member connection

ENERGY WISE - MN

Visit energywisemn.com/promotions to learn more QUIZ and complete a guiz for your chance to win a \$500 energy credit!





WHETHER TEMPS RISE OR FALL. YOUR ENERGY BILL WILL STAY COOL.

Take advantage of these hot promo rebates when you install a qualifying, energy-saving air source heat pump!

Air Source Heat Pump	Promo Rebate
≥ 8.2 HSPF	\$1,000
≥ 9.0 HSPF	\$2,000

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.

(Electrify lawn care continued from Page 3)

Electric trimmers

Cordless electric string trimmers are a great option for most Traditionally, like lawn mowers, string trimmers have typically been powered by gas. But new versions of electric trimmers are improving and are now considered worthy competitors of gaspowered models.

Cordless electric trimmers are much quieter and easier to use, but most batteries last about 30 to 45 minutes. So, if you have a lot of space to trim, you may want to consider a backup battery or plan to work in short bursts. If you're



interested in purchasing an electric trimmer, the main factors to consider are the battery's life, charge time and power. Costs can vary depending on your needs, but you can find a quality version for about \$100.

Electric leaf blowers

After cutting and trimming your lawn, you'll need to clear off those walkways and patios for the finishing touch. If vou don't want to deal with the maintenance of a gas-powered blower or the restraints of a corded blower, a cordless electric version is a great option.

Cordless electric leaf blowers are lightweight and easy to maneuver, but they don't offer quite as much power as gas-powered and corded blowers. If your leaf blowing and clearing needs are



minimal, a cordless electric leaf blower can get the job done. Costs for a cordless electric blower vary depending on power and battery quality, but you can purchase a dependable model for about \$150 and up.

If you're looking to electrify your lawn care equipment, be sure to do vour homework. Search online for the latest reviews, and check trusted websites like ConsumerReports.org. With a little research, you'll be well on your way to Lawn of the Month - with less maintenance, hassle and noise (and your neighbors will thank you!).

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



the power of human connections

SPARS Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

a monthly newsletter from Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric

June 2020

inside connections

- 2 Manager Connection
- **3** Great River Energy conducts annual meeting teleconference MREA hosts teleconference with Gov. Walz
- Electrify your lawn care
- Cookin' Connection SWCE community solar update Sparks in brief Steele County Tip Line
- **5** Check your boats and docks to prevent deadly shocks Look out for power lines & poles Residential construction safety
- Ad Connection
- 4-Seasons Vacations
- Ad Connection **Ductless ASHP rebate** promotion
- Air Source Heat Pump rebate promotion

calendar of events

June

- 14 Flag Day
- 20 First day of summer
- Father's Day 28723

National Dairy Month

Summer **Energy-Saving** Tips

Costs associated with cooling your home can make up a large portion of your summer electric bills. Stay cool and save money with these energy efficiency tips!



NO-COST TIPS

Close blinds and drapes during the day to keep heat out.



Set your thermostat to 78 degrees when you are home. Set it to a higher temperature when you're away.



Turn off lights and ceiling fans when

(Summer energy-saving tips continued on Page 3)

Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric's 84th annual meeting, originally scheduled for Tuesday, June 2, has been postponed due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. Please see General Manager Syd Briggs' column on Page 2 for additional information.

> **CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019** (COVID-19)

You can help prevent the spread of respiratory illnesses with these actions:

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose & mouth.
- Practice social distancing by putting space between yourself & others.
- Wash hands often with soap & water for at least 20 seconds.



cdc.gov/coronavirus

If you wish to reduce clutter and add convenience, you may elect to receive an email that your bill is available to view online. Log in to your online ac count at www.swce.coop, click on the "Alerts" tab, and check "Bill Notification," and "Electronic Only." Enter your email address and click "Update" to receive your bill notification by email instead of in the mail.

Photo Source: Abby Berry

sparks

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

Website: www.swce.coop Find us on Facebook Email: swce@swce.coop Fax: 507-446-4242

Board of Directors

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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 **Ouestions 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

Thope our newsletter Lcontinues to find everyone safe and well, and enjoying

spring weather.

