




the power of human connections

sparks

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

a monthly newsletter from Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric

November 2023

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calendar of events

November

- 5** Daylight saving time ends
- 7** Election Day
- 11** Veterans Day
- 23-24** Thanksgiving holidays
SWCE office is closed
- National Diabetes Awareness Month

Steele-Waseca host town hall meetings for first time since pandemic

Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric hosted four town hall meetings Sept. 20-21, and 25-26, at Torey's Restaurant & Bar in Owatonna for members in the townships of the co-op's nine districts.

General Manager Syd Briggs led the meetings until an emergency room visit prior to the final town hall meeting moved Communications Specialist Randy Sobrack into leading the meeting.

In all, 503 members and guests attended their designated meeting. Among the topics presented were the grid, which is all the infrastructure involved with generating, transmitting, and distributing electricity through power lines. With reliability such an important factor, the sources available for powering homes, farms, and businesses was shared.

Present Minnesota law has all power utilized in 2040 must be from 100% renewable sources. When questioned regarding the sources of renewable energy from the co-op's energy provider, Great River Energy, Briggs responded, "For GRE, it's almost all wind and solar." 130753

Attendees also were informed how



Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric General Manager Syd Briggs addressed town hall meeting attendees, Sept. 20, at Torey's Restaurant & Bar.

GRE's power portfolio will be evolving to have the capacity ensure reliability.

Questions were asked regarding electric vehicles and meeting their additional load. Briggs explained there is approximately 20 service locations with an electric vehicle. He noted if 20% of members went to electric vehicles, the co-op could handle the additional load. If 50% of Steele-Waseca members added electric vehicles in one year, rather than spread over several years, then it would be a problem. "It would require significant changes on our system to handle the increased load," said Briggs.

(Town hall meetings continued on Page 7)

Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric announces 2024 Nominating Committee appointments

The Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric board of directors have approved appointments to the 2024 Nominating Committee.

It is the nominating committee's responsibility to prepare the list of director candidates, and post it at the cooperative's office at least 30 days prior to the annual meeting scheduled Tuesday, June 4, 2024.

Director election results will be announced during the business portion of the annual meeting, held at Steele-Waseca's headquarters, located at 2411 West

(Nominating Committee continued on Page 7)

District 1

Matt LaCanne	412-7143
Daniel/Stacy Maas	210-3738
Dale/Lynn Groskreutz	461-4733

District 3

Committee member needed	
Rene/Pam Koester	645-8914
Denise Bartness	444-9147

District 5

Bruce Rumpza	583-2091
Charlie Peters	744-2118
John/Lydia Iverson	451-2019



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This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Website: www.swce.coop

Email: 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

It was good to see the hundreds of members who attended our town hall meetings over a two-week span at Torey's Restaurant & Bar in Owatonna.

Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric Communications Specialist Randy Sobrack tracked over 30 questions asked during the meetings, and I am looking to respond to a number of those questions in future columns. I have reason to believe they are also questions of members who weren't able to attend the town hall meetings.

One topic not featured during this latest round of town hall meetings were the rebates available from Steele-Waseca in 2023 for your residential Energy Star® purchases.

While summer is behind us, rebates for central air conditioners and air source heat pumps are listed below, and require a quality installation. To find a qualified installer, visit Steele-Waseca's website, swce.coop, click on "Residential Rebates," then "Qualified Installers List," listed under "Quick Links."

	A/C	ASHP
14.5-14.9 SEER	\$50	\$200
15.0-15.9 SEER	\$50	\$300
16.0+ SEER	\$50	\$400

Rebates for Energy Star labeled ground source heat pumps (GSHPs) are \$100 per ton this year.

Heat pump water heaters (HPWHs) in 2023 have a rebate of \$500.

Steele-Waseca is offering a \$50 rebate for a residential HVAC (Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning) Electronically Commutated Motor (ECM), which offers a higher efficiency rating than typical electric blowers or condenser fan motors.

