




the power of human connections

# sparks

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

a monthly newsletter from Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric

March 2023

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## calendar of events

### March

- 2** Dr. Suess' birthday; National Read Across America Day
- 3** "The Star-Spangled Banner" became U.S. national anthem in 1931; National Employee Appreciation Day
- 12** Daylight saving time starts
- 14** National Pi Day
- 17** St. Patrick's Day
- 20** First day of spring; International Day of Happiness

## Happy St. Patrick's Day



WE ARE LUCKY TO HAVE YOU AS A MEMBER!

## Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric seeking assistance in locating former members

Capital credit checks for the following former Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric members have been returned to the co-op because their mailing addresses are no longer accurate.

If you know any of the following former members and can provide information about them, please call Hlou Yang at the Steele-Waseca office during regular business hours. 17536

Janice Adams	Morristown
C. Susan/Fred J. Alan	Bloomington
Ricky Albrecht	Claremont
Howard A. or	
Kristopher C. Anderson	Faribault
Sylvia Archer	Owatonna
Scott O. Arneson	Hill City
James G./	
Patricia L. Ashman	Burnsville
Janice A. Austin	Geneva
Bernard Mach	Faribault
David W. Baldwin	Owatonna
Steve R. Ballstadt	Owatonna
Douglas C. Balzer	Rochester
Kimberly Bannasch	Hayfield
James/Carrie Barnett	Medford

Charles/Sally Bedow	Port Lavaca, TX
Scott/Kathy Bekkedahl	Fargo, ND
Stephen Bennett	Faribault
Brobyn L. Benson	Northfield
Mickie Jo Berg	Claremont
Terry/Jennifer Bestful	Northfield
Kevin K. Bottke	Grapevine, TX
Kevin Brist or	
Catherine White	Lakeville
Lori A. Britton	Faribault
Irene C. Brown	Northfield
Daniel/Kimberly Bowe	Dodge Center
Kim/Tamara Bredeson	Baudette
Timothy E. Busch	Northfield
John/Rachel Butler	New Prague
Nancy Cates	Minneapolis
Timothy A. Chladek	West Concord
Robert P. Condon	Medford
Cheryl J. Copp	Faribault
Kevin Craig	Iowa City, IA
Rick C. Craig	Faribault
Susan Daley	Isle
James E. Daulke	Northfield
Boyd W. Demmer	Faribault
Lyle A. Demmer	Blooming Prairie
Michael Des Jardins	Big Lake
James M. Finley	Altura

(Seeking former members continued on Page 7)

## Energy efficiency tax credits for homeowners

Courtesy: Energy Star®

As part of the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) of 2022, federal tax credits for energy efficient home upgrades have been increased and extended until 2032.

This not only means that you may be eligible to claim credit for qualifying home improvements on your 2022 federal tax return, but you can also plan to maximize your savings on home improvements in the future.

With the new tax credits that are available starting this year, you can save up to \$3,200 a year on energy-saving upgrades for your home—including projects like upgrading to super-efficient heat pump heating/cooling and water

heating.

Combined with available utility rebates, these incentives could significantly reduce the cost of making impactful energy efficient upgrades for your home.

A wide range of Energy Star certified products are eligible for income tax credits including equipment and products for your home, as well as improvements to your home's envelope or exterior—such as windows, doors, and insulation.

In fact, most elements of an Energy Star home upgrade, which is designed to deliver significant savings while

(Energy efficiency tax credits continued on Page 7)

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

Website: [www.swce.coop](http://www.swce.coop)  
 Email: [info@swce.coop](mailto:info@swce.coop)



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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 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



**I**t's no secret that consumer interest in electric vehicles (EVs) is growing, and Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric has been receiving general inquiries about EVs, along with requests for specific information on charging requirements, incentives, etc.

You have probably also heard that most automakers are transitioning many or all their new vehicles to electric-only models over the next 10 years, so I thought it would be helpful to respond to some of those frequently-asked questions.

**• Why does Steele-Waseca have an EV?** The co-op purchased their first EV in 2020 for research and development purposes, and to have actual experience in knowing what they're like to operate. Our EV and charging station helps the co-op access key data and gain insights into how EVs operate, and what infrastructure is needed to support them.

