




the power of human connections

# spark

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

a monthly newsletter from Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric

October 2023

OCTOBER IS CO-OP MONTH  
**COOP**  
**MONTH**

## inside connections

- 2** Manager Connection
- 3** Cold Weather Rule notification
- 4** Cookin' Connection; SWCE community solar update; Stray voltage questions; Updating your phone information
- 5** Farm Safety Field Day; Is your dual fuel system ready for colder weather? Fire prevention safety tip; Harvest time safety
- 6** Ad Connection; 4-Seasons Vacations
- 7** Ad Connection; Duane Edwardson remembered; Programmable thermostats
- 8** National Co-op Month; Spooky energy savings ideas

## calendar of events

### October

- 2** Child Health Day
- 8-14** Nat'l Fire Prevention Week
- 9** Columbus Day
- 15-21** School Bus Safety Week; Teen Driver Safety Week
- 16** Boss's Day
- 31** Halloween

### FIRE PREVENTION & SAFETY TIP

A clean stovetop is a safer stovetop.

NATIONAL FIRE PREVENTION WEEK | OCT. 8-14

## Cold Weather Rule notification

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

Subdivision 1. **Application; notice to residential customer.** (a) A municipal utility or a cooperative electric association must not disconnect and must reconnect the utility service of a residential customer during the period between October 1 and April 30 if the disconnection affects the primary heat source for the residential unit and all of the following conditions are met:

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

below 50 percent of the state median household income.

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

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

(b) A municipal utility or a cooperative electric association must, between August 15 and October 1 each year, notify all residential customers of the provisions of this section.

Subd. 2. **Notice to residential customer facing disconnection.** (a) Before disconnecting service to a residential customer during the period between October 1 and April 30, a municipal utility or cooperative electric association must provide the following information:

(Cold Weather Rule continued on Page 3)

## Board Director Duane Edwardson dies at the age of 84

Board seeks to fill vacant board position in District 3

Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric District 3 Director Duane R. Edwardson of rural Ellendale died Monday, Aug. 28, at the age of 84.

Duane was elected to the Steele-Waseca board of directors during the annual meeting in June 2003. He served as chaplain for the co-op for 12 years starting after the annual meeting in 2011.

He was last elected at the drive-thru annual meeting conducted June 8, 2021. When asked why he wished to represent his district on the board of directors, Duane wrote, "There are always new challenges working with our rural, urban and industrial loads. Our



Duane Edwardson

goal is to maintain a strong co-op while keeping the rates as low as possible with reliable service." 26734

Duane and his wife, Mary, were retired farmers in Lemond Township. He is survived by his wife, two daughters: Sheri Berg of Owatonna, and Karen (Lyle) Loge of Willmar; son, Alan of Onalaska, Wisconsin; five grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren. A visitation was held Saturday, Sept. 9, at the LeSueur River Lutheran Church in rural New Richland, with a memorial service following at the same location.

"It was a privilege to work with Duane Edwardson for the past 14 years," stated Steele-Waseca General Manager Syd Briggs. "He was actually on the board of directors when I interviewed for the job of general manager. Duane was very positive on all issues for our

(Edwardson 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)



**Board of Directors**

- PJ Duchene . . . . . District 1  
*Assistant Secretary/Treasurer*
- Geraldine Lienke . . . . . District 2  
 (Vacant) . . . . . District 3
- Dennis Ringhofer . . . . . District 4
- Rodney Krell, *Vice President* . . . . . District 5
- Gary Wilson . . . . . District 6  
*President, GRE Director*
- John Beal . . . . . District 7
- Ronald Sommers . . . . . District 8  
*Secretary/Treasurer*
- Scott Carlson . . . . . District 9

**Management**

Syd Briggs . . . . . *General Manager*

**Division Managers**

- Kim Wilson . . . . . *Member Services*
- Jon Stelter . . . . . *Finance*
- Dan Meier . . . . . *Operations*

**Office Hours**

8:00 a.m.–4:30 p.m., Monday–Friday

**Operations Office Hours**

8:00 a.m.–3:30 p.m., Monday–Friday

**For Customer Service, Billing  
 Questions and Power Outages  
 Phone:**

507-451-7340 or 800-526-3514

**Before calling to report an outage**

1. Check fuses and circuit breakers in your home and on meter pole.
2. Check with your neighbors to see if they have power.
3. Look for possible causes such as a tree branch on wires, a broken pole, twisted wires, etc.

