

Meeker Cooperative PIONEER

November 2019

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Official publication of

**Meeker
Cooperative**
Light and Power Association

Meeker Co-op is an
Equal Opportunity Provider
and Employer

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**Meeker
Cooperative**
Light and Power Association

VIBRANT Broadband Sign-Up

VIBRANT
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Residential (Check the package you prefer)

	Member	Non-Member
<input type="checkbox"/> ESSENTIAL - Up to 25 Mbps Download & 3 Mbps Upload	\$59.95/Month	\$64.95/Month
<input type="checkbox"/> ESSENTIAL PLUS*	\$69.95/Month	\$74.95/Month
<input type="checkbox"/> STREAMING - Up to 50 Mbps Download & 5 Mbps Upload	\$69.95/Month	\$74.95/Month
<input type="checkbox"/> STREAMING PLUS*	\$79.95/Month	\$84.95/Month
<input type="checkbox"/> ULTRA - Up to 75 Mbps Download & 7 Mbps Upload	\$79.95/Month	\$84.95/Month
<input type="checkbox"/> ULTRA PLUS*	\$89.95/Month	\$94.95/Month
<input type="checkbox"/> EXTREME** - Up to 100 Mbps Download & 10 Mbps Upload	\$89.95/Month	\$94.95/month
<input type="checkbox"/> EXTREME PLUS*	\$99.95/Month	\$104.95/month

☐ I am unsure which package I need. Please contact me to discuss.

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	Member	Non-Member
<input type="checkbox"/> SO/HO ESSENTIAL - Up to 25 Mbps Download & 12 Mbps Upload	\$69.95/Month	\$74.95/Month
<input type="checkbox"/> SO/HO ESSENTIAL PLUS*	\$79.95/Month	\$84.95/Month
<input type="checkbox"/> SO/HO STREAMING - Up to 50 Mbps Download & 25 Mbps Upload	\$84.95/Month	\$89.95/Month
<input type="checkbox"/> SO/HO STREAMING PLUS*	\$94.95/Month	\$99.95/Month
<input type="checkbox"/> SO/HO ULTRA - Up to 75 Mbps Download & 37 Mbps Upload	\$99.95/Month	\$104.95/Month
<input type="checkbox"/> SO/HO ULTRA PLUS*	\$109.95/Month	\$114.95/Month
<input type="checkbox"/> SO/HO EXTREME** - Up to 100 Mbps Download & 50 Mbps Upload	\$114.95/Month	\$119.95/month
<input type="checkbox"/> SO/HO EXTREME PLUS*	\$124.95/Month	\$129.95/month

☐ Internet Phone Service \$39.95/month or **\$34.95/month when BUNDLED** with the package of your choice above. Keep your local number (where available)

**Plus packages include assistance with customer device networking (managed WiFi); Up to 2 in-home service calls/year; Wireless connectivity on up to 5 devices at time of install.*

☐ Fixed Wireless Service

☐ Fiber to the Home Service

☐ Don't Know

Name _____ Home Phone _____

Address _____

E-Mail Address _____ Cell Phone _____

Someone will be calling you to discuss your plan and installation.

For further information, contact us at 320-693-3231.

**Mail to VIBRANT Broadband, 1725 U.S. Hwy. 12 E., Suite 100,
Litchfield, MN 55355. We will respond shortly!
Or call for more information at 320-693-3231.**

Select members will receive an Email Survey

Randomly selected members who have accurate emails on file will receive a Member Satisfaction Survey in their email box late November or early December.

An email survey is being used so that it will be easier and faster for members to complete and submit. Please look for an email from Meeker Cooperative that refers to a survey during that time frame. This is NOT spam.

Your responses are crucial to the Co-op for strategic planning, fine tuning energy management and rebate programs, and improving our service to you, our member owners. The information you provide is kept confidential.

We ask that your email survey be completed by **December 31** Thank you in advance for your help!

If you have changed your email or don't know if you have an email on file, please complete the form below and send it in so we can verify that our records are accurate. Thank you for your time!

Please Update My Member Records

Name _____ Acct. # _____

Home Phone# _____ Business Phone # _____

Cell # _____ Cell 2# _____

Email _____

Please mail to Meeker Co-op, Attn. MSR, 1725 U.S. Hwy. 12 E., Suite 100, Litchfield, MN 55355. Or call our Member Service Reps at 320-693-3231. THANKS!!

Annual Coloring Contest



Enclosed with this issue of the *Pioneer* is a coloring sheet that your child aged 2-12 can color and submit to the Cooperative's Christmas Coloring Contest.

Three entries will be chosen from each age group. Members who attend Coffee On The Co-op will vote on their favorite. The most votes will win.

