




the power of human connections

sparks

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

a monthly newsletter from Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric

August 2023

Your billing statement this month has a special line listing the amount of your electric sales less power costs in 2022. This is shown as **2022 PATRONAGE BASIS**. Capital credit equity you've been allocated for 2022 is shown as **2022 ALLOCATION**, if electric sales exceeded power costs. Also listed is the **CAPITAL CREDIT BALANCE**, which is the amount of remaining accumulated equity. Please save this month's billing statement if you will need any of those amounts for tax preparation. Only inactive accounts receive separate statements of equity.

inside connections

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- 8** Litomysl Summer Festival; Friends of Rice Lake State Park fundraiser

calendar of events

August

- 4-6** Claremont Hogfest
- 11** 811 reminder to call before you dig
- 12** Lonsdale Community Day
- 15-20** Steele County Free Fair
- 24** Minnesota State Fair starts
- 25** Annual Corn & Burger Feed in Waldorf
- 26** Caleb Erickson Memorial Event in Waseca

National Wellness Month

Washington, D.C. Youth Tour, "It was an amazing trip and experience!"

by Fred Klokonos, Steele-Waseca 2023 Youth Tour delegate

We spent the first day, Tuesday, meeting the other delegates and traveling to DC. We had dinner at the hotel and then listened to the YLC (Youth Leadership Council) speeches.

On Wednesday, we visited the Potomac Park Monuments in the morning. The Lincoln Memorial, Korean War Memorial and Franklin D. Roosevelt Memorials were my favorite.

The second half of the day we went to Arlington cemetery. At the cemetery we got to see the guard change for the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. It was really incredible to see! Then we went to the Washington National Cathedral. I thought the Cathedral was the highlight of Wednesday because the sites were really cool and the architecture was amazing! We finished with a welcome dinner at the Hotel from NRECA (National Rural Electric Cooperative Association).

On Thursday we spent the day at the Capitol! It was really cool to see it in person! Along with a tour, we got to talk with our Minnesota Senators and



Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric 2023 Youth Tour Delegate Fred Klokonos captured a selfie Saturday, June 17, with the White House in his background.

District Representatives and see where they spend their time at the US Congress. 1107768

After talking with our representatives, we went to the Library of Congress. I thought meeting the representatives

(Youth Tour experience continued on Page 8)



Thirty-four delegates from Minnesota participated in this year's Washington, D.C. Youth Tour, June 13-18. The Minnesota Rural Electric Association (MREA) organized activities for the state's delegates as the Tour was hosted by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA). Steele-Waseca's Delegate Fred Klokonos is pictured standing far left in the middle row.

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This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Website: www.swce.coop  Find us on Facebook
 Email: 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

Providing safe, reliable power to you is and will always be a top priority for

Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric. These days, power reliability seems to be making news now more than ever.

As the energy industry continues to transition and more segments of the economy are becoming electrified, such as vehicles, machinery, and even lawn equipment, additional pressures are being placed on our nation’s electric grid.

As we’re about halfway through the summer storm season (and noticing the days are getting shorter), I thought it would be a good reminder of the measures taken to ensure you continue receiving the reliable power you depend on and deserve.

While we may agree trees add charm to our communities with their shade and beauty, you may be surprised to learn overgrown vegetation accounts for about 25% of all power outages at Steele-Waseca. 1001883

That’s why we strive to keep the co-op’s power lines clear in right-of-way (ROW) areas. A ROW area is the land a co-op uses to construct, maintain, replace or repair underground and overhead power lines.

This ROW enables Steele-Waseca to provide clearance from trees and other obstructions that could hinder distribution power lines. The overall goal of our

vegetation management strategy is to provide reliable power to our members while maintaining the beauty of our area.

Generally speaking, healthy trees don’t fall on power lines, and clear lines don’t cause problems. Proactive trimming and pruning keep lines clear to improve power reliability.

However, traditional vegetation management is costly and time consuming. It entails on-the-ground, labor-intensive efforts involving workers assessing vegetation and overseeing the quality and completion of contractor work. Advances and improvements in technology, like drones, are allowing the opportunity to reduce costs and improve efficiency.

