

member connection

(ASHPs continued from Page 7)

“With the recent advancements in air source heat pump technology, they can now be used to cost effectively deliver a much larger portion of the heating needs of homes and businesses in cold climate areas such as Minnesota,” said Rodney DeFouw, member electrification strategist at Great River Energy. “In rural areas where natural gas is not available, using air source heat pumps for heating is now commonly the most cost-effective heating option available for the vast majority of the heating season. This is especially true if you can take advantage of programs and rate options available through your local electric cooperative.”

Beyond cost savings, ASHPs provide additional benefits such as higher-quality warmth compared to conventional furnaces as the ASHP distributes heat more evenly and holds moisture better which results in a natural, comfortable warmth. 20233

ASHPs also provide a safe, environmentally-friendly solution for home comfort conditioning. They don’t use an open flame or create products of combustion—such as carbon monoxide—so there is no need for venting.

Part of your electric cooperative’s mission is to help you use energy wisely by offering a variety of programs, resources and products to make this possible. For more information on what Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric can do to provide you with an energy efficient ASHP, call 507-451-7340 or toll-free 800-526-3514.

### EARTH DAY CELEBRATION

Friday, April 26 + Saturday, April 27

- BUILDING RESILIENCE -

WATER · LAND · FOOD · ENERGY · TRANSPORTATION · WASTE

Highlighting the City of Northfield's Climate Action Plan • Get Involved • Share Your Feedback

**FRIDAY, 4/26**

7:30-10:30PM  
Earth Day Contra Dance  
@ Armory Square  
519 Division St.

**SATURDAY, 4/27**

9AM REGISTER  
Gravel Grinder Climate Ride  
Silent Auction to follow  
@ Imminent Brewing

9:30AM  
Earth Day Yoga + Coffee  
@ Bridge Square

Carleton Arb Tree & Shrub Planting  
Meet @ 2nd St & Oak

Free Food Help Yourself  
Garden Bed Construction  
@ Armory Square

10:00AM  
Healthy Lawn, Healthy River  
Workshop with CRWP  
@ Armory Square

Garbage Clean Up  
Meet @ Armory Square

*Northfield's 10th Perennial*



Find this decal in businesses that have items that are:

**2019 MADE LOCAL GROWN LOCAL**

and support our "Local, Local" economy.

**SATURDAY, 4/27 CONT.**

10:30AM  
All Energy Solar Tour  
Meet @ Armory Square

11:00AM  
Climate Change  
Workshop with CCL  
@ Armory Square

3:00PM  
Join us on Division Street and in Armory Square for Earth-Friendly Exhibitors, Family-Fun Activities, Food and Food Trucks, Music, Northfield Bookmobile, Dick's Education Recycling, and Electric Vehicles.

6:00PM  
Hear from the City of Northfield and the progress that's been made on the Climate Action Plan • Get Involved • Share Your Feedback.

Afterwards, join us for beverages and stand-up comedian T McKinley and music by the Sam Ryden Combo @ Armory Square

More details at [northfieldearthday.com](http://northfieldearthday.com)

ENERGY WISE MN

Promotion ends June 30, 2019



SOME CALL THIS OFFER COOL. OTHERS CALL IT HOT. WE SAY, IT'S BOTH.

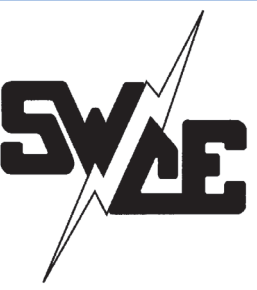
Cool and heat your home with an energy-saving air source heat pump AND receive a HOT promotional rebate!

ASHP	Regular Rebate	Promo Rebate
15 SEER	\$300	\$1,000
16+ SEER	\$400	\$1,650

Contact Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric to learn more

Air source heat pumps provide home cooling and supplemental heating, using 72% less electricity than conventional air conditioners and furnaces.

