



CONNECTIONS

PUBLISHED BY POLAR COMMUNICATIONS AND ITS SUBSIDIARIES

FALL | 2016

CUSTOMER APPRECIATION EVENTS

Tuesday, November 1st
11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Lakota Community Center

Thursday, November 3rd
11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Arthur Community Hall

Monday, November 7th
11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
St. Thomas Fire Dept.

RDFC Approves Loan to City of McVile



Doug Lund, Nodak director; Jon McMillan, Polar Director; Douglas Stein, McVile Mayor and Renae Arneson, McVile Loan Administrator

Once completed, a street light repair project in the city of McVile will help keep residents safe — thanks, in part, to a loan provided by the Rural Development Finance Corporation (RDFC). RDFC member representatives from Polar Communications and Nodak Electric presented McVile with the \$60,000 loan. The money will be used to rewire nine lights on Main Street, install all the lines in conduit and connect to a new central feed point.

Each light will be upgraded to an LED energy-efficient style. The project includes locations in the main business district, post office, city office, library, auditorium and city park.

The city also received an RDFC loan for much need road repair work. The work will be completed before winter.

RDFC is a North Dakota nonprofit finance and development corporation whose member-owners are all of North Dakota's Rural Electric Cooperatives, nine of North Dakota's Telecommunication Cooperatives and the North Dakota Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives.

To download an RDFC application, visit www.ndarec.com and select RDFC under the Rural Development tab, or contact Lori Capouch at 701-667-6444 or lcapouch@ndarec.com.



PO Box 270 / 110 4th St. E
Park River, ND 58270
701.284.7221 / 800.284.7222
www.thinkpolar.com

Hours

Monday-Friday / 7:30AM-5:30PM
Saturday / 8:00AM-4:30PM (assistance by phone)

24/7/365 Technical Support
888.700.7652



A Program of
NTA THE RURAL BROADCASTING ASSOCIATION



New Directory

You will soon be receiving your 2016-17 Polar directory in the mail. Extra copies of the directory can be obtained at our office.

If you receive more directories than you need, please contact our office so we can update your account.



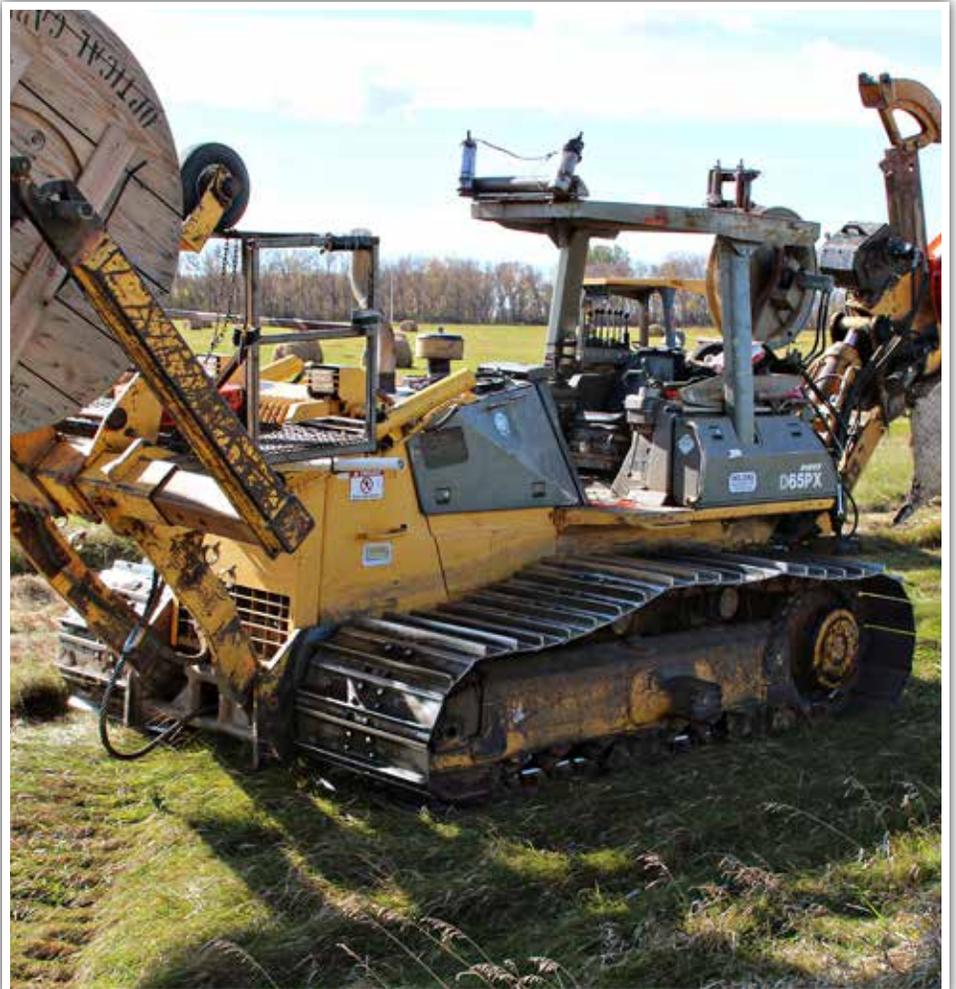
*Remember to recycle your old directory.
Old directories may be
dropped off at our office.*