Planned outages improve reliability

Although it may seem counterintuitive, Steele-Waseca also maintains power reliability through planned, controlled outages. By carefully cutting power to one part of our local area for a few hours, Steele-Waseca can perform system repairs and upgrades, which ultimately improve electric service. Rest assured, we will always notify you in advance of a planned outage, but you need to make sure we have your correct contact information on file.

Vegetation management is an essential tool in ensuring power reliability and minimizing the risk of outages. As advancements become more accessible and costs drop, we anticipate using additional technologies to ensure a consistent energy supply while managing the environment.

 #swceSERVICE



BENEFITS OF TREE TRIMMING

Clearing trees and overgrown vegetation is vital to provide safe, reliable power to our consumer-members.

We clear certain areas in our service territory, known as rights of way, to:

- Keep power lines clear of tree limbs
- Restore power outages more quickly
- Keep crews and members of our community safe
- Reduce unexpected costs for repairs

Vegetation management improves service reliability for you – our members!

Electricity: An everyday value when compared to other common expenses

Courtesy: Great River Energy (GRE)

As the cost of everyday items continues to rise, you can rely on Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric to continue working toward making electricity one of the best values for your dollar.

Electricity powers our quality of life and its uses have only expanded over the years. From powering the appliances that help run your household to more simple tasks like charging your cellphone, your electric bill covers much more than it did before.

Even though electricity is powering more of our lives, the cost remains remarkably stable. The price of electricity has increased, but at a slower pace than other common expenses.

Steele-Waseca, along with its wholesale power provider Great River Energy, keeps rates affordable by only charging its members an amount that reflects the cost to build, maintain, finance and operate the facilities and assets necessary to provide electric service—nothing

more.

According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, Minnesota's average price for residential electricity remains lower than the national average.

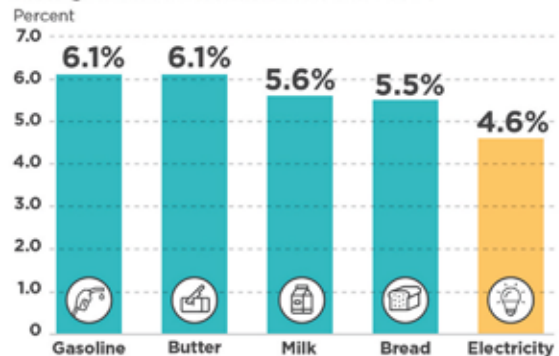
For the average Minnesotan household, which uses 25 kWhs (kilowatt-hours) per day, according to data from the Environmental Protection Agency, electricity costs equal about \$3 per day. When put against the price increase of other common expenses like gasoline, milk and bread—and considering all the ways we depend on electricity—it's easy to see why it remains such a great value.

Steele-Waseca understands electricity is more than a service—it's a necessity for our member-owners. That's why we will continue working to power your life reliably and affordably.

ELECTRICITY REMAINS A GOOD VALUE

Although inflation has led to increasing costs in many areas of our lives, the cost of powering your home rises slowly when compared to other common goods. Looking at price increases over the last five years, electricity remains a good value.

Average Annual Price Increase 2017-2022



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Price Index

#swceLIFE+

GRE doubles commitment to pollinator-friendly habitat restoration

Plantings and restoration will occur throughout Minnesota over the next five years

Great River Energy (GRE), a not-for-profit wholesale electric cooperative serving 27 member-owner distribution cooperatives, announced June 20, a commitment to plant and restore an additional 300 acres of pollinator habitat across current and future eligible sites.

The pledge, dubbed Pollinator Strong, is already underway and strengthens the cooperative's commitment to environmental sustainability by creating food and nesting space for animals and insects crucial to a diverse food supply.

"Great River Energy has been re-establishing native habitat for years and we are proud to make an official pledge that supports a healthy ecosystem across the state of Minnesota," said David Ranallo, director of culture, communications, marketing and member relations at GRE. "We have a team dedicated to restoring prairie and pollinator-friendly habitat which benefits the communities our members serve and contributes to the needed national efforts underway to restore pollinator habitat."

