

Meeker Cooperative PIONEER

October 2020

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Official publication of

Meeker
Cooperative
Light and Power Association

Meeker Co-op is an
Equal Opportunity Provider
and Employer

VIBRANT helps connect Golden Retrievers with forever homes

When Russ and Barb Felt were married 40 years ago, they talked about having six children. They knew that it would be difficult to raise such a large family on one income but Barb really wanted to be a stay-at-home mom.

On their first anniversary, Russ bought Barb a Golden Retriever puppy. He reasoned that they were great family dogs and he could also take it hunting with him.

"We just fell in love," Barb said. They loved everything about the breed. Barb saw the opportunity to begin a business that would allow her to stay home with their children and still contribute to the household finances.

"We were so young and didn't know what we were doing," Barb said. "An experienced couple from Waverly, Iowa, began mentoring us. We purchased our first stud dog from them."

Once they began having litters, word got out and they got a request from Meeker County to have some of their puppies in the petting zoo at the County Fair.



Barb Felt, owner and president of Rolling Oaks Golden Retrievers, Litchfield, with three of the four puppies from one of their latest litters

Since then, as their business grew and others became aware, there have been numerous opportunities to introduce their puppies to the public.

Connecting Golden Retrievers with forever homes

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Non-members in Kingston love their VIBRANT!

Shelby Seth & Lyle Miller

Lyle Miller lived in his Kingston home about two years before Shelby Seth and her four-year-old daughter Skyler joined him a month ago. While Lyle was getting by without internet and using his phone as a hotspot, that was not good enough for Shelby or Skyler. Although another internet company had installed fiber optic across the street, they refused to cross under the road to bring internet to them.

"Being without internet for a month was painful," Shelby said. "Especially for Skyler."

She found VIBRANT Broadband when she Googled internet and was encouraged when she learned that it was close by.

"I called and gave them my address and they said, 'Sure, we can install VIBRANT!' Although they were reluctant to bore under the highway, they eventually decided it would work."

When the contractors came to look at where to put the system, Shelby told them what it had been like not to have internet with a four-year-old.

Shelby Seth & Lyle Miller: "It's heavenly!"

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Ed Pletcher

Ed Pletcher and his wife moved to their Kingston home a year ago from Monticello. Their home sits on acreage with river frontage. The problem with country living, it can be difficult to find a good internet provider.

They tried several options in the area, but were unhappy.

"It was a struggle," Ed said. "We had DSL at 10 mbps, but when Covid hit and people started working and schooling at home, it dropped to 3 mbps and stayed there."

For awhile, they paid for two internet providers and tried to split up streaming on one service and schooling and work on the other, with disappointing results.

"Then we got a flyer on the door about VIBRANT Broadband. My wife said, 'Is this something we'd be interested in?' I said, 'Yes! It's true!'"

"I called Lynn and grilled her," Ed said. "I was skeptical because we'd already been sold a bill of goods."

Ed Pletcher: "Exactly what we needed from an internet provider!"

Continued on Page 3



National Co-op Month, Strategic Planning, Future of the *Pioneer*

National Co-op Month -

Cooperatives have a crucial place in the United States and the world. There are more than 29,000 cooperative businesses in the United States. October is National Co-op Month, a time to celebrate those things that are unique about co-ops.

Co-ops by nature are unlike any other business model in the world. A couple of those unique things are that Co-ops are owned by their members and are governed by their members. That gives you, as a member-owner, a voice in how Meeker Cooperative does business.

Meeker Cooperative Light and Power Association’s Board of Directors consists of nine member-owners. Although each director represents the entire Co-op membership, they are elected by the members from the district where they reside. Members in each of the nine districts elect a director from that district every three years. This local director ensures “local democracy” is leading the Co-op. It’s the Board that makes the decisions and plans for the future direction of the Co-op, all-the-while knowing that their decisions affect them just as it would the rest of the membership. This “local democracy” is unlike an investor-owned utility. An investor-owned utility would likely have directors on their board that don’t even use the electricity they provide. Therefore, they are not affected by any decision they may make concerning the services they provide. Their decisions are motivated primarily by increasing their investors’ profits.

