

Meeker Cooperative PIONEER

September 2020

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Official publication of

Meeker Cooperative
Light and Power Association

Meeker Co-op is an
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Paynesville student is bound for Harvard University, thanks in part to VIBRANT Broadband

Dr. Randy and Molly Zimmerman live on a secluded 400-acre tract of land and they plan to develop much of it as a church camp for their local Diocese. The beautiful, rolling acres of trees and pasture is a welcome get-away from the hustle and bustle of modern life. There's only one big draw-back.

"We are at the end of the road for power and internet," said Molly. Before VIBRANT Broadband, we only had two mbps internet service. We weren't even eligible for satellite because of all our trees.

Although three of their five children are grown, Cory, 19 and Amy, 15, had a lot of difficulty doing anything online.

We didn't even bother to stream anything like Netflix," Corey said. "We spent just as much time watching it load as we did watching the program."

It was difficult for Amy to watch educational videos or programs, such as CNN-10, a news program geared to high school and younger. This was especially important when Covid-19 forced distance learning.



Dr. Randy, Molly and Cory Zimmerman

For Amy, that meant they didn't have the option to access Google Classroom to get her lessons and see her teacher online, something Amy was excited to be able to do.

Harvard Bound: VIBRANT makes distance learning possible

Continued on Page 3

Inherited Karlsrud cottage leaps into the 21st century with a remodel that includes VIBRANT Broadband



Michael Karlsrud

Michael Karlsrud of Stillwater has a background in consulting and executive coaching. When one of his executive clients, who owned the 41-year-old high-end design, build and remodel company M.A. Peterson, asked him to run the company for him, he agreed. Although he would be scaling back his own business to part-time and working for someone else, the new position really brought him full-circle to something he had been passionate about for many years.

"Business is business," Michael said. "You change out the nouns, verbs and adjectives, but the business aspects are the same. I felt that my passions and interests have always been in construction and remodeling."

He honed his passion at the Anderson Windows auxiliary branch Renewable

by Anderson. As employee #52, he was instrumental in helping to launch and develop that successful business which began in 1995 in Cottage Grove, MN.

Now, that remodeling bug has awakened a new passion in Michael, his wife Lisa and their family as they inherited a small cabin on Lake Manuella near Darwin and are setting about remodeling it with a coastal "Nantucket" type design, with ocean blue-green colors, expanded patio and outdoor spaces, and an added screened-in porch where the family entertaining takes place.

"Lisa is the Vice President of Marketing at The Waters Senior Living Communities," Michael said. "Our

Karlsrud Cottage: Internet of choice
Continued on Page 3



COVID-19 Update and Happy 85th Anniversary

Covid-19 Update

It has been several months since I gave an update on Meeker Co-op's Covid-19 pandemic status so I thought I'd start this article with that update.

Our office remains closed to the public. We have been able to meet with members and customers via telephone, email, texts, and other forms of social meetings. At times we have met people in the parking lot to exchange information and paperwork or get questions answered. Approximately 25% of the Co-op's employees continue to work from home. Others, such as the linemen, VIBRANT installers, stakers and service technicians report directly into the warehouse. In an effort to limit interaction between employees, temporary desks and materials have been placed in the warehouse so they do not have to enter the office area itself.

As per the Governor's Executive Order, we wear masks in all common areas such as hallways and meeting rooms. When not alone in an office — or the social distancing requirements cannot be met and a sneeze barrier is not available — masks are on.

Speaking of masks on. After the March, April and May Board meetings were held via conference call, the June and July Board meetings were held in person. They were held in the Co-op's training room to accommodate social distancing requirements. Per the Governor's order, masks were required to be worn throughout the July board meeting; a bit of distraction at times as eyeglasses would fog up and mask adjustments would need to be made. But business was conducted and most importantly, all went home safe.

We have installed Plexiglas sneeze barriers in numerous offices and along the front service counter. We are still awaiting the arrival of some Plexiglas wall extenders for a few cubicles. We've added additional procedures such as hand sanitizing stations upon entry into the office, and

cleaning and wiping down of common touch points on a daily basis or after each use.

