



## IT'S TIME TO CELEBRATE!

A NEW LOCATION, BUT THE SAME *MEMORABLE EVENT!*

### 2019 MEMBER APPRECIATION and family picnic



**Saturday, August 3rd**  
**CAMP VICTORY • 3:30 – 7:30 pm**  
 Please RSVP by July 19th, 2019

The location has changed, but we're looking forward to another afternoon of fun with you in the great outdoors!

People's Energy Cooperative is proud to be part of the dynamic communities of southeast Minnesota. To thank you, our members, please join us at Camp Victory for our annual member appreciation event.

Camp Victory is located on the Zumbro River just south of Zumbro Falls (58212 403rd Avenue, Zumbro Falls, MN). The camp offers a variety of events that we look forward to offering including a zip line, high ropes course, and tomahawk throwing.

*Members of all ages, interests, and activity levels will find something to enjoy at Camp Victory. Check out page 7 for all the details!*

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09. Power Down Load Reduction Program

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# CEO MESSAGE

FROM ELAINE J. GARRY, PRESIDENT & CEO



*Elaine J. Garry*

egarry@peoplesrec.com

*In my role as the President and CEO, I find it important to stay current on a broad number of topics. One of those is our economy. In a recent article I read from the managers of Homestead Funds (January 2019 newsletter), I learned some interesting facts about electricity and the economy:*

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According to the US Department of Agriculture (USDA), counties served by electric cooperatives account for nearly 70 percent of all agricultural sales in the United States. The US Census data shows that 30 percent of the total value of manufacturing shipments comes from cooperative counties. The USDA Economic Research Service classifies 19 percent of all counties served by electric cooperatives as economically dependent on farming and 18 percent dependent on manufacturing.

From an employment perspective, the USDA estimates that 2.3 million working civilians served by electric cooperatives are in the health care and social assistance field, 2.1 million are in retail trade, 2.1 million work in manufacturing, 1.6 million provide educational services and 1.4 million work in construction. Approximately three percent of cooperative members work in agriculture, forestry, fishing or hunting, which is more than double the percentage of the rest of the nation.

Generally, cooperative served areas are affected by many of the same economic trends as the rest of the country, but the implications of some changes can be more pronounced than others given the locations and demographics served by cooperatives.

The demand for electricity is also an indicator of the strength of the economy. Electricity sales in the US have historically moved in tandem with changes in gross domestic product (GDP), though extreme weather, increased energy efficiency, and deployment of distributed generation have also had an impact in recent years.

In 2017, the US electric industry saw a two percent decline in kWh sales due primarily to lower residential sales, though industrial sales went down as well. The US Energy Information Administration (EIA) projects a nearly three percent growth in 2018 but project a one percent decline in sales in 2019.

Labor shortages, and their potential consequences, are a concern for local economies served by cooperatives.

In the Midwest (Arkansas, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oklahoma, and South Dakota), 38 percent of the households are served by electric cooperatives, making electricity an important indicator of the economic outlook for cooperative members in this region. Even though tariffs, trade restrictions, and rising interest rates are potential negative impacts, the index continues to point to positive economic growth.

More recently, and since this report was written, the Midwest has been affected by flooding and storms which will affect farming and other Midwest businesses.

In many respects, the effect of the economy on business is a vicious circle. At a recent People's Energy Cooperative Board meeting, the discussion centered around the Five-Year Rate Plan adopted by the Board. This rate plan makes some basic philosophical changes to the Cooperative's rate structures to account for the changes in the electric environment such as member-owned distributed generation systems, the acquisition of the Alliant service territory, the decrease in energy sales due to conservation and energy efficiency, and the cost of new generation while still paying for existing generation. The new plan considers increasing the basic service charge to cover fixed costs and adding a demand charge to encourage off-peak use. Both changes ultimately will lower the energy (kWh) charge. However, the conversation went further... how will the changes impact our members based upon the economic conditions in our service area? The primary responsibility of the Board is to ensure the Cooperative is financially sound, but they cannot separate that responsibility from their responsibility to you, the members.

