

## member connection

(Solar options continued from Page 1)

third-party solar vendors. With that ownership comes the responsibility of on-going maintenance, such as inverter replacement, as well as attaining the proper permits and passing inspections before project installation can begin.

The price of installing a rooftop solar system is the costlier of the two options, but according to a study by the Department of Energy's Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, prices for residential solar in 2015 dropped 5 percent from the previous year. In addition to producing electricity on-site, homeowners are also reducing their retail electricity purchases, and, if the system qualifies and produces more energy than is consumed, can receive a credit from their cooperative.

"Payback costs on these systems will vary by a location's solar resource. In solar hot spots like California and Arizona, homeowners would see a faster payback than those who install rooftop solar at their homes in Minnesota," Rathbun said.

Minnesota's tree-rich landscape and intermittent cloud-coverage can prove to be obstacles when determining whether rooftop solar is well-suited for a particular site. Rathbun noted that less than 25 percent of all homes are situated to be a candidate for rooftop solar after details such as roof orientation and shade from nearby trees or other buildings are taken into consideration.

Whichever option a member may choose when looking at adding more renewable energy to their electricity supply, they can be assured that they are supporting an increasingly common, environmentally-friendly choice.

Steele-Waseca is continuing to accept subscriptions from eligible members to participate in community solar or The Sunna Project, which provides a lower-priced subscription for one panel with participation in the co-op's 16-hour water heater control program. Contact Steele-Waseca for additional information or visit [swce.coop](http://swce.coop). Move your cursor over "SERVICES" on the home page, and click on "Renewables."



Know what's below.  
Call before you dig.



### SWCE electrician's van for sale

Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric is accepting sealed bids for a 2010 Ford E-350 electrician's van (pictured above), which has 167,000 miles. The minimum bid is \$6,000. All sealed bids must be received at the co-op, 2411 W. Bridge St., Owatonna, by 3 p.m., Friday, Sept. 8. For more info, please call Dan Meier at 507-446-4214 or Kim Huxford at 507-446-4217.

**Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric does not sell the mailing addresses, phone numbers, or email addresses of our members**

*Church of All Saints*

*New Richland, Mn*

*Fall Festival*

*Saturday, September 23, 2017*

*Just Friends singers at 3:30 P.M.*

*Mass at 4:00 P.M.*

*Turkey Sandwich Supper with augrains, beans, coleslaw, dessert from 5:00. to 6:30 P.M.*

*Tickets \$8, Children under 5 \$3*

*Take out meals available - Saturday 507 465 8381*

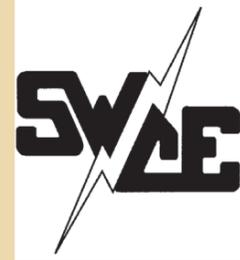
*Family Fun 3 to 7:30 P.M. under the Big Tent*

*Silent Auction Bingo Raffle Country Store*

*Outdoor Games*

*Handicap Accessible*

sparks • september 2017



the power of human connections

# sparks

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

a monthly newsletter from Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric

September 2017

## inside connections

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## calendar of events

### September

- 4** Labor Day  
**SWCE office closed**  
Last day of MN State Fair
- 6-10** The Defeat of Jesse James Days, Northfield
- 9-10** Mantorville Marigold Days
- 10** Grandparents Day
- 11** Patriot Day
- 15** National POW/MIA Recognition Day
- 22** First day of autumn

**Is my off peak/dual fuel being controlled today?**

Visit Great River Energy's website at [www.greatriverenergy.com](http://www.greatriverenergy.com) and click on "Load Management"

Need a history of controls? Click on "History" on the "Load Management" page

## Going solar? You have options

Courtesy: Great River Energy (GRE)

With sources of renewable energy becoming increasingly affordable and accessible, consumers are finding themselves provided with more options on how they want to power their homes and businesses.



As a member of Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric, 17 percent of the energy used in your home or business is already produced by renewables, but there are options if you're looking to offset your electricity usage even more with solar energy.

The two most prevalent choices to accomplish this are through community solar, where you can purchase output from a solar panel in a shared project owned by your cooperative, or rooftop solar, which involves installing modules on your property.

### Community solar

Your electric cooperative has designed a community solar garden to be an easy, cost-effective way for members to take advantage of solar energy. By purchasing the output of one or more solar panels in a project, members are contributing to a collaborative, mutually-beneficial partnership between them and their cooperative.

"The energy produced from these projects helps to power the distribution system," said Mark Rathbun, renewable energy lead at Great River Energy, Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric's

wholesale power provider for its legacy members. "While the energy created from the solar gardens doesn't directly power their homes, they receive a credit on their energy bill based on the system's output. It also gives members the assurance of working directly with their local electric cooperative."

Community solar gardens are optimally sited for production and properly sized for connection to the energy grid as well. Cost of participation varies depending upon the module's power rating and what year the project was built. Subscribers receive a credit on their bill at their co-op's current electric rate for the community solar portion of their bill for the next 20-25 years (Steele-Waseca's program is scheduled to expire in 2035). Through their subscription payments, members are contributing to the project's construction, operations and maintenance, but don't bear those costs the same as they would for their own rooftop system.