**To leave a non-emergency message  
 whenever SWCE’s Office is closed:**

Phone 507-451-7340 or 800-526-3514 and listen to the prompts. Please have your account number, phone number, and name on the account available.

Call *Before* You Dig  
 Gopher State One Call  
 811 or 800-252-1166

48-hour notice required for ALL underground cable locations

**manager connection**



*By Syd Briggs,  
 General Manager*

In today’s world, most of us don’t leave the front door unlocked.

We protect our homes, loved ones, and valuables from intruders with locks, alarms, and other security measures. Cybersecurity is no different. It’s the practice of protecting other valuables such as your identity, banking, health records, and other sensitive information from digital attacks and theft.

In addition to pumpkin-spice lattes, crisper air, and Halloween festivities, October is the time of year we recognize Cybersecurity Awareness Month.

While taking necessary steps to protect our personal information is a year-round practice, at Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric, we use this time to share helpful cybersecurity reminders across our team of employees.

Given our increased resilience in internet-connected devices and gadgets, this month, I’d like to share a few cybersecurity tips and let you know how Steele-Waseca is working to boost our own cybersecurity efforts.

According to the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Agency (CISA), an agency of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security that is responsible for strengthening cybersecurity and infrastructure protection, these are the four best ways to keep you and your family safe online.

**1. Implement multi-factor authentication** (also known as two-step verification) on your accounts. The additional layer of protection makes it much harder for criminals to access your information. Even if a hacker obtains your password, they may be unable to access your accounts if multi-step verification is enabled.

**2. Update your software.** This is one of the easiest ways to protect your personal data. When downloading a software update, make sure it’s coming straight from the company that created it. Beware of pop-ups that request urgent downloads. Better yet, turn on automatic updates.

**3. Think before you click.** Most successful cyber attacks start with a phishing email. Don’t take the bait when cyber

criminals go phishing. Avoid emails (or texts) that look too good to be true, oddly urgent, poorly crafted or include unusual requests.

**4. Create strong passwords,** using long, unique and complex words or phrases. Consider using a password manager to save time, work across all devices, protect your identity and notify you of potential phishing websites.

*For the young people  
 in your household*

Just as you would talk with your children about safety in the physical world, discuss ways to stay safe online. Help them understand the public nature of the internet. 1020053

Young people need to know early on, that what is shared online stays online and is difficult (if not impossible) to take back. Just as you would guard your money or valuables, children need to learn to guard their personal information, especially on social networks. As a parent or guardian, help your children learn about and use the privacy and security settings on social networks and gaming sites.

*Keeping the electric grid  
 and your data secure*

We’re doing our share on the cyber front. Part of offering excellent service is keeping that service secure and reliable. For Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric, reliability means repairing wear-and-tear, upgrading our equipment to withstand storms and severe weather, and using technology and best practices to keep our system secure from cybersecurity issues.

We also work together with co-ops across the country to develop new technologies and infrastructure, learn from each other and keep the grid’s network secure.

While we can’t stop a storm or predict every disruption, as a co-op, we do everything we can to keep the lights on and our members protected. Because if we all do our part, our interconnected world will be safer and more secure for everyone.

#swceLIFE+

## cold weather rule connection

*(Cold Weather Rule continued from Page 1)*

mation to a customer:

- (1) a notice of proposed disconnection;
- (2) a statement explaining the customer's rights and responsibilities;
- (3) a list of local energy assistance providers;
- (4) forms on which to declare inability to pay; and
- (5) a statement explaining available time payment plans and other opportunities to secure continued utility service.

(b) At the same time that notice is given under paragraph (a), the utility must also give written or electronic notice of the proposed disconnection to the local energy assistance provider and the department.

**Subd. 3. Restrictions if disconnection necessary.** (a) If a residential customer must be involuntarily disconnected remotely using advanced metering infrastructure or physically at the property being disconnected between October 1 and April 30 for failure to comply with Subdivision 1, the disconnection must not occur:

- (1) on a Friday, unless the customer declines to enter into a payment agreement offered that day in person or via personal contact by telephone by a municipal utility or cooperative electric association;
- (2) on a weekend, holiday, or the day before a holiday;
- (3) when utility offices are closed; or
- (4) after the close of business on a day when disconnection is permitted, unless a field representative of a municipal utility or cooperative electric association who is authorized to enter into a payment agreement, accept payment, and continue service, offers a payment agreement to the customer.