**• Why is Steele-Waseca involved in EV infrastructure issues?** All electric utilities are planning *now* to ensure they have the necessary electric infrastructure in place to meet future EV charging needs—without jeopardizing the ability to keep reliable power flowing to our local homes and businesses. We have members express concern with the EV future when we have our wholesale energy provider encouraging conservation during peak demand times. However, the charging of electric vehicles are during the overnight hours when demand is low, instead of daytime and early evening hours when demand is high.

**• Can I charge my EV using an existing outlet or do I need a special outlet?** All EVs come with a 110-volt-compatible (Level 1) charging unit which can be plugged into any standard household outlet. For an eight-hour overnight charge,

this will enable traveling around 36 to 40 miles a day. If you typically drive longer distances, or are in a hurry, a Level 2 charger takes about half the time and provides about 180 miles of range over an eight-hour charging period. A Level 2 charger must be installed by a licensed electrician.

The ChargeWise program allows members to charge their PEV/PHEV in their garage or carport using electricity from a specially installed 20-amp ChargeWise outlet. This outlet only provides energy during the off-peak hours of 11 p.m.-7 a.m. Members simply plug in the vehicle in the evening and it's charged during those overnight hours at a reduced rate, and wake up to a fully-charged electric vehicle. A state electrical inspector will inspect work following installation. 1002322

**• Does the outside temperature affect the range of an EV?** Outside temperatures, particularly colder weather, can impact the range of an EV. Unlike a gas-powered vehicle, where the heat is mostly coming from the engine, an EV must produce cabin heat and manage an optimal battery temperature with energy that comes from the battery, which can reduce battery range.

**• Will an EV meet my daily driving needs?** If you are like most Americans and drive an average of 30 miles a day, an EV can meet your daily needs.

**• What kind of incentives are available for EVs?** There are a variety of tax credits, rebates, and other incentives available for EV purchases. Visit [www.afdc.energy.gov/laws/electric-vehicles-for-tax-credit](http://www.afdc.energy.gov/laws/electric-vehicles-for-tax-credit) to learn about federal incentives available through the Clean Vehicle Credit program, and about incentives in Minnesota.

**• Should I let Steele-Waseca know if I purchase an EV?** If you purchase an EV, please let us know so we can better serve you. As more members buy EVs, it's helpful to know where they're located in our service area so we can ensure the co-op has the necessary infrastructure in place to meet charging needs and provide reliable power to our local homes and businesses.

**W**e understand making the switch to an EV is a big decision. Whether you're ready to make an EV purchase or wondering if an EV can meet your daily driving needs, Steele-Waseca's here to help you make an informed decision. Give us a call during regular business hours or email [info@swce.coop](mailto:info@swce.coop).

#swceLIFE+

## member connection

### Burns enjoying Steele-Waseca's customer service representative position

“I love it here,” stated Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric Customer Service Representative Sabrina Burns. “Everyone is amazing and I’m very grateful that I got the opportunity to work here.”

Sabrina came to Steele-Waseca, May 2, 2022, through Express Employment Professionals in Owatonna.

“I have always heard good things about Steele-Waseca,” stated Sabrina. “After my first interview with Darla (DeVries) and Kim (Wilson), I just knew I would enjoy working here.”

Steele-Waseca formally hired Sabrina, Oct. 3, last year. Among her duties are member services, billing, recording meter changes, and preparing service orders. “I have a ton more to learn of course,” stated Sabrina.

Burns explained she is used to smaller-town living, “I was born in Faribault, but grew up in a small town in Dallas, Wisconsin,” stated Sabrina. “Graduating class of 2015 at Barron

High School. A whole class of less than 100 people.” Sabrina said she has two younger brothers, one who is graduating high school this year, as they both live with her mom in Faribault.

After moving back to the area, Sabrina worked in other jobs before coming to Steele-Waseca. “My past jobs were labor intensive and there wasn’t much time to blend my work and home life,” stated Sabrina. “I’m glad I got the opportunity to move on and do something I really enjoy.” 1016593


Sabrina lives in Owatonna with her fiancé, Shawn, as they are getting married this August. “I really enjoy all the things Owatonna has to offer,” stated Sabrina.