"Those costs are shared amongst subscribers and it's more efficient to perform maintenance on one large system versus sending crews to a number of different installation sites," Rathbun said.

### Rooftop solar

Rooftop solar offers consumers the direct benefit of offsetting their electric consumption with an on-site system that is typically purchased through

(Solar options continued on Page 8)



Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric dedicated their community solar garden at their headquarters on May 13, 2015. 15057

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 2411 W Bridge Street, PO Box 485  
 Owatonna MN 55060-0485

Website: [www.swce.coop](http://www.swce.coop)  Find us on Facebook  
 Email: [swce@swce.coop](mailto:swce@swce.coop)  
 Fax: 507-446-4242

### Board of Directors

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 Geraldine Lienke ..... District 2  
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 Kim Huxford ..... *Operations*

### Office Hours

8:00 a.m.–4:30 p.m., Monday–Friday

### Operations Office Hours

8:00 a.m.–3:30 p.m., Monday–Friday

### For Customer Service, Billing Questions and Power Outages Phone:

507-451-7340 or 800-526-3514

### Before calling to report an outage

1. Check fuses and circuit breakers in your home and on meter pole.
2. Check with your neighbors to see if they have power.
3. Look for possible causes such as a tree branch on wires, a broken pole, twisted wires, etc.

### To leave a non-emergency message whenever SWCE's Office is closed:

Phone 507-451-7340 or 800-526-3514  
 Press "2" and leave message including name, account #, and phone # you can be reached at the following business day.

Call *Before* You Dig  
**Gopher State One Call**  
 811 or 800-252-1166

48-hour notice required for ALL underground cable locations

## manager connection



By Syd Briggs,  
*General Manager*

Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric most likely has some member households looking forward to the start of school, or are sending their loved ones off to college.

If your child has yet to determine their career aspirations, they may wish to consider a cooperative career.

Evolving technology is changing how energy is generated and distributed through the electric grid to homes and businesses. These changes have brought new challenges and opportunities to electric co-ops working to keep pace with the evolving landscape.

Within the electric cooperative workforce, new skills and experience are needed to help co-ops meet shifting market and consumer demands.

Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric has a broad range of highly-trained professionals working behind the scenes to serve you, our member-owners, but when employees retire or move on to other opportunities, recruiting fresh talent helps the co-op provide even greater value to our members.

Line technicians are the most visible and identifiable employees of the co-op, but their responsibilities go far beyond climbing poles and repairing lines. They are also information experts who can pinpoint an outage from miles away and restore power remotely.

Experts in information technology are increasingly important to safeguard the grid and protect data, and other sensitive

cyber assets. Engineers provide ongoing expertise and guidance on the operations side of the utility, particularly as system upgrades and more renewable energy choices become available.

Professionals in business administration, communication, and digital media help co-ops deliver messages through multiple platforms, and keep members informed of critical information in today's 24/7 media environment.

The fact of the matter is electric co-ops are looking for professionals with more than excellent technical skills. We are seeking individuals who understand the cooperative difference, and appreciate our mission-oriented operating principles. A career with an electric co-op is different than a job with a for-profit electric utility. Steele-Waseca is a not-for-profit organization that offers competitive wages and benefits. 1064502

We have a strong commitment to the communities we serve. Important decisions are made locally with input from a democratically elected board of directors, whose interest is the greater good of the community, like having a scholarship program to help high school seniors of our membership ease their financial burden of a postsecondary education. We are proud to give back to our community through employees participating in youth and/or community service groups.

Steele-Waseca has utilized CoBank's "Sharing Success" program (see Page 3), to enhance donations to groups like the Steele County Food Shelf, Sheriff's Posse, and local Civil Air Patrol.

In addition, we are making a difference in the lives of people around the world. Through our network of 900 electric co-ops across the country, we have helped bring electricity to more than 140 million people in 43 developing countries across the globe. Through international electrification projects, America's electric co-ops are helping millions of people in developing countries improve their living standards.

At Steele-Waseca, we believe cooperatives build a better world, and co-ops will continue to seek talented people to serve their members.

## WE NEED YOU!

If you are purpose-driven, community-oriented and service-focused, we want you to join our national network of dedicated, electric co-op employees. We are seeking talented individuals in these diverse fields:

- Engineering and Operations
- Information Technology
- Business Administration
- Member Services
- Community & Economic Development
- And many more!

Join the cooperative family today by visiting  
[touchstoneenergy.jobs](http://touchstoneenergy.jobs)



## ad connection

(For Sale ads continued from Page 6)

**CLIMATE CONTROLLED UNITS FOR RENT**, 11'x9' to 16'x10'. 332-4623.

**1982 HONDA GOLDWING**, 1100cc, shaft drive, clean engine, air ride, hand grips, runs great, 29,000 mi., \$1200/obo/cash/Waseca. 835-2814.