Further, the disconnection must not occur until at least 30 days after the notice required in Subdivision 2 has been mailed to the customer or 15 days after the notice has been personally delivered to the customer.

(b) The customer must not be disconnected until the utility attempts to confirm whether the residential unit is actually occupied, which the utility may accomplish by:

- (1) visiting the residential unit; or
- (2) examining energy usage data obtained through advanced metering infrastructure to determine whether there

is energy usage over at least a 24-hour period that indicates occupancy.


(c) A utility may not disconnect a residential customer who is in compliance with Section 216B.098, Subdivision 5.

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

(e) For the purposes of this section, "advanced metering infrastructure" means an integrated system of smart meters, communication networks, and data management systems that enables

two-way communication between a utility and its customers.

**Subd. 5. Cost recovery.** A municipal utility or cooperative electric association may recover the reasonable costs of disconnecting and reconnecting a residential customer based on the costs of providing notice to the customer and other entities and whether the process was accomplished physically at the property being disconnected or reconnected or remotely using advanced metering infrastructure.

 #swceTRUST

### SWCE Area Energy Assistance Phone Numbers

<b>Blue Earth County</b> 507-345-6822 800-767-7139, x2433	<b>Freeborn County</b> 507-864-7515 800-944-3281	<b>Rice County</b> 507-316-0610 800-277-8418
<b>Dodge County</b> 507-864-7515 800-944-3281	<b>Goodhue County</b> 507-316-0610 800-277-8418	<b>Steele County</b> 507-864-7515 800-944-3281
<b>Faribault County</b> 507-345-6822 800-767-7139, x2433	<b>LeSueur County</b> 507-345-6822 800-767-7139, x2433	<b>Waseca County</b> 507-345-6822 800-767-7139, x2433

#### **325E.028 Utility payment arrangements for military service personnel**


**Subdivision 1. Restriction on disconnection; payment schedules.** (a) A municipal utility, cooperative electric association, or public utility must not disconnect the utility service of a residential customer if a member of the household has been issued orders into active duty, for deployment, or for a permanent change in duty station during the period of active duty, deployment, or change in duty station if such a residential customer:

- (1) has a household income below the state median household income or is receiving energy assistance and enters into an agreement with the municipal utility, cooperative electric association, or public utility under which the residential customer pays 10 percent of the customer's gross monthly income toward the customer's bill and the residential customer remains reasonably current with those payments; or
- (2) has a household income above the state median household income and enters into an agreement with the municipal utility, cooperative electric association, or public utility establishing a reasonable payment schedule that considers the financial resources of the household and the residential customer remains reasonably current with payments under the payment schedule.

(b) For purposes of this subdivision, "household income" means household income measured after the date of the orders specified in paragraph (a).

**Subd. 2. Annual notice to all customers; inability to pay forms.** (a) A municipal utility, cooperative electric association, or public utility must notify all residential customers annually of the provisions of this section.

(b) A municipal utility, cooperative electric association, or public utility must provide a form to a residential customer to request the protections of this section upon the residential customer's request.

**Subd. 3. Application to service limiters.** For the purposes of this section, "disconnection" includes a service or load limiter or any device that limits or interrupts electric service in any way.  #swceTRUST

## cookin' connection

### Pickle Wrap Dip

Christy Strobel

Kilkenny

16 oz. cream cheese, softened  
(2) 4.5 oz. Armour sliced dried beef, chopped  
16 oz. baby dill pickles, drained, diced  
16 oz. Ritz crackers

Combine cream cheese, dried beef, pickles, and mix well. Serve with Ritz crackers, chilled or up to room temperature. Refrigerate leftovers.

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 August 2023. Learn more about community solar and The Sunna Project by visiting Steele-Waseca's website, [swce.coop](http://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.

