

## member connection

### Great River Energy conducting survey

Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric's wholesale power provider, Great River Energy (GRE), is mailing a residential electric use survey during September/October 2017 to randomly selected Steele-Waseca members.



The results of the survey will help determine future load growth in predicting summer and winter peak growth. In addition, the survey will assist with determining residential usage patterns. If you are selected and receive a survey, please take a few moments to complete and submit it. 28101

The information you provide will remain confidential, and will only be used for a statistical summary analysis of large groups of residential consumers.

### Steele-Waseca receives loan from USDA

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced Aug. 24, that Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric was among the loan recipients in 10 states helping cooperatives and utilities improve and expand rural electric infrastructure.

Steele-Waseca's loan is for \$12.8 million to build and improve 63 miles of line. The loan includes \$1.4 million for smart grid projects.

The infrastructure loans are being provided through the USDA Rural Development's Electric Program.



### Steele County Ducks Unlimited 45th Annual Fall Duck Bash



**Thursday, October 5, 2017**

Ritchie Brothers Auction Building  
6000 Frontage Road West  
Medford, MN 55049

Doors Open At 5:00 PM  
Buffet Dinner At 6:00 PM

80th Anniversary DU Merchandise! Two FREE kegs of beer! Torey's Catering!

Ticket includes event attendance, dinner, pop, & DU MEMBERSHIP.

Sponsor ticket INCLUDES SPONSOR DRAWING, 1 DUCK BUCK PACK(\$55 VALUE), & FRAMED PRINT!  
\$50 Duck Buck packs available.

Wear camo for a FREE chance to win a gun.  
Purchase tickets at [www.ducks.org/minnesota/events](http://www.ducks.org/minnesota/events)

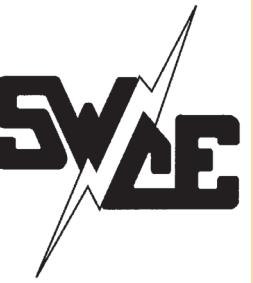
#### Ticket Prices

\$40 Single	\$300 Sponsor
\$55 Couple	\$315 Sponsor Couple
\$20 Greenwing	\$200 Legacy Greenwing

**RESERVE YOUR  
TICKETS NOW!**

For more information or to buy tickets online,  
visit <http://MN.ducks.org>

**the power of human connections**



# sparks

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

a monthly newsletter from Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric

October 2017

To all the employees at SWCE,

I really appreciate the quick response and repair to the power lines that were downed on my turkey farm near Claremont from the storm on July 19, 2017. It was nice knowing that I didn't have to spend time and energy getting my generator hooked up because you were able to restore the power to my farm in such a timely manner. This allowed me to dedicate my time to resolving other issues that needed taken care of.

Sincere thanks,

Kent Schmidt

OCTOBER IS CO-OP MONTH  
**CO-OP  
MONTH  
LOCAL.  
TRUSTED.  
SERVING  
YOU.™**

#### calendar of events

##### October

- 2 Child Health Day
- 8-14 Nat'l Fire Prevention Week
- 9 Columbus Day observed
- Leif Erikson Day
- 9-13 Nat'l School Lunch Week
- 16 Boss's Day
- 31 Halloween

**It's FALL!  
Have a SAFE one!**



##### Pancake Breakfast

Supports Grandparents for Education  
And OMS Student Council

**Sunday, October 15, 2017**

**8:00 AM to 12:00 PM**

**Eagles Club, Owatonna**

141 E. Rose St., Owatonna 507-451-3846  
Tickets are sold by GFE members, Kottke's  
And OMS Student Council

Tickets purchase includes a drawing for an Electric Pressure Washer (winner need not be present).

Drawing at 11:45 AM

A Silent Auction and Grandma's Bake sale will be held.

**Advance Tickets \$6 at the door \$7  
4 and under FREE**

#### Great River Energy announces load management plan due to seasonal changes

Great River Energy (GRE) has announced their load control plans for fall and the upcoming winter.