In addition, as an owner, any profits earned by the Cooperative are returned to you based on your patronage to the Co-op. Those profits do not go to a private citizen, a wall street investment firm or other third-party investors. They come right back to you, the member, that enabled the Co-op to earn them in the first place.

Co-ops to the Rescue... Again?

Co-ops have played a crucial role in providing needed services throughout the United States. Your electricity provider, Meeker Cooperative Light and Power Association, is a perfect example of that. Meeker Co-op was formed in 1935 simply because no other utility would provide the needed electricity to the rural citizens of Meeker and the surrounding counties. Sadly, those other electric utilities had been providing electricity to the residents of cities within the county for about 50 years already. They had no interest in providing electric service to the sparsely-populated areas because it didn’t meet their investor’s expectations of profits.

I find it profound that close to 85 years after electric co-ops were developed to provide the essential service of electricity to millions of Americans because others would not, many co-ops throughout the

country are now looking at doing what Meeker Cooperative made the decision to do a few years back — provide another essential service to its members — high- speed broadband. Again, this has been done simply because other providers had not stepped up to adequately provide it to the rural areas of the Co-op’s service territory.

Times have changed since that first light switch was flipped. What hasn’t changed is our commitment to our members and the sound cooperative principles that guide our every decision.

Strategic Planning -

Speaking of decisions. In September, the Board of Directors spent about two days analyzing current programs, services and processes of the Co-op. They also spent time looking at future programs, services and needs of the Co-op and the members, in order to set its future direction.

A component of the strategic planning process is a SWOT analysis. SWOT stands for Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats. It is a very comprehensive process. Every employee and director are asked to provide input into each category. As is expected, a vast variety of answers are compiled. One employee’s experience or thoughts obviously are not the same as the next employee’s or director’s experience or thoughts. At times, some serious and maybe not-so- flattering discussions are necessary for our management group. But that is all part of the process for a strategic plan to be a worthwhile endeavor; open communication is needed by everyone. This can make facilitating such a session a bit challenging, but more on those facilitators a bit later.

The 2020 edition of strategic planning marked the sixth time the employees and board have gone through a strategic planning process since 1999. So, on average, about every three and one-half years we dig into the how’s and why’s of the Co-op’s entire operation. It forces all of us at the Co-op to take a serious look at our current programs and services, how and why we do things and the way we do them. It keeps us from continuing to do things “because that is the way we have always done them”. In short, do they still make sense? It forces us to look at new technologies, processes and procedures, programs and services, which of our current activities, programs and services need to be changed or maybe even eliminated. I believe this process has served us well.

In each Strategic Planning Session, we have brought in an outside person to facilitate the session. Through the years our facilitators have included a retired vice president of a generation and transmission cooperative, a former co-op accountant that at the time headed up our national organization’s top management training programs, a business instructor from a Minnesota college, and a team from one

of the country’s largest co-op utility financial bankers.

I believe bringing in a wide variety of facilitator s helps us think in different ways. We cannot become complacent in our expectations going into these sessions. Each facilitator has his or her own way of conducting these sessions. Obviously, a facilitator that has no electric utility or even co-op experience will view things differently than someone who may be working in a related co-op industry.

On a side note, I had stated that one of the facilitators was a team from one of our lenders. If you don’t think this is opening the Co-op and management up for questions and discussion items, I suggest you go ask your banker to facilitate your Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats. I bet they come up with a few items you hadn’t considered, or at least ask you some in-depth questions about some of them you did list.

In the end, we drafted six initiatives or overarching goals. Over the next month or so the Co-op’s Board of Directors will finalize them and they then will become part of management’s direction in operating the Co-op into the future. I’ll cover them in more detail once they have been formally finalized and officially adopted by the Board of Directors.

Pioneer Editor No Longer -

Just a quick note to let you know that Becky Sorenson, the *Pioneer’s* editor for the past 15 years, has decided to retire. This issue of the *Pioneer* is officially Becky’s last. She is headed to where we all want to get to – retirement.