## September issue of Sparks



#### Numbers found:

Robert/Launie Zaffke  
Milo/Laurie Dahlin

#### Numbers not found:

Patrick Haberman  
Thomas Myer  
Richard/Crystal Shetka



## Sparks in brief . . .

- **Want easy energy payments?** Sign up for **EnergyPay Plus**, our automatic payment plan, or **Energy Prepay**, our discounted advance payment plan. Contact our office for details. You may also pay your bill online at [www.swce.coop](http://www.swce.coop). By entering your Steele-Waseca username and password you can also view a 13-month history of your account.

- **If you have changed or added phone numbers**, please contact SWCE to update your contact information.

- **Need a new water heater?** For information about our Westinghouse Electric Water Heater Program, phone Cindy Butterfield at our office between 8 a.m.-3:30 p.m., 446-4204 / 800-526-3514.

- **August temps** – The average high temperature for August was 81°F, while the average low was 60°F. This resulted in 187 Cooling Degree Days (CDDs) and 20.5 Heating Degree Days (HDDs). They compare to last year's average high of 78°F and average low of 58°F, which resulted in 109.5 CDDs and 7 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 [swce.coop](http://swce.coop). For more information or to receive a rebate request form, phone Cindy Butterfield at 800-526-3514.

- **SWCE's tree service contractor** – Carr's Tree Service, Inc., is contracted to do SWCE's tree trimming. To report a tree concern, phone:

**507-451-7340 / 800-526-3514**

### LIVESTOCK OWNERS

If you have questions or concerns regarding stray voltage in your livestock confinement building(s), or are planning an addition, or constructing a new one, call Steele-Waseca at 507-451-7340 or 800-526-3514. Steele-Waseca will work with you and your electrician to eliminate potential stray voltage problems. You may also visit: [www.minnesotastrayvoltageguide.com](http://www.minnesotastrayvoltageguide.com).



**Farm Safety Field Day**

#swceLIFE+

The University of Minnesota Extension Service hosted a Farm Safety Field Day Wednesday, Aug. 9, at the Sammon Acres Feed Mill in rural Faribault. Farmers and ag professionals were invited to the farm safety refresher and hands-on safety training. In the above photo, Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric Safety Coordinator/Member Service Representative Jack Schwab demonstrated transformer safety practices used in turning off the power. In the adjacent left photo, members of the Faribault Fire Department's Technical Rescue Team demonstrated equipment used for a grain bin rescue.

**FIRE PREVENTION & SAFETY TIP**

Never leave pots and pans unattended while cooking.

MONITOR FOR PREVENTION WEEK | OCT. 9-14



**Is your dual fuel system ready for cold weather?**

If you have a dual fuel heating system, also known as an off-peak system, now is the time to be sure your off-peak controls are functioning, and your backup system is prepared. Your fuel supply should be checked and chimneys cleaned. 1055605

Summer storms can damage equipment controls within off-peak heating systems. It is the member's responsibility to contact an electrical contractor should the system not be functioning correctly.

Dual fuel is a controlled heating program offered at a reduced (off peak) electric rate. During the heating season, the electric heat portion of your dual fuel system can be shut off for up to 12 hours at a time, typically during periods of extremely cold weather, or when the demand for electricity is high.

The dual program helps control electric demand during peak usage periods, which is why an adequate backup system is required. For more information, visit Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric's website, [swce.coop](http://swce.coop), or call Cindy Butterfield before 3:30 p.m. weekdays. 545

#swceSERVICE

**HARVEST SAFETY TIP**

Use a spotter and deployed flags to maintain safe distances from power lines and other equipment when doing field work.



**Is my off peak/ dual fuel being controlled today?**

Visit Great River Energy's website at [www.greatriverenergy.com](http://www.greatriverenergy.com) and click on "Load Management"

Need a history of controls? Click on "History" on the "Load Management" page

## ad connection

### give away

**HIDE-A-BED**, tan in color, like new. 239-2321.

**12 X 16 BUILDING** to be moved by you, vinyl siding, & new shingles. 456-8521.

**TOYO TRUCK TIRES**, set of 4, 33x12.50R18 LR. 413-2659/leave message or text.

**OLD BEE HIVE FRAMES**. 451-5456 after 5 p.m.

**STACK OF OLD PALLETS**, 4'x5'. 390-5222.

**BOOKSHELF**, 46" width, 72" high, 13" depth. 649-1686.

**27 CU. FT CHEST FREEZER**, works, you pick up, you haul. 451-9445.

**PIANO**, Baldwin Upright Compact, 58" length, 25" width, 36" height, Waseca. 381-3462 or 304-5154.

**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

**JUNK APPLIANCES**: washers, dryers, & stoves, free drop off. 210-6728/Dan.

**USED CONCRETE STEP**. 455-0900.

**FORD SKID STEER**, diesel. 330-1849.

**FIREWOOD** near NR golf course, drop off or will consider pickup if nearby. 491-4709/text.

**PLEXIGLASS**, all sizes, will pay \$. 475-3737.

'50s to '60s CHEV. CAR TO RESTORE. 390-5222.