Note the control times described below are not absolute as there is a ramping window for both shed and restore times—this allows for smoothing the impact of load control.

All programs are subject to control by GRE on an "as-needed" basis and control times may change in response to extreme temperature variances, plant outages, and/or MISO (Midcontinent Independent System Operator) emergencies. 24638

Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric members on the storage water heating program will have their restore times start between 11 p.m. and midnight weekdays (Monday through Friday), with shed times taking place between 7 and 8 a.m., during the week. There won't be any controlling during weekends (Saturday and Sunday) or during holidays, unless there is an imminent need to control (see reasons above).

For Steele-Waseca members on the 8-hour Interruptible Water Heating Program (formerly Peak Shave Water Heat-

ing), the total estimated winter control will be 20 days or 100 hours. For members on the 4-hour Interruptible Water Heating Program (formerly Peak Shave Water Heating), the total estimated winter control will be 20 days or 80 hours.

Steele-Waseca members participating in Dual Fuel and Air Source Heat Pump will have an estimated winter control of 18 days or 108 hours.

If you have a dual fuel heating system, be sure your off-peak controls are functioning and your backup system is prepared for the heating season. It is the member's responsibility to contact an electrical contractor should the system not be functioning properly.

GRE will continue to communicate daily load control strategies through their website, [www.greatriverenergy.com](http://www.greatriverenergy.com). Steele-Waseca members may also gain access by visiting the co-op's website, [www.swce.coop](http://www.swce.coop), and clicking on "CONTROL TIMES."

Members with questions regarding load control, or wishing to join a load control program, are encouraged to contact SWCE's Cindy Butterfield at 507-451-7340 or 800-526-3514.

Published monthly by  
 Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric  
 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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**Division Managers**

Darla DeVries ..... Office  
 Douglas Hughes ..... Marketing  
 David Lundberg ..... Finance  
 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

**W**hat does it mean to be a member of Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric, a Touchstone Energy® electric cooperative?

As a member of Steele-Waseca, you have the power, a voice and control in how your electric co-op is run; in what's best for the community; in the decisions that allow us to provide reliable, affordable electricity for your home. During October, National Co-op Month, we're recognizing the most important part of our cooperative—you, our member-owner.

Membership represents a vested interest—everyone is more engaged and attentive to something they feel a responsibility for. Touchstone Energy co-ops work to engage their members in all the issues surrounding the co-op. When members are engaged and informed, they become advocates for their co-op, not just consumers.

In today's world, electric cooperatives are doing more than just saving money for their members. Touchstone Energy co-ops make being a member of an electric cooperative a truly unique experience. Besides a one-member, one-vote system, member-owners earn capital credit equity from profits earned by the co-op.

While mainly serving farms and rural areas, Minnesota electric cooperatives

comprise the state's largest distribution network, and average far fewer consumers per mile than investor-owned and municipal electric utilities.

Members are the reason cooperatives exist. The power of co-op membership is the cooperative difference, and our business "bottom line" is the empowerment of you, our member-owner. Steele-Waseca actively engages with the communities we serve. With town hall meetings to keep our member-owners informed, Steele-Waseca also enhances communities by offering graduating high school seniors scholarships to help with expenses associated with a postsecondary education.

The co-op sponsors two students to participate in the Youth Tour to Washington, D.C., to learn more about cooperatives, our nation's capital, and networking with other delegates from Minnesota and across the nation.

Steele-Waseca also coordinates the Coal Creek Tour to Underwood, North Dakota, so members may have a greater understanding how electricity gets to their home on a daily basis. 30290

The co-op also commits to communities through participation in their respective chambers of commerce, and Steele-Waseca employees volunteers in a variety of youth, community and service groups.

**S**teele-Waseca has been a Touchstone Energy Cooperative since 1998. Touchstone's values are the same ones cooperative members have come to rely on since the beginning of the co-ops—accountability, integrity, innovation, and community involvement.