Winners will receive a \$10 Walmart Gift Card and their artwork will be featured in the January 2020 issue of the *Pioneer*. The deadline to submit entries for the Coloring Contest is **Monday, December 9**. Either drop off your entry at our office or mail to:

Becky Sorenson, Meeker Cooperative, 1725 U.S. Hwy. 12 E., Suite 100, Litchfield, MN 55355.



2020 85th Anniversary Calendar available in December.

Be sure and get yours in our Lobby or at one of the Coffee on the Co-op events listed on Page 3

This four-color calendar has Co-op specific dates to help you remember upcoming events, as well as photos from the Co-op's history files and new photos to enjoy.

Supplies are limited!

Board of Directors

Karen Becker, President — District 2
Eden Lake in Stearns; Harvey, Manannah in Meeker

Kevin Issendorf, Vice President-District 4
Litchfield, Greenleaf in Meeker

Brad Donnay, Secretary — District 3
Luxemburg, Maine Prairie, South Maine Prairie in Stearns; Forest Prairie in Meeker

Karl Lundin, Treasurer — District 9
North Kingston, Kingston, Forest City in Meeker

Paul Bugbee — District 1
Roseville, Irving in Kandiyohi; Paynesville in Stearns; Union Grove in Meeker

Stephen Plaisance — District 5
Fairhaven in Stearns; Cokato, Southside, French Lake in Wright; Dassel in Meeker

Mark Larson — District 6
Harrison, Kandiyohi, Genessee, Fahlun, Lake Elizabeth, E. Lake Lillian in Kandiyohi; Cosmos, Acton, Danielson, Swede Grove in Meeker; Brookfield, Boon Lake in Renville

K. Bruce Krueger — District 7
Collinwood, Cedar Mills in Meeker; Stockholm in Wright; Acoma, Hutchinson in McLeod

Larry Huhn — District 8
Darwin, Ellsworth in Meeker

Chad Felstul — Attorney

Meeker Pioneer

USPS 018-308 ISSN 1525-1055
Periodicals Postage Paid at Litchfield, MN.
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Meeker Pioneer, 1725 US Hwy. 12, Suite 100 Litchfield, MN 55355.

The Meeker Pioneer is published monthly for \$5 per year for members and \$10 per year for non-members by Meeker Cooperative, 1725 U.S. Hwy. 12, Suite 100 Litchfield, MN 55355

CEO/General Manager: Tim Mergen
Editor: Becky Sorenson

The Meeker Pioneer is the official member publication of Meeker Cooperative and focuses on our members, programs and events. All member story ideas and comments are welcome. Send to Becky Sorenson at the address above.

Office Hours:
Monday - Friday 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

For 24-hour service call
320-693-3231
Fax: 320-693-2980
Web sites: www.meeker.coop
VIBRANTBB.net
Use the "Contact Us" form on the home page

Meeker Cooperative Mission Statement

"To enhance the quality of life of the Cooperative's Members and Customers by providing safe, reliable, competitively priced energy and other value-added services, while practicing environmental stewardship."

This Christmas, give a gift the whole family can get excited about!

Your super-busy family needs
super-fast internet speeds



VIBRANT
Broadband
Powered by Meeker Cooperative

Who wants to wait for files to download or videos to buffer?

Not your busy family! VIBRANT Broadband’s fiber supported system delivers speeds you’ve only dreamed about — up to 100 Mbps — so your home’s internet will be fast enough for simultaneous use by multiple people, devices and applications:

- Smartphones
- Tablets
- Snapchat
- Pandora
- FaceTime
- Streaming

Sign up TODAY and your family will be all smiles Christmas morning!

Visit www.VIBRANTBB.net, call 320-693-3231 or use the sign-up sheet on the front of this Pioneer!

Come Enjoy Coffee and Treats on the Co-op!



Coffee On The Co-op Events

Tuesday, Dec. 17

Triple R Grill, Kimball, 9-11 am

Wednesday, Dec. 18

Darwin Community Center, 9-11 am

Keek's in Watkins, 1-3 pm

Thursday, Dec. 19

Meeker Co-op, Litchfield, 9 am - 1 pm

Meeker Cooperative will be closed on Thurs., November 28 and Fri., the 29th

Our employees will be celebrating Thanksgiving with their families those two days. In the case of a power outage, feel free to call us anytime at **320-693-3231** and our dispatch team will assist you night or day.

Have a safe, warm and blessed holiday.

Applications Available for Co-op Board of Director Candidates

Meer Cooperative, as a member-owned organization, has a board of directors elected by its membership. Directors are elected from each of Meeker's nine districts. In 2020, director elections are scheduled in Districts 1, 2, 5 & 6

The following townships are included:

District 1

- Roseville, Irving in Kandiyohi; Paynesville in Stearns; Union Grove in Meeker.

