

Meeker Cooperative PIONEER

April 2020

In this issue...



Sign up for VIBRANT 3



Spring farm safety 4

Twins Game trip and
North Dakota Energy Tour
Canceled

Official publication of

**Meeker
Cooperative**
Light and Power Association

Meeker Co-op is an
Equal Opportunity Provider
and Employer

Meeker Cooperative's Response to COVID-19

The following letter was sent from Board President Karen Becker and CEO Tim Mergen to members Monday, March 30:

On Wednesday, March 25, Governor Walz enacted an Executive Order to "Stay at Home." This "Stay at Home" order is in effect from 11:59 p.m. on Friday, March 27, through Friday, April 10. The order provides exemptions for essential services such as electric distribution and broadband/internet service. As an essential service provider, Meeker Cooperative will continue overall business operations while practicing preventative pandemic measures. Keeping the lights on and internet connected is vital to our member-owners as children begin

distance learning and parents work from home. Following are some of the measures we have enacted to ensure the health of the Co-op's employees and our members while continuing business operations. Additional actions to help members through this pandemic are listed as well.

- Meeker's office lobby will remain closed at least through the "Stay at Home" order.
- While many employees are working from home your phone calls will continue to be answered as best and quickly as possible during our normal office hours of 7:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. The Co-op's office number is 320-693-3231.

- Additional ways to contact us are by filling out the "Contact Us" information on the Co-op's website www.meeker.coop or by email to customerservice@meeker.coop.

- We have taken actions to ensure the safety and health of our field personnel while we continue to provide reliable service and restore any outages as quickly and efficiently as possible.

We encourage members to make bill payments through:

SmartHub – SmartHub allows you to manage automatic credit card drafts and

Cooperative's Response to COVID-19 *continued on page 7*

VIBRANT-U Education Scholarship Program offers 3 months FREE internet for at-home students

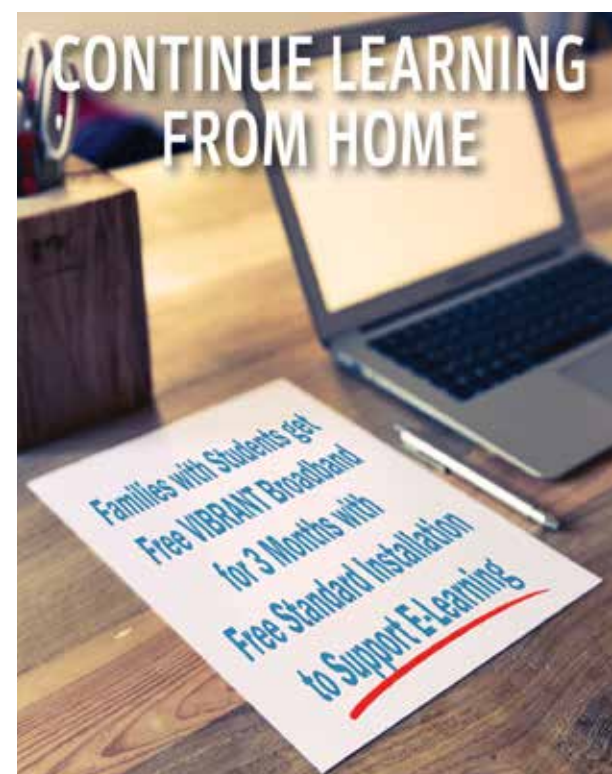
Meeker Cooperative wants to help students continue their learning through this time of crisis by offering our fiber optic supported VIBRANT Broadband service for three months FREE if you sign up by April 30.

VIBRANT Broadband offers the highest speeds and consistent connection to the Internet for our rural communities using fiber optic technologies. By signing up for our "VIBRANT-U Education Scholarship" Program, you can enjoy the super fast, reliable speeds FREE for the first 3 months of service with FREE standard installation.

Our Essential Package of 25Mbps download with 3Mbps upload service is FREE along with FREE Standard installation for any Fixed Wireless system or the Fiber Direct to the Home up to 800 feet from Meeker's fiber-optic splice points. A 3-year service commitment is required.

After the first 3 months, standard monthly billing applies. VIBRANT Broadband's Internet packages start at \$59.95 per month, and you can upgrade to even faster speeds at any time.

VIBRANT-U Scholarship Program
Continued on Page 8



The VIBRANT-U Education Scholarship program offers 3 free months of the Essential Package of 25Mbps download with 3Mbps upload service. **Standard installation is also free.** Ask a VIBRANT Broadband representative for details or visit the website address below to learn more.



320-693-3231 • VIBRANTBROADBAND.COM/SCHOLARSHIP
Ends April 30th, 2020. New sign-ups only. 3-year contract required. See website or ask representative for more details.