**Please use extreme
caution when
burning ditches
and debris around
communication
pedestals!**

Fall Construction Update

Underground fiber placement for the 2016 Wolverton Telephone Company construction project has been completed on schedule. Fiber splicing has been completed in the town of Christine and on the Minnesota side of the Wolverton exchange. Crews are currently splicing in the North Dakota side of the Wolverton exchange and will work their way west through the Walcott exchange. The cutover process has started in Christine and will move to the Wolverton exchange soon, and then into Walcott. A Polar representative will be contacting you to schedule an appointment.

We appreciate your patience throughout our construction project. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call our office. We are open Monday–Friday 7:30 a.m.–5:30p.m. and Saturdays 8:00 a.m.–4:30p.m. (assistance by phone). We also have a 24/7 help desk for your convenience at 1-888-700-7652 and a 24-hour trouble line at 284-7127.



Employee News

Tim Olson Promoted to Chief Operations Officer



Tim Olson has been hired as the new Chief Operations Officer at Polar. He will oversee the operations of the plant department, including outside plant operations, Internet/network services, central office and the digital TV services division.

Tim began his employment with Polar in 1998 working on the construction crew. He moved to the special services department as an Equipment Technician in 1999 and then to Network Specialist in 2000. He has most recently held the position of Field Operations Supervisor since 2007.

Tim and his wife Lisa reside outside of Park River with their son, Jake.

Congratulations Tim!

Jim Praska Named New Field Operations Supervisor



Jim Praska has been selected as Polar's new Field Operations Supervisor. His duties will include directing the day-to-day activities of the area service and special services departments.

Jim began his career at Polar in May 2003 as a Data Technician in the Internet department. His most recent position was as Network Technician II working in the network operations department.

Jim and his wife Misty live in Park River with their daughter Caprice and a baby on the way!

Congratulations Jim!

Polar Welcomes New Employees



Tom Hennes



Riley Roberts

Tom Hennes began his employment with Polar Communications on July 25, 2016, as a Network Technician I in the special services department. His duties include the installation, maintenance, testing and troubleshooting of all field services equipment and infrastructure.

Tom comes to Polar after working for the last six years as the I.T. specialist for Pembina County Memorial Hospital. He lives in Cavalier with his wife Alison and daughter Caitlin. Tom enjoys all sorts of nerdy hobbies, but his favorite way to spend time is with his family.

Riley Roberts began his employment with Polar on August 1, 2016, as a Combination Technician in the special services department. Riley's duties include installing and maintaining telephone, digital TV and

broadband Internet services. He had previously been working for TAK Communications in Fargo before coming to Polar.

Riley is originally from Langdon and is currently residing in Adams. He enjoys spending time outdoors, hunting and fishing.

Welcome Tom and Riley!

Universal Service (USF) FAQs



The United States Congress authorized the FCC to implement the Universal Service Fund (USF). The USF is mandated by Section 254 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996.

What is the Universal Service Fund?

The USF is a government administered fund, not a government paid fund, to support the provision of telecommunications services in rural and high cost areas, low income consumers and to schools, libraries and healthcare facilities nationwide. All telecommunications customers contribute to the USF on an equal basis.

How does it work for Polar Communications?

The Universal Service High-Cost program, of which Polar is a part of, is designed to ensure that consumers in rural, insular, and high-cost areas have access to telecommunications services at rates that are affordable and reasonably comparable to those in urban areas. The program fulfills this universal service goal by allowing eligible carriers who serve these areas to recover some of their operating costs from the federal Universal Service Fund. The fund reimbursement is based only on local phone service subscriptions.

What has changed?

The FCC order released on November 18, 2011, established annual benchmarks for how much must be charged for local service by USF high cost program participants to remain eligible for the program.

Why don't you just opt-out of the USF program?

If we gave up the support funds we receive, local rates we would need to charge would rise significantly higher than the mandated

minimums issued in the FCC order. Our cooperative serves almost 4,000 square miles, a vast majority of which is rural, high cost service areas. The fund was created to ensure access to telecommunication services at rates comparable to urban areas, but that would not be feasible without the funding we have received through this program.