As summer heads into its final weeks we are anticipating formally reopening the office to the public starting Monday, October 5th. I'm confident we will have the final barriers in place by then.

We have taken advantage of technology to overcome some of the remote working conditions, implementing electronic forms to limit paper touch points among employees and members. We will continue to evaluate our processes and procedures to see what we can make more efficient and safer for both employees and the public.

I can say with confidence this is a year we will never forget. The pandemic thwarted some goals, changed others and forced us to set some new ones. Regardless, our mission "To enhance the quality of life of the Cooperative's Members and Customers" remains. Although the pandemic has made things cumbersome at times, I do not believe our work and commitment have been compromised. All of the Co-op's employees remain focused on the Co-op's mission.

A Long, Long Time Ago

That heading may sound a bit like an old nursery rhyme or the beginning of a children's book, but on September 13th, Meeker Cooperative Light and Power Association celebrates its 85th Anniversary. In the business world, 85 years is a long, long time ago.

Like most children's stories, there is a happy ending. Unlike them, there was no magic involved. No waving a magic wand, no magic pixie dust, no secret words spoken, no special kiss or rubbing of a lamp. It was simply hard work, patience, perseverance, trust, faith and working together that got the Co-op organized, funded, construction started and electricity finally flowing to the rural areas.

Eighty-five years may make the Co-op old, but in some regards it is young. It was only in June of 2018 that Meeker's Board of Directors gave the nod to build out and start offering high-speed internet service and only slightly over a year ago that we connected our first VIBRANT customer. Like the farmers in 1935 that couldn't wait for their farm to be energized with power, today's rural residents can't wait to get connected to the Co-op's "Rip Snort'n Fast" VIBRANT internet service.

Happy 85th Anniversary Meeker Cooperative and Light Power Association.

Without Internet

As schools start to open for the school year, many rural families worry about the need to have high-speed internet for e-Learning. As schools either start in person or are forced to do some sort of learning from home, students without a high-speed internet connection will struggle to complete their school work.

Students aren't the only ones who may struggle because of poor internet service. People working from home need that same high-speed internet access. As we have seen starting last spring and continuing through the summer, many employees were either forced or elected to work from home due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Whether you need high-speed internet for educational, employment or just plain personal enjoyment and recreation reasons, I encourage you to contact us about connecting to VIBRANT Broadband internet.

Did You Know -

Lightning kills 30 people in the U.S. every year, according to John Jensenius (also known as Dr. Lightning) of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Board of Directors

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

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Meeker Pioneer

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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.

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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."

Harvard Bound:
VIBRANT makes
distance learning
possible

Continued from Page 1

For Corey, successful distance learning was crucial as he had his sights set on applying to attend Harvard University in Cambridge, Mass. Because of VIBRANT, he was able to do excellent work online and achieve his dream...an acceptance letter from Harvard University. He has already left for campus and is excited to begin this fall.

“My second semester may be distance learning,” Cory said as the college prepares for social distancing and rotating students on and off campus.

“That means I will be eating bandwidth for breakfast,” Cory said. He plans to study economics at Harvard, and although he’d rather be on campus, he is comfortable that he will be able to keep up with studies now that VIBRANT has delivered fiber optic to the home. The Zimmermans chose the Streaming package, which is 50 mbps download, more than enough for what he will be required to do.

He’s not the only one who is excited by VIBRANT.

“I can do my medical charting from home now,” Dr. Randy, a Board Certified Family Practitioner, said. “I can also participate in WebEx meetings.

“I can use it for my art, and learn how to do new art and craft projects like sandblasting rocks,” Molly said. “I can’t believe all that’s available to learn on YouTube and we can now do that.

“We can also share photos and videos from our trips with our family and church group, which was difficult to do before,” Dr. Randy said.

“It was so much easier to plan our trip to the Boundary Waters with all the interactive maps showing sites and distances,” Molly said. “I never knew those things were out there!”

For more information on VIBRANT Broadband, call 320-693-3231 or visit VIBRANTBROADBAND.com.