Pollinator habitat supports a healthy ecosystem and helps sustain the agri-

culture sector. Pollinators like bees, bats and hummingbirds are necessary for the healthy production of the world's flower plants, including most of the world's crop species. In recent years, populations of bees and other pollinators have declined. According to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, only about 1% of Minnesota's native prairie remains today. 1059445

In addition to environmental benefits, pollinator habitat helps maintain the reliability of Great River Energy service by reducing the risk of plant-material impacting overhead lines and towers.

GRE has restored 300 acres of native habitat to date at its facilities and along transmission lines to support Minnesota communities and find innovative solutions to manage costs. Their pledge reiterates the cooperative's commitment to being good stewards of the environment while providing reliable power to its members.

To bring the pollinator-friendly habitats to life, Great River Energy has partnered with MNL, a Minnesota-based ecological restoration company with decades of experience in native seeding and land restoration. The habitats MNL



will cultivate will provide a home for pollinators and help build healthy soils that assist in recharging clean groundwater, reduce erosion and improve soil carbon sequestration.

To learn more about the benefits of pollinator habitat, Great River Energy's commitment and how to create an impact in your own backyard, visit pollinatorstrong.com.

#swceCOOPERATION

cookin' connection

Ground Cherry Jam

Marlene Lau

Pemberton

- 5 c. ground cherries
- 3 c. sugar
- 1 pkg. lemon Jell-O

Let stand at least 2 hours; bring to a boil, and boil for 20 minutes. Stir in 1 pkg. lemon Jell-O. Pour into jars and seal.

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 55 kWh credit per panel on this month's statement for energy generated during June 2023. Learn more about community solar and The Sunna Project by visiting Steele-Waseca's website, 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.

July issue of Sparks



- Numbers found:**
Ryan/Crystal Prestegard
- Numbers not found:**
Dennis Brady
Thomas Franke
Anthony/Margaret Kramer
Jennifer/Paul Ulrich



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 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.

• **June temps** – The average high temperature for June was 83° F, while the average low was 60° F. This resulted in 209 Cooling Degree Days (CDDs), and 16 Heating Degree Days (HDDs). They compare to last year's average high of 80° F and average low of 60° F. This resulted in 189.5 CDDs and 33.5 HDDs.

• **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. 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

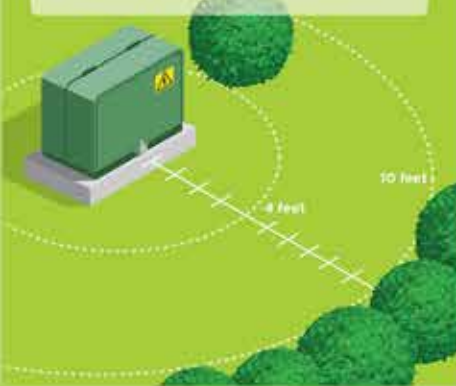
Avoid the Big Green Box

Please stay away from pad-mounted transformers (the big green box). While safe, they are not meant for touching, climbing or playing. Pad-mounted transformers carry high voltages of electricity that serve many homes in our communities.

Never touch, climb or play on pad-mounted transformers. Never put fingers, sticks or other objects through cracks in the transformer.



Keep areas surrounding the pad-mounted transformer clear so that workers can safely maintain transformers as needed. Keep shrubs and structures at least 10 feet away from the transformer doors and 4 feet away from the sides.



Never dig near a pad-mounted transformer. They are surrounded by underground cables. Hitting the cable could result in electrical shock or disruption of service. Always dial 8-1-1 before you dig.



Report problems. If you notice anything amiss, like an unlocked transformer or one that has been damaged, please contact us immediately.



Breakfast on the Farm

The Steele County American Dairy Association conducted their annual "Breakfast on the Farm," June 10 at Kashome Holsteins, a dairy farm owned by Scott, Dawn, Patrick and Derrick Kasper in rural Medford. A lineup was gathering near the pole barn for a waffle breakfast. The event included barn tours, petting zoo, horse and buggy rides, and many more fun activities. 1086239

#swceAPPRECIATION

sparks • august 2023

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Did you know ceiling fans can make a room feel 4 degrees cooler?