Covid-19

We are in a unique time. I've heard it said the Covid-19 pandemic is this generation's equivalent to Pearl Harbor. Not having lived through that infamous event — or the ensuing war and all the hardships and loss every American endured — I can't make an honest comparison. However, in my 60-plus years as a citizen of the United States, I can't recall any other event affecting the lives of so many people on a daily occurrence.

The Board of Directors and I have dual responsibilities: to keep our services (electric and broadband) operating for our member-owners' use and the health and safety of the Co-op's employees. As our most recent membership letter (also found on the front page) states, we have taken steps to do both. Without getting into all the items covered by the letter, I thought I'd fill you in on some of the Covid-19 precautionary details we have undertaken.

Typically we have 40-plus employees reporting to the office daily. With the "Stay at Home" order in effect, we have reduced that number to nine. We are doing our best to follow the Government's recommendation to have employees work from home if possible. We felt as an essential service provider, moving employees home — thereby isolating them from one another — made sense. Should the Co-op's office somehow become contaminated then every employee working at the office would be subject to self-quarantine. If employees would be required to be quarantined in mass, it would adversely hurt the operation of the Co-op to keep the lights on and VIBRANT Broadband operational.

Meeker's linemen have been split into four 2-man crews. The crews report directly to their trucks which are no longer parked in the warehouse; each crew has a designated parking area in our pole yard. Service orders, job assignments and questions are handled through electronic communication. If paperwork is needed to be passed back and forth, it is placed in a beverage cooler sitting outside the warehouse for that purpose. If they need materials from inside the warehouse, our warehouse personnel gather it and place it at designated sites

outside the building for them to pick up. This "extra social distancing" helps to eliminate all the linemen from having to go into quarantine — or worse — becoming all infected at the same time.

Additional field personnel such as the line stakers, energy management technicians, metering technician, and VIBRANT installers are stationed at home. They go to job sites and member locations directly to and from their homes. Again, all the precautions of dealing with paperwork, communication and materials that I mentioned concerning the linemen are also undertaken with this group of employees.

We have instituted safety and health procedures for personnel should they need to enter a member's premise. Those procedures include asking the member if:

- the member is comfortable with them entering their home or premise.
- anyone living at the home has recently been sick.
- anyone living at the home has been directed to be quarantined or is self-quarantined.

Field personnel that do not need to enter the home but simply are working on outside equipment have been directed to phone the homeowner from outside the home rather than knocking on the door and speaking to them in person about the work they are performing.

Office personnel have their computer workstations and phones set up at home where possible. Communication for remote employees is being handled electronically and paperwork that needs to be exchanged back and forth is being handled under similar procedures as that for the field personnel. U.S. mail is being sterilized as much as possible before being disseminated.

From a technology perspective, getting all the computers and related equipment out of the office and hooked up in each employee's home was a bit like shoppers on Black Friday: when the store's doors open, it becomes a mad dash. This was the same for us having to get everything hooked up and working in a short amount of time. Even when

we had everything on our side connected and in place, not every employee had adequate internet to handle the additional data needs. It turns out the data speeds they were paying for were nowhere near the speeds they were receiving. Thankfully most employees had already hooked up to VIBRANT Broadband so poor data reception was isolated to only a couple.

A frustrating experience we have become aware of is the complete overload on the phone lines. Employees and members who have tried to call the office have been receiving many messages similar to "your call cannot be completed at this time". This is not a failure of the Co-op's phone lines or system but rather the various telephone companies. It seems they do not have adequate facilities in place to handle the increased phone calls taking place across their respective systems. This has been particularly noticeable for cell phone calls. Hopefully they will have their systems upgraded in short order. However, I doubt rural areas will be their focus for the necessary equipment upgrades.

Even though we have no access into the building by the public and extremely limited access by employees, we still have increased cleaning efforts throughout the building. Common touch points such as door handles, light switches, copiers, tables and chairs are sanitized several times a day. We have secured hallway doors in open positions to make one less touch point when passing through an area. If an in-person conversation is necessary, it is generally done without entering the office, but standing half-way into the hallway to keep a safe distance. One minor benefit is that it does seem to keep conversations short and to the point.

We have become accustomed to doing a lot of "firsts" dealing with the Covid-19 pandemic. One of them was the Board of Directors' March board meeting, which was held via conference call. Conducting the meeting by conference call was certainly a first in my 22-plus years here.

As we and the nation continue this war on the Coronavirus, the Co-op has made some bold decisions and taken some unconventional actions.

Hopefully by our doing these things now it will prevent us from having to take extreme measures in the future.

I'd be neglectful if I didn't mention the great can-do attitude of the employees. They remind me of the WWII poster featuring Rosie the Riveter and her "We can do it" fame. Many are doing tasks they wouldn't normally do and are learning new and different processes. They have taken over living rooms, dining room tables and other corners of their homes to set up their "own Meeker office". We have asked a great deal from them as we all navigate our way through the pandemic. A good team of employees with a good attitude helps make managing all the changes and challenges a bit less stressful. When you see them, thank them — of course from a safe social distance.