As I write this on May 4, 2020, we have 6,663 Minnesotans that have tested positive with COVID-19, which is a very large increase from the 629 cases from this time last month. The amount of positive cases in Minnesota is still low compared to most states, however, the increase shows a very dangerous advancement of the disease and something that should be taken very seriously.

We are still fortunate at Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric to have no employees or directors testing positive, and we will continue to keep the doors closed to walk-in traffic for now, along with many precautions we are taking to protect the health of all with whom we come in contact in our area.

We will continue to provide the services our members need such as line extensions and new service connections. as we practice safe social distancing, and of course continuing to provide reliable safe services. If anyone has a question about their bill or any service, please do not hesitate to call.

On Friday, May 1, Gov. Walz extended the "Stay at Home" executive order until Monday, May 18. It is clear now that we will need to postpone our annual meeting originally scheduled for Tuesday, **June 2**. It is possible for the executive order to not be extended further, however, there is a lot of work in planning and scheduling an annual meeting, and we want to be responsible with the safety of our membership. 30179

There are still a lot of "unknowns" at this time; whenever the executive order ends, we may still have limits on the number of persons allowed to gather at one time; we may also have limits or be prohibited from serving a meal. Until things are clearer, we are unable to announce a new date for the meeting, although we are hoping for sometime this fall. Please be aware the meeting may need to be different than before

based on executive orders, crowd limits, and safety responsibility. Please continue to access our website and Facebook for the most current information, in addition to further announcements in Sparks.

When Steele-Waseca schedules the annual meeting, we will again provide the audited financials that we always do. Until then, know that we had a very good year in 2019, and are very strong and stable financially. We expect a decrease in sales this year with so many businesses operating at a lower level, and many that are waiting to reopen.

Steele-Waseca is looking at ways to economize and plan to take actions to cutback expenses where it is possible. The co-op has gone a long time without a system wide rate increase, and will do all we can to avoid one if possible. We are also referring members to help agencies such as Semcac, Three Rivers Community Action, Inc.; and Minnesota Valley Action Council. If you are having trouble paying your monthly bill, please call as soon as possible, and we will direct you to agencies that are there to assist.

Many of you have a habit of attending Steele-Waseca's town hall meetings. These have also been temporarily postponed, and we hope to have them later

Even in times like these there are many things for which to be thankful. We had a moderate end of winter that did not cause a significant amount of outages. We are also learning new ways to communicate with our loved ones, and realize an increased sense of love and affection to those close to us. We cherish every moment and word that we hear from the little ones in our lives. We long to get with neighbors and friends, and are planning and looking forward to celebrate being closer around a grill, a city park, the gym, or someone's backyard.

Intil we can meet again, remember the three big ways to protect yourself and others: wash your hands frequently for a duration of 20 seconds, don't touch your face, and maintain a distance of six feet from everyone as much as possible.

ad connection

(For Sale ads continued from Page 6) WESTINGHOUSE COMPUTER MONITOR & AC-CESSORIES (speakers, keyboard, mouse, all cords), \$100/obo. 456-7757.

16' ALUMACRAFT LUNKER FISHING BOAT/TRLR w/25-hp Mercury outboard, fish locator/depth finder/ live well, many extras, \$2800. 330-1420.

TRAEGER PELLET/CORN FURNACE, 70,000 Btu: WOOD PARLOR HEATER; HOT BOX WOOD FUR-**NACE**, gd for shop. 465-3380.

1975 16' LUND BOAT & ROLLER TRAILER. Mercury 25-hp motor, (2) swivel seats, oars, anchor, new spare tire, cover, \$2500. 317-4335.

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

INT. 990 HAYBINE; NH SUPER HAYLINER 69 SQ. BALER. 491-6958.

2-BDRM HOUSE IN COUNTRY FOR RENT, nice, 5 mi. to Owat., on blacktop rd. 444-9347.

GE SIDE-BY-SIDE REFRIG. & FREEZER. works great, \$150, 213-7978 or 676-5805

2-ROW MOUNTED CULTIVATOR for an A-C B or C,

ZAREBA® ELEC. FENCER, 1-joule output, 25 mi., new, still in box, plug-in type, \$60, 251-7680.