**JUNKERS OR REPAIRABLES, TRUCKS, CARS**, top \$ paid. 332-2300.

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

**JD GATOR**, smaller model for lawn & garden use; **6.5' T-POSTS**. 451-2722.

**2008-15 (APPROX.) RANGER XLT**, 2.3L, 4-cyl., auto, 2WD, 50K-120K mi., gd cond., everything works, \$? 213-7645.

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

## All area codes are 507 unless otherwise noted

### for sale

**TURKEY DECOYS; TRAVELING FISHING POLE CASES; 12G PUMPS; 223 W/BIPOD; COMMEMORATIVE "WILD TURKEY FOUNDATION" 22 SEMI AUTO**. 612-805-8546.

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

**3-YR-OLD FLOE V3600 SOLAR BOAT LIFT** in mint cond., battery in great cond., 10'x24' gray canopy w/ wheels, wireless remote & mounting post, will wrk w/ pontoon if needed, screw jack legs. 651-263-9681.

**LAYING HENS**, year old. 456-8973.

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

**SMALL GRAIN BIN** for a binzebo. 390-2304.

**SHORESTATION VERTICAL BOAT LIFT** w/canopy, great for fishing boats, 7' width, \$650/obo. 993-5792.

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

**2012 TOYOTA PRIUS HYBRID**, 101,145 mi., \$9000/obo. 475-1526.

**1984 FORD MUSTANG CONVERTIBLE**, 85,000 mi., 2 sets of wheels & tires, no rust, southern car. 334-4175.

**3RD SEAT** out of a '98 Suburban, exc. shape, \$100; **SPARE TIRE & RIM**, 265/70R17, \$100. 330-5349.

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

**SUPERIOR PEDESTAL SUMP PUMP**, never used, 1/2 hp stainless steel, 5-yr warranty, \$110. 210-3958.

**1994 IH 4900 TRUCK** w/cold plate freezer box, current DOT, \$7900. 334-7177.

**PALLET FORK & BALE SPEAR** for JD 600-700 series loader, \$1200 & \$650 respectively. 456-8639.

**GRASS HAY**, small sq. bales by Waldorf. 327-3672.

**SEVERAL DENIM DAYS FIGURINES** by HOMCO, \$10/each. 339-3426.

**STEEL DESK**, 36"x60", 6 drawers, \$25. 390-5222.

**(4) FARMALL H TRACTORS**, \$1200/each; **MH 22**, \$750; **MH 81**, \$750; **FARMALL M**, parade ready, \$3500; **MF 2705**, \$8200. 456-1181.

**(3) SETS OF MATCHING CAR TIRES**: Yokohama, P225/60-17, 3/4 tread; Goodyear, P225/65-17, half tread; Bridgestone, P225/65-17, 1/3 tread (best offer). 612-290-2704.

**CABELA'S INSULATED HUNTING BOOTS**, sz 14, \$50; **PET CARRIER**, large, composite, exc. cond., \$35; **MARTIN COMPOUND BOW**, 45-60 draw w/ fish reel & arrow, exc. cond., \$100. 455-3881.

**BOAT/RV STORAGE FOR RENT**. 475-2322.

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

**JD 2810 5-BTM PLOW**, exc. cond. 319-7782.

**USED ENGINES, TRANSMISSIONS, AUTO PARTS FOR TRUCKS & CARS**, 30-day warranty on eng. & trans. 332-2300.

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

**CATERPILLAR D4D BULLDOZER**, exc. shape, \$12,000; **NH 256 HAY RAKE**, \$1200; **JD 2510 TRACTOR, CAB, & LOADER**, vry nice, \$8000. 330-3945.