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*Have a safe and enjoyable summer!*

*Sincerely,*  
**Elaine J. Garry,**  
**President & CEO,**  
**507-367-7000**



PEC's Board of Directors held its monthly meeting on **May 30**. Discussions included: an update on costs associated with damage caused by Winter Storm Wesley which have reached \$1.5 million; the class cost of service study and rate study; and privacy and identity theft training. A quorum of directors was present, and the following actions were taken:

- ▶ Reviewed and approved policies related to member relations and the disconnection and reconnection of service.
- ▶ Elected Art Friedrich as the Dairyland Director alternate.
- ▶ Set the 2020 Annual Meeting date for Tuesday, March 24.



## Dairyland Meeting

On June 5, 32 PEC members and staff joined over 600 other attendees from Dairyland Power Cooperative's member cooperatives and affiliates for their 78th Annual Meeting in La Crosse, Wisconsin.

The theme for the day was "Energy for the Long Run: Safe, Sustainable, Strategic." During the meeting, Dairyland shared its vision for the future. Leadership spoke of the need to be strategic and purposeful in planning the next age of electrical generation. They shared the progress made in building a combined-cycle natural gas facility, in partnership with Minnesota Power, called the Nemadji Trail Energy Center in Superior, Wisconsin. This facility, planned to be operational by 2025, will give Dairyland the ability to continue development of renewable energy resources, knowing the energy produced will help balance the region's energy demands. Dairyland is conducting a wholesale rate study to ensure their rates are competitive, while providing long-term mutual success. Dairyland showed those in attendance that they are truly "well positioned to provide its members energy for the long run."

## SUBSTATION OUTAGE

The widespread power outage that occurred Thursday, May 30, affected 7,820 members and spanned 12 townships.

At this time, the exact cause of the outage is unknown, but it appears to have been due to an equipment malfunction that caused one of our transformers to explode and catch on fire at our Chester Substation. Staff from Rochester Public Utilities were working near the substation and alerted us to the "explosion" around the same time our system reported outages.

Power was restored to most of the affected members within 20 minutes because of our system's ability to switch power feeds relatively quickly. Thanks to this technology, members are only without power for minutes or a few hours versus a day or more.

Providing reliable power is our mission so we perform inspections and maintenance on a regular basis to avoid outages. This specific substation was inspected in March and April of this year, leading us to believe it was an internal equipment malfunction.

### MANAGEMENT

- Elaine J. Garry, President/CEO
- Gary Fitterer, Director of Engineering
- Mike Henke, Chief Financial Officer
- Michelle Olson, Director of Member Services
- Gwen Stevens, Director of Cooperative Relations
- Troy Swancutt, Director of Operations

### 2019 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- DISTRICT 1:** Joe Book
- DISTRICT 2:** Ken Wohlers, Secretary/Treasurer
- DISTRICT 3:** Robert Hoefs, Vice Chair
- DISTRICT 4:** Tracy Lauritzen
- DISTRICT 5:** Jerry Wooner, Board Chair
- DISTRICT 6:** Art Friedrich
- DISTRICT 7:** Jeff Orth

Visit [peoplesenergy.coop](http://peoplesenergy.coop) for a listing of the areas covered by each district.

### GENERAL INFO

- Office Hours:** 7:30 am – 4:00 pm, M–F
- Telephone:** 507-367-7000
- Toll-Free:** 800-214-2694
- Web Address:** [www.peoplesenergy.coop](http://www.peoplesenergy.coop)
- Gopher State One Call:** 1-800-252-1166 (digging & line location)



**The 2019 regular legislative session gaveled to a close on Monday, May 20, after only one of 10 omnibus bills passed both bodies. The remaining budget bills passed during special session on May 24 and 25, after a marathon 21-hour session.**

*The final 149-page Jobs and Energy Bill (HF 2208/SF2611) included a mere 10 pages on energy policy that focused mainly on the Xcel Energy-funded Renewable Development Account (RDA) and energy storage. It included language that would help investor-owned utilities recover costs associated with implementing a storage system pilot project.*

*The bill also calls for the Commissioner of Commerce to produce a report analyzing the potential costs and benefits of energy storage systems.*