PETTIBONE ROUGH TERRAIN FORKLIFT, 4WD app. 32' lift, \$3000; CATERPILLAR D2 BULLDOZ-ER, \$3000; JD 3020G POWERSHIFT, professionally restored, \$11,000, 330-3945

(2) TANDEM AX TRAILERS, 7'x16', \$1200, & \$1400 respectively, 789-6348

ENGINES & TRANSMISSIONS; USED TRUCK & AUTO PARTS, 30-day warranty on eng. & trans.

WEIDER SKI MASTER CROSS COUNTRY SKIER **EXERCISE MACHINE**, \$10. 838-8792.

RALEIGH ROWDY, 20x175, girl's, 6-spd, F.S. Fork, \$50; **DIAMONDBACK**, 21-spd, 700x35c, men's, hybrid. \$100. 330-3178

HUFFY EXERCISE BIKE, \$25; PROFORM XP **EXER. BIKE.** \$175 (both in exc. shape). 475-4584

PUREBRED GERMAN SHEP. PUPS, born April 29, have both parents, \$300/each. 334-5532.

SQ. TANK WC ALLIS-CHALMERS, on rubber \$400; A-C C, has hydraulics & a back blade, \$650 (both shedded). 952-652-2933.

2018 GATEWAY CAMPER, 42', sleeps (8), exc. cond. 213-0059

SAMSUNG DRYER, works perfect, 7-yrs-old, 220V, \$150; **OLDER LOG SPLITTER**, towable, PTO drive, \$75; STEERING CABLE & HELM for outboard, \$25 213-4374/Jim

1938 FORD PICKUP, restored, runs & drives; 1975 CHEVY C65 DIESEL TRUCK, air brakes, twin screw. 20' box. 327-3626.

CIRCLE LK LOT, 0.7 acres; (2) DOWNHILL ROS-SIGNOL SKIS. 470-262-7696.

SMIDLEY STEER STUFFER; ROUND BALE FEED-ER: ROSENTHAL CORN SHREDDER, 339-0603.

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 inlemnify and hold SWCE harmless from all costs, expenses, liabilities and damages resulting from, or caused by, any advertisement or reply thereto



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.

sparks • june 2020 sparks • june 2020

ad connection

give away

STEEL GRAIN BINS, located 3 mi. south of Waseca, you take down & remove. 612-817-3426.

36" SONY TV, you haul. 456-7757.

FREE ONLINE CLASSIFIEDS, you place & remove your own ad on SWCE's website, swce.coop, these are separate from Sparks & will not appear in Sparks unless mailed, delivered, faxd or emailed to SWCE

SEND FREE COVID CARDS OF COMFORT & CARING, komfortkardz.com

wanted

RHUBARB PLANTS for give away, needing 1-2 plants to get a patch established, willing to come &

PONTOON LIFT for 22' pontoon. 612-817-3426.

USED CULTIPACKER for food plots. 451-2286.

PAINTING JOBS: houses, outbuildings, garages, barns, etc. 308-8556.

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

FORD SKID STEER, diesel. 330-1849.

TRACTOR TIRE CHAINS, size 18-4-34. 456-0296.

LANESBORO GOPHER TRAPS, preferably the older smaller style 475-0753

FARM ADVERTISING SIGNS: dairy, feed, seed corn, metal signs. 450-1676

TRACTOR TIRE, 12.4x28; (2) 12.4 X 28 TIRES & WHEELS for Ford TL10 Ferguson or just 28" rims off combine. 384-7553.

USED CULTIPACKER, any cond. 334-0188.

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

JUNKERS OR REPAIRABLES, top \$ paid for cars & trucks 332-2300

for sale

For Sale

TRACTOR TIRE CHAINS SET, 13.6-38, \$125.

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

5th will be printed in the August issue.

All area codes are 507 unless otherwise noted

HUSQVARNA 36 CHAIN SAW, 16" bar, (3) chains, chain guard, all manuals, \$125; CRAFTSMAN CORDLESS DRILL, 18V charger, battery, case, new in box, \$30. 455-3881

6000-BU. MFS BIN w/drying floor, 24' diameter, you move, best offer. 456-1357

TIRES, 235/55R18, (1) new, (1) 50% tread, \$100 for

HOSPITAL BED, new matt., twin XL. 456-4253.