*Syd*

**ELECTRIC CO-OPS COMMIT**  
**Co-op Month 2017**

#coopmonth

SHOW YOUR SUPPORT FOR CO-OPS DURING THE MONTH OF OCTOBER

**CO-OP STATS**

- There are 900 electric cooperatives located in 47 states.
- Electric co-ops provide power to 18 million homes, schools and businesses.
- Electric cooperatives serve 56 percent of the nation.

## ad connection

(For Sale ads continued from Page 6)  
**FARMALL 706**, cab, snowblower, new back tires. 583-7686 after 5 p.m.

**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.

**2003 DODGE CARAVAN SPORT**, new brakes & rear tires, decent front tires, engine runs well, built-in child seat, pretty gd cond. (except for transmission), will sell all or parts, best offer. 918-914-9699.

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

**CABIN** on Beaver Lk, remodeled 2-bdrm w/pine interior, hardwood floors, updated electric & plumbing. 612-240-5484.

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

**INDOOR STORAGE** for RVs, etc. 412-1171/lv. msg.

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

**JD 6600 COMBINE**, gas, 4-row corn head & bean head. 456-9546.

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

**COLD STORAGE** in Fbo, 6'x8', \$49/mth. 332-4638.

**CHILD'S TRAIN TABLE** w/trains, wooden track & lots of accessories, \$40. 528-2678/Claremont.

**CIRCLE Y SADDLE**, 15.5", & misc. horse gear, \$675 for all. 412-1248/Laura.

**ENTERTAINMENT CENTER**, solid wood, beautiful piece & could have multiple uses, 74.5x64x22, \$125/obo. 210-7044.

**'51 FARMALL H**, narrow front w/#33 pwr loader (3-pc), main fork, snow, & sm. dirt bucket, engine & rear-end overhaul, starts & runs gd, has block heater & rear whl weights, new front tires, \$2500. 414-2667.

**BOXER/MASTIFF PUPS**, will be ready to go on Oct. 1, will be trying to start potty training & will have 1st shots. 461-9422.

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

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

**DUCK & GOOSE DECOYS**, land & water, Fbo area. 903-413-9002/Don.

**(4) TIRES**, 225-60-16, like new, \$75; **PLASTIC BARRELS**, \$4/each. 664-9426.

**(2) CHILD'S SADDLES**, 10" seat/\$125, 13" seat/\$175, great cond.; **FARMLAND FOR RENT**, 101-acres, Waterville area. 456-3905.

**A-C 7020; NURSERY PIG FEEDERS**, stainless steel. 583-2026.

**2010 PALOMINO POP-UP CAMPER**, Model 4120, sleeps (8), furnace, 3-way refrig., 3-burner stove, exc. cond., always stored indoors. 330-3263.

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

**1970s REPAIRABLE SNOWMOBILES**, fix & drive, or parts: Arctic Cat, Johnson & Yamahas. 272-3672 after 6 p.m.

**LOVE-SEAT RECLINER**, dark blue, blends w/other blues, exc. cond., 2.5-y-o, 76" L, 38" H, 40" D, can email picture, no txtng, \$325/obo. 838-8565/Kathy.

**GRASS HAY**, round bales. 213-1277.

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

**YOUNG LAYING HENS**. 612-703-1316.

**70" WOODS BELLY MOWER**, \$400/obo; **DUCK BOAT** w/swivel seats, trailer & trolling motor, \$400/obo. 451-6695.

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

**1957 INT TRUCK** w/hoist, runs good, good body. 528-2422.

**INT 720 PLOW**, 5-18, auto reset, new shares & coulters, field ready, \$2500/firm. 451-3501 or 390-5508.

**GAMO .177-CAL. PELLET RIFLE** w/4-pwr scope & (1000) pellets, \$125; **ACE PTO SPRAYER PUMP**, \$50; **(3) OIL BARREL PUMPS**, \$15/ea. 465-8566.

**16" WESTERN SADDLE**, custom made (one of a kind) w/sturdy wooden stand, like new, \$625 for both. 412-1246/Terry.

**PARALLAX PWR SUPPLY 4455 PARAMODE 4400-SERIES CONVERTER CHARGER**, 30-amp, 32V, used only a few hrs, \$300/obo. 952-652-2929.