Ductless ASHPs with the Energy Star label are eligible for a \$100 rebate if your primary heat is delivered fuel, and \$200 if your primary heat is electric.

Energy Star labeled refrigerators and freezers are eligible for a \$50 rebate, only if you recycle your old unit. 1024884

Dehumidifiers with the Energy Star label are eligible for a \$25 rebate.

Residential lighting rebates in 2023 will only be for LED (light emitting diode) lightbulbs with the Energy Star label. The rebate is \$2 per bulb up to one-half the purchase price (limit 5 bulbs).

Steele-Waseca members who install a LED yard light fixture that is Energy Star or DLC (Design Light Consortium) rated are eligible for a \$30 rebate; Wi-Fi smart thermostats are eligible for a \$25 rebate; Energy Star labeled electric clothes dryers are eligible for a \$25 rebate; a central air conditioner or ASHP tune up is eligible for a \$25 rebate per unit; variable speed pool pumps with the Energy Star label are eligible for a \$100 rebate; and pool ASHPs are eligible for a \$200 rebate.

Steele-Waseca is offering up to \$500 for members participating in the ChargeWise program. This is a voluntary program offered by participating electric cooperatives for qualified members who own a plug-in (PEV) or plug-in hybrid (PHEV) electric vehicle.

The program allows members charge their PEV/PHEV in their garage or carport using electricity from a specially installed 20-amp ChargeWise outlet. This ChargeWise outlet only provides energy during the off-peak hours of 11 p.m.-7 a.m. Members simply plug in the PEV in the evening and their vehicle is charged during those overnight hours at a reduced rate. They wake up to a fully-charged electric vehicle.

If you have a question, or wish to request a rebate form, please contact Cindy Butterfield at Steele-Waseca weekdays between 8 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Rebate forms are available on Steele-Waseca's website, swce.coop, by clicking on "Residential Rebates." Please visit energystar.gov to check the model number of qualifying products.

Completed rebate forms must be accompanied with a copy of the receipt and submitted within 90 days of purchase. Please allow 6-8 weeks for processing. The rebate will appear as a credit on your Steele-Waseca bill.



Products with the Energy Star label have met federal specifications regarding energy efficiency.

#swceGROWTH

When should you replace your water heater?

Courtesy: Energy Star® "Ask the Experts"

The water heater is one of the most overlooked appliances in the home.

Typically, an unassuming cylindrical tank tucked out of the way—usually in the basement or garage—we don't think about it much, until we must.

Suddenly, our hot showers don't last as long. Or the water coming out of the tap is more lukewarm than hot—or worse yet—completely cold! That's why replacing your water heater before it's too late can help you avoid a major headache when it fails.

When should I consider replacing my water heater?

If you suspect your water heater is more than 10 years old—it is time to consider replacing it before you're left with an emergency decision.

To determine the age of your water heater, you'll need to identify the Brand Name and Serial Number for your unit. In some cases, the date of manufacture is printed on the same tank label where the serial number is located. If not, you will need to consult an online water heater industry resource to determine how to read the serial number in a way that will decode the manufacturing date. The following are good resources for looking up your water heater serial number and figuring out your water heater's age:

- Building Intelligence Center (<https://www.building-center.org/water-heater-table-of-contents-age-manufacture-date-serial-number/>)

- International Association of Certified Home Inspectors (InterNACHI) (<https://www.nachi.org/water-heater-dating-chart.htm>)

- AO Smith (<https://aosmithinternational.com/manufacturing-date-device/>)

- Bradford White (<https://www.bradfordwhite.com/find-your-model-and-serial-number>)

- Rheem (<https://www.rheem.com/how-old-is-my-water-heater/>)

What are the signs my water heater is failing or may need significant repair?

Sometimes water heaters can appear to be working fine and then fail with-

out warning. Most times, though, there are early signs your water heater may need help. Some of the more common red flags for possible water heater failure are:

- **Visible corrosion.** Corrosion is a sign the water heater is breaking down. Whether the corrosion is around the water lines or on the unit itself, it is a sign of deterioration that can lead to weakening the system and contributing to the water heater failing.