GRASS HAY, sm. sq. bales, Waldorf. 327-3672.

2002 HONDA GOLDWING TRIKE MOTORCYCLE. 1800cc, vry nice cond., 39,575 mi., has trailer hitch, light connection. 213-6427/txt

KOHLER KT17 TWIN CYL. ENGINE, 17 hp, runs OK, uses some oil, \$250/obo, 456-0348

1997 PALM BEACH PONTOON, 20', 40-hp Force motor & trailer, \$3900, 330-4833

ROOF & SIDING REPLACEMENT, STORM DAM-

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

LARGE PARTS BIN, 5' high x 8' width x 1' deep; GARDEN CART w/dump; DOUBLE COOLER on frame w/wheels, 612-978-1123.

EXCESS COIN COLLECTION, all denominations 676-0970

1996 JEEP GRAND CHEROKEE, 117,000 mi., gd cond., \$1500; (2) LA-Z-BOY RECLINERS, gd cond.,

RENTAL, Izaak Walton League Bldg., 4 mi. south of Owat., seats 100, full kitchen, grill, Wi-Fi, \$125.

COMPACT TRACTOR YARD WORK: move rock & dirt, till gardens, have bucket & blade. 451-6046.

JD 772 COMBINE, 3800 hrs, JD pick-up head, \$1500; **NH 311 BALER**, \$4500; **IHC 720 PLOW**, 5-18", \$3000, 524-4637

SCREEND BLK DIRT. \$18/ton. 651-238-1502/Owa.

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

Give Away

Sparks Free Classified Ad Form for all SWCE Members

Ads need to be received in our office by June 5 to ensure being printed in the July

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

Wanted

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.

COMPACT TRACTOR WORK: tiller, loader, backhoe, food plot, post holes, brush mower, Fbo/Nfld area. 330-5113/Cory

(2) SEARS MINI BIKES, \$250 for both. 334-5245.

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

(4) ROLLING TOOLBOXES, different sizes; PULL-BEHIND LAWN SPRAYER, 20-gal., gd shape, \$75.

KATAHDIN HAIR SHEEP, ewe & ram lambs, great for organic, beginner, & 4-H. 451-2722.

'02 FORD F-450, 7.3 diesel, auto w/19' flatbed & gd liftgate, \$4500; TANDEM CAR TRAILR, 456-8521.

DUMP TRUCK AVAIL. FOR ALL YOUR TRUCKING DELIVERIES: rock, gravel, dirt, etc., 15.5-ton capacitv. 456-7774.

2-WHEEL TRAILERS; 120 ACRES OF HUNTING GROUND; JD BACKHOE. 664-9426

'01 WINNEBAGO ITASCA SUNCRUISER MOTOR HOME, 32', exc. cond., (6) new tires; 2007 SCOOT-ER, red, 150cc, like new, kept inside. 456-1133.

MINI STORAGE UNITS, Blmg Prairie. 456-2957.

DISH SOUNDBAR & SPEAKERS, best offer. 612-

16' DOCK, cranks up & down, has plastic wheels, \$500; (4) GOLF CART WHEELS & TIRES, 18x8.5-8, gd tread, \$100. 491-4565.

RYOBI 40V TILLER CULTIVATOR, like new. \$125.

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

OLDER 20' PALM BEACH PONTOON w/lift & Mercury Classic 50 w/tilt & trim, \$2500/obo. 456-2306

NH L180 SKID STEER, 3065 hrs, 2-spd, high & low flow, heat, bucket, \$17,500/obo. 210-5027.

FARMALL C w/wide front 6' Artsway belly mower, around 1950s model, 456-8622 or 456-2459

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

KEWANEE 12' WHEEL DISC w/cvlinder. \$275: CALHOUN 18' DIGGER ON WHEELS, ad teeth. \$250: 32' HAY CONVEYOR ON WHEELS w/chute & 1-hp AG motor, \$250, 456-7614

2019 FORD F-150 REAR CHROME BUMPER, \$250, 390-5508

(For Sale ads continued on Page 7)

travel

Call 4-Seasons at 800-328-4298 to learn more about their tour information.



member connection

Great River Energy conducts annual meeting via teleconference

Although the coronavirus pandemic prevented Great River Energy's (GRE's) stakeholders from their traditional in-person gathering in 2020, GRE completed its cooperative duty by holding elections and disclosing financial and operational information.