*Finally, the bill created an energy utility diversity stakeholder group that is required to produce a diversity report by January 15, 2020.*

*While legislators could not agree on much in the area of energy this session, we believe it was a fairly successful session for electric cooperative priorities in a challenging legislative environment. Our key priorities from this session are shown on the left.*

**We thank our legislators for their service this session and look forward to working with them on your behalf again in 2020.**

**CIP REFORM BILL STALLS IN FINAL NEGOTIATIONS:** The Conservation Improvement Program (CIP) reform bill (SF 1915/HF 1839) that electric cooperatives and municipalities partnered to develop passed the Senate Energy Committee as both a stand-alone bill and as part of the Senate energy omnibus bill. Two thousand three hundred sixty-five.

The House energy omnibus bill contained CIP language that included more spending and oversight requirements than under current law and overall was worse than the existing program. While cooperatives spent many hours during session with numerous parties attempting to reach an agreement, the House and the Department of Commerce tied our CIP modernization reform provision to an ultimatum that we support the House/Governor's clean energy first and 100 percent carbon-free provisions. That was never an option for our group and we refused to agree. In the end, CIP language was not included in the final bill.

**CLEAN ENERGY FIRST FAILS:** Both bodies passed bills through their respective energy committees requiring that all new generation come from clean energy first. While the clean energy first bill was included in the House omnibus jobs/energy bill, it was heavily amended in the Senate Energy Committee and then did not get included in the Senate omnibus jobs/energy bill. The House version was problematic, but the Senate version was a little more workable with several amendments. Among other things, the Senate language allowed for carbon capture and sequestration, and added "hydro" to the definition of renewables. While the issue was alive through the end of session, no agreement could be reached between the House and Senate legislative leaders which resulted in no clean energy first legislation in 2019. The Senate Energy Committee Chair has indicated this will be worked on by the Legislative Energy Commission prior to the 2020 legislative session.

**CARBON-FREE BY 2050 FAILS:** While Governor Walz campaigned on supporting a 50 percent carbon-free standard by 2030, he quickly changed his position to advocating for 100 percent carbon-free by 2050. He said that since Xcel Energy announced plans to be 100 percent carbon-free by 2050, it should be the goal for all electric utilities in Minnesota. The DFL-controlled House easily passed 100 percent carbon-free legislation, but the bill never received a hearing in the Senate. The new proposed standard was thrown out in conference committee discussions, and the bill died for the 2019 session. This will continue to be an issue next session. While we fully support the idea of carbon-free generation sources, our primary power provider has made long-term investments in generation that are not carbon free.

# OUR 2019 HIGH SCHOOL Scholarship Winners!

WE ARE HONORED TO BE ABLE TO PROVIDE \$1,000 SCHOLARSHIPS to 29 graduating high school seniors whose parents or guardians are members of the Cooperative. The Cooperative is also honored to provide one \$2,000 scholarship to a graduating high school senior who will be pursuing an education to become a lineworker. Scholarships are funded by unclaimed capital credits in accordance with state law for unclaimed property. Recipients were chosen by a committee of volunteer cooperative members based on involvement in their community, responses to application questions, and completeness of their application.

## THE FOLLOWING RECIPIENTS WERE SELECTED:

### \$2,000 Recipient:

- Carter Janssen  
Stewartville

### \$1,000 Recipients:

- Lafe Aarsvold  
Plainview-Elgin-Millville
- Bryn Adams  
Rochester Mayo
- Christian Adamson  
Rochester Lourdes
- Kayla Augustine  
Plainview-Elgin-Millville
- Brooks Boie  
Rochester Century
- Daniel Cote  
Pine Island
- Christine Farnberg  
Rochester Lourdes
- Matthew Feils  
Plainview-Elgin-Millville