**ALF/GRASS & MIXED GRASS HAY**, sm. sq., no rain, hvy bales; **1980 GLEANER K2 COMBINE**, Corn Plus, diesel, hydraulic auger, 18.4x26, 13' bean, 2R Corn, dummy grain pick up. 334-6377.

**JD 7720 COMBINE**, 4WD w/rear wheel assist & all new drive belts. 339-1645.

**WELLINGTON OF CHICAGO UPRIGHT PIANO**, gd cond., vintage, Nfd. 952-994-1092.

**TV STAND**, blk w/(2) shelves, \$15; **PLANT STAND** w/(3) sm. round shelves, \$10; **PEDESTAL STAND**, \$5. 451-2687.

**FETERL AUGER**, 10-60 w/swing hopper; **IH 720 PLOW**, 5-18, new coulter, lathes & skins; **HUTCHINSON AUGER**, 8-60. 475-2118.

**BOXER/MASTIFF PUPS**, will be ready to go on Oct. 1, will be trying to start potty training & will have 1st shots. 461-9422.

**GOLDSTAR DEHUMIDIFIER**, 12-gal., Energy Star® rated, hardly used, \$75. 451-5456 after 5 p.m.

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

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

**16" ROPING SADDLE**, exc. cond., \$250; **SNO BLADE** for Craftsman lawn tractor, \$125. 456-6828.

**MUSCOVY DUCKS**, 2017 hatch. 390-0206.

**1974 INT PICKUP**, 4x4, runs. 528-2443 after 6 p.m.

**OLIVER 1600**, pwr steering, 3-point, gd shape & gd tires. 402-1184.

**ANTIQUE DOUBLE BED FRAME**, white cast iron, \$150. 645-7539.

**SCHEITZ 3-POINT SNOWBLOWER**, 7', 2-way chute. 332-8174.

**LOVE-SEAT RECLINER**, dark blue, blends w/other blues, exc. cond., 2.5-y-o, 76" L, 38" H, 40" D, can email picture, no txtng, \$325/obo. 838-8565/Kathy.

**GRASS HAY**, round bales. 213-1277.

**DIXON ZERO-TURN MOWER**, \$500; **PUMA CAMP-ER**, 39', (3) roll outs. 845-2436.

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

**ICE HOUSE**, custom built, 16'x8', foam insulation, tongue & groove pine interior & cabinets, \$9200/obo; **CARSTENS/PINTAIL FIBERGLASS DUCK BOAT**, 13'4" long, 500# capacity, like new. 334-6334/Roger.

**COLLIE PUPS**, (2) females, tri & merle; **LEGHORN PULETS**, (7) laying; **COCHINS**, large, blk; **POLISH BANTAMS**; **RABBITS**. 451-9535/evenings.

'63 THUNDERBIRD LANDAU, 390, 4-barrel, stored inside, needs restoration, \$2500. 952-652-2933.

**STACK-ON 24-GUN FIREPROOF SAFE**, \$300; **BIG 4 AIR TIRE CHANGER**, \$75; **COMM. SANDBLAST SETUP**, \$1000; **'10 MUSTANG CONV.**, \$10,500; **JD 524**, 4WD, new tires & loader, \$29,000. 330-3945.

**(6) FARM TRUCK TIRES** on rims, 8.25x20, \$25/ea.; **TIRES**: Wrangler, new, P265/70R17 on rim, \$60/obo & (2) P265R16, 50% tread, \$

## ad connection

### give away

**KITTENS**, born July 10, (1) blk male Manx bobtail & (1) female striped long tail (sm. size). 583-2173.

**WALNUT STEREO CONSOLE UNIT; SOFA** w/ match. chair; **BAR; (5) CHAIRS**. 763-557-0923/Fbo.

**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.

**(2) RUGS**, 12x12, brown, indoor/outdoor. 664-9426.

**KITTENS**, variety of colors. 612-703-1316.

**FREE ONLINE CLASSIFIEDS**, you place & remove your own ad on SWCE's website, [www.swce.coop](http://www.swce.coop), these are separate from Sparks & will not appear in Sparks unless emailed to [sparks@swce.coop](mailto:sparks@swce.coop).