**(5) PATIO HEATERS** w/propane tanks; **BATHROOM VANITY & VANITY SINK**. 334-7756 or 581-3901.

**PEACOCKS**: pair of white, adult, female peahens, bonded friends, country raised. 583-7718.

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

**DOGHOUSE** for large dogs, 3'x4', \$300. 456-8521.

**ROOFING REPLACEMENT**, houses, cabins, barns, [www.AllSonsExteriors.com](http://www.AllSonsExteriors.com). 952-469-5221.

**TREK 830 MT TRACK**, men's, 21 spd, 26x175, \$100; **GIANT BOULDER**, women's, F.S. Fork, 21 spd, 26x175, \$100. 330-3178.

(For Sale ads continued on Page 7)

### travel

**CARIBBEAN CRUISE**, Jan. 25-Feb. 6, 2024. Roundtrip Delta Air from Mpls to Ft Lauderdale, 7-day cruise, 7 ports of call include Antigua & Virgin Islands. Starting at \$4,199 pp w/2 per room.

**NEW ORLEANS**, April 13-21, 2024. Deluxe motor coach, 14 meals, guided tours, visit historic French Quarter, admission to Mardi Gras World, and more! \$1,599 pp w/2 per room.

**NASHVILLE GET-AWAY**, July 20-25, '24. Deluxe motor coach, 10 meals, Country Music HOF, backstage tour of the Opry House, seats to the Grand Ole Opry, & more! \$1,799 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 **October 5** to ensure being printed in the November Sparks. Please print neatly or type your ad of **20 words or less** on this form. We reserve the right to edit ad copy to allow space for more ads. Ads received after the 5th will be printed in the December issue.

For Sale  Wanted  Give Away

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

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Clip and mail to: SWCE, PO Box 485, Owatonna MN 55060-0485, 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)

**2002 DODGE RAM 1500 CONVERSION VAN**, 318 engine, air, new tires, runs gd, 129,468 mi., \$4500/obo. 234-6865.

**FIREWOOD**, \$350/full cord; **APPLES**, you pick, \$2/lb.; **POTATOES**, \$1/lb.; **ONIONS**, \$1/each (Nfld area). 651-357-5092/Paul.

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

**2007 ALUMACRAFT 16.5' BOAT** w/60-hp Yamaha 4-stroke motor, EZ trailer, (2) fish finders, trolling motor, 1 owner, well maintained. 456-7542.

(2) **FIRESTONE TRANSFORCE AT TIRES**, LT 275/70R18, came off 3/4 diesel Ram, 10 ply, 17,000 mi. on them, lots of tread left, \$300 for pair. 491-4565.

**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.

**SPD QUEEN WRINGER WASH MACH.** 214-3029.

**2008 PONTIAC TORRENT**, 196,377 mi., \$1500/obo. 612-644-9714.

**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.

**SHOWER BENCH**, like new. 744-2709.

(7) **PUREBRED GERMAN SHEP. PUPS**, have both parents, pups dewormed, \$350/each. 384-8444.

**42" TV; WASHING MACHINE** in gd cond. 213-7978.

**2-WHEEL UTIL. TRAILER**, shop made, wood sides & bed, \$400; **DAKON GRAVITY WAGON**, 280 bu., flotation tires, \$600 (both stored inside). 451-9614.

**A-C WD-45 TRACTOR** w/loader w/dirt & snow bucket. 334-9583.

(2) **GRAVITY FLOW WAGONS**, 160 bu.; **WHITE 588 4-BTM FLOW**. 400-4662.

**1998 PJ CAR TRAILER**, 7'x18", gd tires, deck is weathered, \$1500. 339-2147.

**FRABILL 2-MAN PORTABLE FISH HOUSE**, gd cond., \$125. 412-3775.

**1992 FORD CARGO VAN**, auto, set up for plumbing, 115,000 mi., runs & drives, rusty, \$250/obo. 952-652-2933.

**NI 324 PICKR**, 2-row; **10' GRAIN DRILL**. 210-2048.

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.