Many members have lost jobs or their business has been forced to close up. Schools and daycares have closed, forcing children to be at home when they normally wouldn't be. Activities and events are all cancelled, forcing changes to family routines. The Board of Directors and employees understand that for you and other Co-op member families, this is a difficult time filled with a lot of stress. As we continue to work to keep your lights on and VIBRANT internet streaming, we are always concerned for our Cooperative family, be they member or employee. As a nonprofit provider of essential electric and broadband service, we will continue to put the needs and welfare of the Co-op's member-owners and employees first during this emergency.

Help Us Help You -

We have seen an uptick in members asking about our VIBRANT "Rip Snort'n Fast" internet. No question this is due to people now having to work from home, eLearning for school children or both.

As the VIBRANT internet testimonials on Page 3 demonstrate, VIBRANT has been a godsend for many

Mergen's Message *continued on page 6*

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

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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."

VIBRANT™ Testimonials

"I wanted VIBRANT so that we would have faster internet and I thought that the speed you get for the price point made it a good value. I also like the fact that I can get both services on one bill instead of two. With three boys doing e-learning at home, this was a good time to get it. The VIBRANT service is a lot faster than what we had before. The installer was very polite, professional and even though they had to dig into the ditch to bury the main cable, they left the area neat and didn't look too disturbed. I'm very happy so far!"

Randy S., Eden Valley
Signed up through VIBRANT-U Scholarship Program

"We got VIBRANT because we had a break-in and they stole 28 items from our home. The security company said that we needed at least 50 mbps download speed to run the security cameras we had installed. We hadn't really planned to get VIBRANT before this, but we were so glad we did! We had just been using our phones for internet. Now we can stream T.V. and movies besides the security. It's been a win/win for us!"

Bill & Carol S.
Litchfield

"We didn't sign up for VIBRANT before because we didn't know how long we would be in our house and didn't want to sign up for a three-year contract.

Then we all started working and going to school from home. So I went to the VIBRANT website again saw the terms had included the option of paying for the installation costs by rolling them into the first 12 monthly bills. With this option it just made more sense. The best we could get with Arvig was about 6 mbps and their top package was 15 mbps.

We've got 14-year-old twins and one 16-year-old all on their devices at once and with us both working from home now, we really needed it. Now we can be on our cell phones, streaming, the kids can be on their devices and its not a problem any longer.

The installation was so quick and everyone was very friendly. I was used to fast internet in Cokato where I work, but not at home. I'm just about crying thinking about how fast it is now and how nice it's going to be."

Jason D.
Watkins

TIRED OF SLOW INTERNET SERVICE?

VIBRANT is the solution!
Broadband™

Powered by Meeker Cooperative

We offer several high-speed Internet connection packages. Stop **Suffering from Buffering™** and start **Dreaming of Streaming™!**

PACKAGES STARTING AT:

ESSENTIAL PACKAGE
Up to **25Mbps** download speed **\$59.95/mo.**

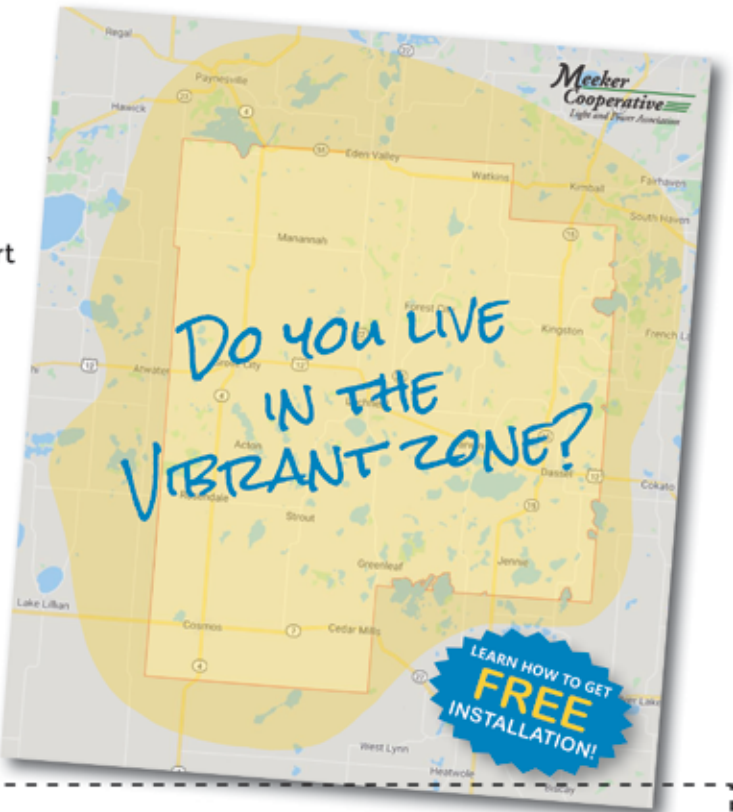
STREAMING PACKAGE
Up to **50Mbps** download speed **\$69.95/mo.**

ULTRA PACKAGE
Up to **75Mbps** download speed **\$74.95/mo.**

EXTREME PACKAGE
Up to **100Mbps** download speed **\$79.95/mo.**

Packages also available for Small Office/ Home Office and Business. Contact us or visit our website for more information.