In her free time, Sabrina enjoys drawing and painting, going to the beach, rollerblading, water parks, and spending time with their pets.

Steele-Waseca formally welcomes Sabrina to the co-op and introducing her to our members. You will most like-



Sabrina Burns

ly see her when you enter the co-op’s office. 

 #swceLIFE+

## Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric bringing back auditions for national anthem singer at co-op’s 87th annual meeting

Selected performer earns \$100

Steele-Waseca is bringing back auditions for the singing of, “The Star-Spangled Banner,” at this year’s annual meeting, Tuesday, June 6, at the co-op’s headquarters in Owatonna.



The last time auditions were announced was during 2020, but with the pandemic and shelter-in-place requirements in effect, the annual meeting for June was postponed, and a drive-thru annual meeting was conducted in September of that year. With an in-person


annual meeting conducted last year, it was decided to bring back auditions for the co-op’s 87th annual meeting in 2023.

Interested Steele-Waseca members or their dependents will need to audition before a panel of judges at the co-op or at an agreed designated location.

For those auditioning (whether solo, duet, etc.), you will be judged on your vocal performance, stage presence, and personality. You may schedule an audition by contacting Executive Assistant Jenifer Shimpach at Steele-Waseca during regular business hours. Auditions must be completed by Monday, May 1.

Previously, past selected performers

weren’t eligible to participate in the year after being selected. However, since it’s been nearly four years since a “live” performance of the national anthem has been conducted at Steele-Waseca’s annual meeting, whether you’re a past selected performer or not, you’re eligible on the condition of being a member of Steele-Waseca.

The performer(s) selected will need to be available to sing the national anthem “live” at the annual meeting. The selected performing recipient will also receive \$100 at this year’s annual meeting. 

 #swceAPPRECIATION

## Heat pumps prove efficient, effective in cold climates

Courtesy: Great River Energy (GRE)

If you are looking for ways to cut your heating and cooling costs, consider installing an energy-efficient air-source heat pump (ASHP).

Heat pumps function as both an air conditioner and heater, and they use 72% less electricity than conventional air conditioners and furnaces by col-

lecting and moving heat instead of generating it.

During the cooling season, heat pumps cool the air by pulling heat from inside the conditioned space and pumping it outside. Alternatively, during the heating season, heat pumps pull heat from outside air—even when it’s cold out—and pumps it inside.

Since heat pumps transfer heat rather than generate it, they are one of the most efficient means of cooling and heating your home.

While heat pumps are common in warmer climates, most people think these appliances will not work in places where temperatures drop below freez-

(Heat pumps continued on Page 5)

## cookin' connection

### Creamy White Chicken Chili

Marti Cox

New Richland

4 Tbsp. butter  
2 c. diced onion  
1 Tbsp. minced garlic  
1 Tbsp. ground cumin  
1/4 c. flour  
2 c. chicken broth  
2 c. cooked chicken, chopped

1 can rinsed Navy beans  
1 can white kidney beans  
4 oz. diced jalapenos  
2 c. half & half  
fresh diced tomatoes  
fresh cilantro leaves

Melt butter over medium heat; add onions, garlic and cumin sweat partially covered until onions soften. Stir in flour and cook 2 minutes. Stir in broth and bring to simmer. Add half & half and chicken; simmer until thick (approximately 5 minutes). Stir in beans and jalapenos, season with salt. Garnish with tomatoes and cilantro.

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 10 kWh credit per panel on this month's statement for energy generated during January 2023. Learn more about community solar and The Sunna Project by visiting Steele-Waseca's website, [www.swce.coop](http://www.swce.coop). #swceINNOVATION

## 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.

## February issue of Sparks



**Numbers found:**  
Jon/Sue Asplund  
**Numbers not found:**  
Shawn Nugent  
Kyle Tuma  
Susan/Graham Estenson  
Jerald Ibberson



## 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.

- **January temps** – The average high temperature for January was 25° F, while the average low was 11° F. This resulted in 1,461.5 Heating Degree Days (HDDs), and 0 Cooling Degree Days (CDDs). They compare to last year's average high of 20° F and average low of -1° F. This resulted in 1,706 HDDs and 0 CDDs.