**HAIR PRODUCT SAMPLE**, discover visibly, longer, fuller, stronger, younger-looking hair in just 90 days—guaranteed! 331-0094.

**(3) MED./LARGE-SIZE ASH TREES**, the wood in exchange for cutting them down, wide open area, rural Fbo. 210-3989.

**FARM CATS**, gd mousers. 451-9455.

**LOGS** from a 6' diameter tree cut down last spring. 451-6468.

**FARM KITTENS**, 3-mths-old, tame. 334-9302.

**STRAW**, take all you want, you load from barn, first come/first serve until gone. 213-8823.

### wanted

**BARNs & SHEDS TO TEAR DOWN; OLD TIN; BARN SIDING; WALNUT BOARDS; ANVIL; LARGE VISE** for the shop. 330-0258/Tim.

**PAIR OF USED 30-LB. PROPANE TANKS** for a camping trailer. 952-652-2661.

**PUPPY**, large breed. 602-2910.

**SHED** w/treated floor, size approx. 8'x10', will move, looking for something in gd cond. 330-0129.

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

**TILLER**, 3-point, 4' PTO for sm. tractor. 334-8324.

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

Ads need to be received in our office by October 5 to ensure being printed in the November 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 December issue.

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).

### All area codes are 507 unless otherwise noted

**JD 7000 PLANTER**, 30" row spacing, gd used cond., fertilizer boxes not needed, reas. priced. 583-7762.

**500-GAL. GAS BARREL** on stand w/filter, nozzle & fill hose, exc. shape, \$150. 330-3856.

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

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

**CRAFTERS** for 18th Ann. Christmas For Veterans Homemade Craft & Bake Sale, Nov. 4, 8:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., at Trinity Luth. Church, Owa., booth rentals \$30/ea. & incl. table/chairs. 455-2755.

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

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

**SOMEONE TO TAKE DOWN A MAPLE TREE** for wood. 528-2443.

**GRASS OR MIXED HAY**, sm. sq. & big round bales, Nfld area. 715-205-0411.

**ACRES TO CUSTOM HARVEST**, will do corn or soybeans, yield mapping, within 25-miles of Minn. Lake. 380-8044/Tim.

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

**DRIVER** w/Cls A CDL & tanker w/endors. 456-1181.

### for sale

**1989 FORD U-HAUL TRUCK**, 17', gd cond., \$2500. 649-7216.

**5-HOLE RIM & TIRE** for trailer, size 5.30x12, \$80. 952-652-2661.

**65' WOODEN DOCK**, steel poles, \$225; **3-WAY CAMPER FRIDGE**, wrks exc., \$150. 332-0200.

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

**FRIGIDAIRE WASHER/DRYER SET**, front load, used, working cond., \$50/set. 272-5852.

**FULL-SIZE BED**, bookshelf & footboard, wood, metal sides, gd shape, other things, \$100. 583-6679.

**GRASS HAY BALES**, sm. sq. 612-756-1131.

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

**SKID STEER FORKS; BALE SPEARS; BUCKETS; LAND LEVELER; LINCOLN PORTABLE WELDER; SERVICE TRUCKS; CHEVY 2500HD**, 4x4, ext. cab. 402-7679.

**1890-1900 WINDSOR CHICAGO REED ORGAN**, walnut case, exc. keyboard, plays well, great for sm. church, \$200/cash. 451-7626.

**COMMERCIAL/DEVELOPMENT LAND**, Fbo area. 838-5987.

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

**1989 WELLCRAFT**, 19', great fishing &/or tubing boat, tubes incl., new stereo system. 451-3134.

**OLD TABLE**, 49" sq., (4) leaves, (5) 24" high round legs. 583-7408.

**VAL 6 KBE5L RADIANT HEATER**, diesel, 115V, 2-stage, 118,000 Btu on high w/fuel preheater, \$2395; **ALKOTA 2142 H-WATER PR. WASHR**, used, 2 gpm @ 1400 psi, 115V, single ph., \$1600. 583-2703.