To save energy through ceiling fan use, remember to raise your thermostat a few degrees while fans are turned on. Ceiling fans can help improve comfort year-round. In the summer, operate ceiling fans in a counterclockwise direction. Reverse the direction to clockwise during winter months and set fans on a low speed so warm air can circulate from the ceiling to the lower levels of the room.

Remember, ceiling fans cool people, not spaces. Be sure to turn them off when you leave the room.

Source: Dept. of Energy



ad connection

give away

ANY VETERAN OR FAMILY MEM. IN ND OF WHL-CHAIR, SHOWR CHAIR, WALKR, CANE, TOILET RISER, CRUTCHS; non-vet. can call—gd will offer requestd, but not required. 332-0294/Debra.

TWIN-SIZE IKEA MATT., rarely used, like new, no stains. 612-423-4500.

KITTENS: Manx bobtail, long tail, colorful, litter-box trained. 583-2173.

WOODEN SPOOLS at SWCE. 451-7340/Todd.

EGG CARTONS. 451-7837.

(98) CONCRETE RETAINING WALL BLOCKS, size: front 16" long x 8" high x 10" front to back, back 13.25" wide. 456-2010 or 456-0202.

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, or emailed to SWCE.

wanted

CLEANING PERSON FOR OLDER MALE LIVING IN HOME, 2 hrs every 2 wks. 213-0866.

JUNKERS OR REPAIRABLES, top \$ paid, cars or trucks. 332-2300.

SEEKING PLASTER FOUNDATION JOBS on old houses, barns, stone walls, & sm. cement jobs, close to Owat. area. 273-3587.

SMALLER UTILITY TRACTOR, around 30 hp w/3-point hitch & gd loader, in gd cond. 838-2646.

FORD SKID STEER, diesel. 330-1849.

FARM DOG, gd w/kids. 553-3517.

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

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

USED TABLE SAW, Craftsman; USED OR FREE TREADMILL. 330-4125.

BALES OF STRAW FOR BEDDING; OLDER DROP-LEAF TABLE, round. 676-6600.

All area codes are 507 unless otherwise noted

for sale

CLIPPER FANNING MILL; 16' CATTLE GATES; NH 311 BALER w/kicker. 524-4637.

ENGINES, TRANSMISSIONS, AXLES, TRANSER CASES FOR TRUCKS, CARS, SUV, 30-day warranty. 332-2300.

JD 6600 COMBINE, 3759 hrs, 404 diesel engine, hydro transmission, 443 corn head, \$5500/obo (220 bean head & pickup head also avail.). 651-600-7815.

MINI STORAGE UNITS, Blmg Prairie. 456-2957.

BEIGE LEATHER SWIVEL ROCKER RECLINER, fair shape, \$125; DK BROWN LEATHER RECLINER, exc. shape, \$250. 456-3905 (cash only).

WHOLE OR HALF PIGS FOR BUTCHER, \$1.25 per lb. hanging weight; FEEDER PIGS; 500-GAL. STOCK TANK; FOOT BATH; MINERAL FEEDER. 451-3456.

1000# FAIRBANKS MORSE ALL-STEEL SCALE ON WHEELS, nice shape, \$100. 456-7614.

WEBER TRAVELER GAS GRILL, like new; REESE 18,000# 5TH WHEEL HITCH, fits Ford F-350 factory pucks. 213-6582.

HENRY H. MILLER PIANO in gd cond., best offer. 491-6587.

2009 GMC YUKON XL, some rust. 491-8074.

VARIETY OF HORSE TACK: halters, head stalls, breast collars, cinches, saddles, etc. 380-2655.

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

TRANSFER BENCH, new. 451-3554.

BOAT/RV STORAGE FOR RENT. 475-2322.

2007 ALUMACRAFT 16.5' BOAT w/60 hp Yamaha 4-stroke motor, EZ trailer, (2) fish finders, trolling motor, many extras. 456-7542.