Karlsrud Cottage: Internet of choice *Continued from Page 1*



Installer Garin Sorey discusses placement of the router with Michael.

offices can be duplicated at the cottage and we could realistically do our jobs at the cabin 3-4 days a week.”

For that, they needed to remodel their internet system.

“We were using our phone’s hot spot,” Michael said. That wasn’t going to work with a new flat-screen T.V. mounted in the porch and the need for broadband service for computer use.

“We shopped and compared in the Litchfield area but there really wasn’t any access and no intention of providing service. Realtors said Century Link is the phone company in the area, but there was no internet service.”

They noticed a message about VIBRANT Broadband on one of their bills and were intrigued.

“I called after they began construction in our area,” Michael said. “We watched them dig the main fiber optic cable in the ditch along our road.”



A four-season porch now has a mounted flat-screen TV thanks to VIBRANT.

Along with the home office accessibility, there were other considerations, too.

“We have two 20-somethings that will be using the cabin and they are going to want to stream and access more digital sites.”

The couple chose fiber to the home, since the mainline went directly by their home. They chose the Streaming SOHO (Small Office, Home Office) package, which will provide 50 mbps download and 25 mbps upload.

“It’s exciting! Now we can have all the conveniences in the cottage that we have in the city. Getting VIBRANT was a no-brainer.”

For more information about VIBRANT packages, prices and installation, go to VIBRANTBROADBAND.com or call 320-693-3231.

More households
impressed with VIBRANT

“I live out by Lake Washington where crews are putting in VIBRANT Broadband. I just want to compliment the company that hired them. These are the most courteous, friendly, kind young men.

They are working like crazy, but are just so friendly and kind to the neighborhood here. One neighbor said, ‘I think I’m going to bake them some cookies.’ So I think it’s a great compliment for these young men.

They are just hustling like crazy, but will stop and say ‘Is everything okay?’ Or if you ask a question they are very courteous. ‘We will get this done as quickly as possible,’ they say, or ‘I’ll sweep your driveway where we’ve dirtied it.’ It’s just exceptional to see.”

Resident on Lake Washington

“Your tech Deonte just left. He was excellent. He was here on time, he completed his work within one hour and the system is running fine. He helped me check all my devices and I could not be happier with him. Just wanted you to know he provided excellent service. Thank you to Meeker Cooperative for providing this service!”

K. Metkowski

I want to commend your team at VIBRANT. I’ve been impressed with everything. I wasn’t there for the site evaluation but they did a nice job with digging the line in and working with the deck. The guy today was great. Answered all of my questions including what to do if we add on a garage and a bonus room. Kudos to you guys.

It has been a relief to know that I have reliable internet. We have been very pleased and have recommended VIBRANT to others. Everyone throughout the whole process was extremely helpful. I just told Steve Kosbab yesterday how impressed I was with the whole process. For the first time, my son can game, my daughter can stream, and I can work from home and not have any issues.

T. Carlson

It was so quick! I had talked with Lynn, but my company said they would match the speed. After we waited and waited, we got disgusted with all their hee-hawing so I called and talked to Bo and told him to sign us up for VIBRANT. I called back a few days later to check progress and was told it was already in process. When guys came to mark where the lines would go, they spent time discussing where to put the box so that if the neighbors wanted VIBRANT later, they would be within the footage necessary and wouldn’t have to pay extra for the service. I thought that was so considerate of them.

Crews came out at 7:30 at night to hook up the box and dig in the line and you can’t really even tell where it was. They hid it behind the lilac bush. Deonte came to hook up everything in the house. He amazed me because he flipped a switch here and there and everything was hooked up. I expected it to take forever and a day to hook up all the systems. It was done in 10 minutes. He showed me how to do everything and how to set up my husband’s phone, our tablets, etc. It would have taken me hours to figure it out. He was very considerate. He said if I wanted to I could call and let the Co-op know what I thought of the service. Before he was even out of the driveway, I was on the phone!

C. Johnson

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.

Fiber-to-the-Home Installation

In the August *Pioneer*, we learned how fiber optic lines are spliced so the data can pass unrestricted at the "speed of light."