**1995 FORD F-150**, 4WD, fiberglass topper, chrome rims, ext. cab; **SHINGLING, LIGHT CONSTRUCTION, TREE REMOVAL** (free estimates). 456-0296.

**14' DUCK BOAT**, (2) swivel seats, trailer & trolling motor, \$400/obo; **PRESSURE WASHER**, \$60; **70" WOODS MOWER**, \$450/obo. 451-6695.

**COUCH** in excellent condition, \$100/obo. 528-2763.

**GRASS HAY BALES**, small square. 612-756-1131.

**PLASTIC BARRELS**, \$4; **WHEELBARROWS**, some antique steel wheel; **TROLLING MOTORS**, \$20/each. 664-9426.

**CENTURY 750-GAL. SPRAYER**, 60' X-fold boom, 20" spacings, tandem adjustable axle, gd cond., \$4200/obo. 451-9614.

**BLK ANGUS BEEF**: qtrs, halves, or whole avail., semi-organically & locally raised. 330-2452/Matt.

**1989 DODGE DAKOTA**, 4WD, no rust, vry gd shape w/topper, \$3500. 838-5267.

**SET OF (4) CHROME WHEELS**, 275/55R20, universal bolt holes, tires in exc. cond., like new, located at Beaver Lk-Cabin 22, \$1000. 438-3753.

**HOBBY FARM MACHINERY**: Ferguson 16" plow, AO-16, 2-btm, 3-pt hitch; JD 8' Spring Tooth; 7' snowplow, 3-pt hitch. 451-9445.

**'06 YAMAHA RAPTOR SPECIAL EDITION 4-WHLR**, grt cond., 350cc, has rev. & elec. start, \$2000; **BOER GOAT KIDS, DOES & BUCKS**. 456-0121.

**WHEEL HORSE 418A GARDEN TRACTOR**, 18-hp Kohler engine, incl. 42" mower deck, hydraulic equip. lift, \$1400. 952-836-6782/Bill.

**VANITY** for bathroom, white, 22.25"L x 31.6"W, \$15. 455-3206.

**KATAHDIN HAIR SHEEP RAM LAMBS; FREEZER LAMBS; SYDELL SHEEP HOOF TRIM CHUTE**. 451-2722.

**CANARY GRASS; STRAW; ALF./GRASS HAY**, 1st & 2nd crop. 744-2871.

**HAMILTON BEACH FOOD PROCESSOR**, (14) cup, \$30; **GEORGE FOREMAN XL GRILL** w/temperature control, new, \$30. 334-3804.

**NORDIC TRACK PRO; HEALTH RIDER; STAIR STEPPER; BICYCLES & HELMETS; 4-BIKE CARRIER; GOLDEN WEST SLATE POOL TABLE** w/ leather pockets & accessories. 333-4400.

**2006 STARCRAFT CAMPER**, sleeps 6-7, 19CK lightweight, stored inside, each end tent bed, AC, heat, toilet, store. 334-8677.

**SHOGUN T1000 FITNESS SERIES BIKE**, women's, light blue, new, \$200/obo. 383-5309.

**STORAGE FOR RENT**: boats, campers, RVs, cars, snowmobiles, etc., cement floor bldg. 383-4707.

**40-GAL. GAS WATER HEATER**, new burner unit, best offer. 202-3694.

**CABIN** on leased land, French Lk, 80' shoreline, in family for 62 yrs, \$89,900/obo. 334-6362.

**COUNTRY HOUSE FOR RENT**, 4-bdrm. 451-3678.

**OLIVER 1650 DIESEL TRACTOR** w/duals, 4400 hrs, 2nd owner, almost new tires, \$5500/obo. 456-1562/cell.

**2001 TRAILS WEST 4-HORSE TRAILER**, large dressing room w/sleeping area above, \$2995/obo. 279-0106.

**MPLS MOLINE 10' TANDEM DISC; COMFORT GLOW KEROSENE HEATER**, 19,500 Btu & fuel. 451-1359.

**2010 JD 1770NT PLANTER**, (16) row, 30"; **600-GAL. FERTILIZER TANK; SINGLE DISC FERTILIZER OPENERS; 1.6-BU. BOXES; SMARTBOX INSECTICIDE**. 583-7551.

**BEDRUG**, fits 2004 Dodge short bed, gd shape, \$125. 456-7754.

**(5) MARVIN SLIDING WINDOWS**, 36"x57" wood frame, gd cond., \$20/each. 744-2792.

**FARMALL M TRACTOR**, pwr steering, gd rubber, & tank heater. 612-382-4084.

**VIKING SEWING/EMBROIDERY MACHINE**, try before you buy, all computer chips, manuals & access, like new, rural Owat., \$995. 451-8979 or email: [marie\\_emails@yahoo.com](mailto:marie_emails@yahoo.com).

**CHICKEN COOP**, room for (24) chickens, incl. (5) nest boxes, solid wood, easy access for cleaning, Owat., you haul, \$400; **TRIPOD DEER FEEDER**, auto feeder w/360° spin, gd cond., \$50. 676-1927.