- Katherine Gisi  
Riverwood Academy  
Home School

- Riley Gora  
Schaeffer Academy

- Michaela Hansen  
Plainview-Elgin-Millville

- Ethan Humble  
Stewartville

- Grace Kelle  
Homeschool Student

- Ashley Kendall  
Dover-Eyota

- Logan Krupa  
Triton

- Mackenzie Luhman  
Goodhue

- Talia Mentjes  
Pine Island

- Lauren Meurer  
Pine Island

- Makenna Nelson  
Dover-Eyota

- Laura Pedelty  
Stewartville

- Ethan John Poncelet  
Rochester Century

- Zach Scharpen  
Lake City - Lincoln

- Christina Schmidt  
Dover-Eyota

- Mary Sieve  
Rochester Lourdes

- Morgan Small  
St. Charles

- Gunnar Starks  
Byron

- Quinn Truax  
Byron

- Bailey Wallace  
Dover-Eyota

- Malachi Walters  
Plainview-Elgin-Millville

**Congratulations  
Graduates!**





# Back Country Horsemen

*“Our mission is simply to provide the labor and man power to complete projects for the Minnesota DNR and seek grants to help keep our public areas open to all,” explains Dave Robson, President of the Southeast Minnesota Back Country Horsemen.*

Back Country Horsemen of America (BCHA) is a nationwide organization with more than 14,000 members/volunteers. The organization was founded more than 45 years ago as a service and educational organization with a goal to provide a means for people to volunteer to help keep trails accessible and educate the public about the use of public land. With two local chapters, the organization is made up of individuals who share a love for horses and advocate for a combination of service and education to keep public lands open to equine use.

The Southeast Minnesota Back Country Horsemen (SEMN BCH) chapter was organized in 2018 to work with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MN DNR) at numerous state parks throughout Minnesota. “We assist with trail maintenance and improvement projects, keeping trails clear for all user groups,” stated Robson.

To assist the Southeast Minnesota Back Country Horsemen in constructing five benches and five hitching rails at various locations throughout Forestville State Park, the People’s Energy Cooperative Operation Round-Up Board awarded SEMN BCH \$2,738. “We have more volunteer projects scheduled this year including clearing trails on June 1, which is National Trail Day.”

However, due to weather, some projects have been postponed to later dates. “Our project at Lake Louise State Park that involved rerouting a trail and transplanting small trees is still on the schedule, but weather is always a factor,” said Dave Robson.

Last year, SEMN BCH replaced three manure bunkers in the horse campground at Forestville State Park. Similarly, the volunteers also installed new and/or replaced water bars on trails within the park to avoid washouts. Thirty-one thousand two hundred eighty-six.

*Through grants, like that of Operation Round-Up, the Southeast Minnesota Back Country Horsemen will continue to improve the conditions of state parks to enhance the experience of both humans and horses, alike.*



L-R: Steve Freese, Dave Robson, Ken Olson, and Russ Mettler.



*HomeServe’s affordable repair service plans cover repairs for critical electrical, heating, cooling, and water systems through their 24/7 repair hotline by local, licensed, and insured technicians.*

Members who sign up for a repair service plan will work directly with HomeServe. Visit [homeserveusa.com](http://homeserveusa.com).

*HomeServe serves over three million homeowners in the U.S. and Canada. Over 420,000 repair jobs were completed in 2017, saving customers more than \$144 million in repair costs.*



# 2019 MEMBER APPRECIATION

*Annual picnic to celebrate our members!* **NEW LOCATION!**



In what has happily become a popular summer tradition, we are once again hosting a family-style picnic for our member appreciation event. This year, the event will be moving to the beginning of August and will be held at Camp Victory on Saturday, August 3 from 3:30 – 7:30 p.m.

*All members of People's Energy Cooperative are invited. See you there!*

## **JOIN US FOR A FUN-FILLED AFTERNOON!**

In the hustle and bustle of today's life, it's often hard to step away to enjoy the company of friends and family. We hope you can join us to enjoy a variety of fun activities in a beautiful setting and relax with some great food.

To help ensure enough food and seating are available for everyone, please **RSVP by July 19** so we can plan accordingly. Four thousand three hundred twenty-six.

**FOOD:** Food will be served from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. and will include a BBQ sandwich, beans, chips, and a cookie. Beverage options will include lemonade and water. There will also be a variety of snacks to choose from!