With Becky’s retirement, we will be looking at all aspects of the *Pioneer* for future communications, from size, frequency, articles, and the various sections, to ensure the *Pioneer* as a whole is still of value.

With today’s electronic technology, communication platforms and the huge decline in paper readership, we will be evaluating the best methods for continuing to communicate with the Co-op’s membership.

Becky, thank you for your years of service to the Co-op’s members and Godspeed.

Did You Know -

Over the past 20 years the Co-op has retired about \$13.8 million in capital credits (profit) to its members.

Board of Directors

Kevin Issendorf, President — District 4
Litchfield, Greenleaf in Meeker

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

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

Mark Larson, Treasurer — District 6
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Roseville, Irving in Kandiyohi; Paynesville in Stearns; Union Grove in Meeker

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

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

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

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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.”

Connecting Goldens with forever homes
Continued from Page 1

“The key to successful puppy adoption is socialization. What makes us unique is that we spend time socializing our puppies to get them used to different people and situations while still in the comfort of their litter mates,” Barb said. “This gives them confidence.”

Some of the places the puppies visit include the School of St. Philip, the Lincoln Apartments, the High School and Ripley Elementary School.

Besides socialization, the Felts are serious about ensuring that everything is done to create a good experience for puppy and family. Each puppy’s personality and demeanor are recorded and matched with an inquiring family’s needs to make sure there is a smooth transition. They also have training available and give advice for new puppy owners.

Each new family becomes part of a team to make sure everyone is happily adapting to the new puppy. All the parents are health certified and each puppy comes with a two-year health guarantee.

The 200-acre home site allows their dogs to run free. The entire business is a family affair.

Barb has excellent help now that her husband Russ retired from his position at First District in Litchfield. He now is an employee of Rolling Oaks



Russ, Amy and Barb Felt with a litter soon to be adopted into their new homes. Everything possible is done to ensure a smooth transition. Amy is instrumental in holding and socializing the puppies.

Goldens, maintaining facilities and other various needs that come up.

THE VIBRANT CONNECTION

The Felts are very active online, maintaining a website and Facebook page. They take and upload a lot of photos and some video to connect with potential new families. All of this takes a fast, reliable internet system.

“It’s important to have good internet for our business,” Barb said. “We send out videos to our new families so they can watch their puppy grow.”

Although the Felts were satisfied with the service of their former internet company, the speeds were very low.

The Felts now have the VIBRANT Extreme package fiber-to-the-home and the speeds are 100 mbps download and 10 mbps upload. They are able to do anything that is required for their business and enjoy fast streaming of T.V. in the home, too.

“We have six children and 12 grandkids,” Barb said. “There are 23 of us when we all get together. When we’re all on our devices we need a great internet connection. We also need it for online learning. Now, nothing is slow.”

“Everything in the process of VIBRANT installation was handled professionally,” Russ said. “The technician was so conscientious making sure everything worked and answered all our questions. It’s nice when a company treats you with respect and wants to make everything right.”

“We couldn’t be happier,” Barb said.

Note: Although the Felts have up to seven litters a year from their seven females, the puppies are usually all sold before they are born.

For more information about Rolling Oaks Goldens or to reserve a puppie from a future litter, go to their website page at www.rollingoaks.com; their Facebook page at www.facebook.com/rollingoaksgoldens; or call 320-693-6278.

Shelby Seth & Lyle Miller: “It’s heavenly!”
Continued from Page 1



just so smooth and nice,” Shelby said.

“The installer, Garin, was so nice and so fast,” Lyle said. “He hooked everything up in under 30 minutes. The couple likes that the modem and router (everything) is together and tucked away without having to worry about it at all.

“The communication was always there, which I appreciated,” Shelby said. “Some of the larger companies, the customer service just falls off the planet. But they even addressed my silly questions and concerns.”

“Having VIBRANT that is reliable, fast, and not weather related, is heavenly.”

“They were so nice to get us our internet fast because they could see that we wanted it now!” Shelby said.

Since getting VIBRANT, everyone in the household is happier.

“We usually have two to three game systems going and Skyler on her laptop, and now that’s not a problem. There’s absolutely no lagtime or buffering,” Shelby said.