Once the fiber has been spliced and on its way to the home, the line must be spliced once more before entering the home.

Follow the pictorial guide to bringing fiber into the home.



Fiber is dug underground from the ditch, where it was separated and spliced from the main fiber optic cable and trenched to the house, where it comes up through a conduit into the NID.



The NID (Network Interface Device) is what makes the transition of fiber optic lines into the home and connects to the router to run the home's devices via WiFi signal.



Fiber optic lines are separated and the buffering tubes must be cut away to expose the individual fiber strands that will get spliced to continue into the home. Location # 28-04-3020



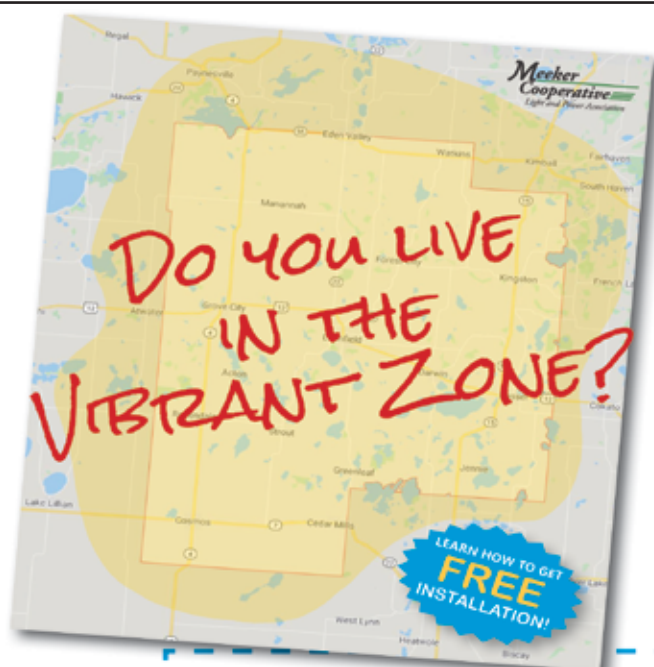
A small, simple mechanical splicing apparatus is used to connect the fibers outside to inside. Rather than fusing the strands together, this device surrounds the splice with a mechanical device that maintains the structural integrity of the splice and allows light to pass through unimpeded.



This device protects the splice inside the NID.



This meter checks to make sure the splice is good and the right amount of data is being conducted. Once the outside looks good, the technician continues to make connections to the router inside the home, checks that everything is working as it should, and answers any questions the homeowner has.



Get **Rip Snort'n FAST** Internet with

VIBRANT
Broadband™

Powered by Meeker Cooperative

ESSENTIAL	STREAMING	ULTRA	EXTREME
UP TO 25 MBPS DOWNLOADS Starting at \$59.95/mo	UP TO 50 MBPS DOWNLOADS Starting at \$69.95/mo	UP TO 75 MBPS DOWNLOADS Starting at \$74.95/mo	UP TO 100 MBPS DOWNLOADS Starting at \$79.95/mo

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

Please Contact Me

Phone

Phone Number

Text

Mobile Number

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

Can California's rolling blackouts happen here?

By David Saggau, CEO
Great River Energy

Rolling blackouts in California have been making headlines and sparking questions across the country, particularly in regions such as the Midwest that are seeing rapid renewable energy growth. Great River Energy and many of our member-owners are receiving the same question: "Could this happen here?"

There is a fundamental difference between California and Minnesota that makes our situations quite different: California's dependence on solar energy. Rolling blackouts are occurring shortly after sundown when solar resources stop generating while temperatures remain high and air conditioner use continues.

Solar energy makes up a very small percentage of the generating resources in MISO, so the region does not experience sharp drop-offs in energy production associated with widespread reliance on solar generating resources.

Great River Energy, one of the power suppliers to Meeker Cooperative, has been

a part of the MISO electricity market since 2005. As a member of MISO, we must have sufficient generating capacity to meet our members' peak load plus reserves. Great River Energy's generating capacity is, and will always be, more than sufficient to provide reliability services and meet MISO requirements.