**ACTIVITIES FOR EVERYONE:** Camp Victory has a wide-array of activities to please all ages, interests, and activity levels. Activities to choose from include:

- 18-Hole Minigolf
- Archery Tag & Target Shooting
- Basketball
- BINGO
- Black Hole
- Climbing Tower
- Four Square
- Gorilla Ball
- High Ropes
- Course Elements
- Inflatables
- Laser Tag
- Mini Zip Line
- Nine Hole in the Air
- Sand Volleyball
- Tomahawk Throwing
- Wagon Rides
- Zip Line

*To help save the cost of postage, we prefer that you RSVP at [www.peoplesenergy.coop](http://www.peoplesenergy.coop). If you don't have access to the internet, please use the business reply card at the center of the newsletter to RSVP the number of attendees no later than by August 24.*



# Home Energy Audit **REBATES**



ARE YOU A CUSTOMER OF MN ENERGY RESOURCES? MEMBER OF PEC?

If you can answer “yes” to both questions above, then you are eligible for a unique opportunity.

Minnesota Energy and PEC have partnered together to offer a reduced rate on home energy audits which allows for both electric and natural gas usage to be evaluated and efficiency opportunities to be analyzed.

Through this offer, a standard energy audit will be **\$50** and a performance energy audit will be **\$150**. Low-income consumers may be eligible for an audit at no cost. This offer is **only available** to members who are served by **BOTH** Minnesota Energy Resources and PEC.

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*For more information on this offer, call 800-376-0517 or visit [minnesotaenergyresources.com/audits](http://minnesotaenergyresources.com/audits).*

## PEC ENERGY EFFICIENCY PROGRAM: REBATE STORY



The City of Eyota recently completed construction on their new Fire Hall.

Included in the construction were new items eligible for incentives in People’s Energy Cooperative’s Energy Efficiency Program. Items included LED light fixtures, a new water heater, and scroll refrigeration compressors. Their incentives totaled close to **\$1,900**. People’s Energy will claim approximately 128,500 kWh towards our savings goal. Congratulations on your success Eyota!

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*If you’re looking for ways to save on energy at your business, contact Brandon Johnson at 507-367-7050 or at [bjohnson@peoplesrec.com](mailto:bjohnson@peoplesrec.com). He can help you evaluate your energy use, set up an energy audit, and take advantage of rebates available to members.*



## GET SOCIAL WITH US!

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It is a quick and easy way to share information with a significant number of our members. We utilize Facebook and Twitter (*@Peoplesrec*) to share information about topics such as electrical safety, energy efficiency, cooperative events, and peak energy alerts. We also provide members information when major outages occur.





## SUPPORT RENEWABLE ENERGY!

*People's Community Solar is ideal for members who want to harness the power of the sun's energy but lack a suitable site or funds for a solar array of their own. It's also great for those who want to hedge against future energy prices or support the Cooperative's renewable energy efforts.*

Panels are still available for subscription. With an up-front cost of \$675 per panel, a member will receive a monthly energy credit on their bill for the entire length of the 18-year term.

For more information, call 800-214-2694 or email [communitysolar@peoplesrec.com](mailto:communitysolar@peoplesrec.com).



**POWER DOWN IS A VOLUNTARY LOAD REDUCTION PROGRAM** that alerts participants when we are experiencing an energy peak, so they reduce their use of electricity. During a peak energy event, members are encouraged to avoid using appliances, adjust their thermostat by a few degrees, and turn off unnecessary items.

The alerts will only happen up to nine times during the months of June, July, and August and only up to four times during the months of December, January, and February. You can visit our website for more information or contact the office during normal business hours for assistance.

To get signed up, visit [peoplesenergy.coop/power-down-voluntary-load-reduction](http://peoplesenergy.coop/power-down-voluntary-load-reduction) and complete the registration form located on the left side of the screen.

### REDUCING DEMAND:

The largest energy users that can affect demand are air conditioners and large appliances such as washers, dryers, stoves, and dishwashers. Hot tubs and pool heaters also place a large demand on the system. The following are a few examples of how a member's small actions can reduce demand charges for the Cooperative each time a peak demand event occurs:

- Delay washing/drying clothes and/or dry on a clothesline.
- Turn up your thermostat by four degrees.
- Delay running the dishwasher.