- **ENERGY STAR® Rebates** – In 2023, 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

### Generic chargers can cause serious injury

*Don't cut corners when buying and using phone chargers*

People are always losing their phone chargers. As a solution, many people reach for the low-cost, generic plug-in USB chargers and charging cables found in the sea of impulse items that flank check-out lines.

*It can save money and it's so convenient,* most people rationalize when making a purchase. Without much more thought, in the virtual cart or on the counter it goes.

Knockoffs can be great, but not when replacing your original phone charger, and for a variety of reasons.


"Although it is tempting to pick up an inexpensive phone charger to save money, buying and using cheap chargers is one place you might not want to cut corners," according to Erin Hollinshead, executive director of the Energy Education Council/Safe Electricity program. "Using an authentic replacement charger made by your mobile phone's manufacturer is always a better choice."

Along with a potential burn and fire hazard, using cheaply made charging components and devices can also cause shock and electrocution. Serious potential dangers aside, they may cost you more in the long run since they can cause damage to your phone, tablet, or other electronic devices.

When using charging gear, Safe Electricity® recommends the following:

- Do not leave items that are charging unattended.
- Always keep charging items away from flammable objects, especially bedding, and do not take them to bed with you. Tell kids and teens to NEVER place any charging device under their pillow. The heat generated gets trapped, which could cause the pillow or bed to catch fire.
- Do not touch charging electronic devices with wet hands or while standing in water.
- Make sure charging components are certified by a reputable third-party testing laboratory.
- Only buy product-approved chargers and cables (those made or certified by the manufacturer). Using cheaper devices can cause damage to the USB charge chip, which can have a lasting impact on how quickly and effectively your device charges in the future.
- Be on the lookout for fakes or imposters claiming to be brand approved. If the price seems too good to be true, it probably is.

*(Courtesy: Safe Electricity)*

 #swceLIFE+

*(Heat pumps continued from Page 3)*

ing—but that is no longer true. 34287

When properly installed, many of today's cold-climate air-source heat pumps (ccASHPs) can keep your home warm even during the coldest months of the year, and use far less energy than other types of heating systems.

*(Heat pumps continued on Page 7)*



The safety functions of ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) can fail without notice, so check them monthly. Pick the first or last day of the month so that it is easy to remember.

#### HOW TO TEST A GFCI OUTLET:



- Find the test and reset buttons.
- Press the TEST button.
- You should hear a snap sound that trips the outlet.

#### CONFIRM THE POWER IS CUT

- Plug in a lamp or other device.
- The item you plug in should not turn on.



#### RESET THE OUTLET

- Once you confirm the GFCI is working properly (that the outlet does not work when tested), press the reset button to restore power to the outlet.




#### RETEST FOR REMAINING SOCKET(S)

You can also buy a GFCI outlet tester that has a display and test button.



GFCI protection can also be installed on circuit breakers to safeguard an entire circuit. They should be tested monthly by pressing the test button on the breaker. If working properly, the interrupter should shut off power to the circuit.

 Safe Electricity.org®

 #swceSERVICE

## ad connection

### give away

**FLOUORESCENT LIGHTS & BULBS**, 8' w/cords & pull switches. 455-3881.

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

### wanted

**USED PONTOON TRAILER**, will repair. 339-1138.

**GUNS; AMMO; JD MOWERS; TACKLE; ESTATES.** 279-0431/Mark.

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

**USED OIL**, will pick up Ellendale area. 440-8831.

**RETIRED P.T.A. WILL ASSIST CLIENTS IN THEIR HOMES** w/personal cares, exercises, meal prep, cleaning, & grocery shopping. 456-0076.

**BARN, GRANARY, &/OR OUTBUILDINGS**, I re-move to repurpose the lumber; **OLD TIN; BARN SIDING; LUMBER.** 330-0258/Tim.

**AGE 55+ WORKERS NEEDED FOR PT LIGHT CUSTODIAL WORK** at the rest areas on I-35. 651-639-1913.

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

**OLD POSTAGE STAMPS** in collections or as singles, book prices paid on sight, will meet safely at your choice. 676-0970.