District 2

- Eden Lake in Stearns; Harvey, Manannah in Meeker.

District 5

- Fairhaven in Stearns; Cokato, Southside, French Lake in Wright; Dassel in Meeker

District 6

- Harrison, Kandiyohi, Genessee, Fahlun, Lake Elizabeth, E. Lake Lillian in Kandiyohi; Cosmos, Acton, Danielson, Swede Grove in Meeker; Brookfield, Boon Lake in Renville.

The District 5 seat is up for election as there had been no candidate for the seat in 2019. The Board of Directors called for candidates as described in the Bylaws and appointed a member to fill the seat until the next Annual Meeting. That seat will be up for election again in 2022 during its normal rotation.

Any member in the districts identified above that is interested in being placed on the ballot and meets the qualifications identified in the Bylaws must submit a completed Meeker Cooperative Application for Director Form by close of business on November 25, 2019.

All potential candidates must declare their intention to be placed on the ballot by submitting a completed application as described and be declared qualified for placement on the ballot by the Qualifications and Election Committee. No write-in candidates shall be deemed valid.

The Bylaws state that the Board of Directors shall appoint a Qualifications and Election Committee (Q&E Committee) consisting of one Member from each of the Director Districts which is not up for election. It shall be the responsibility of the Q&E Committee to review all applications submitted and to determine that all candidates meet stated qualifications.

The Committee will notify any potential candidate that does not meet the qualifications and allow seven (7) days for the candidate to comply with said requirements. The decisions of the Q&E Committee will be final.

The Committee will have the authority to place qualified candidates on the ballot for election, and for any district in which there is only one candidate, waive the ballot process and declare the candidate elected.

The Qualifications & Election Committee shall prepare and post at the principal office of the Cooperative at least seventy-five (75) days before the meeting the list of qualified candidates for Director elections for each Director District up for election. If no Member from a district up for election is placed on the ballot, said position shall be deemed vacant following the annual meeting and the Board of Directors may appoint a Member from said district to fill said position until the next annual meeting and election of directors.

For complete director election information, qualifications and requirements, please visit www.meeker.coop, select "Member Services" at the top of the home page, scroll down the menu to select "Downloadable Forms", and choose the Director Application Packet or contact Mary Alice Holm at 320-693-3231 to receive a copy of the Packet.

Six Efficient Holiday Gifts to Give (or Keep Yourself!)



Smart thermostats like the Ecobee (pictured here) adapt to your energy use habits, which ultimately helps you save energy and money in the long run.
Photo Source: Ecobee



An e-bike can make cycling easier if you face challenging terrain, bike to work or find regular cycling too physically challenging.
Photo Source: Willie Markkanen

By Pat Keegan and Brad Thiessen
Dear Pat and Brad:

With the holidays approaching, I'm starting to think about unique gifts for my family and friends that won't use too much energy. Can you share any ideas?
Monica

Dear Monica: It's always a great idea to give energy efficient gifts! Here are a few ideas based on a range of prices. You might even want to keep one or two of these for yourself!

1. **Smart power strip.** Price: \$15 to \$100: Smart power strips are the perfect gift for your tech-savvy family members and friends because they'll likely need the extra outlets for their many devices. Smart power strips give more control than traditional ones. By plugging the main hardware item, such as a computer or monitor, into the master outlet, you can easily control the rest of the devices. When that main device is turned off, everything else plugged into the strip also powers off. Some smart power strips can also be operated through a remote control or smartphone app, and some include programmable timers.
2. **Smart thermostat.** Price: \$30 to \$600: A smart thermostat can adjust the temperature by learning your energy use habits over time, which saves you money and keeps you more comfortable. It can also be controlled through a smartphone app. Just make sure you're going to use all of its functionality before taking the leap.
3. **Solar backpack.** Price: \$30 to \$325: Walking or biking to the office, the field or a mountain lake? It may sound crazy, but you can actually make the most of the sun's energy with a solar backpack. These handy devices collect and store enough electricity to power a phone, tablet or even a laptop. The solar panels stitched onto the back of the packs are flexible and waterproof. Best of all, they have all the features and functionality of their traditional non-solar cousins.