**2003 H-D ULTRA CLASSIC ELECTRA GLIDE**, 100th anniversary, sharp, 76,000 mi., extras, \$7000/obo. 330-5022.

**SHORESTATION BOAT LIFT**, 1600#, French Lk, 17436 Gary Trl #28, \$500. 952-652-2905.

**TROY-BILT ROTOTILLER**, 5 hp, low usage, \$350/obo; **WOODSTOVE**, front-loading glass door, \$100/obo. 332-8621.

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

(For Sale ads continued on Page 7)

### travel

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

**NEW YORK CITY**, Nov. 8-12. Airfare incl., Broadway musical, Radio City Music Hall Rockettes Christmas Spectacular, 9/11 Memorial & Museum, Manhattan Island city tour, \$2,499 pp dbl occ.

**BRANSON HOLIDAY**, Nov. 16-20. Deluxe motor coach, 7 meals, Titanic Museum, 6 shows incl. Dutton Family, Dixie Stampede Dinner, Daniel O'Donnell Holiday, & more! \$789 pp dbl occ.

**CHRISTMAS IN CHICAGO**, Dec. 3-5. Deluxe motor coach, Goodman Theatre's A Christmas Carol, The Wonderland Express, Christmas around the World tree display & more! \$599 pp double occ.

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



## member connection

### Cold Weather Rule Notification

216B.097 Cold Weather Rule; Cooperative or Municipal Utility 1024862

#### Subdivision 1. Application; notice to

##### residential customer.

(a) A municipal utility or a cooperative electric association must not disconnect and must reconnect the utility service of a residential customer during the period between October 15 and April 15 if the disconnection affects the primary heat source for the residential unit and all of the following conditions are met:

1. The household income of the customer is at or below 50 percent of the state median household income. A municipal utility or cooperative electric association utility may (i) verify income on forms it provides or (ii) obtain verification of income from the local energy assistance provider. A customer is deemed to meet the income requirements of this clause if the customer receives any form of public assistance, including energy assistance, that uses an income eligibility threshold set at or below 50 percent of the state median household income.

2. A customer enters into and makes reasonably timely payments under a payment agreement that considers the financial resources of the household.

3. A customer receives referrals to energy assistance, weatherization, conservation, or other programs likely to reduce the customer's energy bills.

(b) A municipal utility or a cooperative electric association must, between August 15 and October 15 each year, notify all residential customers of the provisions of this section.

#### Subd. 2. Notice to residential customer facing disconnection.

Before disconnecting service to a residential customer during the period between October 15 and April 15, a municipal utility or cooperative electric association must provide the following information to a customer:

(1) a notice of proposed disconnection;

(2) a statement explaining the customer's rights and responsibilities;

(3) a list of local energy assistance providers;

(4) forms on which to declare inability to pay; and

(5) a statement explaining available time payment plans and other opportunities to secure continued utility service.

#### Subd. 3. Restrictions if disconnection necessary.

(a) If a residential customer must be involuntarily disconnected between October 15 and April 15 for failure to comply with the provisions of Subdivision 1, the disconnection must not occur:

(1) on a Friday, unless the customer de-

cides to enter into a payment agreement

offerred that day in person or via personal

contact by telephone by a municipal utility or cooperative electric association;

(2) on a weekend, holiday, or the day

before a holiday;

(3) when utility offices are closed; or

(4) after the close of business on a day when disconnection is permitted, unless a field representative of a municipal utility or cooperative electric association who is authorized to enter into a payment agreement, accept payment, and continue service, offers a payment agreement to the customer.

Further, the disconnection must not occur until at least 20 days after the notice required in Subdivision 2 has been mailed to the customer or 15 days after the notice has been personally delivered to the cus-

tomer.