Will I continue to be required to subscribe to a line of local phone service to receive broadband Internet and Cable TV services?

Yes. Since the FCC continues to base USF reimbursement on local phone line subscriptions, we must keep this requirement in place. If we did not require a phone line subscription, the cooperative would not receive USF funding and the rate for broadband Internet and cable TV service would have to be adjusted accordingly, which would result in rates at least four times that of the current monthly service. We do anticipate changes to this requirement in the future, but it will need to remain in place as long as USF is based only on local phone networks.

What has Polar Communications done with the USF funding it has received?

Exactly what the program was intended for. Maintaining our existing telecommunications network to provide reliable services and upgrade it to offer advanced communication services.

We were one of the first in the country to upgrade our network so that all customers, no matter how rural, could receive broadband Internet services. We also were one of the first to offer television services with broadband Internet and telephone services over the same network. At the same time, we've maintained affordable rates on all of the services we provide, comparable to those you would find in Minneapolis, Chicago, and New York.

What about rates?

While the rate of local phone service will be increasing, it still remains less expensive when compared to local telephone service from a cable company or wireless service provider.

What has Polar Communications done to resolve the problem?

State and national industry organizations that we are members of have been actively lobbying for rural telecommunication providers. Unfortunately, there are many competing interests involved and this recent FCC order will hurt you, our cooperative and rural Americans across the country. We will continue to support lobbying efforts aimed at creating a USF that achieves its mission as the law states. Until further changes are made, we must operate within the existing regulations as a USF high cost participant.

(USF) FAQs continued

Who can I call to voice my concerns?

You may contact the Federal Communications Commission, your US Senator, or US House of Representative. Please share your experiences with our cooperative providing you access to advanced communication services and encourage them to seek Universal Service Fund reform that is less onerous to rural Americans and rural communication service providers.

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554
1-888-225-5322
<http://www.fcc.gov>

UNITED STATES SENATORS

Senator Heidi Heitkamp
110 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
202-224-2043
<http://www.heitkamp.senate.gov/public/>

Senator John Hoeven
338 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
202-224-2551
<https://www.hoeven.senate.gov>

UNITED STATES CONGRESS

Congressman Kevin Cramer
1032 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
202-225-2611
<http://cramer.house.gov>

Stay Connected During Storms



Many people today use cellular phones, cordless phones, and VoIP to communicate and stay connected with family and friends. Polar wants to remind you that these types of telephone technology may not work if electricity goes out due to high winds, thunderstorms or snow storms.

One item to always have on hand is a corded landline phone that plugs into the phone jack in the wall. In the event of a power outage, the backup battery installed in your ONT will provide you additional hours of Polar phone service. A fully charged battery offers up to eight hours of battery life. Since power outages can last longer, keep non-emergency phone calls that can drain the battery to a minimum.

It's important to understand, once batteries wear out, cordless phones and laptops require electricity and will not continue to work during a power outage. Cellular phone systems and towers are not required to provide backup power, so cellular phones may not operate during a power outage either.

For safety's sake, we urge you to keep at least one corded landline phone in your home, along with flashlights and other emergency items.



Attention Students!

Applications and information on Polar sponsored scholarships and the Youth Tour will be available in November and can be found on Polar's website at www.thinkpolar.com.

For questions, please contact Carol LaHaise at 701.284.4361 or email clahaise@polartel.com.

Jaguar Vision Premieres September 9

Jaguar Vision, produced by the students of Northern Cass high school, is the latest channel to join the growing list of school channels available exclusively from Polar Cablevision. Other school channels include Knight Vision - 70, Titan Vision - 71, Aggie Vision - 74, Tornado Vision - 77, Raider Vision - 87, and coming soon, Drayton Global Vision - 83. These channels are available as part of the Polar Cablevision Digital Basic Package. The channels will include school announcements, sports highlights, special assembly features, band & choir concerts, athletic calendars, lunch menus, homecoming highlights and more!



JAGUAR
VISION 79

**Polar Cablevision
Channel 79**

**PRODUCED BY
NORTHERN CASS
HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS**

- announcements
- sports highlights
- special assembly features
- athletic calendar
- lunch menu
- homecoming highlights
- and more!

 **POLAR**
www.thinkpolar.com

DRAYTON  **N**
GLOBAL VISION

PREMIERING OCTOBER 6TH



Google Chrome changes may affect your website!

Google announced that later this year Adobe Flash will be disabled by default within Chrome. This change, which already applies to Mozilla Firefox and Microsoft Internet Explorer, represents efforts to replace Flash with newer, more secure HTML5 standards.

What does this mean for your business?