Limited funds are available and awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. Rebate amounts and programs are subject to change without notice.



the power of human connections

sparks

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

a monthly newsletter from Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric

May 2019

inside connections

- 2 Manager Connection
- 3 SWCE 2019 board of director nominees
- 4 17th Annual Meatball Dinner
- 4 Cookin' Connection
- 4 SWCE community solar update
- 4 Steele County Tip Line
- 5 Potential electrical hazards in your home
- 6 Ad Connection
- 6 4-Seasons Vacations
- 7 Ad Connection
- 7 How an air source heat pump works
- 8 Air source heat pump rebate promotion
- 8 Earth Day Celebration in Nfld

calendar of events

May

- 1 Law Day
- 1 Loyalty Day
- 2 National Day of Prayer
- 6-12 National Nurses Week
- 7 National Teacher Day
- 11 Minnesota fishing opener
- 12 Mother's Day
- 15 Peace Officers Memorial Day
- 18 Armed Forces Day
- 18-24 National Safe Boating Wk
- 27 Memorial Day 15682
- SWCE office closed



Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric members encouraged to attend co-op's 83rd annual meeting

Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric's member-owners are encouraged to attend the co-op's annual meeting Tuesday, June 4, at its headquarters in Owatonna.

The 83rd annual meeting will be held at Steele-Waseca's headquarters located at 2411 West Bridge Street. The annual meeting is open to Steele-Waseca member-owners, and their guests. The doors will open at 9 a.m., with display and informational booths open until 10:15 a.m.

Parking will be available on the property surrounding Steele-Waseca's headquarters. Miner's Outdoor & Rec, located at Highway 218 South, Blooming Prairie, will be supplying several golf cars to shuttle members and their guests from their vehicle to and from the meeting.

There will be two early bird drawings for prizes taking place prior to the start of the annual meeting. The business portion of the meeting will begin promptly



Steele-Waseca's 82nd annual meeting in 2018 was attended by 725 members and guests.

at 10:30 a.m., with the Presentation of Colors.

There is no requirement to call Steele-Waseca to register your attendance for the annual meeting. Members and their guests will only be required to register at the entrance to the annual meeting on Tuesday, June 4.

To be eligible to vote for directors, members must be registered by 10:30 a.m. sharp. Director candidate profiles are featured on Page 3 in this edition of Sparks. Additional candidates may be nominated from the floor during the annual meeting with nominations officially closing at that time.

After the election results are announced, there will be a drawing for grand prizes, and the meeting will be adjourned. Following adjournment, a "buffet" lunch will be served by Hy-Vee of Owatonna featuring smoked pork chops, vegetables, potatoes, salad, dinner rolls, coffee, white and chocolate milk, water, and soda, with Dairy Queen Dilly® Bars for dessert.



Staff with Hy-Vee in Owatonna will work the grill prior to the start of the annual meeting to prepare the smoked pork chops.



Steele-Waseca's 2018 Youth Tour delegates, Mallore McCarthy (left) of Minnesota Lake, and Jessica Pieper of Owatonna, are being invited to share their Youth Tour experience in Washington, D.C.



Published monthly by  
Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric  
2411 W Bridge Street, PO Box 485  
Owatonna MN 55060-0485

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

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



### Board of Directors

PJ Duchene ..... District 1  
Geraldine Lienke ..... District 2  
Duane Edwardson, *Chaplain* . District 3  
Dennis Ringhofer ..... District 4  
Rodney Krell ..... District 5  
Gary Wilson ..... District 6  
*President, GRE Director*  
John Beal, *Vice President* . . . District 7  
Ronald Sommers ..... District 8  
*Assistant Secretary/Treasurer*  
Renee Malecha ..... District 9  
*Secretary/Treasurer*

### Management

Syd Briggs ..... *General Manager*

### Division Managers

Darla DeVries ..... *Office*  
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 and listen to the prompts. Please have your account number, phone number, and name on the account available.

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

**T**echnology. You either love it or hate it; or sometimes you love it and sometimes you hate it. Technology is responsible for 24/7 information and availability which can be a benefit and a curse at the same time.

I use to think I was always busy; but I had the luxury of driving down the highway without wondering what I was missing on social media, family texts, or email. Now I know what really busy means; being available almost every waking hour for business calls, children and grandchildren calling, or a spouse texting me because we are in different rooms of the house and there is something on the stove that suddenly needs my attention. It wasn't that long ago that texts and emails became an immediate demand of modern life, and we have accepted and mostly appreciated it already.

Thanks to technology, we can accomplish many tasks electronically and remotely to be more efficient. And with so many pressing obligations, we like to protect our “spare” time. Invitations to attend in-person meetings and gatherings are weighed carefully as we decide whether or not our time and effort to attend is beneficial.

Steele-Waseca provides several opportunities for members to be involved and I'm hoping everyone's consideration of attending the co-op's 83rd annual meeting will be easy to determine as beneficial and worthwhile. We currently operate our business with great technology enhancements that make in-person attendance unnecessary for things like paying a bill, communicating an outage, asking for information; however, there is always a benefit to hearing and seeing someone in person, enjoying their company, shaking hands, and seeing the expression in each other's face and eyes.