Shelby and Lyle were also thrilled with the customer service.

“From dealing with Lynn and Jane, to the contractors, everything was

Ed Pletcher: “Exactly what we needed from an internet provider!”
Continued from Page 1



Ed said. “It was my fault because it wasn’t marked and they didn’t know it was there. But when I called Lynn about it, within two hours, a crew from Meeker Co-op came out and repaired the line in no time.”

“I’m all about customer service and everyone was fantastic,” Ed said. “The technician was great, the trencher was great, I’m just very impressed with your company. It’s not often these days that I can say that. I wish now that I had known about your service when I moved in.”

“I’ve already recommended VIBRANT Broadband to the Kingston Mini Mart.”

Finally, they signed an agreement to have fiber installed to their home. They chose the Streaming package of 50 mbps download speed and 5 mbps upload speed.

“Now we can do whatever we want,” Ed said. “Streaming, working from home, schooling. It’s exactly what we needed from an internet provider. I test my speeds nearly every day and it’s holding at 50 mbps.”

For Ed, what most impressed him was the customer service.

“They cut a powerline to a shed when digging in the fiber optic,”

Bits & BYTES

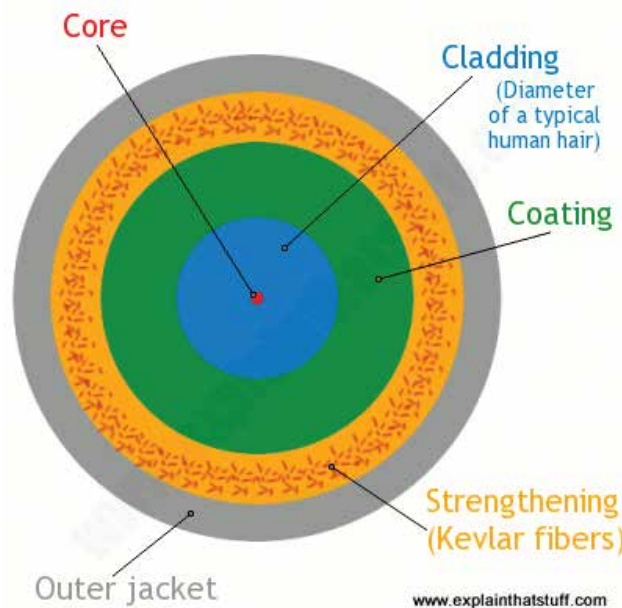
Answers to your technical questions

A "bit" is a measurable unit of data. A "byte" is 8 bits. When referring to speed of data transfer, it is usually referred to as mbps (mega bits per second) which refers to 1 million bits per second.

A fiber-optic cable is made up of incredibly thin strands of glass or plastic known as optical fibers; one cable can have as few as two strands or as many as several hundred. Each strand is less than a tenth as thick as a human hair and can carry something like 25,000 telephone calls, so an entire fiber-optic cable can easily carry several million calls. Location # 05-31-216

Fiber-optic cables carry information between two places using entirely optical (light-based) technology. Suppose you wanted to send

information from your computer to a friend's house down the street using fiber optics. You could hook your computer up to a laser, which would convert electrical information from the computer into a series of light pulses. Then you'd fire the laser down the fiber-optic cable. After traveling down the cable, the light beams would emerge at the other end. Your friend would need a photoelectric cell (light-detecting component) to turn the pulses of light back into electrical information his or her computer could understand. So the whole apparatus



would be like a really neat, hi-tech version of the kind of telephone you can make out of two baked-bean cans and a length of string!

Light travels down a fiber-optic cable by bouncing repeatedly off the walls. Each tiny photon (particle of light) bounces down the pipe like a bobsleigh going down an ice run. Now you might expect a beam of light, traveling in a clear glass pipe, simply to leak out of the edges. But if light hits glass at a really shallow angle (less than 42 degrees), it reflects back in again—as though the glass were really a mirror. This phenomenon is called total internal reflection. It's one of the things that keeps light inside the pipe.