"Our first priority is keeping our stakeholders safe and healthy, but our obligation to memberowners remains," said Great River Energy President and Chief Executive Officer David Saggau (pictured right).

Great River Energy's 28 memberowner cooperatives assigned voting delegates for an April teleconference to certify GRE's directors for the upcoming year. Stakeholders also received reports documenting the cooperative's 2019 performance and strategic direc-

"We had a remarkably successful 2019," said Saggau. "Our rate projections are favorable and we continue to make progress on our goal of reaching 50 percent renewables by 2030."

For the second consecutive year, Great River Energy shared financial gains with its member-owner cooperatives, issuing a \$5 million refund in January 2019. For the first time in its history, GRE returned patronage capital



through \$15 million in cash payments to its member-owner cooperatives. Great River Energy also upgraded its high-voltage, direct-current system, a critical transmission resource that has served members for 40 years, 62475

During the board of directors' reorganization meeting following the annual meeting, Robert Bruckbauer (Lake Country Power, Grand Rapids) was re-elected board chair; Dale Anderson (Kandivohi Power Cooperative, Spicer) was re-elected board vice-chair; Audrey Hielle (Runestone Electric Association. Alexandria) was re-elected secretary, and Lee York (Nobles Cooperative Electric, Worthington) was re-elected treasurer.

In addition to the Lofficers, directors were elected to Great River Energy's 24-member board. Among those elected were Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric Board President Gary Wilson (pictured right).



Three ways to electrify your lawn care

by Abby Berry, National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA)

If you're in the market to upgrade Lyour lawn care equipment, you may want to consider electric (or batterypowered) options.

Gas-powered lawn mowers and trimmers may be your go-to, but times they are a changin'. Electric lawn care equipment options are becoming more popular than ever, offering consumers faster charging times, longer battery life and quieter, greener products compared to their gas-powered counterparts. Here are three ways you can electrify your lawn care this spring.

Electric lawn mowers

Electric lawn mowers have come a long way over the last few years. Early models required corded connections,

which were tricky to manage—but the cord has been cut. Newer cordless electric mowers are certainly more expensive than gas-powered mowers, but much of the upfront cost can be recovered since electricity is a less expensive fuel than gas, and electric engines generally require less maintenance than gas engines. Cordless electric mowers typically range from \$200 to \$500.

Electric mowers are suitable for most lawn care needs, with batteries that typically require about one to two hours to fully charge, and most batteries can run for a full hour. That said, if you have a large yard (half an acre or larger), a gas-powered option may be best to suit vour needs.

(Electrify lawn care continued on Page 8) sparks • june 2020

Gov. Walz responds to rural electric coop questions during teleconference

Cteele-Waseca Cooperative Electric General Manager Syd Briggs was among rural electric co-op leaders to question Gov. Tim Walz during a teleconference Thursday, April 9, organized through the Minnesota Rural Electric Association (MREA).

Briggs questioned Walz on the state supporting measures to diminish revenue shortfalls of cooperative utilities. given the increased payment delinquencies of its members, due to higher unemployment as a result of the coronavirus pandemic.

"It costs money to generate power," said Walz, recognizing the revenue shortfall for cooperative utilities, who don't have shareholders to absorb the financial impact. "We need to make sure you have the resources to generate power."

MREA sent a letter to the governor requesting him to consider stimulus funding to make up for the future shortfall.

Rural electric co-op leaders also questioned the governor on the load control receiver permitting issue, that could collectively have millions of dollars from utilities paying for inspection fees in proposed legislation regarding future replacement of hundreds of thousands of load management controls in coming years. Walz assured those on the call that he would be learning more from both sides regarding the issue at hand.

MREA officials expressed that overall the visit with the governor went very well, and believe Walz was very receptive to electric cooperative issues. SVAE

(Summer energy-saving tips continued from Pg 1)

Summer **Energy-Saving** Tips **LOW-COST TIPS**



Plant trees and shrubs to shade the exterior of your home



Replace disposable air filters (or clear permanent filters) once a month to maximize efficiency.