Steele-Waseca exists to provide safe, reliable and affordable energy to our member-owners, which is you. Equally important is our mission to enrich the lives of all members and to serve the long-term interests of our local communities. This is where you can help.

As a member of your respective community, you have a perspective that is



valuable—and we invite you to share it with the co-op. At the annual meeting, co-op leaders will discuss priorities and challenges, and discuss the financial health and priorities for the coming years. The co-op's annual meeting is also the time to vote for board members who will represent you for the next three years. Board members are member-owners of the co-op, just like you.

Every energy bill you pay to Steele-Waseca helps ensure better service and reliability for the communities we serve. Your dollars are reinvested locally into improvements that impact the reliability and affordability of your energy, and Steele-Waseca wants to hear from you to better inform our decisions as we plan for the future.

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

If you've never attended our annual meeting, or if it's been awhile, please join us. Our co-op family looks forward to visiting with you. We're going to feed you as the smoked pork chops and side dishes are back with Dairy Queen Dilly® Bars to enjoy at the end of the meal. Members have a chance to win grand prizes or the flowers displayed on stage. 29778

**S**o mark your calendar for Steele-Waseca's annual meeting, Tuesday, June 4, at the co-op's headquarters, 2411 West Bridge Street, Owatonna. The doors open at 9 that morning. The business portion of the meeting starts at 10:30 a.m. (SHARP), and the buffet lunch starts after the meeting adjourns shortly before noon. I'm looking forward to catching up with faithful attendees and those I have yet the pleasure of meeting.

*Syd*

## ad connection

(For Sale ads continued from Page 6)

**CARGO VAN**, E150, 6-cyl., P.S., P.B., 4-spd w/over-drive, gd rubber, new batt., starter, & clutch, runs grt, gd hauler, \$1400. 213-8823.

**2010 STARCRAFT CAMPER**, 26', bunkhouse style, large slide out, sleeps (6), exc. cond., climate controlled, \$9900. 451-7571.

**1990 CHEV.**, 1/2 ton, 350 motor, 165K mi., 4WD, motor & trans. gd, cab corner & fender rusted out, \$1100. 491-6481.

**AIRGUN DESIGNS MINIMAG PAINTBALL GUN**, many accessories, exc. cond., \$325. 456-2060.

**CONTRACTOR'S TRUCK TOPPER**, fits 6.5' truck bed, red, vry nice cond., \$300/obo. 456-8556.

**CEDAR MAILBOX POST**, new, \$15. 334-3804.

**PORTABLE STORAGE**, 20' & 40' containers, store your stuff on your property, rodent- & moisture-proof. 612-418-4375.

**1988 WHEEL HORSE 314A HYDRO GARDEN TRACTOR**, 42" cut, new battery. 838-8870/after 4:30 p.m. weekdays.

**OLDER BABY CRIB**, adjustable mattress height, exc. cond., \$25. 451-4395.

**CARDBOARD**, many sizes, **RUG LOOM**; **WOOD WORKBENCH**; **GLASS CUTTER (TABLE)**; **BEER SIGNS**; **GLASSES**; **PITCHER**, **SCHOONERS**; **WOOD SHELVING**. 612-827-6575.

**HOVERBOARD**, blk w/lights & Bluetooth, gd cond., \$165. 323-5898.

**RECLINER**, light brwn, v. gd con., bst offr.363-6503.

**“TONNO” COVER** to fit 6' pickup box, exc. cond., \$125. 465-8398.

**RENT A WK ANYTIME IN OUR TIMESHARE IN BRANSON**, 1-bdrm w/a 1-bdrm lockout. 334-6263.

**MICS, AMPS, SPEAKERS, & MANY CORDS** for music in sm. bldgs, all in gd working order, best offer. 903-413-9002.

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.

## Experience efficiency in any season with an air source heat pump

Courtesy: Great River Energy (GRE)

**W**ith heating and cooling accounting for some of the largest expenses for homeowners, it makes sense for your space to be equipped with one high-efficiency appliance to keep those costs as low as possible.

A smart, all-in-one solution is to install an air source heat pump (ASHP), which handles both your heating and cooling needs. It works in the summer months by extracting the existing heat from inside your home and moving it outside, often outperforming standard central air conditioners in the process.

The cycle is reversed for heating: by extracting warmth from the outdoor air and pumping it into your home. This will allow you to run your furnace less. During the spring and fall, you may not even need to run it at all.