**OLIVER 1800 TRACTOR**, runs but needs work, has loader. 456-1970.

**USED AUTO PARTS**: engines, trans., car & truck parts, 30-day warranty, best prices. 332-2300.

**FLATBED TRAILER**, 8'x10'; **TENT**, sleeps 6-8 people; **SM. GRILL** & 4-tanks fuel, new, never used. 583-7143/leave message.

**GAMO .177-CAL. PELLETT RIFLE** w/4-power scope & (1000) pellets, less than a yr old, \$125. 465-8566.

**1984 VOLKSWAGEN RABBIT**, diesel, runs gd, 50 mpg, \$1500. 583-7686 after 5 p.m.

**1999 BOUNDER 38' MOTORHOME** w/slide, exc. cond., call for photos; **(40) WESTERN NOVELS**, \$20. 210-1826.

**ROOF SHINGLING**, trusted since 2000, licensed & insured. 271-9129.

**(2) VINTAGE COPPER BOILERS**, complete w/lids & wooden handles, \$75/each. 330-1154.

**(2) LOTS** in Waldorf, each lot 50' wide & 150' long, side-by-side, street lot has curb & gutter, \$5000 for both. 651-247-8574.

**10-3 CABLE** w/ground-type UF-B, 600V, sunlight resistant, 115' & 135' lengths. 213-6582.

**2005 H-D ROAD KING**, dark red, 27,000 mi., has Stage-3, goes fast, 16" chromed out handlebar, vry nice, \$7995. 491-4565.

**HVY DUTY TRAILER**, 8x16, (2) 7500-lb axles, new tires, metal deck, \$1700. 456-9145.

**TRAILER**, 6x8, permanent registration, 1' sides & tailgate, \$300. 334-2673.

**2017 MISTY HARBOR 18' PONTOON** w/50 hp Yamaha, custom snap cover, Hummingbird Helix5 Sonar GPS (less than 20 hrs use), w/Shoremaster hvy duty lift, \$17,000 for everything. 363-9305.

**SHIPPING CONTAINERS**, 20' & 40', store your stuff on your property, moisture & rodent proof. 612-418-4375.

**HUGE TO SMALL STONES** from bottom of 100-yr-old barn, great for landscaping. 465-8086.

**RAIL STEPS & MUD FLAPS** off a 2014 Chevy double cab, \$90 for both. 456-8623.

**2003 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE (LIMITED)**, 235,925 mi., (1) owner. 612-751-0760/cell.

**2-STAGE VERTICAL AIR COMPRESSOR**, 5 hp, 80-gal., \$500; **STACK-ON GUN SAFE**, (24) gun, fireproof, \$300. 330-3945.

**FARM FANS CORN DRYER**, CF/AB 190, LP, 3-phase, 1839 hrs, on wheels. 291-0165 or 291-0287.

**JD TRACTORS**: 1934-60, G, A, B, H, GP, 520, 70, D, MT. 438-5125.

**POLYPAY RAM LAMBS**, born in Feb., twins & triplets. 213-1466.

**TREK 930 SMALL MEN'S MTB**, 21-spd, 26x175, \$100; **TREK NAVIGATOR 100**, women's, 26x175, 21-spd, \$100. 330-3178.

**JD 640 RAKE; ALLIED 595 LOADER; BETTER BILT VAC PUMP**. 380-9580.

**F800** w/10' plow & 10' dump box, air brakes, 429 gas, \$3500. 380-4291.

**FIREWOOD**, mixed hardwoods, 1/4 cord/\$65, 1/2 cord/\$120; full cord/\$220. 645-4158.

**IH 26' DISC** w/9" spacings, nice shape & shedded. 391-5848.

**FIREWOOD; EdenPURE ELEC. HEATER; JACK LALANNE PWR JUICER**, \$25; **LARGE MIRROR**, 34"x59", \$20. 645-4028.

**JD 3950 FORAGE CHOPPER**, \$1000. 451-0653.

**MUSKOVY DUCKLINGS**. 390-0206.

**'05 GMC 3500 S.R.W.**, ext. cab, long box, 6.0, auto, leather, airbags, gooseneck hitch, Rhino bed liner, tonneau cover, 160,000 mi., \$13,000. 332-8826.

**HOWSE ROTARY CUTTER**, Model 500, used, 3-pt hitch, 5' cutting width, \$400. 455-2155.

**WOODSTOVE SIDE LOADER**, accepts 22" logs, \$100; **ROOM AIR BLOWER** for woodstove, \$15; **DOUBLE DAISY** for propane tank, \$25. 334-5799 or 412-3775.

**1990 PONTIAC SUNBIRD CONVERTIBLE**, red, 66,000 mi., exc. roof; **1926 MODEL T FORD SEDAN; OLD 1-HORSE SLEIGH**. 402-2251.