(b) If a customer does not respond to a disconnection notice, the customer must not be disconnected until the utility investigates whether the residential unit is actually occupied. If the unit is found to be occupied, the utility must immediately inform the occupant of the provisions of this section. If the unit is unoccupied, the utility must give seven days' written notice of the proposed disconnection to the local energy assistance provider before making a disconnection.

(c) If, prior to disconnection, a customer appeals a notice of involuntary disconnection, as provided by the utility's established appeal procedure, the utility must not disconnect until the appeal is resolved.

### SWCE Area Energy Assistance Phone Numbers

#### Blue Earth County

507-345-6822  
800-767-7139, X2433

#### Freeborn County

507-864-7515  
800-944-3281

#### Rice County

507-732-7391  
800-277-8418

#### Dodge County

507-864-7515  
800-944-3281

#### Goodhue County

507-732-7391  
800-277-8418

#### Steele County

507-864-7515  
800-944-3281

#### Faribault County

507-345-6822  
800-767-7139, X2433

#### LeSueur County

507-345-6822  
800-767-7139, X2433

#### Waseca County

## cookin' connection

### Granola

**Pat Matejcek**

1 c. old fashioned oatmeal  
1/3 c. wheat germ  
1/4 c. coconut  
1/4 c. powdered milk  
1 t. cinnamon

2 T. honey  
2 T. oil  
1 t. vanilla

Put in a bowl: oatmeal, wheat germ, coconut, powdered milk and cinnamon. Mix together honey, oil, vanilla, and pour over the dry ingredients. Bake at 350° for 8 to 10 minutes. Watch closely as it burns easily. You can double the recipe; and may also add raisins; sunflower, sesame and/or chia seeds after baking. If too sweet, go less on honey.

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 46 kWh credit per panel on this month's statement for energy generated during August 2017. 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.

## September issue of Sparks

### Numbers found:

No members found their number

### Numbers not found:

Douglas/Vicki Sonnee  
Michael Madsen  
James/Cynthia Daugs  
Steve Haakensen  
Judy/Jeffrey Young



## 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.

- August temps – The average high temperature for August was 75°F, while the average low was 56°F. They compare to last year's average high of 80°F and average low of 61°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**

## LIVESTOCK OWNERS

If you have questions or concerns regarding stray voltage in your livestock confinement building(s), or are planning an addition, or constructing a new one, call Steele-Waseca at 507-451-7340 or 800-526-3514. Steele-Waseca will work with you and your electrician to eliminate potential stray voltage problems.

## health & safety connection

### Sow seeds of caution to reap safe harvest

Harvest season is one of the busiest times of year for farmers—and among the most dangerous. unless there is a fire or imminent risk of fire. 1032682

In that rare case, the proper action would be to jump—not step—free and clear from the equipment landing with feet together. Do not touch the equipment and ground at the same time. Hop as far away as possible, as electricity radiates outward.

For additional information on how to stay safe this harvest season, visit [www.SafeElectricity.org](http://www.SafeElectricity.org).



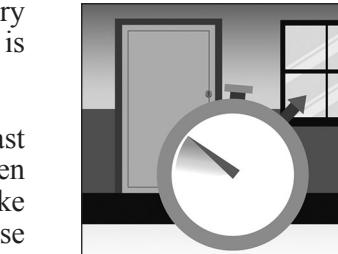
**BEWARE** of dangers above.  
Your LIFE depends on it.



Look up and look out for power lines.

## Every Second Counts: Plan 2 Ways Out!™

Fire Prevention Week | Oct. 8-14, 2017



How fast does fire move? Very fast. You could have less than 2 minutes to get out safely once the smoke alarm sounds.

### 7 steps to practicing your escape plan

- Draw a map of your home. Include all doors and windows.
- Find two ways out of every room.
- Make sure doors and windows are not blocked.
- Choose an outside meeting place in front of your home.
- Push the test button to sound the smoke alarm.
- Practice your drill with everyone in the home.
- Get outside to your meeting place.

For more information about escape planning, visit:  
[www.usfa.fema.gov](http://www.usfa.fema.gov) and [www.firepreventionweek.org](http://www.firepreventionweek.org).