Electric scooters are perfect to use if you have a quick daily commute, or they can simply be used as a fun way to scoot around the neighborhood.
Photo Source: Miki Yoshihito

4. **E-bike.** Price: \$250 to \$9,000: Electric bikes, or e-bikes, are regular bicycles with an electric motor that can be engaged as needed. E-bikes are becoming increasingly popular with people who face challenging terrain, bike to work and don't want to work up a sweat, or perhaps find regular cycling too physically challenging. Studies also show that e-biking can bring many of the same physical benefits as non-assisted pedaling. They even come in foldable versions. One downside is they are heavier than regular bicycles.
5. **Electric scooter.** Price: \$80 to \$3,000: The \$49 foldable, foot-powered scooter that exploded onto the scene a decade ago has grown up in a big way. In some larger cities, electric scooters are now available to rent at various locations, found and paid for via an app. Or you can buy one to use for your daily commute or as a fun way to simply scoot around the neighborhood. Higher-quality versions will have longer range, larger tires and better suspension – along with



A solar backpack is an easy way to bring portable energy for your small electronic devices.
Photo Source: Hannu Makarainen

- a higher cost, of course. The catch is that they're still largely confined to paved surfaces.
6. **Energy efficient tablets.** Price: \$40 to \$4,000: You may already have at least one tablet in your home, but have you considered how energy efficient it is? Try this: Instead of using your TV to binge that new show, consider an ENERGY STAR-rated tablet, and you can use seven times less power! Simply look for the ENERGY STAR label when you're shopping for new tablets.

Looking for an efficient gift that costs practically nothing? Enjoy a good book and a cozy evening at home, which requires no energy use at all. Don't forget to put on your favorite sweater and pair of fuzzy slippers so you can lower the thermostat a couple of degrees. Now that's an energy efficient evening worth repeating!

This column was co-written by Pat Keegan and Brad Thiessen of Collaborative Efficiency. For more information on energy efficient gifts, please visit: www.collaborativeefficiency.com/energytips.

LEDs changing the future of lighting in the U.S.

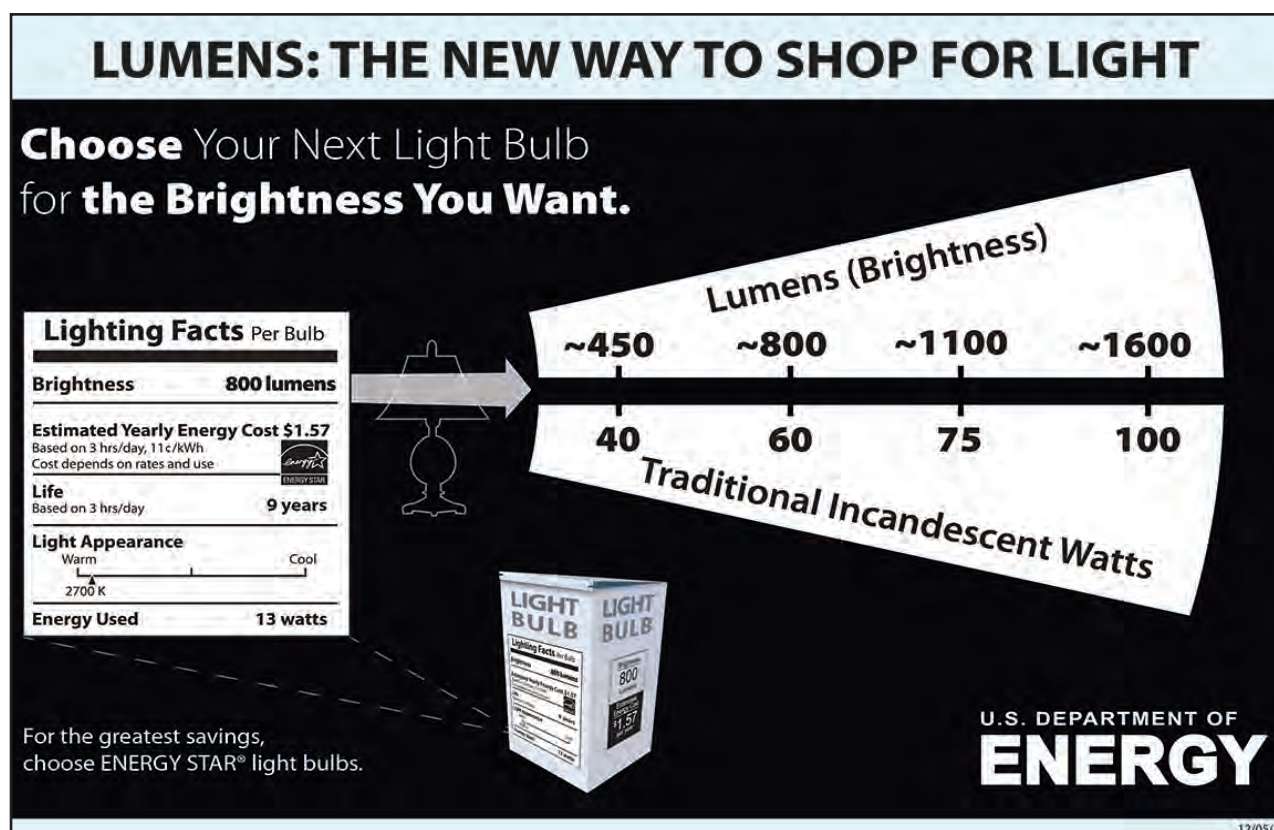
If you haven't committed to using LED lighting in your home and/or small office, here are some reasons to take another look.