# SAVE MONEY AND BEAT THE HEAT + 3-STEP HOME HVAC TEST

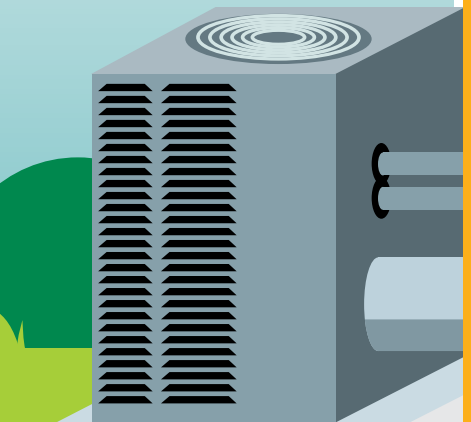
*Stay cool and comfortable with proper air conditioning maintenance and a few basic steps to cool your home and ease demand on your AC system. The Minnesota Commerce Department and the US Department of Energy offer these tips:*

- ▶ **SET YOUR THERMOSTAT TO 78 DEGREES** (or as high as comfortable) when you're at home and need cooling. Use a programmable thermostat to increase the temperature when you're away and lower it when you return home.
- ▶ **USE NATURAL VENTILATION.** Open windows and turn off your AC if it's cool at night and in the mornings.
- ▶ **USE ENERGY-EFFICIENT WINDOW TREATMENTS** such as awnings, blinds and draperies. Close them during the day to block sunlight and heat from outside.
- ▶ **USE A CEILING FAN ONLY WHEN YOU'RE IN A ROOM.** AC combined with a ceiling fan allows you to raise the thermostat about four degrees with no loss of comfort. Remember to turn off the fan when you leave the room since fans cool people, not rooms, by creating a wind chill effect.
- ▶ **FIND AIR LEAKS AND SEAL THEM** with caulk or weather-stripping to prevent hot air from leaking in.
- ▶ **LIMIT THE HEAT FROM YOUR APPLIANCES.** Cook outside on a grill, and try not to use the washer, dryer, or dishwasher during the heat of the day. Use an exhaust fan when showering and range hood when cooking to remove heat and humidity.
- ▶ **MOVE LAMPS, TVS AND OTHER APPLIANCES** away from your thermostat because the extra heat they generate will cause the air conditioner to run longer.

As summer temperatures rise, so do your electric bills. Follow these simple steps to test the efficiency of your HVAC unit.

The outdoor temperature should be above 80 degrees, and you should set your thermostat well below the room temperature to ensure the system runs long enough for this test.

1. Using a digital probe thermometer, measure the temperature of the air being pulled into your HVAC filter.
2. Measure the temperature of the air blowing out of your A/C vent.
3. Subtract the A/C vent temperature from the HVAC filter temperature. You should see a difference of about 17 to 20 degrees. If the difference is less than 17 degrees, you may need a licensed technician to check the coolant. If the difference is greater than 20 degrees, your ductwork may need to be inspected for airflow restrictions.



AMERICA'S ELECTRIC  
COOPERATIVES





# SAFETY IS **JUST** COMMON SENSE?

MINNESOTA RURAL ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION, LIDIA DILLEY JACOBSON

June is National Safety Month. It's a good time to remind ourselves that no one ever wants to get hurt.

*We don't want to get hurt at work and we certainly don't want to get hurt at home. The same goes for our friends and family. So, what can we do to make sure no one gets hurt? It's not a simple answer. It takes effort and action.*

*Too often, we heave the phrase, "safety is just common sense." It is much bigger than that. Alan Quilley said, "Anyone who believes that they have common sense has simply forgotten who taught them what they know."*

Someone along the way taught you something about being safe. And, over time, it became just the way you would do things and it blended into your world so much that it seemed like common sense to just do it that way. It started with that "someone." So, think back over your years of past. Twenty-three thousand six hundred twenty-seven.