- **Water leaking.** Leaks from any joints, seals, or seams of your hot water heater is usually an indication there is a problem (potentially caused by corrosion, as mentioned above). Hot water heaters are designed to be a "closed" system and any moisture outside of that system is an indication something is breaking down. Water leaking can get worse and not only be damaging to the water heater itself, but potentially the area and things around it.

- **Rust in your water.** Rust in the water is usually a sign the interior of the water heating system is corroding and breaking down.

- **Lack of available hot water.** Aging and poor maintenance can cause sediment to build up inside the tank in a way that reduces capacity. Chemicals and minerals in our water can contribute to the corrosion and breaking

down of the inside of the tank. The sediment and particulates can then build up and reduce the available water to be heated and used by your home.

- **Rumbling noises.** Water heaters are designed to operate consistently, quietly, and reliably. If your water heater is making unusual noises, rumblings, or vibrations, it is likely straining to operate correctly. Very often rumbling can be attributed to a build-up of sediment on the bottom of the tank, which can lead to bigger problems. Any noises should be checked out.

Ignoring these issues can lead to sudden failure of the water heater, cold water, and in some cases, tank rupture and water damage to the floor and carpets. The other downside to sudden failure is you may have to schedule

(Water heater continued on Page 8)

ANNUAL OYSTER STEW + CHILI SUPPER

AURORA LUTHERAN CHURCH
6329 SE 38th St.
Owatonna, MN

(New route off of Highway 14)

SUNDAY,
NOVEMBER 19TH, 2023
3:00 PM - 6:00 PM

HOMEMADE CHILI & OYSTER STEW

Oyster-Chili Combo.....	\$15.00
Chili Only	\$12.00
Children (6-12).....	\$7.00
5 and Under	FREE

All You Can Eat!



Bake Sale items available.

cookin' connection

Lightened Up Fudgy Zucchini Bread

Petra Cripe

Ellendale

1 c. flour	1/4 c. oil
1/2 c. cocoa powder	1/4 c. plain yogurt
3/4 tsp. baking soda	1/4 c. sugar
1/4 tsp. baking powder	1 tsp. vanilla extract
1/4 tsp. salt	1 1/2 c. shredded zucchini
1/2 c. chocolate chips	2 eggs

Preheat oven to 350°. Spray loaf pan. Mix flour, cocoa powder, baking soda, baking powder, salt, and chocolate chips. Whisk eggs, oil, yogurt, sugar, and vanilla. Use fork to mix wet and dry ingredients. Use a spatula to fold in the zucchini. Bake 45-50 minutes...Enjoy!

Please use a 3 x 5 card when submitting your recipe. The member whose recipe is published will receive a \$7 energy credit. 1072126



Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric's solar subscribers will see a 42 kWh credit per panel on this month's statement for energy generated during September 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.

October issue of Sparks



Numbers found:

Dennis/Pamela Ihrke

Numbers not found:

Larry/Michele Nydegger
Jerome/Karen Appeldoorn
Johnathon/Tara Thielen
Ryan/Taylor Elasky



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.

- September temps – The average high temperature for September was 77° F, while the average low was 56° F. This resulted in 70 Heating Degree Days (HDDs), and 124.5 Cooling Degree Days (CDDs). They compare to last year's average high of 73° F and average low of 51° F. This resulted in 161 HDDs and 66 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. 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

Hidden Electrical Dangers

with Safety Sadie

To keep you and your family safe, look for these **hidden electrical dangers** in your home:

- ___ Overloaded circuits or outlets
- ___ A charging cell phone or device in bed
- ___ A cell phone under a pillow
- ___ Exposed outlets (danger to young children)
- ___ Proper GFCI/AFCI protection to stay safe
- ___ Plugged-in chargers not being used (little ones like to put these in their mouth)
- ___ GFCIs that are not working properly (check them monthly)
- ___ Damaged, cracked or frayed cords
- ___ Extension cords used as a permanent solution
- ___ Electric devices plugged in near water
- ___ Cords under rugs



Learn more at:  Safe Electricity.org®

ad connection

give away

HORSERADISH, you dig. 663-1275.