320-693-3231
VIBRANTBROADBAND.COM



CLIP IT,
MAIL IT,
AND WE'LL
CONTACT
You!

☐

YES!

I want to know more about **VIBRANT Broadband** high-speed Internet for my home or business.

Name

Address

Property Address

City

Best Way To Contact Me

☐ Phone

Phone Number

Check all that apply

☐ Text

Mobile Number

By giving us your phone number or email, you agree to allow us to contact you. We NEVER give out your information to third parties. See our Privacy Policy on our website.

☐ Email

Email Address

Best Time to Call:

☐ Weekday AM

☐ Weekday PM/Evening

☐ Weekend

Other

Mail to: Meeker Cooperative • 1725 US Hwy 12 E, Suite 100 • Litchfield, MN 55355

Spring into Safety This Planting Season



Every year farmers are eager to begin planting, often having to schedule time in the field between rains. That can mean long hours in the tractor to get it in. While no one plans to have a mishap, things happen when we're tired and just ready to be done. Here are some helpful safety tips for farmers to keep in mind this season:

To prevent electrocution, make sure farm equipment (including planter arms and sprayers) safely clear overhead power lines. This tall equipment can easily become entangled in power lines. Keep a minimum of 10-foot distance from power lines in all directions.

Keep a safe distance from power poles and guy wires when working the land or planting crops. Contact 911 immediately if your equipment comes into contact with a guy wire or power

pole. Don't try to fix it yourself. Leave that to the experts.

Water, dust and farming often go hand-in-hand. Install waterproof and dustproof electrical boxes and outlets at the farm. Location # 11-11-205

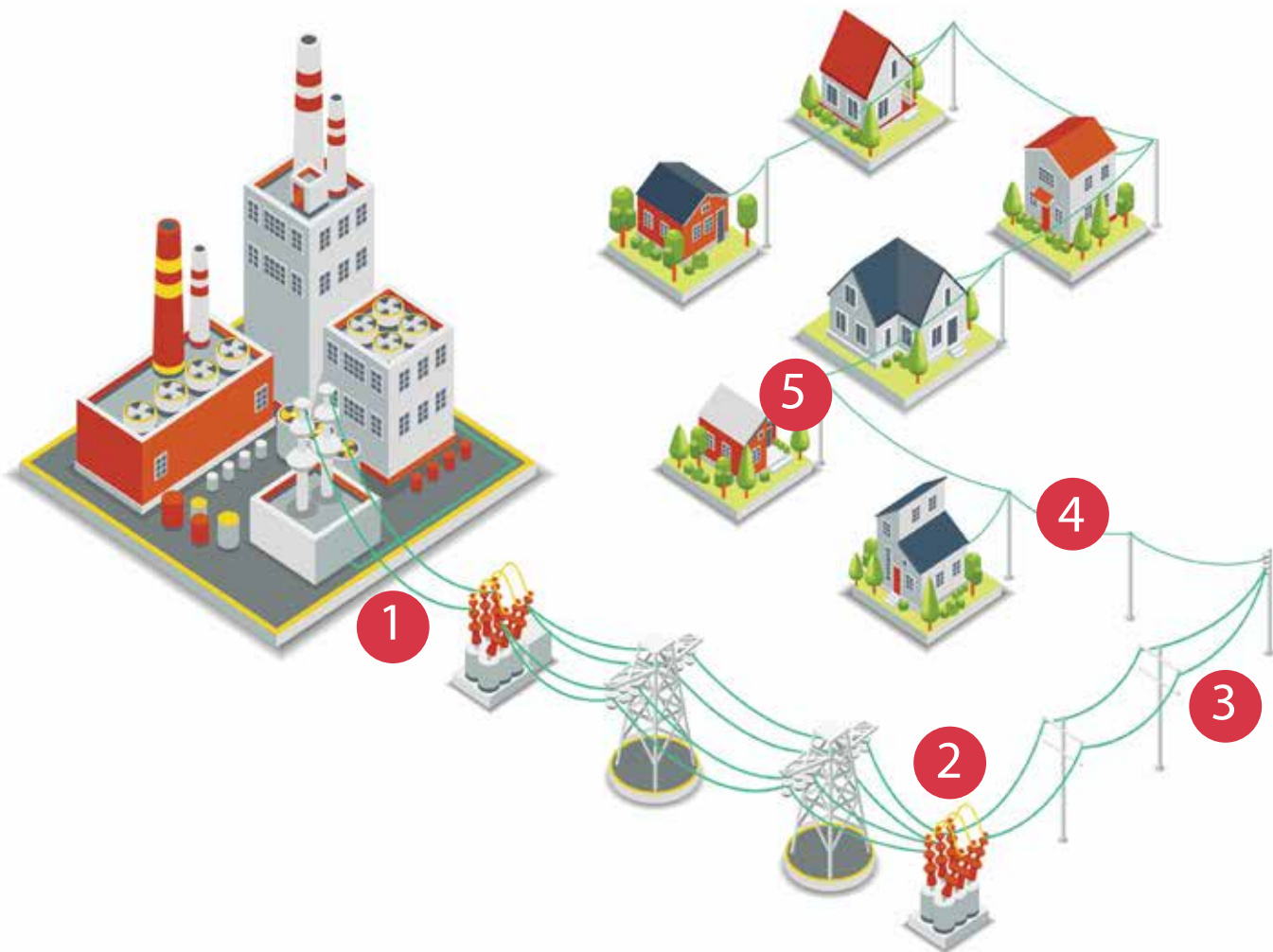
If a standby generator is used on a single-phase system, it must be connected to the farm's wiring system through a double pole, double-throw switch. The switch disconnects the farm's electrical system from the electric cooperative's lines during an outage and prevents backfeed – keeping linemen safe from the risk of electrocution.