(2) CHICKEN CRATES; CAR RAMPS. 456-8814.

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

STEEL DESK, 36"x60", 6 drawers, \$50. 390-5222.

ANTIQUE DOUBLE MAHOGANY BED, matt. & bx spring used 2 mths, exc. shape, \$50. 952-897-1021.

REBUILT 12V BOAT LIFT MOTR, \$350. 465-8244.

GRAVEL TRUCK AVAILABLE FOR ALL YOUR DELIVERY NEEDS: rock, gravel, dirt, etc., 15.5-ton capacity. 456-7774.

(2) FLARE BOXES w/hoists; 1100-GAL. POLY TANK. 456-2293.

'04 FORD F-150 w/records, 4.2, AC, 138,000 mi. w/topper, 2WD, \$3000; '11 CHEVY SILVERADO 1500, 58,000 mi., V-6, topper, 2WD, \$12,500. 334-4056.

PADDLE BOAT, \$295; SWIM DOCK, 8'x8' wood deck floor w/(2) 7'4" long & 19" diameter alum. toons or pontoons w/ladder, \$495. 491-4565.

DELTA 12" VARIABLE SPEED WOOD LATHE, BASE & KNIVES, Model 46-701, never used, \$350. 451-1713.

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

1939 A-C WC TRACTOR, vry gd shape. 456-3084.

2006 H-D SPORTSTER 1200, under 10,000 mi., lots of extras, \$4200. 339-5102.

55-GAL PLASTIC & STEEL BARRELS w/covers, \$5-\$15; 220-GAL. POLY TANK w/valve in forklift frame, \$75. 421-2521.

15' CEDAR STRIP CANOE, 60% completed w/fiber-glass & epoxy resin, instructions & video, gd wood-working project. 465-8566.

SCHWINN RANGER, 21 spd, F.S. Fork, 24x175, girl's, \$100; SCHWINN DUAL SPORT, 700x35, hybrid, F.S. Fork, 21 spd, \$150. 330-3178.

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

(For Sale ads continued on Page 7)

travel

NATIONAL PARKS: AZ & UTAH, Sept. 18-28. Deluxe motor coach, 14 meals, 10 night accommodations, Badlands, Mount Rushmore, Grand Canyon, Zion & more! \$2,399 pp w/2 per room.

HOLIDAY BRANSON, Nov. 7-11 or Nov. 14-18. 4-nights lodging, 8 meals, The Haygoods, Dutton Family Christmas Show, Clay Cooper's Country Christmas, & more! \$1,099 pp w/2 per room.

CARIBBEAN CRUISE, Jan 25-Feb. 6, 2024. Roundtrip Delta Air from Mpls to Ft Lauderdale, 7-day cruise on Caribbean Princess, St Kitts, Antigua, St Maarten, & more! \$4,199 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.



TRUST OUR EXPERIENCE. LOVE YOUR VACATION.

Sparks Free Classified Ad Form for all SWCE Members

Ads need to be received in our office by August 4 to ensure being printed in the September 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 4th will be printed in the October 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.

ad connection

(For Sale ads continued from Page 6)

(3) **JD BACK WHEEL WEIGHTS**, approx. 80 lbs, \$125/each; **2010 JEEP PATRIOT**, 150,000 mi., OK shape, green, \$2900; **1986 DODGE RAM CHARGER**, great project truck, \$1600. 783-9240.

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

9-SHANK FORD CHISEL PLOW. 676-5239.

USED CANNING JARS, quart & pint sizes, no lids. 451-9533.

1938 FORD PICKUP, modified, in primer, ready for your personal choices; as is, \$27,700. 327-3626.

SONY CAR STEREO w/speakers, AM/FM/CD/MP3, remote control, 4 speakers, new in box/never opened, \$150; **TV CONVERTER BOX**, new in box, \$50; **FLARE BOX**, exc. cond., \$675. 455-3881.

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

ACORN STAIR LIFT, 3-yrs-old, like new, 12 steps, \$1300. 475-4584.

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

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

HAY, 4x5 round bales; **LAST YEAR'S 4X5 ROUND BALES**, \$45. 390-0600.