(Edwardson continued from Page 1)




Steele-Waseca General Manager Syd Briggs and Executive Assistant Debbie Eby (pictured left) presented District 3 Director Duane Edwardson (center) with a commemorative certificate Jan. 19, 2015, for subscribing to the first two panels of The Sunna Project, the co-op's community solar garden. 34538

members, and believed in the basic goodness of everyone he met. I will always appreciate his love of the simple things in life; eating at McDonalds was always a treat to Duane and he was always happy.

The Steele-Waseca board of directors have authorized a search to fill the board position created with Edwardson's death. Co-op members in the district will receive a letter with information on how to apply for the board seat. Applicants will be interviewed by the board and their selection will be appointed to the board until the next annual meeting June 4, 2024.



Duane is pictured delivering the invocation during Steele-Waseca's annual meeting in 2022. He served as chaplain on the board for 12 years.

 #swceLIFE+



Space heating and cooling account for a large portion of the average home's energy use. A programmable or smart thermostat can help you control the temperature of your home and save energy.



Reliably powering your favorite fall activities.



# Electric co-ops grow for the communities they serve

October is National Co-op Month

Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric is joining cooperatives across the U.S., to celebrate National Co-op Month during October.

Co-ops come in all shapes and sizes, but they each have a common goal: to provide goods or services for the members of the co-op.

Electric cooperatives, including Steele-Waseca, exist to serve their members. Our priority is to provide safe, affordable, and reliable energy to our local communities. Because we are led by you, the members we serve, we can evolve to meet your needs from rebates, to electronic payment and account access, to renewable energy options. 1098033

During October, as we recognize Co-op Month, we're focusing on the ways "Co-ops Grow," for their members:

• **Co-ops Grow Communities:** Co-ops help communities grow by promoting economic empowerment, fostering community engagement, and supporting the unique needs of the co-op members. "Concern for Community" is one of our core principles—and being community-focused is essential to everything we do.

• **Co-ops Grow Together:** Co-ops are all about cooperation, not competition. That's why electric co-ops work together to share lessons learned, successful strategies and better ways to serve our members. We're better when we grow together!

• **Co-ops Grow Tomorrow's Leaders:** Electric co-ops serve as fertile ground for growing tomorrow's leaders through a variety of youth engagement programs. Whether through school

demonstrations, community events, or the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour program, we're committed to providing opportunities for local youth to learn and thrive in our community and beyond.

• **Co-ops Grow for You:** At Steele-Waseca, your satisfaction is our number one goal. It's why we were formed many years ago to fulfill a uniquely local purpose. We've come a long way since then, and your needs continue to evolve. That's why we'll never stop growing for you!

#swceTRUST

## Spooky energy savings in the spirit of efficiency

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

This spooky season, we're sharing a few energy-saving tricks so you can treat yourself to lower energy bills.

Here are four simple ways to summon the spirit of energy efficiency:

• **Conjure instant savings with a smart thermostat.** One of the easiest ways to save energy is through thermostat control, since home heating and cooling account for a large portion of monthly energy use.

Smart thermostats can help you manage heating and cooling costs by learning your daily routine and adjusting the temperature settings accordingly. You can control a smart thermostat from anywhere (through your smartphone), which allows you to prevent unnecessary energy consumption while you're away. Sorcery!



• **Get rid of goosebumps by eliminating ghostly drafts.** The winter chill is just around the corner, so now is the time to seal air leaks around your home. Apply caulk and weatherstripping around drafty windows and doors to make your home more comfortable and lower energy use.

• **Illuminate your lair with energy efficient lighting.** LED bulbs use 75% less energy and last 25 times longer than incandescent lightbulbs. Make the switch to reduce energy used for lighting. Remember to use LEDs when it's time to decorate for the upcoming holiday season. LED light strings offer an average of 88% energy savings compared to traditional incandescent light strings.



• **Stir up savings with countertop cauldrons.** Cooler weather summons our favorite soup recipes. Small countertop appliances like slow cookers use less energy than cooking meals on the stovetop. Grab your book of spells (or recipes) and start stirring up savings in the kitchen.



When we look around our homes, there are many opportunities to save energy. So this spooky season, investigate your space and unlock a different kind of magic—the kind that brings real energy savings.

#swceLIFE+

**CO-OPS GROW COMMUNITIES**

Electric cooperatives are joining co-ops across the U.S. to celebrate National Co-op Month. As your local electric co-op, our services are shaped to meet your specific needs. We love growing with you, the members we are proud to serve.