Finally, make sure full-time and seasonal farm workers are educated to stay safe on the farm. Each worker should be aware of the dangers and utilize proper safety procedures.

If contact with electricity occurs, call 911. Keep others away and remain calm. DO NOT try to exit the machinery or touch someone who has had electrical contact. If you must exit your equipment for life-threatening reasons — jump out and away from the machinery, making sure to land with your feet together and touching. Then, shuffle at least three tractor lengths away with your feet touching. NEVER attempt to get back into or touch machinery that is in contact with a power line.

SOURCES: TIME Magazine, U.S. Department of Labor Occupational Safety and Health Administration, Safe Electricity

How your power is restored after a storm outage



1 Repair transmission lines from the power plant. These repairs are managed by transmission line crews.

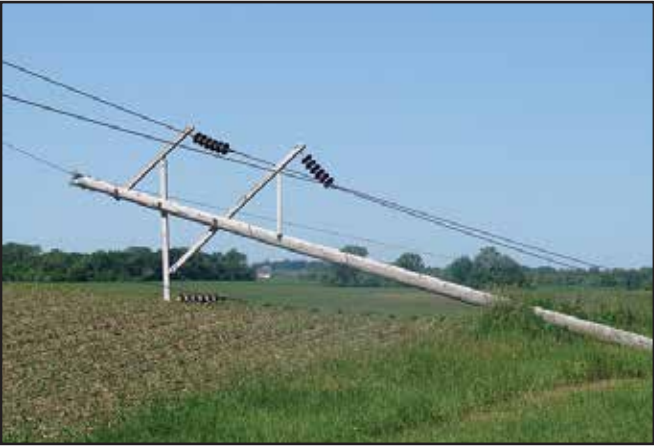
2 Repair damage at the substation. This will restore power to the most people.

3 Repair distribution lines that lead from the substation to the tap lines that eventually bring power to individual homes.

4 Repair tap lines that serve small groups of homes. If your neighbors have power and you don't, you could either be on a different circuit OR the service line feeding your home is damaged.

5 Work on individual service lines. In wide-spread outages, this can be the most time-consuming.

During spring and summer storm season, stay clear of downed power lines



Even if the lines appear still attached to the power pole, don't go near them. The area could be energized and dangerous.

As Minnesotans prepare for extreme weather, Great River Energy and Meeker Cooperative are prepared to keep the power flowing to homes, farms and businesses.

"Though most consumer-members experience very little time without electricity, we do see an increase in disruption of electric service during severe weather," said Mark Peterson, system operations manager for Great River Energy.

"During severe weather, such as tornados, straight-line winds and hail, it's important to be aware of your surroundings, and stay away from downed powerlines," said Steve Kosbab, Manager of Member and Energy Services. "We want to ensure all our members stay safe."

If you see a downed power line, there are a few things to keep in mind.

- Stay away from it and call 911 to report it immediately. There is no way to tell if a power line is energized just by looking at it. Always assume it can carry currents strong enough to kill.



When you see lines on the ground, always assume they are still energized. Stay away and call the Co-op immediately.

- Never drive over a downed power line if it is blocking your driveway or road. Call 911 to report it and find another route.
- If a power line falls on your car or otherwise contacts your vehicle, stay in your vehicle. Use your cell phone to call 911 and wait for help to arrive.
- If you must exit your vehicle, jump with both feet out of the car and shuffle a safe distance.