**FORD DIESEL SKID STEER.** 330-1849.

**10 TO 15 LAYING HENS OR ALL POULTRY.** 213-8670.

**USABLE BARN WINDOWS**, 20" wide, 35 1/4" high, (6) lights (panes). 213-7569.

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

**PEOPLE IN THE OWAT. RURAL FIRE DIST. TO ATTEND THE OWAT. RURAL FIRE ASSOC. MEETING ON 3/13/23** at the Owat. Elks at 11 a.m.

### for sale

**KEROSENE HEATER**, wrks gd, \$30; **METAL BURN BARRELS**, \$15; **PLASTIC RAIN BARRELS**, \$20; **HOCKEY NET**, metal, \$30. 455-3881.

## All area codes are 507 unless otherwise noted

**HUNTING BLINDS**, weather/rodent proof, insulated & much more. 330-2452.

**HANDYMAN SERVICE**, small job in home & garage, no job is too small, yard work (spring & fall), free estimates. 521-1008.

**WD 45 TRACTOR**, all new tires, new paint job, & overhauled. 475-7022.

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

**USED ENGINES & TRANSMISSIONS**, 30-day warranty on eng. & trans. 332-2300.

**CHANGING TABLE**, sturdy, yellow, metal, exc. cond., \$40/obo. 330-0229.

**2006 JEEP COMMANDER**, rust free, 3rd row seat, Michelin tires, adult driven, well maintained, new battery. 330-0812.

**HOUSE CLEANING**: kitchen, bathroom, bedroom, etc. 461-9422.

**MIXED GRASS HAY**, sm. sq., no rain, no dust, hvy bales. 210-1158.

**RENTAL**, Izaak Walton League Bldg., 4 mi. south of Owat., seats 100, full kitchen, grill, Wi-Fi, \$150. 451-7946.

**EAR CORN OR SHELLED CORN; BROWN & GREEN EGGS**, XL & L, cage free, no chemical wash, no drugs, direct to you from farm. 334-6377.

**4' X 8' STEEL HAY BUNK ON SKIDS**, \$350. 330-8361.

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

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

**GRAVEL TRUCK AVAILABLE** for all your trucking needs: delivery of rock, gravel, dirt, etc., 15.5-ton capacity. 456-7774.

**(2) PIONEER P26 CHAIN SAWS; 2-PAIR SNOW-SHOES.** 334-9583.

**'97 YAMAHA VMAX 600 SNOWMOBILE.** 838-2041.

**TREE TRIMMING, REMOVAL, & STUMP GRINDING**, professional climber & aerial lift to U of M guidelines; **2007 FRONT CHROME BUMPER** for an F-650, like new. 456-1609.

**JD 2445 MOWER** w/54" deck, 524 hrs, ready to mow, \$3500. 508-5724.

**TRANSFERRABLE BUILDING RIGHTS** in Rice County, Webster Twsp. 612-919-4130 for details.

**(4) TIRES & RIMS** from 2017 Ford Explorer, tires P245x18 Michelin Defenders, gd shape, \$100/cash. 838-5336.

**ALL-NATURAL SOAPS, SALVES & BALMS**, nothing artificial, milk soaps, tallow & lard soaps, unscented & scented soaps. [www.dandelionnaturals.com](http://www.dandelionnaturals.com), Hayfield. 261-4992.

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

**AUSTRALIAN SHEPHERD PUPS**, purebred & registered, exc. companion, family & working dogs, parents on-site, \$600. 456-3419.

**ANGUS BEEF QTRS**, \$750-\$850. 952-292-1352.

**SHOP-VAC; BATTERY CHARGER ON STAND.** 451-2687.

**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.

**GERMAN SHEPHERD PUPS** available, purebred (blk & tan colored). 256-4617/leave message.

**TREK MT220**, girl's, 24x175, 21 spd, \$100; **TREK NAVIGATOR 100**, men's, 21 spd, 26x175, \$100. 330-3178.

**MF 50**, 1960s, new rear tires & rims, great cond. 744-5133.

**IRON-FRAMED DOUBLE BED**, best offer. 491-2667.

**5-BDRM MODERN FARMHOUSE FOR RENT**, located 2 mi. east of I-35, between CR 2 & 19. 612-597-2444.

(For Sale ads continued on Page 7)

### travel

**SAN ANTONIO, TX**, March 18-26. By motor coach, 14 meals, Riverwalk Cruise, LBJ Ranch, 6th Floor Museum in Dealey Plaza, Magnolia Market at the Silos, Alamo & more! \$1,599 pp w/2 per room.