We have a fleet of modern natural gas plants in Minnesota that provide all-hours reliability. Most of these plants have on-site backup fuels. We have also built new transmission across the region to ensure energy can be delivered to our members. And, in partnership with member-owner cooperatives, we have developed one of the country's most robust demand response programs which allows us to effectively reduce electric loads during extreme conditions.

As electricity providers, we expect these types of questions from our members. It shows us how much they value reliable electric service. Great River Energy has the resources we need to ensure electricity is there for all our member-owners.

Industry News

California's heat wave caused rolling blackouts for millions

Soaring temperatures in California spurred an overwhelming surge in electricity use that the state's grid operator had to cut off power to up to 4 million people Friday evening.

California Independent System Operator, the body that runs the electric grid for most of the state, initially asked customers to reduce electricity use between 3 pm and 10 pm by doing things like turning off lights and raising their thermostats to 78 degrees or higher.

But after power reserves fell below a critical threshold, the grid operator shifted to a "Stage 3" emergency, and triggered "load interruptions" across the state starting around 6:30 pm.

The blackouts underscore how vulnerable the state's electric grids are to being overwhelmed precisely when people lean on them most for safety and comfort in extreme weather.

~VOX

Wind turbine blades in coal mine pits? A new Wyoming law will allow it.

Wind energy companies will have the option of using decommissioned wind turbine blades as backfill material when reclaiming surface coal mine sites soon, thanks to a new bill signed into law earlier this year. But first, the state needs to set the rules.

Wyoming environmental regulators gathered input on draft rules related to the new law with the Land Quality Division Advisory Board recently. The public and industry representatives had the opportunity to weigh in. Location # 01-06-320

Back in March, the Wyoming Legislature passed House Bill 129, extending the option to companies to repurpose retired wind blades when reclaiming surface coal mines.

The blades, which typically make up about 10% of a wind turbine's total material, are made of fiberglass. Fiberglass is a tricky material that can't be recycled or easily repurposed. And as utility companies look to replace aging wind turbines, the machines' blades are being buried in stacks at a handful of landfills around the country, including in the Casper Regional Landfill.

-Casper Star-Tribune

Who's Watching Your Home While You're at the Game?

Our smart home security systems protect your home and valuables from intruders, fire, and other threats.

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Heartland Security



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.

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

Q

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.

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.

Q

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.

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

Q

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.

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.



Operation Round Up August Recipients

Community Service

Manannah Cemetery Association	\$390
Litchfield Chamber of Commerce	\$2,000
Cokato Fire Departm.....	\$1,000
Habitat for Humanity-West Central	\$500
Lutheran Social Services	\$1,500
Litchfield Rescue Squad.....	\$900
Kimball Library	\$1,000

Education and Youth

True Friends & Friendship Ventures	\$1,500
Total.....	\$8,790



ELECTRICAL SAFETY TIPS FOR HUNTERS

This hunting season, we encourage all members to be aware of electrical equipment and take necessary precautions while hunting. Keep these safety tips in mind as you enjoy the great outdoors.



Take notice of posted warning signs and keep clear of electrical equipment.



Do not shoot at or near power lines or insulators.



Know where power lines and equipment are located on the land where you hunt.



Be especially careful in wooded areas where power lines may not be as visible.



Do not place deer stands on utility poles or climb poles. Energized lines and equipment can conduct electricity to anyone who comes in contact with them, causing shock or electrocution.



Do not place decoys on power lines or other utility equipment. Any non-electrical equipment attached to a pole can pose an obstruction and serious hazards to our line crews.



Charging your phone for a year

Electricity continues to be a great value courtesy of your electric cooperative

50¢

You may see a reduction on your October bill

With the fall season upon us, your Co-op's winter residential rate is in effect from Sept. 1 through May 31. The summer rate of 12.3¢ per kWh will now be 10.3¢ per kWh for the general service. And the energy management rate will fall from 6.2¢ per kWh to 5.7¢ per kWh. The energy you use in September will be reflected on your October bill at the lower rate. Feel free to contact us with questions about your energy use, including our energy efficiency and management programs, dual fuel, and rebates. These programs will help reduce your energy cost and could save you hundreds of dollars a year.