The other thing that keeps light in the pipe is the structure of the cable, which is made up of two separate parts. The main part of the cable—in the middle—is called the core and that's the area the light travels through. Wrapped around the outside of the core is another layer of glass called the cladding. The cladding's job is to keep the light signals inside the core. It can do this because it is made of a different type of glass. (More technically, it has a lower refractive index.)

Source: VIBRANTBROADBAND.com/Resources

COMING SOON!

VIBRANT Broadband wants you and your family to have the greatest and safest online experience.

That's why we are bringing you **TechShield** and **VIBRANT Premium Protection**.

TechShield gets you malware and virus protection on up to 5 computers and 5 devices. You also get Password Genie, a password vault to help remember your passwords and log into websites. Plus, you get 50GB of cloud storage.

VIBRANT Premium Protection expands your cloud storage to 250GB and gets you Identity Theft Protection and remote tech support for all your Wi-Fi connected devices.

We are working to roll these features out soon exclusively to VIBRANT Broadband subscribers. If you're not already a subscriber, call today!

TechShield will be available for \$5.99/mo or included FREE with a 50Mbps or above VIBRANT Broadband package. VIBRANT Premium Protection will be available for \$10.00/mo to all subscribers.

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Fill out form or go to vibrantbroadband.com/contactme

I'm interested in: ☐ VIBRANT Broadband ☐ VIBRANT Premium Protection
☐ VIBRANT Phone ☐ TechShield

Name: _____

Service Address: _____
 Street City

Phone: _____

Text: _____

Email: _____

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

Best Time to Call:
☐ Weekday AM ☐ Weekday PM/Evening ☐ Weekend ☐ Other _____

MAIL TO: Meeker Cooperative • 1725 US HWY 12 E, STE 100 • Litchfield, MN 55355

VIBRANT Broadband may not be available in all areas. We continuously expand our service. Check with us often to see if we can make you VIBRANT!

10/20

AM I IN THE VIBRANT ZONE?

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

Statement of Ownership, Management and Circulation

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I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions (including fines and imprisonment) and/or civil sanctions (including multiple damages and civil penalties).

Industry News

Grid congestion a growing barrier for wind, solar developers in MISO territory

Grid congestion — and the exorbitant cost of relieving it — has caused developers to cancel scores of wind and solar projects planned in grid operator MISO’s territory, renewable industry advocates say.

The Natural Resources Defense Council’s Sustainable FERC Project recently released an analysis showing high numbers of renewable projects withdrawn from the Midcontinent Independent System Operator’s queue in the same areas where the grid operator’s maps show that congestion is extreme, and expensive upgrades are needed.

In all, 245 clean energy projects that had reached advanced stages of development were withdrawn between January 2016 and July 2020, the study found. While there are various reasons a project may be withdrawn, experts and developers say that especially in the western region of MISO, congestion and related grid upgrade costs are the main factors.

EDP Renewables recently withdrew a planned 100-megawatt wind farm in southwestern Minnesota from MISO’s queue for interconnection to the grid, because MISO said it would have to pay \$80 million for grid upgrades. The company, which was in the midst of negotiating a power purchase agreement with a telecommunications company, had estimated the work would cost about \$10 million and has since called the project off, said director of government affairs Vanessa Tutos.

-Energy News Network

NRECA earns \$6 million DOE grant to boost electric co-op cybersecurity readiness

The Department of Energy awarded the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association a \$6 million grant to expand ongoing research and development into electric co-op cybersecurity tools.

Known as Essence 2.0, the three-year project will deploy a revolutionary cyber monitoring tool to NRECA’s member cooperatives. Essence 2.0 enables machine-to-machine learning and is designed to quickly detect and share information about anomalies in utility network traffic that may be the result of a cyber breach.

The technology also provides specific information that allows for isolation and definition of the breach characteristics for sharing with others in the industry to determine if a breach is a larger, coordinated attack by adversaries.

“As cyber threats and threat actors continue to evolve, so must electric co-ops’ capability to defend against them,” said NRECA CEO Jim Matheson. “Maintaining the security and resilience of the grid, and protecting consumer data, requires a flexible approach that draws on a variety of tools, resources and options. The Department of Energy recognizes the importance of this tool to our sector’s cyber readiness. We believe it will be a valuable resource in our members’ cache of cybersecurity preparedness resources.”