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

USED JARI SICKLE MOWER. 465-8244.

MICROSOFT SERIAL MOUSE 2.0A, preferably part #58268. 634-7988/leave message.

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

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

1950-55 CHEV. CAR in fair cond., doesn't need to run. 390-5222.

TRANSFERRABLE BUILDING RIGHTS, Bridgewater Twsp, Rice County. 651-357-5092/Paul.

FORD DIESEL SKID STEER. 330-1849.

JUNK APPLIANCE WASHERS, DRYERS, & STOVES, free drop-off. 210-6728/Dan.

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

RECIPES for the Sparks, only from members who have not submitted a recipe in 2023; please use a 3x5 card; the member who has their recipe published earns a \$7 energy credit on their SWCE statement.

for sale

(4) 15' LADDER SINGLE DEER STANDS, new in bx, \$100/ea.; **RED LION SPRINKLR PUMP**, 1 hp, new, \$150; **DUO-FAST STAPLES**, 7512D, 19 ga, 15/32 crown, 4 boxes, 20,000 staples, \$60. 461-1191.

ANTIQUES: wooden booster or high chair; caned-back rocking chair; old mirror; wooden folding chair. 456-7757.

2001 MERCURY MOUNTAINEER, new tires, 171,000 mi., great winter truck, gets through snow real well, Ellen./Geneva area. \$3000/obo. 383-5968.

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

All area codes are 507 unless otherwise noted

(4) TIRES, 265/70R16, 8/32 tread, \$200/obo. 319-7782.

HUMMINBIRD HELIX 8 MDI G4N FISH LOCATOR/DEPTH FINDER, 1-yr-old, \$500. 330-5632.

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

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.

ALL FALL ACTIVITIES NOW OPEN AT ADVENTURE FARM near Nfld, activities for all ages, willowfarmadventure.com. 581-9248.

EGO POWER SNOWBLOWER, 56V, 21" width, used (1) winter, \$350. 279-1854.

(60) VINYL RECORDS from 1950s, '60s, & '70s, Old Time, Xmas, & Country, \$3/each or all 60 for \$180 (stand included). 334-5388.

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

ELEC. WHEELCHAIR. 455-0900.

LADDER HOIST, 30', best offer. 491-2667.

OTTER II 2-PERSON PORTABLE FISH HOUSE, 2 seats & center holder, green, like new cond., \$370. 330-1154.

BOAT/RV STORAGE FOR RENT. 475-2322.

2006 CHEV. SILVERADO VORTEC MAX, 6.0 engine, 144,836 mi., white, \$7250. 330-4125.

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

2006 FORD FUSION, 3.0, V6, 156K mi., new brakes, ball joint tie rod end, gd tires, runs gd, AC needs repair, \$4500. 676-2802.

(2) FIRESTONE TRANSFORCE AT TIRES, LT275/70R18, came off 3/4 diesel Ram, 10 ply, 17,000 mi. on them, lots of tread left, \$200 for pair. 491-4565.

LONGHORN/HIGHLANDER COW & BULL CALF; MATCHED PAIR OF PAINT MARES; MAMMOTH JACK. 465-8593.

STRAW BALES. 475-2322.

(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 (make offer). 612-290-2704.

OATS STRAW, \$4/bale (not been combined). 838-6612.

MINI STORAGE UNITS, Blmg Prairie. 456-2957.

WORKSAVER WOOD SPLITTER in gd cond. 645-7004 or email: djmaplehill@gmail.com.