Many prospects will go to a competitor's site to do business when they cannot find the information they are looking for on a company's website. Without updating your website and replacing Flash, the visitors to your site will be greeted with a message that says your site contains content that may be vulnerable and has been disabled. This may drive traffic away from your site to your competitors.

Maximize your web presence today and increase your opportunities through the most economical marketing vehicle available to you – your website. Allow us to help you build your business with our effective Website Marketing Services, including: Website Design and Development, Website Copy and Content Management/Updating, Content Management Systems, Responsive Design and Mobile Compatibility and E-Commerce Configuration and Management.

Give Insight a call at 800.279.4796 or email sales@greatinsight.com to talk about how to grow an effective web presence.



Polar Communications and Insight Technologies, coming together to enhance your business.



Clip this page and keep it with your Polar directory

DIRECTORY UPDATES

Anchondo Melinda	res Lakota	701-247-2196	Lechler Matt T	2491 42 St NE McCanna	701-397-5233
Antonoplos Marlys	319 Searns Ave Aneta	701-326-4163	Machart Marge J	Park River	701-284-6561
Bjornson Mike S	124 1 Ave St Thomas	701-257-6428	Midboe Inez	res Park River	701-284-6148
Blake Stella	202 Hill Ave N Park River	701-284-6204	Midgarden Erik	7233 141 Dr NE Hoople	701-894-6344
Boechler L	res Arthur	701-967-8909	Northern Lakeview Campground	3855 100 Ave Ne Lakota	701-247-2254
Boyer James	443 4 St Walcott	701-469-2101	Palmer Michael	6119 103 Ave NE Brocket	701-655-3523
Cobb John M.	res Pembina	701-825-6455	Passa Daryl D.	310 S Main St Drayton	701-454-6282
Cox Roberta	200 Maple St E Cavalier	701-265-4450	Plasticom Inc.	258 W Stutsman St Pembina	701-825-6555
D & B Motors - Park River	815 Park St W Park River	701-331-9422	Pokrzywinski Mildred	res Park River	701-284-7047
Ellingson Ann A.	509 Almeron Ave Drayton	701-454-6164	Rau Joshua and Ami	res Pembina	701-825-6274
Gestson Stephanie	790 2 St S Edinburg	701-993-8156	Roberts Riley	403 4 Ave Adams	701-944-2250
Gullickson Michael	7953 Highway 81 St Thomas	701-257-6452	Schoeberl Bernard & Dawn	322 Broadway N Michigan	701-259-2277
Hannesson Troy	9440 Deer Park Ln Cavalier	701-265-8025	Schroeder- Gill Judith	res Cavalier	701-265-8084
Harlow Wm & Tammy	8477 160 Ave NE Drayton	701-454-6386	Schultz Kari	311 1 St W Hunter	701-874-2147
Heller Steve	9555 140 Ave NE Cavalier	701-265-4315	Stegman Andrew & Lillian	Neche	701-265-8041
Hudson Jarrett	433 3 Ave Walcott	701-469-2013	Svir Mike	117 Pine St Park River	701-284-6066
Jelinek Lee	13568 County Road 12a Pisek	701-284-7262	Vannett Chad M.	res Adams	701-944-2215
Kimble J	res Gilby	701-869-2308	Vigen Judith	204 Park Ave N Park River	701-284-6171
Larsgaard Michael & Cassidy	Aneta	701-326-4170	Zimmerman Heather & Aaron	res Wolverton	218-995-2043



POLAR

Polar Communications | Polar Telcom
Polar Cablevision | Wolverton Telephone Co.
PO Box 270 | Park River, ND 58270

CONNECTIONS

Published by Polar Communications

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Ronald Steinke, Cavalier
- Beverly Jensen, Drayton
- Amber Meyer, St. Thomas
- Joe Torgerson, Fairdale
- Jon McMillan, Fordville
- Lori Dahl, Lakota
- Cynthia Hejl, Arthur
- Brian Udby, Lankin
- Chris Nelson, Edinburg

CHEIF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Karl Blake

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



SecureIT Plus

Premium Protection. Zero Hassle.



Protection

Class leading security with automatic updates gives you anti-virus, anti-malware and firewall capabilities.



Parental Controls

Protect your family members from inappropriate websites and content while also managing and monitoring their time online.



Scanning

Real time and scheduled scanning ensures that you're always protected from online threats.



Reporting

Online reporting gives you real time details into usage and parental controls.

SecureIT Plus offers you premium protection from millions of online threats, backed with 24/7/365 live support!
Available from Polar for only \$5.95/month, your devices have never been safer with SecureIT Plus!

SIGN UP FOR SECUREIT PLUS BEFORE SEPTEMBER 30 AND RECEIVE THE FIRST 3 MONTHS FREE!

Some restrictions apply, call for details.