Residential LEDs -- especially ENERGY STAR rated products - use at least 75% less energy, and last 25 times longer, than your regular light bulb. That translates to changing your incandescent bulb 25 times for every one LED bulb change. If you hate changing light bulbs and the waste that is generated by throwing 25 bulbs away, then an LED is the right bulb for you.

The U.S. Department of Energy estimates that widespread use of LED lighting has the "greatest potential impact on energy savings in the United States." By 2027, they say that widespread use of LEDs could save about 348 TWh (terrawatt hours) of electricity compared to no LED use. This is the equivalent annual electrical output of 44 large electric power plants (1000 megawatts each), and a total savings of more than \$30 billion at today's electricity prices (www.energy.gov).

The brightness, or lumen levels, of the lights in your home may vary widely, so here's a rule of thumb:

To replace a 100 watt (W) incandescent bulb, look for a bulb that gives you about 1600 lumens. If you want something dimmer, go for less lumens; if you prefer brighter light, look for more lumens.



Maybe you've already made the switch to LEDs in your home. But how about switching your traditional Christmas lighting for LEDs? Did you know that LEDs are:

Safer: LEDs are much cooler than incandescent lights, reducing the risk of combustion or burnt fingers.

Sturdier: LEDs are made with epoxy lenses, not glass, and are much more resistant to breakage.

Longer lasting: The same LED string could still be in use 40 holiday seasons from now.

Easier to install: Up to 25 strings of LEDs can be connected end-to-end without overloading a wall socket.



You can save even more by setting a timer for outdoor lighting and decorations. Program the timer so the lights turn on in the evening and turn off later at night when you typically go to sleep.

Industry News

Digging Into Smart-Home Research in South Dakota

A partnership between NRECA and a South Dakota co-op to develop a utility-connected home took a big step forward this month as Dakota State University launched a Connected Home Research Project at its Cyber Labs center.

The university, a national leader in technology and cyber security education, is collaborating with NRECA and East River Electric Power Cooperative in Madison (one of Meeker Co-op's power suppliers) to create a "home hub" that would allow the growing number of smart devices in consumers' homes to communicate with co-ops to save energy and money.

"From WiFi thermostats to smart appliances, our network of electric cooperatives is seeing increased adoption of smart-home technologies among consumers," said Chris Studer, chief member and public relations officer for the generation and transmission co-op, which provides 25 member co-ops with wholesale power in eastern South Dakota and western Minnesota. As part of the TechAdvantage Expo at the annual meeting, NRECA set up a model of a utility-connected home, featuring wireless doorbell cameras, keyless door locks, security sensors on the windows, a thermostat controlled by a smartphone app and other smart devices.

"As use of smart-home technology continues to increase among consumers, we're hoping to use this research project to identify technologies that will help us in our transition to a new energy management future," Studer said. The project's research space at the university's new Madison Cyber Labs center—also known as MadLabs—looks like a smart-home kitchen. It features other smart products, including lighting, window coverings, home security, a washer and dryer, and a water heater. Researchers will likely add more technology to the lab as the project progresses, including an electric vehicle charger and smart locks.

~Electric Co-op News

St. Cloud to get electric vehicle charging stations

The St. Cloud City Council last night voted unanimously to install electric vehicle charging stations in town. Public Services Director Pat Shea says the stations will come at no cost to the city. The money to build the four-space charging station will come from a legal settlement between the state of Minnesota and Volkswagen. Customers who use the stations will have to pay for the electricity themselves.

There are several charging station locations up for discussion along Highway 10 and Interstate 94. Council Member Dave Masters says he's glad that St. Cloud is getting the charging stations as the market for electric vehicles increases.

~KNSI

Paul Bugbee becomes a Credentialed Cooperative Director

Paul Bugbee, a Cooperative Director from District One, recently received certification as a “Credentialed Cooperative Director.” This educational opportunity is presented by NRECA (National Rural Electric Cooperative Association) and is the first part of a three-part Director Education Program available to all cooperative directors in the nation.