When severe weather causes widespread damage, sometimes outages can be extended. Great River Energy and Meeker Co-op work hard to restore your power quickly and safely, first removing any threats to public safety, then following established priorities for making repairs that will restore the most members first.

To watch videos about how your power is restored, how to prepare an emergency kit, how to keep food fresh and more, visit: greatriverenergy.com/restoringyourpower.

Industry News

De-Icing Wind Turbine Blades Could Lower Electric Rates

Ice accumulation on turbine blades is a pocketbook issue for wind farms in cold climates. It can reduce power production as much as 50 percent, according to Hui Hu, a professor of aerospace engineering at Iowa State University.

Ice impairs the aerodynamic performance of the blades similar to the way it impairs airplane wings, increasing drag and slowing forward motion.

There are ways to de-ice turbine blades, but they all have drawbacks. Helicopters or drones can spray the blades with a de-icing compound, but the compound has to be re-applied frequently. That's also true of coating the blades with oil. Blades could be equipped with heating elements, but that adds steep costs.

Hu and his team are conducting tests at the Aircraft Icing Physics and Anti-/De-icing Technology Laboratory he started seven years ago. They have also studied ice on power lines.

Taking hints from nature, they've tested coatings based on the spikey surfaces of lotus leaves and on the wet, oil surface of the leaves of carnivorous pitcher plants. The goal, Hu says, is to find a solution that makes financial sense in the Midwest, where the need for de-icing isn't as pressing as it is in Canada and northern Europe. Hu and his team are funding their work with a \$303,000 state economic development grant.

~RE Magazine, February 2020

Additional gas capacity, base-load generation 'critical' to maintain reliability: DOE analysis

A new analysis from the U.S. Department of Energy's National Energy Technology Laboratory (NETL) concludes additional natural gas pipeline capacity and baseload generation units, such as coal and nuclear, are "critical" to maintaining grid reliability and affordable electricity in the Eastern Interconnection during extreme weather events.

Coal power advocates argue that the continued retirement of coal-fired generating units threatens grid reliability and could lead to double-digit spikes in electricity prices in several wholesale markets, but clean energy advocates counter that renewables are now the cheapest energy option and can keep the grid operating reliably.

According to the NETL report, a "conservative" analysis shows investment in new pipeline capacity of more than \$1 billion is needed to maintain reliability, though dual-fueled plants can partially relieve peak demand.

~Utility Dive

5 STEPS FOR SAFE DIGGING

Working on an outdoor project? Always call 8-1-1 first, because you never know what's below. Here are five easy steps for safe digging:

Source: call811.com

1. NOTIFY

Call 8-1-1 or make a request online two to three days before you start.



2. WAIT

Wait two to three days for a response to your request. Affected utilities will send a locator to mark any underground utility lines.



3. CONFIRM

Confirm that all affected utilities have responded by comparing the markers to the list of utilities the 8-1-1 call center notified.



4. RESPECT

Respect the markers provided by the affected utilities. They are your guide for the duration of your project.



5. DIG CAREFULLY

If you can't avoid digging near the markers (within 18-24 inches on all sides, depending on state laws), consider moving your project.



Take a few minutes to update your email address for our files.

We have been communicating with our members via email recently about the COVID-19 virus, outages and updates. However, many of our members don't have valid email addresses. This leaves us having to communicate with those members by snail mail.

If you want to be updated in the quickest way possible, please complete the form below and mail it in and we will add you to our Email list. Thank you so much for your help. Location #10-29-209

Name _____

Acct. # _____

Email _____

Please mail to 1725 U.S. Hwy. 12 E., Suite 100, Litchfield, MN 55355

Mergen's Message continued from page 2

members during this pandemic. In an effort to help support our members with school-aged children, the Co-op developed a VIBRANT-U Education Scholarship.

The Scholarship provides the first three months of VIBRANT's Essential service FREE. If you decide to upgrade to a higher package, you will only pay the difference in price between the Essential service and the one you choose. This also includes FREE standard installation. It is available to families with school-aged children or college students that currently do not receive VIBRANT Broadband service. It is the Co-op's commitment to help families without adequate internet service and students at home forced to continue their learning through eLearning or remotely. Please call us at 320-693-3231 or check us out at VIBRANTBROADBAND.com for all the Scholarship details, to get your questions answered and to sign up. We are here to help you.

I'm amazed at the number of people that I talk to or hear about that say they never knew the

Co-op offered high speed internet service. I ask you to please pass the word on. Even if you are not a current VIBRANT user but know of someone "Suffering from Buffering" or just looking for a good dependable high-speed internet service from a local company please suggest us. We'd be happy to help them out.

New VIBRANT customers have told us that, prior to switching to VIBRANT, they were forced to simply sit and watch the little round image spin (I call that little spinning circle the Emoji of Frustration) while despising their internet connection.