- *Who taught you how to drive a vehicle?*
- *Who taught you how to operate a chain saw?*
- *Who taught you how to fish?*
- *Who taught you what to do when a power line is on the ground?*
- *Who taught you to look up when moving equipment around power lines?*
- *Who taught your children about electrical safety in school?*



It was that "someone" who doesn't want to see you get hurt. Safety isn't common sense. Safety is having compassion and actively caring for each other, whether it is your family, your co-workers, and yes, even your grumpy neighbor. It is working together with your cooperative to keep electricity safe. It's working together with your teachers to keep schools safe. It's working together with your community to keep that safe. And, it takes someone. So, take a moment to teach someone about safety for then we can make sure no one gets hurt.

## IT PAYS TO BE A MEMBER: HIGH SPEED INTERNET



**Viasat**<sup>™</sup>

Viasat, the company that brought our members Exede, has launched an even better satellite for high-speed internet. The new satellite has more broadband capacity than any satellite in history-and that's good news for you!

*All new packages come with unlimited data and speeds ranging from 12Mbps up to 30Mbps. Customers will also be able to choose their preferred level of video streaming quality. This will vary depending on how you stream videos inside your home. Whether it's mostly through a hand-held device or a flat screen TV, Viasat broadband from NRTC Rural Broadband, will have a package that's right for you.*

**Your opportunity to upgrade to an improved level of broadband service!**

*To learn more or sign-up, please call 888-559-9120. Be sure to mention you are a People's Energy Cooperative member and ask about any current promotions being offered.*



# People's Energy Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

1775 Lake Shady Avenue South  
Oronoco, Minnesota 55960

## HIGHLINE HI-LITES • June 2019 • Vol. 83 • Issue 06

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*Highline Hi-Lites, 1775 Lake Shady Ave. S.  
Oronoco, Minnesota 55960*

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



## 24-HOUR OUTAGE NUMBER

### WHEN THE LIGHTS GO OUT, SO DO WE

*Call even if you think your neighbors have reported the outage. Leave one light on so you know when power has been restored. Have an emergency kit prepared.*

**507.367.7000 or 800.214.2694**

## SPOT YOUR NUMBER

# \$30

*Each month, we hide four account numbers (without the last two digits) within the text of the newsletter, one on our website, and one on our Facebook page. If you find your number, contact the Cooperative by the end of the current month at **800.214.2694** or **memberservices@peoplesrec.com** to receive a \$30 credit on your electric bill.*

**GOOD LUCK IN FINDING YOUR ACCOUNT NUMBER!**

## Have a Safe 4th!

*We will be closed Thurs., July 4th to observe Independence Day. The office will be open for normal business hours during the rest of that week. Please call 800-214-2694 if you have an outage or emergency.*



## OUTDOOR LED LIGHTING AVAILABLE

LEDs require up to 80 percent less energy to operate than traditional bulbs and they last longer. PEC offers standard outdoor LED lighting options that are affordable and energy efficient. Options include:

- *Dark sky compliant fixtures designed for minimal glare and reduced light pollution.*
- *LED lights produce little heat, do not emit UV or infrared, and contain no mercury. Highly durable, resistant to shock, vibration, and able to operate in cold environments.*
- *A system that turns the light on at dusk and off at dawn.*
- *24 or 30-ft Valmont bronze-colored fiberglass pole using direct burial, eliminating the need for footings.*

**POLE INSPECTIONS:** PEC has hired Osmose Utilities Services, Inc. to complete pole inspections on distribution lines in the SW portion of our service area. The inspection area includes Hayfield, Vernon, Rock Dell, Pleasant Valley, Racine, Grand Meadow, and Frankford townships, as well as portions of Ashland, Canisteo, Salem, and High Forest townships. The inspections are planned to begin on June 11 and should take approximately 12 weeks to complete.

*If you would like additional information or have any concerns, contact Matthew Payne, Osmose Supervisor, at 608-769-4075, or Troy Swancutt at 800-214-2694.*

Once you select one of our standard light fixtures, the Cooperative will install and maintain the light which will be billed as a flat monthly device fee. For more about the program, visit [peoplesenergy.coop](http://peoplesenergy.coop).