**(40) 5' STEEL T-FENCE POSTS**. 451-7837.

**DOGHOUSE**, wood w/cedar lining & shingled roof, 32x38, 40" height, \$40. 330-3303.

**'07 BUICK LUCERNE**, V6, \$2700; **'17 CHEVY MALIBU**, \$14,900; **SKID STEER BUCKETS**. 402-7679.

**2-HORSE TRAILER**, crank-down ramp for easy loading, \$950. 515-320-3878/call or txt.

**JD MOUNTED PLOW**, 4-btm, in vry gd cond., \$300/obo. 838-2646.

**TRAILERS; CHAIN SAWS; SOME LUMBER**, best offer. 664-9426.

**BOAT LIFT** on Roberds Lk, lift has wheels & a nice canopy, \$2300. 651-829-7286.

**HOLSTEIN STEERS**, all sizes; **GOATS**, all kinds. 451-3678.

**DONKEYS**: (1) male, castrated, 22-yrs-old; (2) females, 15-18-yrs-old. 451-0653.

**BEEKEEPING SUPPLIES**: brood boxes & honey supers, used & new foundation & frames, manual extractor & elec. decapper, queen excluders & much more. 250-4428.

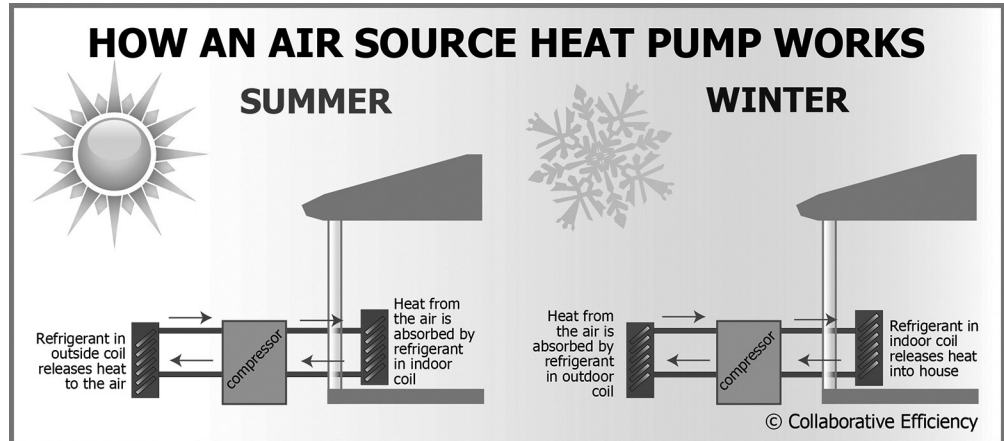
**WHITE 6100 PLANTER**, 4-row w/air; **18' IH DIGGER**. 475-7022.

**14' F9 ALUMACRAFT, LOWRANCE DEPTH FINDER & TRAILER**; **WIN. 25**; **REM. 722**; **REM. 511**; **WIN. 100** (all in exc. cond.); **(4) TIRES**, 225x70R15, \$5/each. 451-0996.

**NH 66 HAY BALER**, \$750/obo; **ARCTIC CAT 300 ATV**, \$1300/obo; **500-GAL. BARREL**, \$75/obo; **\$10 BOX LINER**, \$65/obo. 363-2593.

**1ST CROP HAY** off the field, 300-400 bales, \$3 per bale (cash); **WIDE FRONT** for Farmall C or Super C, \$600/cash. 456-0835.

**'75 CHEVY C65 TANDEM DIESEL TRUCK**, reliable; **'38 FORD PICKUP**, custom restored in gray premier; **2008 FORD TAURUS TRANSMISSION**; **GRASS-HOPPER LAWN MOWER**, newer motor. 327-3626.



ASHPs achieve this while consuming up to 72 percent less electricity than conventional air conditioners and furnaces, leaving you with a savings of up to 30 percent on your electric bill. (*See Page 8 regarding the ASHP promotion going through June 30, 2019*)

sparks • may 2019

**MOTORCYCLE TRAILER; MOPED; 4-WHEELER; LAWN MOWERS**, riders & push; **RELIABLE CARS**, cheap. 213-7978 or 475-1311.

**BUCKLINGS & DOELINGS**, March born, show stock, get your next 4-H or FFA champion, \$200/ea. 456-6828/leave message.

**TREK 720 MULTITRACK**, 700x35c, men's, \$100; **SCHWINN RANGER**, men's, F.S. Fork, 26x175, 21-spd, \$100. 330-3178.

**PUREBRED GERMAN SHEP. PUPS**, blk & tan, 1st shots & dewormed, farm & family raised, state licensed, \$400/cash only. 319-3924.