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

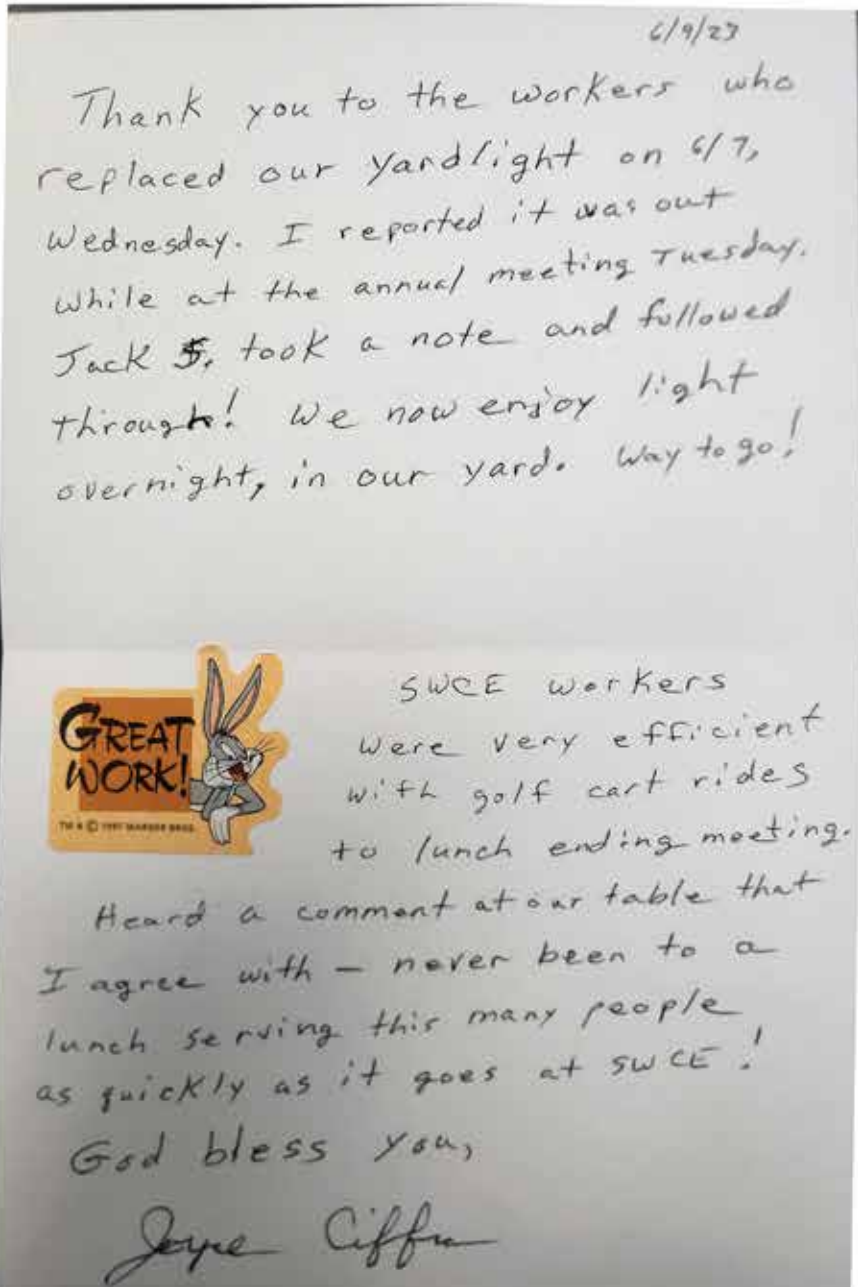
'85 **HONDA GL 1200 GOLDWING**, 61,000 mi., \$2400. 339-2939.

RELIANCE 40-GAL. NAT. GAS WATER HEATER, used 10 mths. 951-2568/leave message.

Ads need to be received in the SWCE office by Friday, Aug. 4, to ensure being published in the September 2023 Sparks newsletter.

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.

A note of thanks...