-T&D World

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Get Your Questions Answered About Cold Weather Shut-Off Protection For Residents and Military Personnel

Q

What is the Cold Weather Rule?

A The Cold Weather Rule protects some members from having their electricity shut off due to non-payment between October 15 and April 15.

Q

Can my heat be shut off in the winter?

A Yes. The Cold Weather Rule still allows electricity to be shut off for non-payment. You will only be protected if electricity provides your primary source of heat AND you have done all the following things:

- Your household income meets the state guidelines (less than 50 percent of the state median income).
- You provide Meeker Co-op with a completed Application for Electric Shut-Off Protection; and
- You have a payment arrangement with the Co-op that you have remained reasonably current with.

Q

What must I do to receive shut-off protection?

A If you are behind in your electricity payments and you will not be able to catch up, your first step is to call Meeker Cooperative.

We don't want to shut off anyone's electricity. We will work with you to set up a payment arrangement or help you to see if you qualify for shut-off protection. There is no way we can know what your financial situation is unless you tell us. At right is a list of providers that can help with your energy bills. It is up to you to contact them for help.

Q

Will you disconnect me without my knowledge?

A No. You will receive a "Notice of Disconnection" in your bill, along with the list of agencies that may help you; a form for you to fill out stating you can't pay; a list of rights and responsibilities for you as well as the Cooperative; and a list of payment plans and other ways to prevent disconnection. If you receive this information, you MUST take the next step and call us or one of the agencies who can help you.

We will not disconnect electricity without first notifying you. We also won't disconnect the electricity on a Friday, a weekend, or the day before a holiday.

Q

If my electricity has been disconnected, how can I be reconnected?

A In order to re-establish power, contact Meeker Cooperative for the total balance due, which may include additional fees and a deposit.

Our members are important to Meeker Cooperative. We would rather work with you to set up a plan to pay your bill than disconnect your service. But everyone who needs help must ask for it by calling 320-693-3231.

Q

Are Military personnel subject to shut-off?

A When a household member has been ordered into active duty, for deployment, or for a change of duty station, some customers may find it hard to pay their utility bills.

Minnesota law protects these military personnel from shut-off if they cannot pay their utility bills in full. For more information or to apply for protection and set up a payment plan, please contact Meeker Cooperative at 320-693-3231.

For more information or additional answers to your questions on the Cold Weather Rule, please call our office at 320-693-3231.

Energy Assistance Providers

Kandiyohi, McLeod & Meeker counties

United Community Action Partnership

PO Box 1359, 200 4th St. SW
Willmar, MN 56201
218 Main St. S., Suite 108,
Hutchinson, MN 55350
Toll free: 800-992-1710
Willmar: 320-235-0850
Hutchinson: 320-587-5244

McLeod County area McLeod County Social Service Center

1805 Ford Avenue North
Glencoe, MN 55336
320-864-3144
320-484-4330
800-247-1756 (Toll Free)

Renville County area United Community Action Partnership

500 East DePue Ave,
Olivia, MN 56277
320-523-1842
800-363-2533

Wright County area Wright County Community Action

130 West Division Street
Maple Lake, MN 55358
320-963-6500

Stearns County area Stearns Tri-County Action Programs

1210 23rd Ave. So.
P.O. Box 683
Waite Park, MN 56387
320-251-1612
888-765-5597



Time is flying by and before you know it, cold temps will be settling in for months. An air source heat pump will help you take control of your heating bills with up to 200% efficiency! AND it's a 300% efficient central air unit as well! Call for details: 320-693-3231.

UNTIL OCTOBER 31: Rebates up to \$1,200 when you put your ASHP on Load Control and you receive our low electric rate!

NOTE: Some models are incapable of working with our Load Control systems and are therefore not eligible for the rebate. Before making your purchasing decision, contact the Co-op to make sure the model you choose will qualify for the rebate.

