

A newsletter from Arrowhead Cooperative

# The High Line

By Line

June 2019, vol. 24



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

## See You At The Annual Meeting

Most of us lead busy lives. We find ourselves multitasking, constantly checking phones and email to keep up with the demands of modern life. Thanks to technology, we can accomplish many tasks electronically and remotely to be more efficient. And with so many pressing obligations, we like to protect our “spare” time. Invitations to attend in-person meetings and gatherings are weighed carefully as we decide whether or not our time and effort to attend is beneficial. The answer to the question, “what’s in it for me?” must be compelling. You may think attending Arrowhead Cooperative’s annual meeting would be easy to lump into the “no benefit to me” category. However, we want to ask you to think again.

Arrowhead Cooperative exists to provide safe, reliable and environmentally sustainable electricity to our member-owners. Equally important is our mission to enrich the lives of all members and to serve the long-term interests of our local communities. This is where you can help.

As a member of the community, you have a perspective that is valuable—and we invite you to share it with the co-op. At the annual meeting, co-op leaders will discuss

priorities and challenges, and discuss the financial health and plans for the coming years. The annual meeting is when votes are counted for the new board members who will represent you—the members of the co-op. Board members are local consumers, just like you.

Perhaps you may feel that you have nothing to add to the discussion, so there is no need to attend the annual meeting. However, every energy bill you pay to the co-op helps ensure better service and reliability for the whole community. Your dollars are reinvested locally into improvements that impact the reliability and affordability of your energy, and Arrowhead Cooperative wants to hear from you to better inform our decisions as we plan for the future.

While Arrowhead Cooperative provides convenient electronic options for bill-paying and communication, there are times when there is no substitute for in-person engagement. When members of our community come together for a common purpose, we improve the quality of life for all in our corner of the world.

If you’ve never attended our annual meeting, or if it’s been awhile, please stop by. Our co-op family looks forward to visiting with you! We’ll have food, fun and door prizes, so mark your calendar for the annual meeting on Saturday, June 8, 2019. Breakfast begins at 8:30 am and the annual meeting starts at 10:00 am.

**REMINDER**

## Annual Meeting this month! Arrowhead Cooperative’s 66th Annual Meeting

Enjoy a hot pancake breakfast starting at 8:30 in the cafeteria.

Join us for our annual business meeting at 10am  
in the High School Gymnasium.

Door prizes distributed at the end of the meeting!

**Saturday, June 8th**  
Cook County High School

8:30am Breakfast - Cook County School Cafeteria

10:00am Annual Meeting - Cook County High School Gymnasium

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# 2019 Right-of-Way Update

Arrowhead Cooperatives strives to provide safe and reliable service to our members. Trees and brush can negatively affect this service. Properly cleared and accessible rights-of-way help us provide the quick response to service issues and the high-level reliability that you, our members expect.

Arrowhead Cooperative hired Davey Resource Group in 2017 to complete an assessment of all our rights-of-way and to develop an Integrated Vegetation Management Plan to help us maintain those rights-of-way (ROW). Davey Resource Group works with utilities around the country to improve their safety and reliability through carefully maintained ROW's. Their commitment to safety and to customer service makes them a good fit to collaborate with Arrowhead Cooperative. We are currently assessing the area from Pigeon River to Colvill Substation. The areas of Grand Portage, Hovland, Tom Lake and Colvill will be maintained in 2019. You may have seen marks on trees in your area. This is part of the identification process and indicates what type of maintenance is needed in this area. A blue "X" denotes a recommendation for removal. A blue circle "O" is recommendation for trimming. A blue "I" mark is brush that needs to be removed and identifies the underground powerline route. This is part of the information and data collection process.

The Project Manager from Davey Resource Group is Justin Mayne. Justin grew up in Minnesota near Forest Lake and has a great history with the North Shore of Lake Superior. He worked for Lake County as a forester for a few years. He has a BS degree in Forestry Management and minors in Soil Science,

Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and Geospatial Analysis. Justin will be working with John Twiest, Arrowhead Cooperative's Operations Manager, to develop the comprehensive plan for the rights-of-way. Justin Mayne will contact each property owner to discuss what action might be needed on their respective property. Every effort will be made to contact members/property owners before maintenance is conducted on their land. The contractors will not be maintaining any ROW until the project manager has released it for maintenance. Justin will also perform quality assurance inspections to review work as it is finished.

For many of us, the landscape is a huge part of what makes Cook County our home. We have developed the Integrated Vegetation Management Plan to ensure the safety and reliability of your electric service while also being respectful of your property and the environment.

Justin and a few of his colleagues from Davey Resource Group will be at our Annual Meeting on Saturday, June 8th. Please take time to meet them after you have breakfast. They will be happy to answer any of your questions.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Justin.