**2004 MITSUBISHI ENDEAVOR**, AWD, auto. trans., new brakes & tires, starts & runs great, 146K mi., \$4000. 451-2627.

**MAPLE END TABLE**, \$45; **ENTERTAINMENT CENTER**, \$75; **COFFEE TABLE**, \$20. 363-1274.

**(3) DOWNHILL ROSSIGNOL SKIS; (2) ELEC. BASEBOARD HEATERS**, 220V. 470-262-7696.

Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric (SWCE) assumes no liability for the content of, or reply to, any item posted. The party posting any advertisement assumes complete liability for the content of, and all replies to, any advertisement and for any claims against SWCE as a result thereof, and agrees to indemnify and hold SWCE harmless from all costs, expenses, liabilities and damages resulting from, or caused by, any advertisement or reply thereto.

## ad connection

### give away

(2) 8' CONCRETE FEED BUNKERS FOR CATTLE. 456-2017.

**BEE SWARM REMOVAL**, we'll remove a swarm of bees from your property free of charge & relocate them to our farm where we raise bees for honey. 612-801-2969/Rory.

### wanted

USED OIL, 200-gal. minimum. 420-7429.

**CLASS A CDL DRIVERS** for tanker, must have tanker endorsement, clean record. 456-1181.

**FARMLAND TO RENT** in the Owa. area. 213-6979.

**USED HOUSE FURNACE**, gd cond., any type of fuel, prefer high efficiency, 92%+. 451-9614.

**USED CEMENT STEPS**. 455-0900.

**ESTATES, COLLECTIONS, FISHING OR HUNTING EQUIP.**, willing to purchase your collection/estate or set up an online auction. 279-0431.

**REAR BUMPER** for full-size 1993 Ford Bronco. 451-7695 or 676-0969/Gary.

**CRAFTERS** for 18th Annual Christmas for Veterans Homemade Craft & Bake Sale, Nov. 4, booth rentals \$30, proceeds buy gifts for Veterans & Gold Star Moms living in Owat. nursing home. 455-2755.

**GOATS; BREEDING BULL**, Angus or heifered. 451-3678.

**HELP GETTING A 1927 MODEL T TO RUN**. 583-7584/Roger after 10 a.m.

**WILL DO:** garden tilling, post-hole drilling, lawn grading, seeding, rolling, lawn mowing, thatching, aerating, erosion control, dirt leveling, seed & fertilizer broadcasting. 390-1567.

**SM. GRAIN DRILL**. 456-1970.

**WILL DO:** garden tilling, bucket work, dirt leveling, & driveway leveling. 451-6046.

**JUNK & UNWANTED APPLIANCES**, free drop off or I charge to pick up, no TVs, computers &/or plastic dishwashers. 210-6728/Fbo.

**OLD BACKHOE**. 279-2407.

**JUNKERS & REPAIRABLES:** cars, trucks, most farm & constr. equip., top \$ pd for junkrs. 332-2300.

## All area codes are 507 unless otherwise noted

**FLARE BOX OR GRAVITY BOX** w/running gear. 317-9246.

**UNWANTED BIKES & LAWN MOWERS**, \$ paid on delivered. 330-3178.

**WILL DO INTERIOR PAINTING**. 461-3202.

**MEDICAL OXYGEN TANK REGULATOR & CANULA OR MASK**. 330-1253/Frank.

### for sale

**2015 MAUER HOPPER; 2004 CORNHUSKER HOPPER**. 456-1181.

**RUNNING GEAR** for hay wagon, \$200/obo; **FIREWOOD**, mixed hardwood, split & dried, \$50/pickup load (Owat. delivery avail., \$20). 213-7909.

**TREE TRIMMING, REMOVE & STUMP GRINDING**, pro climber & aerial lift to U of M guidelines; **FRONT CHROME BUMPER** for an F-650, new. 456-1609.

**PTO POST-HOLE DIGGER**, \$450/obo; **1994 DODGE RAM PICKUP** w/LP & reg. gas, \$600/obo. 455-0895.

**ENTERTAINMENT CENTR**, oak finish, 60" w, 51" tall, 21" deep, fits TV up to 36" w x 29" h, \$75; **WEATHERSHIELD PATIO DOOR**, 9', 3-panel, center panel sliding door, new, never installed, \$900. 272-5852.

**1990 FLEETWOOD PACE ARROW CLASS A MOTOR HOME**, mechanically sound vehicle, needs delaminating work, (6) new tires, best offer; **CAR DOLLY**, home built, \$100/obo. 612-203-0106.

**FORTUNE CREEK TRL LOTS**, covenant allows for a pole shed, starting at \$75,000. 838-5033/John.

**STUMP GRINDING; TREE TRIMMING; (2) 8' GRASS SEED BOXES**, removed off cultipacker, \$110. 455-3524.

**137' PAINTD TREATD WOOD DOCK SECTIONS, POLES & 8x10 SWIM DOCK**, \$200; **ANTIQU. BRASS BED FRAME** w/hd & ft boards, \$75; **ANTIQU. OAK DRESSR** w/round mirr., \$50. 651-983-8410/Ron.

**KENMORE ELEC. RANGE**, great cond., \$75; **WHIRLPOOL UNDER-CABINET MICROWAVE**, white, like new, \$50; **TIRES ON RIMS**, Chev. 6-hole, 4-245-75R-16, \$150. 649-7216.