**MONUMENTS OF WASHINGTON, D.C.**, April 28-May 2. Round trip Delta Airlines from Mpls to D.C., 8 meals, guided tours, tram ride thru Arlington National Cemetery, & more! \$1,699 pp w/2 per room.

**ALASKA TOUR & CRUISE**, June 16-28. Roundtrip Delta non-stop flights, all meals onboard Grand Princess®. Discovery at Sea Enrichment Program, & more! Starting at \$5,999 pp w/2 per room.

**Call 4-Seasons at 373-4705 or 373-2473, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays, to learn more about their tour information.**



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

Ads need to be received in our office by **March 6** to ensure being printed in the April 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 May issue.

For Sale  Wanted  Give Away

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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

## ad connection

(For Sale ads continued from Page 6)

**WIN. MODEL 12 SHOTGUN**, 12-ga., 3" Magnum, full choke, like new, (1) owner, \$1200; **SILVER DOLLARS**, about 136, 1971-73, \$200/obo; **VHS TAPES**, about 50, mostly kid stuff, \$50/obo. 528-2780.

**INT 300 UTILITY LOADER TRACTOR**, new front tires, gd rear tires w/chains, gd runner, gas, some extra parts, \$3500. 676-2802.

**JD 1075 RUNNING GEAR**, new 12.5-16 12-ply BKT tires, new wheel bearings, races & grease seals, new paint, really nice gear, \$3200. 456-8893.

(2) **DOWNHILL ROSSIGNOL SKIS**. 678-978-7444.

**FRESH EGGS**, picked daily, \$4 per dozen, Claremont area. 515-364-2116/text.

**4X5 MIXED GRASS HAY BALES**. 399-0600.

**Ads need to be received in the SWCE office by Monday, March 6, to ensure being published in the April 2023 Sparks newsletter.**

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(Seeking former members continued from Page 1)

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 Richard D. Grunwald Surprise, AZ  
 Eugene H. Gwin Elbow Lake  
 Richard Haefner or Suzanne Spellacy Madison Lake  
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 Valerian/Delores Hauer Owatonna  
 Joseph Healey Owatonna  
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 Richard/Kathleen James Northfield  
 Dallas/Barbara Jensen West Concord  
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 Betty Lou C. Johnson Owatonna  
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 Dwight C. Kallembach Rochester  
 Rob/Paula Kaupa Waldorf  
 Tom/Laura E. Keough Las Vegas, NV  
 Robert Kleeberger Faribault  
 Kevin L. Klemmensen Owatonna  
 Marv/Alice Krzmarzick Burnsville  
 Timothy/Joan Kuhlman Medford  
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 Keith/Kelly LeMieux Faribault  
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 Donald W. Lyons Faribault  
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 Charles Mackenzie III Bloomington

John Maniglia or Julia Jordan Nfld  
 Donald E. Martin Des Moines, IA  
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 Lee/Karen Obermiller Royalton  
 Jo Ann Opegard Kenyon  
 Carolyn D. Pfeifer Northfield  
 Kevin Roach or Mary Hermes Nfld  
 Ann M. Rosas Morristown  
 Sandra Rother Northfield  
 Donald/Susan Sack Madison Lake  
 Thomas/Mary Schafer Dennison  
 G.W./Victoria Schlecht Lakeville  
 Reinhold Schmidt Edgewater, FL  
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 Treasa Severson Northfield  
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 Leonard I. Sorbel Faribault  
 Carl/Cristi Sorensen Nerstrand  
 Janice Stafford Ellendale  
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 Mary Lou Stursa Austin  
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 Peter/Janelle Tangren Lonsdale  
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 Theodore L. Vershey Bovey  
 June Voss-Hanson Owatonna  
 Gregory J. Wacker Lonsdale  
 Daniel/  
 Robyn Weed New Symrna Beach, FL  
 Grace L. Werner Outing  
 Lois Winzenburg Owatonna  
 Mr./Mrs. Peter J. Ziegler Ft Myers, FL

 #swceCOOPERATION

(Heat pumps continued from Page 5)

The key feature in a ccASHP is a variable speed compressor, enabling a single heat pump to work efficiently and effectively. In addition, the variable-speed system holds a steadier temperature than a traditional single-speed heating or air-conditioning system.