COVID HOUSING EXPENSE ASSISTANCE NOW AVAILABLE

Minnesota's COVID-19 Housing Assistance Program officially launched August 25, 2020. This CARES Act funded program allocates \$100 million to cover housing expenses such as rent, mortgage, utilities, or other housing-related expenditures. This program will help keep folks in their homes and maintain housing stability for eligible renters and homeowners in communities across the state.

Minnesotans interested in applying for assistance can call the Greater Twin Cities United Way's 211 Resource Helpline (Toll Free: 800.543.7709; Local: 651.291.0211), visiting 211unitedway.org, or texting "MNRENT" or "MNHOM" to 898-211. The 211 Helpline has dedicated multilingual staff to answer questions about the COVID-19 Housing Assistance Program, 8 a.m. – 8 p.m. Monday through Friday. Location # 05-31-216

We're proud to power your life.
October is National Co-op Month.

#PowerOn



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

The average household owns 24 electronic products, which account for roughly 12% of home energy use. When shopping for electronics, consider purchasing ENERGY STAR®-certified products, which can be 70% more efficient than conventional models.

Source: www.energystar.gov



Rural communities depend on Co-op Voters.

- ✓ Learn about the issues.
- ✓ Talk to your family and friends.
- ✓ Cast your vote.

Election Day is November 3, 2020



Be an active participant in our democracy. Be a Co-op Voter.

www.vote.coop



Be Safe

Always call before you dig

CALL 811 BEFORE YOU DIG. IT'S THE LAW.

UNDERGROUND POWER LINES can be just as dangerous as overhead power lines. Avoid serious injury and property damage by calling 811 before you dig to have underground facilities marked.

- Call Gopher State One Call at 811 at least two business days prior to a dig.
- Dial 811 or 1-800-252-1166 during normal business hours; this service is free for homeowners.
- Minnesota state law requires you to call.
- If you damage a line, you may be financially responsible for repairs.

You may also submit your dig information at gopherstateonecall.org/submit.

Great River Energy—Powering what's possible

SquashCasserole

Betty Kelm of Eden Valley submitted this month's winning recipe for **Favorite "New" Thanksgiving Side Dish**. She will have \$10 credited to her account. Congratulations!

Squash Casserole

- | | |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 3 cups cooked, mashed squash | 1/2 tsp. cinnamon |
| 3 cups milk | 1/2 tsp. cloves |
| 6 Tbsp. butter | 1/8 tsp. nutmeg |
| 3 Eggs | 1/2 cup graham crackers, crushed |
| 1/2 tsp. vanilla | 1/4 cup brown sugar |
| 3/4 cup white sugar | 2 Tbsp. butter |
| 3 Tbsp. flour | |

Mix squash with milk, butter, eggs, and vanilla and set aside. Mix the white sugar, flour, cinnamon, cloves and nutmeg, combine this together with the squash mixture and put into a greased 3-qt. casserole dish. Bake at 350 degrees for 45 minutes.

Mix together the crackers (can also use crushed vanilla wafers), brown sugar and butter. Sprinkle on top of squash casserole and bake an additional 10-12 minutes at 350 degrees.

For November, submit your favorite Christmas Cookie Recipe to:

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

Deadline: October 30

Take a few minutes to update your data for our files.

We have been communicating with our members via email and phone recently. However, many of our members don't have valid email addresses or their land lines have been disconnected. Therefore we can communicate with those members only by mail. Location # 30-11-209

If you want to be informed in the quickest way possible, please complete the form below and mail it in and we will update your data. Thank you so much for your help.

Name _____

Acct. # _____

Email _____

Phone: _____

Cell Phone _____

Please mail to:

Meeker Cooperative Light & Power Assn.
1725 U.S. Hwy. 12 E., Suite 100
Litchfield, MN 55355

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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 **October 30** will be included in the November 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: Editor

Please check ad category

____ For Sale, Misc.

____ Agricultural

____ Automotive

____ Wanted

____ Giveaway

____ Services

For Sale - Miscellaneous

- Dining table, kit. table/4 chairs, rocker recliner, hide-a-bed recliner. 320-593-8229.