**RENTAL**, Izaak Walton League Bldg., 4 mi. south of Owat., seats 100, full kitchen, grill, Wi-Fi, \$100. 451-7946.

**AB CORN DRYER/HOLDING BIN**, 1000-bu., frame on wheels, \$2000; **(2) HYDRAULIC RAMS**, 5' long from manure loader. 451-2531.

**GAZEBO**, new, 10x10 w/out netting, \$50; **PLAYHOUSE CLIMBER** w/(2) swings, \$50. 334-3676.

**LAND**, commercial/developmnt, Fbo area. 838-5987.

**BEACHFRONT VACATION CONDOS FOR RENT** in Fort Myers Beach, South Padre Island & Mexico, visit [www.sandysbeachfrontcondo.com](http://www.sandysbeachfrontcondo.com) for details & photos. 612-865-9604/Sandy.

**PET PORTER, XL**, composite, metal wire door, exc. cond., \$35; **TV CONVERTER**, new in box, \$40. 455-3881.

**SEAS. CABIN** on French Lk, (2) bdrm, dock & sheds incl., leased land, \$77,900/obo. 481-4348/Ralph.

**TRI-AXLE DUMP TRUCK AVAIL.** for delivery of rock, gravel, dirt, etc., 15-ton capacity. 456-7774.

**1969 GLEANER G COMBINE**, diesel w/6-row head, runs gd, \$1000; **1972 GLEANER F2 COMBINE**, diesel w/15' bean head, robot control floating head, runs gd, \$1500. 210-9530/Dave.

**'84 FORD 1510 COMPACT UTIL. TRACTR**, 4x4, PTO 1540, 3-pt hitch, 770B loadr, 22 hp Shibaura 1.1L, 3-cyl. diesel, 1300 hrs, clutch trans., optional 60" King Kutter rotary motor, \$7800/obo. 414-2667.

**MINI STORAGE UNITS**, Blmg Prairie. 456-2957.

**ANTIQU. WICKR SET**, (7) pcs w/cushions, nvr been outside, cream w/blue trim, \$400; **MFT PAINT MARE**, 10-y-o, 14'3, loads, trims, ridden in Mo. & S. Dakota, has shots, great disposition, \$2000. 952-200-2280.

**C-WATER ON CART PR. WASHR**, used, Leeson mtr, Udor pmp, 5.5 gpm@3000 psi, 220V, 1-ph., \$1995; **ALKOTA 2142 H-WATER PR. WASHR**, used, 2 gpm @ 1400 psi, 115V, 1-ph., \$1600. 583-2703.

(For Sale ads continued on Page 7)

### travel

**SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF.**, Oct. 19-24. Airfare incl., 5-night stay at the Holiday Inn Express & Suites, San Fran. city tour & Muir Woods, Sonoma & Napa Valley wine tour. \$2,099 pp double occ.

**SMOKY MOUNTAINS**, Oct. 23-30. Deluxe motor coach, 7 nights, 11 meals, guided tour of Smoky Mtns Nat'l Park, Grand Ole Opry, Hatfield & McCoy dinner show & more! \$1,289 pp dbl occupancy.

**MEXICAN RIVIERA CRUISE**, Nov. 4-12. Airfare incl., 1-night pre-cruise at the Los Angeles Marriott, 7-night cruise on the Emerald Princess. Starting at \$1,999 per person double occupancy.

**NEW YORK CITY**, Nov. 8-12. Airfare incl., 4-night stay at The Millenium Broadway Hotel, Broadway Musical, Radio City Music Hall, Manhattan Isl. city tour, 9/11 Memorial & Museum. \$2,499 pp dbl occ.

**Call 4-Seasons at 800-328-4298 and reserve space today! Be sure to tell us you are Steele-Waseca members!**



## member connection



### "Sharing Success" program allows local organizations to benefit

Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric presented checks during June 2017 totaling \$5,000 to local groups through participation in CoBank's "Sharing Success" program. Steele-Waseca Controller Jon Stelter (far left photo) presented Steele County Food Shelf Executive Director Nancy Ness with a check for \$2,000 on June 12. The funds helped the food shelf purchase food for their Meals in Motion program and for the food shelf. Steele-Waseca General Manager Syd Briggs (far left in middle photo) presented Joe Schwering (center) and John Bowe a \$2,000 check for the Sheriffs Mounted Posse & Auxiliary of Steele County during the co-op's annual meeting, June 6. The funds were used for enhancing the Mounted Posse's barn at the Steele County Fairgrounds, for Posse expenses, and for patrolling supplies and equipment. Stelter (middle in far right photo) presented representatives with the Civil Air Patrol in Owatonna a \$1,000 check during the co-op's annual meeting. The funds will be used for their cadet programs, and training ground team cadets in search and rescue missions, and disaster recovery. CoBank matches contributions from their cooperative customers to the nonprofit organizations of the co-op's choice. CoBank, headquartered near Denver, Colorado, is a national cooperative bank providing loans and other financial services to rural power, water, and communications providers, along with agribusinesses in the U.S. 21365

## Invest in Efficiency

The benefits of some home efficiency investments aren't seen as quickly as others. Here's how a few upgrades compare over time:

**Set Water Heater to 120°**  
No Cost; Save \$73/yr

**Open Window Blinds in Winter; Close in Summer**  
No Cost; Save \$35/yr

**Adjust Thermostat 1° Down in Winter, 1° Up in Summer**  
No Cost; Save \$82/yr

Find more ways to save at **TogetherWeSave.com**.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy Home Energy Saver, Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives.