#swceAPPRECIATION

Lighting Facts Label

All common light bulb packaging now carries a Lighting Facts label, required by the FTC, showing important lighting information. Bulbs that are ENERGY STAR® certified, will display the ENERGY STAR in the Lighting Facts label.

Other details listed include:

- **Brightness:** Lumens measure the amount of light produced, Watts measure the amount of energy consumed. ENERGY STAR certified bulbs provide more lumens for fewer watts.
- **Estimated Yearly Energy Cost:** ENERGY STAR certified bulbs use less energy so cost less to operate than standard incandescent bulbs.
- **Life:** ENERGY STAR certified bulbs last 10 to 25 times longer than standard incandescent bulbs.
- **Light Appearance:** Warm is more yellow. Cool is more blue.
- **Energy Used:** ENERGY STAR certified bulbs always use fewer watts than standard bulbs.

Lighting Facts Per Bulb

Brightness 870 lumens

Estimated Yearly Energy Cost \$1.57

Based on 3 hrs/day, 11c/kWh
Cost depends on rates and use

Life 5.5 years
Based on 3 hrs/day

Light Appearance
Warm ————— Cool
▲
2700 K

Energy Used 13 watts

On the front of lighting packaging you'll also find a label that quickly shows bulb brightness in lumens alongside the bulb's estimated yearly energy cost. Your savings from ENERGY STAR certified bulbs can

add up fast when you consider all the bulbs in your home.

Brightness	Estimated Energy Cost
870 lumens	\$1.57 per year

#swceLIFE+

member connection


(Youth Tour experience continued from Page 1)
was the best part of the day! However, I wish we would have had more time to ask them questions. 29815

On Friday we visited Mount Vernon where we got to tour George Washington's house and visit his grave. This was one of my favorite parts of the day!

After Mount Vernon we wandered around Old Town Alexandria and had lunch. Then we took a water taxi to the Wharf. Our last stop was to the Holocaust Memorial. After dinner we went to see "The Enigmatist" at the Kennedy Center. The show was my second favorite part of the day! It was really interesting and being able to see it at the Kennedy Center was really cool!

On Saturday, our last full day, we went and took photos by the White House. We spent the rest of the day at The National Mall seeing the Smithsonian's! There are so many museums to see! It was pretty incredible! My favorites were The Museum of Natural History, The Museum of American History, The National Archives and the Washington Monument! It was great to be able to just wander around the area and take in the sights. We finished the day off with dinner and a guest speaker, Mike Schlappi. Everything about Saturday was memorable! It was a great day walking around in our groups and getting to know the other kids better!

Our last day was spent traveling back to Minnesota! It was an amazing trip and experience! I am so thrilled I got to take part in the once in a lifetime opportunity! I was actually bummed to have to go home! I wish it would have been longer! Thanks to Steele-Waseca cooperative for such a wonderful opportunity!

 #swceLIFE+



A military guard (pictured above) was in position, June 14, at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Minnesota's Youth Tour delegates were able to view the changing of the guard during their visit. The delegates first stop, June 14, was at the Lincoln Memorial (pictured right).



Fred was impressed with the architecture at the Washington National Cathedral (pictured above). On the final day, he took this photo of the Washington Monument.



Litomysl Summer Festival

Holy Trinity Catholic Church
9946 SE 24th Ave., Owatonna

Sunday, July 30

Polka Mass - 10:15 a.m.

Festival 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Food, games & prizes for all ages

Live Music

Prune, Poppyseed, & Apricot "Buchty"

Silent Auction & Used-a-Bit sale

Everyone welcome!

www.litomysl.webs.com

SUMMER ENERGY SAVINGS

Close curtains and blinds during the day to block additional heat from sunlight.



8-Family Rummage Sale

Friday, Oct. 6, Noon to 7

Saturday, Oct. 7, 9 to 1

1546 58th St. SW, Owatonna

Proceeds benefit Friends of Rice Lake State Park for improvement of hiking/biking trails.

Featured items: clothing, gardening, lawn/yard care, tools, framed art, pet items, camping and cabin supplies, etc.

To donate items,
call 507-363-1710