**GRADER BLADE**, 3-pt, \$225; **DORM FRIG.**, \$50; **6-GAL. PAINT POT**, \$100; **GOLF CLUBS**, \$40. 339-0763.

**JD 290 CORN PLANTER**, 2-row, shoe type, extra boxes & has Gandy attachments; **FORD 22' TANDEM DISC**, 22" disc coulters. 766-1583.

**40TH, 50TH, & 60TH ANNIV. COMMEMORATIVE GIFTS**, all for \$20; **(8) HARD-COVER BOOKS**, "A Series of Unfortunate Events," by Lemony Snicket, \$40. 304-0903.

**2008 NISSAN ALTIMA**, 109,000-mi., gd cond., \$4000. 334-5705.

**USED ENGINES, TRANSMISSIONS, AUTO & TRUCK PARTS**, 30-day warranty. 332-2300.

**ROOFING; SKID STEER WORK**, licensed, 20-yrs experience. 271-9129.

**ROUND CORNSTALK BALES; BARN FANS**: (4) large floor & (2) 24" hanging. 210-2392.

**COLLECTION OF VINTAGE TOYS** including Patsy & Jill dolls, buggy, Mr. Peanut bank, Louis Marx metal dollhouse & furniture. 334-3668.

**MINN KOTA TROLLING MOTOR**, V2, 12V, 48" shaft; **STABILIZER HITCH** for camper, EZ Hitch, 2 5/16; **MPLS MOLINE Z**. 239-2289.

**105-ACRES**, 3/4 mi. on #271 Wells Twsp; **25-ACRES** near Roberds Lk (both have bldg sites). 301-9694.

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.

Earlier generations of ASHPs were limited in terms of their effectiveness in states with colder climates like Minnesota's, but technology has advanced to where they can now operate down to 0 degrees Fahrenheit.

(ASHPs continued on Page 8)



ad connection

give away

EMPTY WOOD WIRE SPOOLS, various sizes. 451-7340.

24" CEDAR SHAKES, used. 451-9533.

wanted

CRAFTERS for 20th Ann. Christmas for Veterans Homemade Craft & Bake Sale, Nov. 2, at Trinity Luth. Church/Owat., booth rentals are \$30/booth, donations welcome anytime during the yr. 271-3596.

PAINTING JOBS FOR 2019, spring through fall, houses & outbuildings & inter.; STAINING DECKS. 320-8225.

OLD POSTAGE STAMPS, call for details.676-0970.

DISC, 3-point, 6'-8'. 339-2309.

265 OIL BARRELS. 279-2407.

WILL DO COMPACT TRACTOR WORK: tilling, plowing, bucket work, & blade work. 451-6046.

USED/WASTE OIL,, 200-gal. min. 420-7429.

CDL DRIVERS w/Class A license for veg. hauling in Owat. 456-1181.

HUNTING & FISHING EQUIPMENT, GUNS, METAL SIGNS, ESTATES, OR COLLECTIONS. 279-0431/Mark.

7' TILLER, 540 PTO. 390-5964.

NH 273 HAY BALER, sm. bales. 451-3678.

REPAIRABLE CARS & LAWN EQUIP. 213-7978 or 475-1311.

YOUNG FEMALE DOG for a farm. 456-8973.

STATIONARY BIKE, no junk. 339-8577.

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

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

for sale

2005 CHEROKEE PULL-TYPE TRAVEL TRAILER, 28', sleeps (8), (2) slide outs & awning, exc. cond. 451-8722.

LORENZ 150 GRINDER MIXER. 455-0900.

Sparks Free Classified Ad Form for all SWCE Members

Ads need to be received in our office by May 6 to ensure being printed in the June 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 6th will be printed in the July 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.

All area codes are 507 unless otherwise noted

(3) GRAVITY BOXES; FARMALL M; FARMALL MTA; MF MIXER MILL. 475-2322.

2002 HONDA GOLDWING TRIKE MOTORCYCLE, 1800cc, vry nice cond., 39,111 mi. 213-6427/txt.

TRI-AXLE DUMP TRUCK AVAILABLE FOR ALL YOUR HAULING NEEDS: rock, gravel, dirt, etc., 15.5-ton capacity. 456-7774.