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

(30) ACRES south of Owat. in Somerset Twsp, beautiful setting just off Interstate 35W, 22 acres of woods w/deer & turkeys, plus an 8-acre building site w/large farmhouse, tinned barn, & outbuildings. 451-5617.

500' USED 4' GREEN SNOW FENCE, 20'-90' lengths. 213-6582.

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

(2) LOTS IN TOWN OF WALDORF, Block 10, lots 1 & 2, each lot 50' wide x 150' long, side by side, street lot has curb & gutter, \$5000 for each lot or \$9000 for both. 651-247-8574.

1972 ARCTIC CAT CHEETAH SNOWMOBILE, been sitting in shed for 36 yrs, \$250. 952-652-2933.

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

LEATHER BEIGE ROCKER RECLINER, swivel, \$50; **LEATHER DARK BROWN ROCKER RECLINER**, \$175. 456-3905.

HORSE-DRAWN BOBSLED, \$700/obo. 583-7614.

A-C WD, recently painted, loader, chains, gd tires, \$795; **ARPS SNOWBLOWER**, 7', 3 pt, double auger w/fan, carbide blade, hyd. chute, \$695 (both need some work). 455-3881.

(For Sale ads continued on Page 7)

travel

HOLIDAY BRANSON, Nov. 7-11 or 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.

THE NUTCRACKER, Dec. 3. Performed by the Minnesota Ballet, depart from Albert Lea to Prime & Wine for brunch, show at North Iowa Area Community College, then return to Albert Lea. \$99 pp.

CARIBBEAN CRUISE, Jan. 25-Feb. 6, 2024. Round trip Delta Air from Minneapolis to Fort Lauderdale, 7-day cruise on the Caribbean Princess, 7 ports of call. \$4,199 per person 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 **November 6** to ensure being printed in the December 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 January 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)

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

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

AIRCARE SPACE SAVER EVAPORATIVE HUMIDIFIER, 6 gal., for large room or home, 1000+ sq. ft, like new w/extras, \$65. 451-7682.

WOOD PALLETS, 1'x2' (over 200) for storing feed/seed bags, for use with a 2-wheel cart. 583-7718.

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

DEARBORN 2-BTM PLOW, 3 pt; **JD 8' DBL DISC**, 3 pt; **KING KUTTER TILLER**, 5', 3 pt. 581-0470.

DINING ROOM SET w/6 chairs, great shape; **BALDWIN PIANO**, low style; **LOWRY ORGAN**, best offer; **ANTIQUE CHINA CUPBOARD**, vry large size. 553-3816 or 339-5069.

16' 5TH WHEELER RAWHIDE CATTLE TRAILER. 400-4662.

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

FAIRBANKS MORSE 1000-LB ALL-STEEL SCALE on wheels, nice shape, \$75. 456-7614.

MIXED GRASS HAY ROUND BALES, 4x5. 676-6094.

BELSAW 12" WOOD PLANER w/3-hp motor, \$400; **POWERMATIC 12" PLANER/MOLDER**, \$600; **CATERPILLAR D4D BULLDOZER**, exc. shape, \$12,000. 330-3945.

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

BARN LUMBER, \$10/pickup load; '53 **FARMALL H**, needs wrk & tires, & set of tire chain for the H (38"); **SET OF CHAINS FITS JD 4320**; '85 **DODGE RAM CHARGER**; (3) **CARS FOR PARTS**. 783-9240.

Ads need to be received in the Steele-Waseca office by Monday, Nov. 6, to ensure being published in the December 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.

(Nominating Committee continued from Page 1)

Bridge Street in Owatonna. The board has yet to decide how the election will be taking place since new bylaws were approved by the membership during this past year's annual meeting allowing more inclusive measures for voting for directors. There will no longer be voting for directors at the annual meeting. 26205

All Steele-Waseca members are eligible to serve as board directors. The governance role of directors can be summarized as being responsible for setting the overall policy, and monitoring the business affairs of the cooperative.

If you are interested in becoming a director, you may call Executive Assistant Jenifer Shimpach at Steele-Waseca, and a director nomination form will be sent to you.