Corn Dip

Jeanie Ebert of Hutchinson submitted this month's winning recipe for **Favorite Corn Recipe**. She will have \$10 credited to her account. Congratulations!

Corn Dip

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 5 strips bacon | 2 jalapeno peppers, seeded, diced |
| 1-2 Tbsp. salted butter | 8 oz. cream cheese, softened |
| Salt/Pepper | 1 cup sour cream |
| 3 cups fresh corn (4-5 ears) | 1 pckt. ranch seasoning mix |
| 3 cloves garlic, minced | 1 cup cheddar cheese, shredded |
| 3/4 cup red onion, diced | 1 cup Monterey Jack, shredded |
| 1 small red bell pepper, diced | 2 green onions, more for garnish |

Preheat oven to 375°. Cook bacon until crisp, drain, crumble, set aside. Leave bacon drippings in pan. Cut kernels from cobs (propping cobs in center of bundt pan stabilizes cob and catches kernels. On medium heat, add corn to bacon drippings and saute 10 minutes, adding butter as needed. Season with salt/pepper to taste. Add garlic, red onion and peppers to skillet and cook 5 minutes, until soft. Remove from heat.

In a large bowl, combine the cream cheese, sour cream, Ranch seasoning (equivalent to 2 Tbsp. mix), half the cheeses and diced green onion. Add the softened vegetables and seasoned corn, stir to combine. Location # 29-26-103

Transfer mixture to a baking dish, top with remaining cheeses. Bake for 20 minutes, uncovered. Add crumbled bacon and bake 5 more minutes.

Garnish with additional green onions and serve.

Tip: Prepare bacon in large oven-safe skillet that you can also bake the dip in.

Make-ahead tip: Prepare the dip, transfer to baking dish, top with cheese. Store crumbled bacon in Ziploc bag. Cover and refrigerate up to 2 days. Add extra 10 minutes of baking time, covered.

For October, submit your favorite **NEW**
Recipe for a Thanksgiving Side Dish to:
Meeker Cooperative, ATTN: Becky Sorenson,
1725 US Hwy 12, Suite 100, Litchfield, MN 55355
Deadline: September 28

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.

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

Or email your updates to rsorenson@meeker.coop



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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 **Sept. 28** will be included in the October 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

____ Services

For Sale - Miscellaneous

- Rifled slug barrel for Remington 870 12-gauge. 320-693-2504.
- Toro lawn tractor 252H. Runs gd., no deck. \$200. 320-221-0341.

- Bunkbeds, wood, complete bedding incl. \$100/obo. No pillows. 651-274-5636.
- Six Ikea large rectangular glass vases, used once. \$18/set. 320-293-5435.
- Location #09-14-401

- Free boat lift, dock & deck. You pull out of Lake. 320-275-9116.
- Polarix helmet cover zipper close; new, rarely used. \$10. 320-293-5435.
- Sightron rifle scope 3x9x42mm, no rings incl. Silver color. 320-583-6903.
- Two 8"x8" rough-cut timbers, about 8' long. \$20/ea. 612-281-9521.
- Heavy-duty ironing board w/thick pad, clean. \$15. 320-293-5435.
- Wood dock, 30' redwood, painted, Lk. Manuella. \$50. 763-537-6553.
- Older slide-in camper for pickup, used for deer hunting. Make offer. 612-816-0934.