(3) AC TRACTORS; YEARLING CROSSBRED BULL for breeding or finishing. 465-8593/Brad.

600+ BRD FT OF 1" ROUGH BLK WALNUT LUMBER, boards are random width 4" to 12" & random length 7' to 9+', air dried for 6+ yrs, stored inside, \$5/bf for sm. amts & less for larger amts. 463-8447.

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

EVAPORATIVE AIR COOLER RKF 503, perfect for parties, \$75 per day not including delivery & pick up. 583-2703.

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

2005 FORD F-150 XLT, 5.4L, V8, 113K mi., remote start, vry clean truck, new tires, needs nothing! \$8500/obo. 323-4362 (serious inquiries only).

MINI STORAGE UNITS FOR RENT. 456-1460.

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.

BLK CAST IRON CAULDRON, 3'x 2.5'. 330-0876.

ON-SITE GRAIN BIN AERATION DYNAMIC FAN BALANCING & VIBRATION TROUBLESHOOTING, [www.cmtechnicalservices.com](http://www.cmtechnicalservices.com). 634-3409/Chuck.

STORAGE SHED w/barn roof, 8x10, double door w/ window on opposite end, grt cond., \$500. 334-5799 or 412-3775.

2007 KEYSTONE SPRINGDALE 38' TRAVEL TRAILER w/(2) slide outs, sleeps 10, full-sz fridge, kitchen area has a dbl sink & large counter area, big bathroom area w/full-sz shower, gd cond. 451-9445.

CHIEF 4000-BU. BIN, load-out auger & motor, ventilation fan, (2) ladders, buyer take down, gd cond. 451-7528.

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

MPLS MOLINE R; MPLS MOLINE 5-STAR, diesel; H&S THROW RACK, everything in vry gd cond. 461-4161.

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

YOUTH LOFT BED, white in color, gd cond., \$75/ obo. 995-9733.

CAR OWNER MANUALS: 1979 Chev. Monza, \$5; 1977 Buick Century Regal, \$5; 1964 Ford T-Bird & Shop Manual (2 books), \$15. 838-8565.

ANTIQUE LOG BED SET, full sz w/matching cabinet, perfect for your cabin, \$1150. 612-719-1678/Lonsd.

MINI STORAGE UNITS, Blmg Prairie. 456-2957.

SHORESTATION BOAT LIFT, Model 36108 w/wheel kit & lift motor, \$1000. 951-2568.

FORD DIGGER, 10', 3-point w/fold-up harrow, gd shovels, never turned, \$325. 456-7614.

KATAHDIN HAIR SHEEP, ewe & ram lambs; HEREFORD BULLS & HEIFERS. 451-2722.

MINI STORAGE AVAIL. IN FBO: 6'x8', \$49/mth; 10'x24', \$125/mth; MINI STORAGE AVAIL. IN MORRISTWN: 10'x20', \$99/mth. 333-0319.

SHINGLING, LIGHT CONSTRUCTION, & TREE REMOVAL, free estimates. 456-0296.

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

VARIETY OF MEN'S & WOMEN'S OLD WEST/ FRONTIER CLOTHING incl. hats, skirts, vests, frocks, shirts, trousers & accessories.952-451-4821.

(For Sale ads continued on Page 7)

travel

WASHINGTON, D.C., May 17-21. Includes airfare, 4 nights, meals incl. Guided tours of D.C., Arlington, Mt Vernon, WWII, Korean, Vietnam, & Lincoln Memorials, & more. Starts at \$1,649 pp, 2 per rm.

HEART OF ALASKA, July 11-18. Includes airfare, 7-nights accommodations, 14-meals, Anchorage, Denali National Park, Fairbanks, Valdez & more. \$3,499 per person based on 2 per room.

SUMMER ON THE MISSISSIPPI, July 24-27. Motor coach, 3-nights accomod., 7-meals, daylong cruise on Celebration Belle, tour John Deere Pavilion, dinner theater & more. \$679 pp, 2 per room.

THE BEST OF ITALY, Sept. 17-28. Round trip Delta Airlines to Rome, 10 nights accommodations, expert guides in 11 cities incl. Rome, Pisa, Venice Island & more. \$5,399 per person, 2 per room.