The Credentialed Cooperative Director (CCD) program consists of five courses that focus on basic governance knowledge and the essential skills required of cooperative directors. The CCD prepares directors to fulfill their fiduciary duty as elected officials serving on behalf of their membership. Upon completion of all five CCD courses, directors are awarded the Credentialed Cooperative Director Certificate by NRECA.

Once the CCD is completed, participants can then pursue the Board Leadership Certificate.



Board Chair Karen Becker presents Director Paul Bugbee with his Credentialed Cooperative Director Certificate.



Be careful where you place them

Attaching deer stands to utility poles is never a good idea. But did you also know that having deer stands underneath high-voltage transmission lines is also a no-no? That’s because it puts you at risk and can make you (and your neighbors’) lights flicker or cause power reliability issues?.

“We take care to remove dangerous trees, items and objects in our rights of way,” said Craig Poorker, land rights manager for Great River Energy. “Deer stands in our easements are a safety hazard.”

Great River Energy, one of Meeker Cooperative’s wholesale providers of electricity, works with the North American Electric Reliability Corporation to adhere to standards for operating and maintaining power lines. If found in violation of any standards (including deer stands in rights of way), Great River Energy can face fines in the millions of dollars.

Some reasons why deer stands and other building aren’t allowed in rights of way include:

- The structure may interfere with access to the line for maintenance and emergency repairs.
- A fire in the stand within the easement area could damage the transmission line. Location #06-26-201
- It may be closer to a line than electrical codes allow.

If you have a deer stand near a transmission line, please remove it and hunt from the safety of the woods.

FALL SAFETY TIPS FOR KIDS!

Fall is finally here! The leaves are changing, the weather is cooler and the holidays are just around the corner. But Fall also brings a higher risk of home fires and electrical safety hazards.

Read the safety tips below and fill in the blank with the correct term from the word bank.

1. Candles and _____ should only be used by adults.

2. An adult should always stay in the kitchen when something is _____.

3. Smoke alarms should be tested every _____ to ensure they are working. Batteries should be replaced at least once every _____ or right away if they start to “beep.”

4. Make sure all _____ are blown out before leaving a room.

5. Keep any items that can burn away from the stove, toaster and other cooking _____.

Energy Explorers

WORD BANK

APPLIANCES

COOKING

YEAR

MATCHES

CANDLES


MONTH

Answer Key: 1. matches 2. cooking 3. month 4. candles 5. appliances

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Trim your holiday energy costs by choosing energy efficient LED lights! LED holiday lights use less energy and can last up to 40 seasons. They’re also easier to install – you can connect up to 25 LED strings without overloading a wall socket!

Source: energy.gov



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Amazing Cream Pie

Julie Hilsen of Kimball submitted this month's winning recipe for **Favorite Pie Recipe**. She will have \$10 credited to her account. Congratulations!

Amazing Cream Pie

2 ready-made graham cracker crusts
2 Pkgs. cream cheese, room temperature
1 can sweetened condensed milk

Tub of Cool Whip
Pie filling of your choice

Mix cream cheese and sweetened condensed milk. Fold in a tub of Cool Whip. This should make enough for two pie crusts. Place mixture in pie crusts and top with your favorite canned pie filling (or cook fruit and make your own). What a quick and easy dessert! Can also be made in 9 x 13 pan.

**For December, submit your Favorite Recipe
using Potatoes by November 27 to:**

Meeker Cooperative, ATTN: Becky Sorenson, 1725 US Hwy 12, Suite 100, Litchfield, MN 55355

For Sale by Sealed Bid

Meeker Cooperative is selling this 2000 Sportsman 5 with a 500cc liquid cooled, 4-stroke engine, a plow and winch.



Asset 60035
Serial #4XACL50A4Yd423573
585.2 Hours
2,190 Miles

All sealed bids must be in to the Co-op, attn: Luke Johnson by November 29. Please contact Kelly at 320-693-3231 for more information or a test drive during normal business hours (M-F, 8-4:30). Meeker Co-op, 1725 US Hwy. 12 E., Litchfield, MN 55355

\$1,000 College Scholarship Available For Dependents of Co-op Members

Meeker Cooperative is pleased to make available a \$1,000 college scholarship funded by Basin Electric Power Cooperative, one Meeker's power suppliers.

To be eligible a student must:

- be a dependent child (including adopted or step-children) of a Meeker Cooperative member; Location #07-11-101
- be enrolled or planning to enroll in a full-time undergraduate course of study at an accredited, two-year or four-year college, university or vocational/technical school;
- enter college in the fall of the same year the scholarship is given;
- not have previously received this award; be a US citizen; and
- complete and submit all required materials and the scholarship application form by the application deadline.