After switching to VIBRANT Broadband, they can honestly say they love their internet service. They love being "VIBRANT." Wouldn't you rather be VIBRANT?

Call us at 320-693-3231 to get signed up.

DID YOU KNOW -

In this time of the Covid-19 Pandemic, I thought this was most appropriate: The last three words of Red Skelton's show were "May God Bless".



Operation Round Up March Grant Recipient List

Community Service

Arts Association, Dassel-Cokato	\$500
Eden Valley Food Shelf	\$900
Forest City Threshers	\$1,000
Kandiyohi County Food Shelf	\$300
Kimball Food Shelf	\$900
Litchfield Downtown Council	\$250
Litchfield Visitors Bureau	\$1,000
Litchfield Watercade, Inc.	\$500
McLeod Emergency Food Shelf	\$250
Meeker County Food Shelf	\$2,900
Litchfield Site	\$2,400
Dassel Site	\$500
Paynesville Food Shelf (Community Services)	\$900
The Link of Northern Kandiyohi County	\$150
Windmill Days, Grove City	\$400

Education and Youth

Community Education, Litchfield	\$1,000
Sponsor-A Child Program	\$500
Special Olympics	\$500
ECFE, Atwater-Cosmos-Grove City	\$516
Let's Go Fishing, Paynesville	\$500
Lions, District 5M8 KidSight	\$500
Litchfield Satellites 4-H Club	\$300
Litchfield Student Anglers	\$500
Post Prom, ACGC	\$350
Post Prom, Eden Valley-Watkins	\$350
Post Prom, Litchfield High School	\$350
Rise & Roam, Inc.	\$400
Sportsmen's Club, Watkins	\$200

Total \$14,916



An Air Source Heat Pump will both cool and add supplemental heat to your home and save up to 72% energy while doing it! Act now and, when you purchase a qualifying energy efficient model with qualified installation, you can earn a rebate up to \$1,200 for a limited time when you put it on our Energy Management Program. Call 320-693-3231 and ask to speak with an Energy Management Technician.



An efficient Ductless Air Source Heat Pump system put on Energy Management earns a \$500 rebate! Call for details 320-693-3231.

Cooperative’s Response to COVID-19
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make one-time payments via checking/savings or credit card. Online payments will post to your account once you receive a confirmation email. You can sign up for SmartHub at www.meeker.coop.

Phone – Call 844-834-4462 to make payments by Credit or debit card or bank account. Payments will post to your account once you receive a confirmation number.

Automatic Bank Draft – Your payment is drafted from your checking or savings account on the due date. Call our office at 320-693-3231 to set up this service. Payments may still be made in our drop box and through the mail, if you choose.

- We have extended operating under Minnesota’s Cold Weather Rule for nonpayment and will waive late payment fees through Minnesota’s Peacetime Emergency Declaration. We will work with members on establishing payment plans for members requesting such arrangements.
• The Annual Meeting (Business Meeting Only) scheduled for Monday, April 6, is postponed and will be rescheduled for later in the year. Our members in District 5 also received a ballot for director elections in that district. Those ballots will be held by the Cooperative’s law firm for counting at the

To keep members and employees safe during the Covid-19 pandemic, we have decided to cancel these member trips for this year. If you had planned to go, we are truly sorry. Look for these trips to reopen for next year and plan to join us!

Minnesota Twins vs. Baltimore Orioles Target CANCELED Wed., May 20, 2020, 12:10 p.m. game.

2020 North Dakota Energy Tour July 15-17! CANCELED

- rescheduled Annual Meeting.
• To help members with school age children that need to do E-learning get connected to Rip Snort’n Fast internet, we are offering a VIBRANT U Education Scholarship. The Scholarship offers three months free of VIBRANT’s Essential Internet Package. Check it out on VIBRANT’s website vibrantbroadband.com/scholarship.
• Communication is key. As we face these unique and unprecedented times together, please help us communicate in a timely, and cost-effective manner by providing us with your current email address. I simply ask you to go our website meeker.coop and click on the link to provide your email address. Please be assured we do not sell any member information nor allow others to use it in any way. Thank you.

The Board of Directors and employees understand this is a difficult time and we remain confident that with a focus on safety and health we will get through this successfully. Please be assured that your team at Meeker Cooperative Light and Power Association continues to work hard to keep your lights on and VIBRANT internet streaming.
We thank you for your patience and understanding. Stay healthy and safe.

Karen Becker, Board President
Tim Mergen, CEO/General Manager

Cake Like No Other

Renita Rohloff submitted this month’s winning recipe for Cake Like No Other (Favorite Cake Recipe). She will have \$10 credited to her account. Congratulations!