Or, if you know another member who would make a good director, and you want him or her to be considered, please contact the nominating committee member nearest you. However, before you make the request, be certain the person will accept the position if nominated.

The Nominating Committee will conduct two in-person meetings. The first is scheduled Wednesday, Nov. 15. The second meeting is scheduled Thursday, Jan. 18, 2024. The committee would appreciate any assistance you can provide in helping them select director candidates.

All Steele-Waseca members are eligible to vote each year for all expiring board director positions.


The districts with directors up for election in 2024 include the following:

• **District 1:** Kilkenny Township in LeSueur County, Shieldsville and Morristown Townships and the Southeast

one quarter (SE 1/4) of Erin Township, Southwest one quarter (SW 1/4) of Wells Township, and the Northwest one quarter (NW 1/4) of Warsaw Township in Rice County. (Represented by PJ Duchene)

• **District 3:** Hartland Township in Freeborn County; New Richland, Otisco, Woodville, Blooming Grove and Iosco Townships in Waseca County; Lemond Township, the Northwest one quarter (NW 1/4) and the Northeast one quarter (NE 1/4) of Berlin Township, and the Northwest one quarter (NW 1/4) and the Southwest one quarter (SW 1/4) of Somerset Township in Steele County. (Has yet to be board appointed following the death of Duane Edwardson)

• **District 5:** Newry Township in Freeborn County; Aurora and Blooming Prairie Townships, and the Southwest one quarter (SW 1/4) of Havana Township in Steele County, and Westfield, Ripley, Ashland and Hayfield Townships in Dodge County. (Represented by Rodney Krell) ^{SWCE}

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sparks • november 2023




(Town hall meetings continued from Page 1)

"If the increase is spread out over any number of years, it will not be a problem at all." Other questions involved the carbon footprint in trying to obtain carbon-free energy, and the recyclability of wind turbines and solar panels.

Sobrack spoke of this past summer's experience as a chaperon for the Washington, D.C. Youth Tour, and highlighted the sites seen. In addition, changes are coming to the application process to encourage more applications from high school sophomores and juniors who are a dependent of a Steele-Waseca member.

The town hall meetings concluded with a summary of capital credits retired and assigned; how voting for Steele-Waseca board directors will be changing with the updated bylaws approved by members in attendance during this past year's annual meeting; and how members may keep updated on political candidates and their stance on issues impacting electric cooperatives.

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AVOID UTILITY SCAMS

LEARN HOW TO SPOT A UTILITY SCAM WITH THESE TIPS:

1  Utility companies **do not request payment**, or other personal information, over the **phone or through email**

2  Utilities **do not ask for gift cards**, prepaid cards, or money transfers as forms of payment


3  Utilities **will not contact you threatening to disconnect service** or ask for immediate payment over the phone or email

4  Scammers can fake emails or phone numbers. If you have any questions about your account, **contact the utility directly** using the phone number or email listed on your bill


5  **Have you noticed a scam? Let your utility know. This can happen to you, your loved ones, and your neighbors.**

Please **share this resource** with **vulnerable populations** as they are likely to be **targeted as victims**



 www.facebook.com/ESF1.org

 www.twitter.com/ESF1dotorg

 www.youtube.com/ESF1dotorg

Learn how to avoid common phone utility scams

According to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC), fraud complaints were received from more than 2.4 million people in 2022, showing a total loss of \$8.8 billion, \$2.6 billion of which were from imposter scams. Many of these scams are utility scams where scammers pretend to be representatives of utility companies and demand immediate payment to avoid service disconnects. 1091092


(Water heater continued from Page 3)

an emergency replacement with the plumber, which can be more expensive, and typically limit your replacement options to inefficient models with high

operating costs.

(Editor's Note: To learn more about Steele-Waseca Cooperative Electric's water heater program, please visit

<https://swce.coop/swce-field-services/save-money-and-energy/>

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