Completed applications must reach Meeker Cooperative by close of business on Wednesday, January 29, 2020.

The application is available on Meeker's website at www.meeker.coop. Select Download Forms from the Member Services tab. The form may be completed on-line, but must be printed to submit with the supporting materials.

Applications are also available at Meeker's office or by calling Mary Alice Holm at 320-693-3231.

All decisions by the scholarship selection committee will be final.

Additional scholarship opportunities may be available. Watch for more information in the *Pioneer* as it becomes available.

This Christmas, give a welcome gift of electricity!

The holidays can be challenging for people in this economy. Not only do they have their normal expenses (which seem to be growing) they also have their Christmas gift list, holiday cooking and baking costs. Then there are those who seem to have everything and it's a challenge to know what to get them.

Consider purchasing a gift certificate for billing credits to put under their tree. It's a gift that fits everyone and will be truly appreciated.

To purchase a gift certificate, contact our Member Service Department at 320-693-3231, or stop into the office.

Then check that gift off your list!



Statement of Nondiscrimination

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs).

Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident. Person with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

(1) mail:

U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;

(2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or

(3) email: program.intakeusda.gov.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

Vacationers and Snowbirds: Check this before leaving town!

When leaving home for an extended length of time, turning off the water heater and the water supply to your home is a good idea. But not all good ideas are simple tasks.

Several Cooperative Members with dual fuel heating systems turned off the breaker to their water heater while they took extended trips to warmer climates. Instead of saving them money, however, it led to higher electric bills. Location #28-33-413

Quite often, the off-peak meter is wired to the same breaker as the water heater and, without knowing it, these members may have turned off the power to their energy management (EM) meter and EM controls. If this was the case, any electric heat used by the off-peak electric heating equipment is uncontrolled and billed at the general service rate rather than the off-peak rate. The result is a higher electric bill.

To prevent this from happening, Meeker Cooperative encourages you to complete this simple test of your dual fuel space heating system.

- 1. Turn on the electric dual fuel space heating system.
- 2. Turn off the breaker to your water heater.
- 3. Check to see if the off-peak or EM meter is running and registering energy used.
- 4. If the EM meter is not running, the water heater breaker is the power source for the EM control equipment and the EM meter. If this is the case, you must contact your electrical contractor and request that a disconnect be installed near your water heater. This will allow you to shut down your water heater while maintaining power to the EM equipment and meter.



The Power to Protect Your Best Friend.

Our interactive security systems protect your loved ones and pets from intruders, carbon monoxide, fire and more. Watch live video, arm or disarm your system and control your lights and thermostat from web and mobile devices.

888.264.6380 | heartlandss.com



Pioneer Ads — Free want ad service for members. Please limit your ad to nine words, one word per line. One phone number please. Use the coupon below or pick one up in our office. Ads will be printed for one month only. Submit again for addtl. months. Three ads per member per month limit. Include your name and address, which will be used for identification purposes only. Ads received by Nov. 27 will be included in the Dec. issue.

Please run this ad in the next Pioneer

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone number: _____

Remember to limit your ad to nine words!

1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____

4 _____ 5 _____ 6 _____

7 _____ 8 _____ 9 _____

Clip and Send to: Meeker Cooperative, 1725 US Hwy. 12, Suite 100, Litchfield, MN 55355 Attn: Becky Sorenson or email rsorenson@meeker.coop

Please check ad category

___ For Sale, Misc.

___ Agricultural

___ Automotive

___ Wanted

___ Giveaway

___ Service

___ For Rent

For Sale - Miscellaneous

- Winter special 21" walk-behind snow thrower. \$125. 320-221-5127.
- 40'x12' beige carpet (new) w/pad. Price reduced. 320-693-4118.
- Morehouse 3pt. hyd. wood splitter, 24" stroke. \$350. 320-221-1549.
- Snow King snowblower, 12hp, 33", elec. start, runs gd. \$180. 320-290-2818.
- Metal bunkbed w/ mattresses, bedding. \$175. Kimball 320-398-8517.

- 29" Spirit 10hp snowblower, runs gd, auger won't turn. \$50. 320-250-7823.
- 10 GPM submersible well pump w/motor. \$350. 320-221-0494.
- One horse open sleigh w/shaves. Best offer. 320-693-8369.
- Lift chair, lk. new. Used very little. 320-275-2205.
- 2011 Polaris IQ LXT550 reverse elec. start, exc. cond. \$4,500. 320-693-6176.
- Location #25-20-403
- Winchester 30-30 & several shotguns/semiauto pumps. 320-693-4246.