- Redwood lumber 3-1/2" tongue & groove; some boards for projects. 320-587-6707.
- Polaris ATV-300 parts or repair 4x4. \$350/obo. 320-260-1417.

- Elec. power washer, furniture sale. Moving. 320-764-2286.
- Antique wood school desks, glass blocks 8x8x4. 320-693-3070.
- 21-in. Vizio TV w/ remote. Works great. \$50. 320-699-0082.
- Cub Cadet lawn mower tractor 50", 25hp, 763 hours. \$800. 320-221-1157.
- 40-ft. heavy-duty extension ladder. \$175. 320-295-9040.
- 85 sq. ft. Nova brick mortar-less brick siding, walnut. \$50. 320-296-1996.

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 October 30, 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!



- Firewood: Ash, 1/2 cord, \$50. 320-221-1663.
- Larson 16' boat runabout w/40hp motor/trailer. \$200. 320-310-7742.
- GE window A/C, 10,000 btu, exc. cond. 23 3/4" W x 15-1/2" H. \$60 320-398-7428.
- 4'x8' sheet 1/2 foiled faced foam sheathing. 320-243-8013.
- BR dresser, 6 dwrs., 54"Lx32"Hx19"W. Gd. cond. \$25. 320-398-7428.
- Solid walnut door jambs, 6 vertical, 3 tops, 7' tall. 320-398-2041.
- 8'x16'x6' covered trailer, back ramp, V ramp, dual axel, lifetime license. \$3,500. 320-398-2041.
- Drill press, band saw, Craftsman router and table. 320-398-2041.
- 6'x12' trailer/mobile green house, 3,000 lb axle. \$800/obo. 320-808-6847.
- Ice auger Strikemaster Lazermat Expr. 10", used once. \$375. 612-201-3076.
- 100# glass blocks 8"x8"x4" 320-693-3070.
- Floe salt shields for trailer (2) black \$150/piece. 320-293-5435.
- Custom Union special floor loam, two harness, gd. working. 763-533-7581.
- Snow blower, Toro, 5hp, 21", 2-stage, self-prop. \$165. 320-693-7424.
- 30-gal. Roughneck fuel caddy w/pump. Exc. cond. \$150. 320-693-6590.

- Heil 90% efficient furnace. \$60. 320-693-6632.
- Craftsman self-prop. Lawnmower w/ bagger. Runs gd. \$50. 612-281-9521.
- Polaris Snowmobile helmet, lk. new. Size XL. \$45. 320-221-2487.
- King-Kutter finishing mower 72", 3-point. Gd. shape. \$750. 612-281-9521.

For Sale - Automotive

- 1957 Ford Fairlane, 292V8, Hurst, redone in/out. \$12,500. Nice! 320-276-8575.
- 2000 Silverado 4x4. \$3,300. 320-333-5129.
- Rims: 255-70-R-17 orig. size, new, never used, for 2020 GMC truck. 320-693-4118.

For Sale - Agricultural

- H&S 270 manure spreader w/hydraulic gate. 320-764-2286.
- 1931 Twin City tractor, lots of extra parts. 320-243-4381.
- Location #36-12-201
- 1935 Farmall tractor F-12, runs great. 320-243-4542.
- Rebuilt hydraulic driven grain jump auger. 320-583-5324.

Wanted

- White pine needles, will pay. 612-790-8466.
- Old spears & spearing decoys. Will pay cash. 320-583-6903.
- Transmission & clutch for Cushman scooter. 320-249-2462.
- Old fishing boat, motor & trailer, 10-14 feet. 320-557-7746.
- 20-in. kitchen stove, gas or electric. 320-557-7746.
- 20-ft. pontoon trailer and lift. 763-202-3093.
- 500-gal. steel fuel oil tank, leaker okay. 320-221-2487.

Give Away

- Free firewood trees, need to be cut. 320-453-2489.

Services

- Welding fabrication, stainless, alum. shop on site. 320-290-5950.
- Wanted any kind of metals, will pick up; yard clean-up. 320-905-5625.
- For rent cabin on Rice Lake, Paynesville; 3BR, 2BA, sleep 9. 513-827-2942.