Cake Like No Other

Table with 2 columns: Cake and Frosting. Cake ingredients: 1 plain white cake mix, 1 small box instant pudding (white chocolate flavor is good), 2 cups water, 1 whole egg, 2 egg whites (save yolks). Frosting ingredients: 1/4 cup softened butter, 2 egg yolks, 1 cup powdered sugar, 8 oz. Cool Whip, 2-3 Heath bars, (frozen & crushed).

Mix the cake ingredients well, pour into a greased (or sprayed) 9 x 13 cake pan. Bake 350 degrees for 25-30 minutes. Cool.
Mix the frosting ingredients and when the cake is cool, frost the cake and sprinkle the crushed Heath bars on top.
Keep refrigerated.

For May, submit your favorite Seafood Recipe to:
Meeker Cooperative, ATTN: Becky Sorenson,
1725 US Hwy 12, Suite 100, Litchfield, MN 55355

Save a tree! Read your *Pioneer* from computer, laptop or tablet.

When you sign up for our E-Newsletter, you'll get an email listing the top stories, and a link to the full PDF version with all the news, classified ads and recipe!

Ditch the paper copy and you won't have that extra paper lying around you need to throw away! Plus, you'll save your Co-op the postage it takes to mail it to you. As a member-owner of the Co-op, it's the right thing to do for the Co-op, you and your fellow members!



To sign up, send a email with the Subject "Sign Me Up!" to rsorenson@meeker.coop. Thanks for your partnership! Location #01-06-317

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/address, which will be used for identification purposes. Ads received by **April 28** will be included in the May 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

• Two male Chihuahua puppies. \$310 each. 320-237-5068.

• G.E. 2015 off-white microwave/stove. Exc. Cond. \$300/both or B.O. 320-276-8572.

• 300-lb. high lift riding mower jack, lk. new. \$50. 320-249-4488.

• Wood rocking chair; 2 microwaves (Criterion & Kenmore); canning jars. 320-290-3157.

• Used Manitou pontoon, 60-hp motor w/trailer, lk. new. 320-693-7538.

• 100% grass-fed American Aberdeen beef. Call for availability. 320-221-1943.

• 14-ft. Alumacraft boat w/3 swivel seats. \$200. 320-282-4950.

• Dyson DC28 Animal w/access., very gd. cond. Clean. \$95. 320-293-1929.

• Treadmill, used little. Very gd. cond. 320-535-0911.

• 5 x 10 dog kennel w/cover. \$65. 320-764-2286.

• 14-gal. air compressor. \$25. 320-764-2286.

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 April 28, 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. Mark Zwart of Minnetonka and Perry Yungt of Paynesville found their locations numbers and will have \$10 credited to their accounts. Good luck!



• Nikon 10x25 binoculars, new. 320-626-3148.

• Toro 8" cordless trimmer, lk. new. 320-626-3148.

• Two folding saw horses. 320-626-3148.

For Sale - Automotive

• 2007 Honda Shadow 750cc motorcycle, 14,000 mi. \$4,000/obo. 320-593-0190.

• 6-cyl. Chevy motor 1958-62 from 2-ton farm truck or bus. 320-212-9010.

For Sale - Agricultural

• 24-ft. free-standing corral panels w/1" rods. Watkins. \$250/ea. 320-333-6540.

• Location #09-09-202

• Chandler litter spreader, 22-ft. exc. cond. \$15,000/obo. 320-250-1371.

• 1949 8N w/loader, backhoe, forks. \$5,000. 320-980-7831.

• J.D. 8' digger; J.D. 15' single disc. 320-453-7575.

• I.H. No. 9 mower; I.H. potato planter. 320-453-7575.

Give Away

• Three female outdoor cats, good hunters. 320-693-3556.

Services

• Welding, fabrication, stainless, alum. shop on-site. 320-290-5950.

• Larry's Barber & Style: 213 No. Sibley. Thur-Fri 8-5:30; Sat. 8-3:30. 320-693-2421.

VIBRANT-U Scholarship Program

Continued from Page 1

If you need (or want) more than the 25 Mbps download speed, you can get any of our other plans and simply pay the difference in the package cost for the first three months! For instance, the Essential Package is \$59.95 a month — FREE for the first three months. If you'd rather get the Streaming Package at \$69.96 a month, which allows 50 mbps download speed, then you will pay \$10 a month for the first three months and \$69.96 thereafter.

Find out more information on our website at <https://VIBRANTBROADBAND.com> or call 320-693-3231.

For details on our VIBRANT-U Education Scholarship program, visit <https://VIBRANTBROADBAND.com/scholarship>. Or you can sign up directly at <https://VIBRANTBROADBAND.com/signup>.



Prevent the Spread of COVID-19

Take the same precautions you would to avoid colds and flu.

Wash your hands.

Stay home when sick.

Cover your cough.

For more information, visit health.mn.gov
HOTLINE: 651-201-3920 or 1-800-657-3903

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