- Polaris Sportsman ATV. 320-398-5025.
- 3'x6' High gun cabt., pine w/glass drs. Locks. Nice! 320-275-2493.
- Wireless lightbar, 2-way mount on towed vehicle. 320-905-6597.
- Brown futon. \$20. 320-583-5621.
- 3 BR, 2 BA lake home, dbl. garage, 1+ acre. 320-626-3148.
- Snowman memorabilia. 320-444-3457.
- Seven Aetco wood turning knives. \$30. Darwin. 320-275-4530.
- Desk w/5 drawers in gd. cond. 320-275-9898.

- Lightweight bobsled w/ one or two-horse hitch. \$500. 320-275-2570.
- Invacare Softform elec. hosp. bed w/Excel matt. & dbl. handrail. \$250. 320-693-6775.
- Snow blower cab, walk-behind snowblower, Universal Mnt. \$30. 320-221-2487.
- 8" gas ice auger, exc. cond. \$125, + other ice fish. Equip. 320-221-2487.
- 5 gal. wet/dry shop vac, lk. new. \$30. 320-221-2487.
- 2005 Arctic Cat 500 4x4 ATV w/poly plow. \$2,000/obo. 320-693-8136.
- New Amish-built 4'x8' dark house., plywood ends, canvas top. 320-221-0337.
- Two leather jackets, Men's XL, Ladies' Med. 320-693-8405.
- Men's Columbia winter navy jacket, XL, tall, zipper lining. 320-693-8405.
- Four antique SAD irons, steel/wood handles. 320-693-8405.

For Sale - Automotive

- BF Goodrich T-275/65 R18 6-hole Ford alum. rims. Make offer. 320-453-8231.
- Pair Goodyear Wrangler HP-P275-R60x20, lk. new. \$200. 651-343-2177.

For Sale - Agricultural

- 2 cast iron wheel weights for 112 J.D. L&G. \$175. 320-693-8773.

- Fencing plastic clips wire; 15 cinder blocks; 30 solid blocks. 320-293-5435.
- J.D. 4010 gas cab heat #48 loader new batt. 320-587-5403.
- 4x5 round bales grass hay. \$20. 320-764-2286.

Wanted

- Store inside 6x12 enclosed trailer. Watkins area. 320-492-8050.
- Restored Farmall Super M or M tractor. 320-398-8421.
- Someone to paint ceiling and/or remodel door, remove gutters. 320-398-2774.
- 21" kitchen stove, gas or elec. 320-557-7746.
- Small outboard motor. 320-557-7746.
- Used treadmill in good condition. 320-221-0382.
- Older approx.. 6'x4' hog feeder w/lid. Any condition. 320-234-7019.

Giveaway

- Firewood. You cut & haul. South of Dassel. 320-275-2958.
- Laying hens, 2 yrs. old. Two young roosters. 320-221-2743.
- Wood stove ash for lawns/gardens. 320-221-0494.
- Two steel clothesline poles, you pick up. 320-309-3171.

Services

- Snow removal, plowtruck, skid, Grove Cty/ Litch/Atwater. Mr. Dirt. 320-894-7013.
- Denfeld Welding & Machine. Mobile weld., mach. shop services. 320-250-6533.
- For rent: Rice Lk. cabin, 3BR/2BA, sleeps 9, furnished. 513-827-2942.
- For rent: Lake Stella home. \$2,000/mo. References required. 612-281-3921.

Find your location number

Four location numbers have been hidden within this Pioneer. If you find your number and claim it by calling Meeker Cooperative by November 27, you will have \$10 credited to your account! If you find your number and your information is correct in our system, you'll receive a bill credit equal to one month's output from a Member Solar panel. Good luck!





Coloring Contest for children Ages 2-12! Color either photo (or both) and submit **by December 9, 2019.**

Name of child _____ Age _____

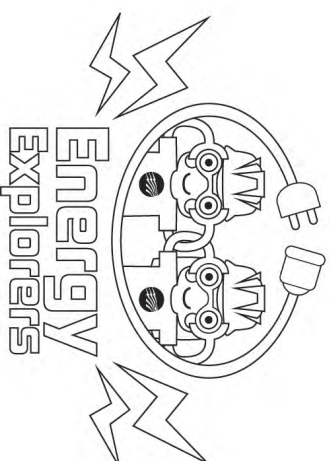
Parent/Grandparent Name _____

Address _____ Phone _____

Please complete and mail to Becky Sorenson, Meeker Cooperative, 1725 US Hwy. 12 E., Suite 100, Litchfield, MN 55355

Happy Holidays from Your Electric Co-op

Wishing you a merry and
bright holiday season!



Energy | Remember to decorate your tree with
Tip | energy-saving LED holiday lights.