Instant Benefit

# St. John's U.C.C.

## Germanfest

**19086 Jacobs Ave., Faribault, MN**  
**Morning Worship Service at 10:00 AM**

From Faribault, exit I-35 to Hwy 60. Go 8 mi. east to CR 24. Follow CR 24 for 2 mi. north to church. From Kenyon, follow Hwy 60 west to CR 24. Follow CR 24 north 2 mi. to church. From Northfield, follow Hwy 246, 11 mi. to CR 27. Follow CR 27 for 2 mi. Follow CR 24 south 1 mi. to church.

### Sunday, September 24, 2017

## German Buffet

**Serving: 11:00am-2pm and 4pm-6pm**  
(No Reservations Needed)

**Live Old-Time Music**

**Performed by:**

"Tim Chlan and friends" 11am-1 pm

"Ray Sands Band" 1-3 pm

And "The Stuttgart Three" 3-6 pm

**3:00 PM Polka Praise Service**

Special Features

- Bake Shop
- Christmas Store
- Quilt Show
- Petting Zoo
- St. John's Apple Jelly
- Authentic Costumes
- "Rootbeer" Stand
- BINGO
- Farmer's Market
- And More.....

For more information call:  
Telephone: (507) 789-6635 or (507) 334-6550

**Tickets: Adult...\$15.00 Ages 5-12....\$5.00 4 and under....Free**

### Sparks Free Classified Ad Form for all SWCE Members

Ads need to be received in our office by **September 5** to ensure being printed in the October *Sparks*. **Please print neatly or type** your ad of **20 words or less** on this form. We reserve the right to edit ad copy to allow space for more ads. Ads received after the 5th will be printed in the November issue. 27793

For Sale  Wanted  Give Away

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ Account # \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Clip and mail to: SWCE, PO Box 485, Owatonna MN 55060-0485, or fax to: (507) 446-4242 or email your ad to: [sparks@swce.coop](mailto:sparks@swce.coop).

**cookin' connection**

**Fresh Apple Cake**

Irene Budin

Faribault

- |                   |                     |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| 2/3 c. shortening | 1/2 tsp. nutmeg     |
| 2 c. sugar        | 1/2 tsp. salt       |
| 1 c. cold coffee  | 2 tsp. soda         |
| 2 eggs            | 3 c. flour          |
| 2 tsp. cinnamon   | 1 c. raisins        |
| 1/2 tsp. cloves   | 2 c. chopped apples |

Cream shortening and sugar together. Add the other ingredients in the order given above. Pour into a greased 9x13 pan. Cover with the following topping: 1/4 c. brown sugar, 1/2 tsp. cinnamon, 1 Tbsp. flour, and 1/2 c. sugar. Bake at 350° for 40-45 minutes.

Please use a 3 x 5 card when submitting your recipe. The member whose recipe is published will receive a \$7 energy credit.



Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric's solar subscribers will see a 57 kWh credit per panel on this month's statement for energy generated during July 2017. The latest subscribers are the Izaak Walton League of Owatonna, who subscribed for two additional panels. Learn more about community solar and The Sunna Project by visiting Steele-Waseca's website, [swce.coop](http://swce.coop).

**Was your account number in Sparks?**

Each month five account numbers are printed in *Sparks* and a total of \$35 in energy credits is divided among however many of those numbers are found. For example, if all numbers are found, a credit of \$7 will be applied to the members' following month's electric bills; or, if only one number is found, that member receives the full \$35 credit. Members finding their numbers who have a load management receiver on their dual fuel, electric water heater, air conditioner, or genset will receive an additional \$7 credit. When you find your number, phone our office no later than the 7th of the month following receipt of the *Sparks*, or the amount will be forfeited.

**August issue of Sparks**



**Numbers found:**  
Mr. & Mrs. Darvin Reese  
Steven Gray  
Vernol & Elaine Calder

**Numbers not found:**  
David Wacek  
Gregory & Diane Linkert



**Sparks in brief . . .**

• **Want easy energy payments?** Sign up for **EnergyPay Plus**, our automatic payment plan, or **Energy Prepay**, our discounted advance payment plan. Contact our office for details. You may also pay your bill online at [www.swce.coop](http://www.swce.coop). By entering your Steele-Waseca username and password you can also view a 13-month history of your account.

• **If you have changed or added phone numbers**, please contact SWCE to update your contact information.

• **Need a new water heater?** For information about our Westinghouse Electric Water Heater Program, phone Cindy Butterfield at our office between 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m., 446-4204 / 800-526-3514.