Use solar lighting to brighten up your outdoor space. Solar lights are easy to install, low maintenance and provide

Account #

cookin' connection

Frozen Cherry Salad

Marlene Lau

Pemberton

1 (20 oz.) can crushed pineapple (undrained)

1 can cherry pie filling

8 oz. Cool Whip whipped topping

1 can sweetened condensed milk

1 c. miniature marshmallows

Mix ingredients and freeze about 24 hours. Take out of freezer 1-2 hours before serving, depending on the size of the bowl.

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 49 kWh credit per panel on this month's statement for energy generated during April 2020. Learn more about community solar and The Sunna Project by visiting Steele-Waseca's website, 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.

May issue of Sparks



Numbers found: Colin McAdam

Numbers not found:

Keith Dodge John Spatenka Martin/Leslie Young Nicholas Hildreth



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. By entering your Steele-Waseca username and password you can also view a 13month 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.
- **April temps** The average high temperature for April was 54° F, while the average low was 33° F. This resulted in 651.5 Heating Degree Days (HDDs), and 0 Cooling Degree Days (CDDs). They compare to last year's average high of 54° F and average low of 37° F. This resulted in 587.5 HDDs and 4 CDDs. 1002402
- ENERGY STAR® Rebates In 2020, 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. 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

Prevent deadly shocks—check your boats and docks

If you own a boat and/or a dock, take tions and maintenance. Isteps now to help prevent a tragedy. The Energy Education Council's Safe Electricity program advises, "Prevent deadly shocks. Check your boats and docks."

An important step in helping prevent those tragedies is to ensure proper installation and maintenance of electrical equipment on docks and on boats. Take the time to inspect all electrical systems on or near the water.

Safe Electricity, with the American Boat and Yacht Council and International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers/National Electrical Contractors Association, recommends adhering to these steps to improve water recreation safety and accident prevention:

- All electrical installations should be performed by a professional electrical contractor familiar with marine codes and standards, and inspected at least once a year.
- Docks should have ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) breakers on the circuits feeding electricity to the dock.
- The metal frame of docks should be bonded to connect all metal parts to the alternating current (AC) safety ground at the power source. That will ensure any part of the metal dock that becomes energized because of electrical malfunction will trip the circuit breaker.
- Neighboring docks can also present a shock hazard. Make your neighbors aware of the need for safety inspec-

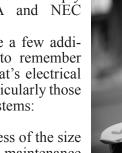
Marinas should comply with NFPA and NEC codes.

Below are a few additional tips to remember for your boat's electrical system, particularly those with AC systems:

- Regardless of the size of boat, maintenance of the electrical system should be done by a professional familiar with marine electrical codes.
- Have your boats electrical system checked at least once a year. Boats should also be checked when something is added to or removed from their systems.
- Boats with AC systems should have isolation transformers or equipment leakage circuit interrupter (ELCI) protection, comply with ABYC standards, and be serviced by an ABYC Certified® Technician.

If you are in the water and feel electric current:

- Shout to let others know.
- Tuck your legs up to make yourself
- Try to go away from anything that could be energized.
- Do not head to boat or dock ladders to get out.





Prepare for a safe summer on the water. Poor wiring creates hazards that can electrocute swimmers, boaters, and people on the dock.

If you are on the dock or shore when **L**a swimmer feels electric current:

- Do not jump in. 1057250
- Throw them a flotation device.
- Unplug or turn off the source of electricity as quickly as possible.
- Then call for help.



BEWARE of dangers above. Your LIFE depends on it.



Residential construction site safety

pefore starting any outdoor project, always look up to make D sure you're aware of any overhead power lines. Whether you're working on the roof, trimming trees, or cleaning the gutters, make sure you're a safe distance from any power line and make sure to warn others of their proximity.

You should always stay at least 10 feet away from any overhead power lines. Be sure to carry long equipment, such as a ladder, horizontally to avoid bumping into any lines.

Don't ever touch anything that's in contact with a power line. If you ever see a downed power line stay away, and call 911. p emember, to avoid major accidents be sure to always look up in all ways.

(Courtesy: Electrical Safety Foundation International)

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