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



swce 2019 board of director nominees

June 4



The 2019 Nominating Committee has selected the following nominees for the Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric board of directors. Committee members include: Lester/Jane Kroeger, Waseca; Peter Rohe, Faribault; Wayne/Mae Maas, Faribault; Doug/Cindy Finch, Owatonna; Bert Wiersma, Ellendale; Pete/Melissa Bauer, Nerstrand; Jane Middlestadt, Owatonna; and Guy/Barb Jarvi, Webster. The election of directors will take place during Steele-Waseca’s 83rd annual meeting Tuesday, June 4, 2019, at the co-op’s headquarters located at 2411 West Bridge Street in Owatonna. 1016762

District 2



**Jerome A. Haley**, and his wife, Marcia, farm in Wilton Township in Waseca County. The couple have been Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric members since 1992, and have one son, Andy. When asked why he wishes to represent his district on the co-op’s board of directors, Jerome stated he was contacted by the Nominating Committee and was asked to consider running. “As a long time member it seemed like I should look into it,” wrote Jerome. “My son also received a scholarship from SWCE.” When asked about the qualities and abilities he could bring to the board, Jerome wrote, “Common sense,” and the “Willingness to listen.”



**Geraldine G. Lienke**, incumbent, has been a board director since 2004. Gerri and her husband, David, have lived in Waseca County their entire lives. They have four grown children and 10 grandchildren. Gerri recently retired from Crystal Valley Co-op in Waldorf after a 25-year career as an administrative assistant. She presently serves as a clerk on their township board. Gerri previously served on the Region 9 board along with other leadership positions. “Because I have resided in the same area for many years, I understand concerns of people in rural areas and I will strive to maintain affordable and dependable electricity to the best of my ability,” wrote Gerri. “I have completed the educational classes to receive a Director Gold Certificate and continue taking classes to stay well informed. I have an open door for anyone with concerns and I will be your voice at the board table. Thanks for your support.”

District 4



**Dennis C. Ringhofer**, incumbent, has been a board director since 2004. “I live with my better half, Becca, in Somerset Township, Steele County, on my family farm,” wrote Dennis. They raise corn and soybeans. Between Becca and Dennis, they have four children and 10 grandchildren. He has also been an independent insurance agent for Ringhofer Insurance Agency for 31 years. Dennis is currently on the Owatonna Mutual Fire Insurance Company board and serves as vice president. He has completed the Credentialed Cooperative Director Program and holds a Board Leadership Program Certificate. “I have attended many meetings and seminars to further my education in the co-op and electric industry,” wrote Dennis. “I consider it an honor to be on the Board of Directors for SWCE to see that the needs are met for the farms, residential and industrial alike. With the many changes in the future of the electric industry, I would like to see that it is maintained as professional as possible.”

District 6



**Gary W. Wilson**, incumbent, has been a board director since 1992. Gary and his wife, Diane, have lived on their farm in Havana Township of Steele County for the past 48 years. They have retired from active farming, and are renting their land. The couple has two married sons and seven grandchildren, all living in the area. They enjoy hunting for antiques and traveling. Gary currently serves as president on the Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric board of directors, and had previously served as secretary/treasurer for several years. Additional board responsibilities include representing the co-op on the Great River Energy board of directors. He has successfully completed the Credentialed Cooperative Director Program, and holds the Board Leadership Program Certificate. Gary recently received the Directors Gold Certificate to signify advanced training in cooperative leadership. He is a former supervisor on the Steele County Soil and Water Conservation District board, served on the Havana Township board, and the Steele County Planning and Zoning Commission. Gary was also a Pioneer Seed representative for 19 years. “It is a privilege to serve on the SWCE Board of Directors,” wrote Gary. “I look forward to continuing to work with the rest of the board to make Steele-Waseca cooperative the best that it can be for all the membership.”



17th Annual Meatball Dinner

Sunday, Apr. 28, 2019

11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Community Lutheran Church, 106 3rd St. SE, Geneva

Everyone Welcome!

Serving: meatballs, mashed potatoes & gravy, corn, coleslaw, relishes, rolls, and pie.

Free Will Donation

\$1 raffle donation available to win a beautiful homemade quilt.

Worship Service at 9:30 a.m.



## cookin' connection

### Famous Taco Dip

Michelle Kelm

Faribault

**Crust:** 8 oz. cream cheese (regular or light); 8 oz. sour cream (regular or light); 1 pkg. Hidden Valley Ranch Dips

**Layers:** 3 large peppers, diced (I use green, yellow, and red); 1 small onion, diced OR 2 bunches of green onions, diced; 1 can petite cut diced tomatoes, well drained OR 4+ fresh Roma tomatoes, diced; 1 can black olives, chopped up; 1 bag romaine or lettuce, chopped; 2 c. grated cheddar cheese.