- Two upright freezers: 1 lrg., 1 sm. Also, 1 sm. refrigerator. \$25/ea. 320-275-3602.
- 2004 Honda Silverwing, gd. cond., runs well. \$2,000/obo. 320-761-6844.
- Oak shelving & 2 oak cabt. Doors; 7 qt. canner. 320-582-0864.
- Oak table, 6 chairs w/leaves. \$100. 320-224-7252.
- Tall oak china cabt., exc. cond. \$100. 320-224-7252.
- Juicer, Breville Juice Fountain Plus complete kit, Lk. New. \$70. 320-221-2597.
- Crock, 2 & 3-gal. Vintage Red Wing, exc. cond. \$70/ea. 320-221-2597.
- Crock (three 1-qt.): 1 w/ad. logo, \$50; 2 plain, \$25/ea. Exc. cond. 320-221-2597.
- Free kittens; 7 male, 1 female. Text/call 320-296-6353.
- 300-gal. round poly septic tank, never used. \$100/obo. 320-979-6313.
- Sears alum. 12-ft. rowboat w/oars. \$200/obo, 612-384-5290.
- Golf clubs: 14 woods, 9 irons, putter, bag. \$100/obo. 612-384-5290.
- Clean used furniture, cheap. 320-764-2286.
- Cut dry wood, \$10; cattle waterer, \$25. 320-764-2286.
- 1998 Pop-up camper, \$2,000/obo; RC GMC 4x4, \$3,100. 320-764-2584.
- Dresser, 6 drws, mirror; dbl. bed frames, book case headbrd. \$25. 320-587-3466.
- Fresh honey & comb, no medications used in hives. 320-221-4125.
- Elec. 18-qt. roaster, gd. cond., in box. \$15. 320-857-2480.
- Lift: boat or jet ski, 6'x9' w/wheels. \$125/obo. 320-275-9411.

- West Bend 30-cup stainless coffee perk. Gd. cond. In box. \$8. 320-857-2480.
- U.S. flag set: new 3'x5' flag w/6' pole, brackets. Make offer. 320-293-5435.
- Snow Floe mobile trailer; salt shield, 1 black. \$150 a piece. Great shape. 320-293-5435.
- Two 100-gal. portable propane tanks w/propane. \$125/ea. 320-293-5435.
- Honda 2005 Aquatrax w/trailer, grt. cond. \$6,800. 320-420-2649.
- Heavy duty Craftsman table saw, extra blades. \$385. 320-260-2955.
- 275-gal. plastic totes. \$50/ea. 320-894-3734.

For Sale - Automotive

- 2005 Kia Sorento repair or parts. Runs and drives. 320-453-4200.
- 1966 Corvair, restored, gd. cond., 53K mi. \$5,000. 320-699-1340.

For Sale - Agricultural

- Horse hay, 2nd cutting, sm. squares, grass, alfalfa mix. \$6/bale. 320-221-0341.
- Three-point mounted chisel plow Allis brand ready to use. 320-221-0341.
- 1936 Twin City MM tractor, restored, strong runner. \$1,950. 320-276-8575.
- 35 acres 1 mile south of Lk. Koronis. \$136,000. 605-472-1624.
- Recently removed Sukup 6" grain bin unload and power sweep. 320-583-5324.
- Loader. Fits IH H, M, JD A, B. \$150. 320-974-3057.
- Small straw bales, \$3/ea. Ford Bush Hog, \$150. 320-582-1954.

- Two Sioux bins, 1 is 1,000 bu.; 1 is 2,500 bu. 320-453-6122.
- 1967 John Deere 4020 8/ps loader 148. Gd. rubber. 320-296-2505.
- Bucket of plastic wire connectors for fencing. Make offer. 320-293-5435.
- 8N Ford Tractor, sickle mower. 320-221-4262.
- Two wood 100-bu. Flare boxes w/hydraulic hoists. 320-221-4262.

Wanted

- Old spears & spearing decoys. Will pay cash. 320-583-6903.
- Flat screen TVs, small electronics, printers for scrapping. 763-300-6179.
- Used mid-size 4-wheel drive pickup, must be reliable. 320-275-3445.

Give Away

- 4-year-old white and orange femail English Setter. 320-894-3734.

Services

- Welding fabrication, stainless, alum. shop on site. 320-290-5950.
- Hydraulic cylinder repair, welding, mobile equip. repair, ag, commercial. 320-428-5602.
- Raptor's Roost arcade/snack bar now open in Eden Valley. 320-221-4125.

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 Sept. 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. Good luck!