• **July temps** – The average high temperature for July was 82° F, while the average low was 62° F. They compare to last year's average high of 81° F and average low of 63° F.

• **ENERGY STAR® Rebates** – In 2017, all ENERGY STAR refrigerators/freezers (with recycling), electric clothes dryers, dehumidifiers, central air conditioners, air and ground source heat pumps, compact fluorescent lightbulbs (CFLs), light emitting diode (LED) holiday lights and bulbs purchased are eligible to receive rebates (may not be combined with special promotions). Rebate request forms must be submitted within 90 days of purchase. Rebate forms are available at [www.swce.coop](http://www.swce.coop). For more information or to receive a rebate request form, phone Cindy Butterfield at 446-4204 or 800-526-3514.

• **Steele-Waseca's tree service contractor** – Carr's Tree Service, Inc., is contracted to do SWCE's tree trimming. To report a tree concern, phone:

507-451-7340 / 800-526-3514

**STEELE COUNTY TIP LINE**  
**866-878-7964**

TO BE USED TO REPORT ANY CRIME OR SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY ANONYMOUSLY

COVERS ALL OF STEELE COUNTY INCLUDING THE CITIES OF:  
**OWATONNA ELLENDALE BLOOMING PRAIRIE MEDFORD**

**health & safety connection**

**Contact Gopher State One Call at least 48 hours before digging begins**

Whether you plan to dig posts for a deck, plant a tree or trench in electric lines for an outbuilding, it is important to understand and utilize Gopher State One Call (GSOC) before starting your project.



The GSOC system is designed to notify utilities, in accordance with state law, who may have underground facilities in the area where digging is planned. That call needs to be made at least 48 hours (excluding weekends and holidays) before you plan to dig. If a homeowner hires a contractor to do the work, then by law the contractor must obtain the ticket that allows digging to proceed.

When you contact Gopher State One Call, you may call 811 or 800-252-1166. You may also visit [www.gopherstateonecall.org](http://www.gopherstateonecall.org) to submit your application. Be prepared with the following information: your name, home phone number, work/cellphone number, and email address; when you plan to begin to work; how many days the digging may take; type of work you will be doing; county and city/township where the work will be done; address and nearest cross streets or township range/section where work will be done; where you will be digging on the property (also mark the area preferably with white paint); whether any digging will be done in the road right-of-way. 1023496

Since most private facilities are not listed on the GSOC, **it is the homeowner's responsibility to hire someone to**



**SWCE office getting painted**

For the first time since Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric moved their headquarters to West Bridge Street in 1994, a new look with fresh paint is being applied at the office by Kendall's Painting, LLC, of Owatonna. Work has been ongoing throughout the summer.

**locate their private underground facilities.** Private underground facilities, or customer-owned facilities, are those facilities that were installed behind or after the meter. Also, if overhead distribution lines serve the property and the power is then distributed on the property by underground service facilities, those service facilities may be considered private. If the homeowner's electric meter is located on the property line, then that electric line from the meter to the house is considered privately owned and will not be located.

**Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric does not locate buried wires that are the homeowner's responsibility.** A list of private locators are available at [gopherstateonecall.org](http://gopherstateonecall.org). Move your cursor over the "About" tab on the home page, click on "Industry Directory," and "PRIVATE FACILITY LOCATORS."

This list is by no means an exhaustive list or a list of locators recommended by GSOC. For additional locators, consult a search engine like Google or the Yellow Pages under "Utilities Underground - Locating." Private locators will charge a fee for their services.

Other private facilities can include: natural gas farm taps, natural gas or propane gas underground piping to buildings, private water systems, data communication lines, invisible fences,



**Be Safe**

Always call before you dig

**CALL 811 BEFORE YOU DIG. IT'S THE LAW.**

**UNDERGROUND POWER LINES** can be just as dangerous as overhead power lines. Avoid serious injury and property damage by calling 811 before you dig to have underground facilities marked.

- Call Gopher State One Call at 811 at least two business days prior to a dig.
- Dial 811 or 1-800-252-1166 during normal business hours; this service is free for homeowners.
- Minnesota state law requires you to call.
- If you damage a line, you may be financially responsible for repairs.

You may also submit your dig information at [gopherstateonecall.org/submit](http://gopherstateonecall.org/submit).

and many others. **N**o one should ever remove flags before work is completed for the safety of all digging in the area. If you come in contact with an underground utility, evacuate the area and notify your utility provider.

**FALL HAM SUPPER**  
**TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**MEDFORD, MN**  
108 SW 3<sup>rd</sup> St.  
Sunday, September 24, 2017

**MENU: "Family Style"**  
Ham (raisin sauce available)  
Homemade mashed potatoes/gravy  
Whole kernel corn  
Coleslaw  
Rolls & Pickles  
Assorted Pies  
Coffee/Milk

**PRICES:**  
Adults . . . . . \$12.00  
Children (6-12) . \$5.00  
Pre-school . . . . . FREE

**Serving Time: 4:30 - 7:00 PM**

*Our church is physically impaired accessible*  
[www.tlmedford.org](http://www.tlmedford.org)