Mix the 3 crust ingredients until smooth and chill 1-2 hours. Chop all veggies and keep in separate containers. Spread the crust mixture in a 12x17 pan, then evenly layer the fresh veggies on top with lettuce and cheese added last. Serve with Tostitos® Scoops!®

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 38 kWh credit per panel on this month's statement for energy generated during March 2019. 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.

## April issue of Sparks



### Numbers found:

Mary Jo/Troy Farr  
Yvonne M. Baker

### Numbers not found:

Shane Oestreicher  
Dean Kaiser  
Andrew Underdahl



## 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.

• **March temps** – The average high temperature for March was 35° F, while the average low was 18° F. This resulted in 1,191.5 Heating Degree Days (HDDs), and 0 Cooling Degree Days (CDDs). They compare to last year's average high of 38° F and average low of 23° F. This resulted in 1,073 HDDs and 0 CDDs.

• **ENERGY STAR® Rebates** – In 2019, all ENERGY STAR refrigerators/freezers (with recycling), electric clothes dryers, dehumidifiers, central air conditioners, air and ground source heat pumps, light emitting diode (LED) bulbs purchased (limit 5) 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

### Tips for spotting potential electrical hazards in your home

by Derrill Holly, with National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) consumer and cooperative affairs

Electricity plays many roles in our lives, from powering baby monitors, cellphones, and lighting, to running HVAC systems and appliances. No wonder we get so comfortable with its instant availability that when we flip a switch, we expect most systems or devices to do the job.

May is National Electrical Safety Month, and here at Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric, we think it's a great time to look around your home and check for potential safety hazards.

Remember, every electrical device has a purpose and a service lifespan. While we can extend their operations with maintenance and care, none of them are designed to last or work forever. When electricity is involved, failures can present electrical hazards that might be avoided with periodic inspections.

#### Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters

Outdoor outlets or those in potentially damp locations in a kitchen, bathroom, or laundry room often include GFCI features. They are designed to sense abnormal current flows, breaking the circuit to prevent potential electric shocks from devices plugged into the outlets.

The average GFCI outlet is designed to last about 10 years, but in areas prone to electrical storms or power surges, they can wear out in five years or less. Check them frequently by pressing the red test button. Make sure you hit the black reset button when you are done. Contact a licensed electrician to replace any failing GFCI outlets.

#### Loose or Damaged Outlets or Switches

Unstable electrical outlets or wall switches with signs of heat damage or discoloration can offer early warnings of potential shock or electrical fire hazards. Loose connections can allow electrical current arcing. If you see these warning signs, it may be time to contact an electrician.

#### Surge Protectors

Power strips with surge protectors can help safeguard expensive equipment like televisions, home entertainment

systems, and computer components from power spikes. Voltage spikes are measured in joules, and surge protectors are rated for the number of joules they can effectively absorb. That means if your surge protector is rated at 1,000 joules, it should be replaced when it hits or passes that limit. When the limit is reached, protection stops, and you're left with a basic power strip. 1061307

Some surge protectors include indicator lights that flicker to warn you when they've stopped working as designed, but many do not. If your electrical system takes a major hit, or if you don't remember when you bought your surge protector, replacement may be the best option.

#### Extension Cords

If you use extension cords regularly to connect devices and equipment to your wall outlets, you may live in an underwired home. With a growing number of electrical devices connecting your family to the electricity you get from Steele-Waseca, having enough outlets in just the right spots can be challenging. Remember, extension cords are designed for temporary, occasional, or periodic use.

If an extension cord gets noticeably warm when in use, it could be undersized for the intended use. If it shows any signs of frayed, cracked, or heat-damaged insulation, it should be replaced. If the grounding prong is missing, crimped, or loose, a grounded cord will not provide the protection designed into its performance. And always make



**May is Electrical Safety Month.**

Safety Starts with You.

#ElectricalSafetyMonth



sure extension cords used in outdoor or potentially damp locations are rated for exterior use.

According to the Consumer Product Safety Commission, approximately 51,000 electrical fires are reported each year in the United States, causing more than \$1.3 billion in annual property damage.

Electricity is an essential necessity for modern living, and Steele-Waseca is committed to providing safe, reliable, and affordable power to all of our members. We hope you'll keep these electrical safety tips in mind so you can note any potential hazards *before* damage occurs.



Extension cords should not be used as a permanent solutions. Contact a licensed electrician to install additional outlets.

Safety starts with you.

**MAY IS ELECTRICAL SAFETY MONTH**