There are both central-ducted systems and ductless systems of ccASHPs available. Central-ducted systems are designed and installed to meet the full heating and cooling needs of the home.

Ductless systems deliver heat to a specific area of the home through a single interior head with no ductwork.

In cold-climate applications, ccASHPs typically require a backup system to provide heat when cold outdoor air temperatures limit the heat pump capacity. Ducted systems typically use a propane/natural gas furnace as a backup. These backups take over the load of the system at an outdoor air temperature where the capacity of the heat pump is no longer sufficient.

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(Energy efficiency tax credits continued from Pg 1)

helping you transition your home to the clean energy future are eligible.


Choosing products that earn the Energy Star label provides the added confidence that comes with independent certification of promised energy savings.



To learn more about the new tax credits, visit [energystar.gov/taxcredits](http://energystar.gov/taxcredits). Additionally, renewable energy tax credits have also been extended and will be available through the end of 2023. These include incentives for geothermal heat pumps, residential wind turbines, solar energy systems, and fuel cells.

### How to apply the 2022 federal tax credits for energy efficient upgrades

In order to apply any qualifying tax credits on your 2022 tax return, you'll want to download and complete the 2022 version of this worksheet provided by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS): [IRS Form 5695: Residential Energy Credits](#). If you have questions during this process, contact your tax preparer or the IRS for more information.

 #swceLIFE+

Homes with ductless systems typically rely on electric-resistance boards for backup heating.

Visit [energywisemn.com/air-heat-pumps](http://energywisemn.com/air-heat-pumps) to learn more and watch an animated video about heat pumps. Visit Steele-Waseca's website, [swce.coop](http://swce.coop), to find rebates currently available, and be sure to watch for special promotional offers beginning in April 2023. 28340

A tax credit of up to 30% of the cost for purchase (between Jan. 1, 2023 and Dec. 31, 2023) and installation of a heat pump, up to \$2,000, is available.

 #swceSERVICE

**HOME ENERGY GUIDE**

**ICE DAMS**

**Attic air leaks = ice dams**

Although many years ago thought of as a problem with roofing or attic ventilation, ice dams are **actually** caused by the presence of warm, moist air in the attic, combined with snow on the roof and the right weather conditions. Ice dams occur when heat gets into the attic and melts the underside of the snow on the roof. The melted snow then flows down the roof surface until it reaches a cold spot (such as the eaves or soffit) where it forms a frozen dam, behind which more snowmelt and ice pile up. The ice buildup can back up under the shingles, damaging them and allowing water to leak to the ceilings and walls below.

**What NOT to do:**

- Installing heating cables will shorten the life of your roof and cost you money to operate.
- Removing the ice with chippers, chemicals, or heat can damage shingles, gutters, and other building components.
- Adding roof vents—including powered vents—will not eliminate ice dams, and often make the problems worse.

- Although additional insulation—especially higher density foam on the top plate of exterior walls—can reduce heat transfer to the roof deck, insulation alone is insufficient.

**Air leaks can damage insulation and more**

Water vapor carried with the escaping warm air may condense, freeze, and build up in the insulation. When this water builds up, it can soak the insulation (wet insulation has little insulating value), cause plaster and paint to crack and peel, and lead to rot and other structural damage.

**Ice dams**

The primary cause of ice dams is attic air leaks.

Warm, moist air leaking through holes around plumbing vents, electrical wires, chimneys, etc. leads to reduced performance of the insulation (right).

Foam spray (below) or caulking can seal up the air leak, saving energy and preventing nearly all ice dams.

