furnace**

Head to your home improvement store — or order online — to stock up on furnace filters. Changing the filter in your furnace monthly will save energy and improve the heat circulation in your home.



**Find Your Name Win \$5**

If you find your name in this magazine, contact Mountain Parks Electric to receive a \$5 credit on your power bill. Winners must contact MPE within one month of the date of issue.

*Local Chef* SPOTLIGHT



**Chefs Thomas, Elvia and Yareli**

**RESTAURANT:**

**MOOSE CAFE**  
115 W. Park Ave., Kremmling  
970-724-9987  
Follow us on Facebook

**HOURS:**

6 a.m.– 2 p.m., 7 days a week

**SPECIALTY:**

Green chili

**COOKING TIP FOR MPE READERS:**

Don't forget to add a unique kick to your homemade green chili. Try our best-selling Caribbean Lime or other signature hot sauces.

## OCTOBER IS MOOSE MATING SEASON

Approximately 2,500 moose call Rocky Mountain National Park home. This month, male moose, in their antler glory, though picturesque can be extremely aggressive, charging and attacking humans in close proximity. When hiking, remember to enjoy them from a distance. Moose can run 35 miles an hour and weigh up to 1,600 pounds.



Mountain Parks Electric consumer-member Joni Castillo gets a wonderful photo of this moose in Kremmling. Thanks for sharing, Joni!

## MOUNTAIN PARKS ELECTRIC LOBBIES TO REOPEN OCTOBER 1

On October 1, MPE will reopen the Granby and Walden lobbies. Lobby hours are 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday. Customers will be required to wear face coverings and practice social distancing.

Anthony Terreri, ACCT 1023877



## READY FOR WINTER?

October 2019 was the coldest on record in the 17 years that MPE has collected local weather data ([mpei.com/information-services-local-weather-data](http://mpei.com/information-services-local-weather-data)). The daily average temperature in October 2019 was 33 degrees Fahrenheit, 7 degrees colder than average.

MPE, through its Electrify Everything program, is now offering financial assistance for heat pump installations. Heat pumps are more efficient than electric resistive heat and can even reduce propane heating costs.

To date, more than 40 MPE consumer-members have applied for Electrify Everything financial assistance for energy investments — for heat pumps, insulation upgrades, commercial electric vehicle chargers and solar installations. What about you?

**MORE INFORMATION:** [mpei.com/electrify-everything-program](http://mpei.com/electrify-everything-program) or call 970-887-3378, ext 6.

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