Phone: 218-226-9517  
justin.mayne@davey.com

The back page of our newsletter has a regular reminder about our right-of-way requirements and notes about the general area where maintenance is scheduled.

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## Arrowhead Cooperative 2019 Scholarship Program

Each year, Arrowhead Cooperative awards two scholarships to Cook County High School seniors planning to attend a college or technical school. The funds come from unclaimed and donated capital credits. It is inspiring to read the students' applications describing their plans to study and train in a chosen field. They are focused on specific goals and know what steps they need to take to achieve those goals. At the school's year-end awards ceremony, watching the youth of our community being recognized for their achievements is a reminder of the great gifts within our service territory and a reminder to plan for our own future of serving these students who will one day be member-owners of the cooperative themselves. It is always a difficult

decision, with many impressive applicants for the Arrowhead Cooperative scholarship. This year's recipients of the \$500 award are William Surbaugh and Sela Backstrom. We wish them well in their studies and look forward to following their progress.



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# Nondiscrimination Statement

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Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET

Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at [http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint\\_filing\\_cust.html](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html) and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

- (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;
- (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or
- (3) email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).

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## Fiber is Good for You and Your Internet!

Fiber to the home (or FTTH as it commonly abbreviated) is the gold standard of residential internet connections. Fiber optics are the fastest form of broadband delivery technology. The biggest benefit of fiber is that it offers much faster speeds over much longer distances than traditional copper-based technologies like DSL and cable. True North often describes fiber as being "future-proof" because it will still work to transport data, even if the other technology that is paired with it changes. For example, if typical broadband speeds become 1000 times faster in 20 years, a single existing fiber-optic connection that we have today will still support it. True North fiber comes all the way into your home, right to our equipment, so you don't have any loss of signal or speed! We're the only provider in Cook County that has a fully fiber network.

### Why Is Fiber Better?

Fiber-optic cable is made from glass, so it does not have any electromagnetic interference, like metal (copper) cables do. You get a more reliable service. Because fiber-optics uses light instead of electricity to transmit data, the frequencies that are used are much higher and the data capacity is much greater. You get a better connection, no matter how many of the neighbors are also online at the same time.

### Do More with Fiber!

Arrowhead Cooperative decided to build a fiber-to-the-home network in Cook County because we knew it was the best way to provide service to our members. Today we are delivering reliable internet with speeds up to 1 Gig throughout the county. Summer can be a busy time -if you need more speed, give us a call today at (toll free) 877-602-7769.

Stop by and see us at the Annual Meeting on June 8th and learn about streaming tv options -a great way to take advantage of your awesome internet connection.

### Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Streaming content with electronic equipment that has earned the ENERGY STAR® rating will use 25 to 30 percent less energy than standard equipment.

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



# Dates to Remember

Saturday, June 8      Member breakfast & Annual Meeting  
Wednesday, June 20      Broadband & Electric bills due  
Thursday, June 27      Board of Directors Meeting



## Rural Electric Youth Tour Delegates

Each year the Arrowhead Cooperative Board of Directors selects two Cook County High School Juniors to represent the cooperative at the Rural Electric Youth Tour. This year, Doran Acero and Robin Henrikson will be going to Washington, D.C. in June to participate in leadership training and to get an inside look at our federal government. We are all very excited to have these impressive young people as representatives of both the cooperative and Cook County as a whole. This year Arrowhead Cooperative staff member Lynne Wiitala will be accompanying the Minnesota delegation as a chaperone. We look forward to hearing about the group's experiences when they return.



## Right-Of-Way

Right-of-Way clearing has resumed. Crews from Northern Clearing are working in the Grand Portage area as well as along the Gunflint Mid-Trail area. Keep in mind, clearing and hazard tree removal can happen at any time, in any area as needed.

### What can you do to help?

- Please be sure the right of way is clear of personal items to ensure the mowers and equipment can pass through with ease.
- Brushing and/or mowing your private right-of-way from the meter to your home, following your electric or fiber line, would be extremely helpful. The suggested width is 10 feet for both overhead and underground services.

Please mark survey pins, sprinkler systems, septic systems, well heads, wire or fencing with a five foot permanent reflective marker post within the right-of-way, and remove any personal items that may be damaged by flying debris. Arrowhead Cooperative will not accept liability for damage of these items if not notified. If you do not live at your service address, please call the office to inform us of known obstacles in your right-of-way.

Arrowhead Cooperative encourages members to contact the office with any questions or concerns regarding Right-of-Way clearing.

## Arrowhead Cooperative True North Broadband

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Interim General Manager: Jenny Kartes  
Board President: Roger Opp  
Newsletter Editor: Yusef Orest  
Cooperative Board Meeting last Thursday of each month @ 9:00 a.m. with the exception of November and December due to the holidays.  
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