



## MANAGER'S MESSAGE // PAT CARRUTH



*General Manager*

### Development Funds Available

Minnesota Valley has been involved in encouraging economic development in our area since our cooperative was first formed. For many years, we have had a revolving economic development fund available to help bridge fund businesses in and around our service area. The fund, in total, is currently \$274,318. We have \$66,530 in outstanding loans, which means we have \$207,788 available to loan out. If you are starting or expanding a business or know of anyone who is in our general service area and needs some gap financing, we may be able to help. Our purpose would be to help supplement financing, but not compete with other sources of capital on a project.

Borrowers and activities eligible for financing assistance from the development fund are as follows:

- ✓ The project must be located in geographical service area footprint, but does not have to take electric service from us.
- ✓ Loan funds can be used for acquiring land, building construction and/or renovation, machinery and equipment, working capital for inventory purchase or infrastructure improvements.
- ✓ Types of projects eligible are small business startup or expansion, community infrastructure or facilities, medical facilities or training and educational facilities.
- ✓ We do not typically charge more than 2% interest and all loans are subject to board approval.

If you are interested in using or inquiring about our rural economic revolving loan fund, please give our Member Services Department a call for all the details. Have a great summer!

If you feel a **SHOCK**, swim **AWAY** from the **DOCK!**



### Did you know?

Electricity can enter water from energized boats and docks.

If you are in the water and feel electric current:

- 1 **SHOUT** to let others know.
- 2 **TUCK** your legs up to make yourself smaller.
- 3 Try to go out **AWAY** from anything that could be energized.
- 4 Do **NOT** head to boat or dock ladders to get out.



If you are on the dock or shore when a swimmer feels electrical current:

- 1 Do **NOT** jump in.
- 2 Throw them a float.
- 3 Eliminate or **turn off** the source of electricity as quickly as possible.
- 4 Then **call** for help.

Learn more at [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org)

## Double Rebate Savings Continue Through Labor Day

From now continuing through Labor Day of 2021, Minnesota Valley is doubling the rebates given for the installation of an air source heat pump, geothermal heat pump or central air conditioning unit.

**Air source heat pumps** (including mini splits) are \$12 per 1,000 Btus

**Geothermal heat pumps** are \$24 per 1,000 Btus

**Central air conditioning systems** are \$2 per 1,000 Btus for Energy Star rated units and \$4 per 1,000 Btus for units with a SEER rating of 16 or higher



## ENGINEERING & OPERATIONS // BOB KRATZ



Manager of Operations

Even during the busiest time of year, Minnesota Valley Linemen need to practice and remember safety techniques. MREA

personnel come out for meetings about 8 times a year. Last month, the topic was *pole top and bucket rescue*. They hope they never have to use these procedures, but if they do, they will be prepared.

The *Pole Treating Crew* started the annual program of testing power poles on June 7<sup>th</sup> and this will continue into mid-August, when they all go back to school. O three eleven zero four As I had mentioned in a previous article, they are in two white pickups digging around the poles, then testing the poles and filling them back up with the dirt. The annual program of this treating helps to extend the life span of many of the older poles on the system.



### Pole Treating Crew



Jason VanEngen  
21<sup>st</sup> Year

Riley Emery  
5<sup>th</sup> Year

Colby Buseman  
2<sup>nd</sup> Year

Grayson Eisenlohr  
1<sup>st</sup> Year

Gavin Johnson  
1<sup>st</sup> Year

Isaac Moravetz  
1<sup>st</sup> Year

Bradyn Schultz  
1<sup>st</sup> Year

## Meet Your Employees

<b>Name</b>	Cole Mertens
<b>Hometown</b>	Olivia, MN
<b>Family</b>	Dawn & Greg (parents), Breann & Trey (siblings) and Mallarie (wife)
<b>When did you start at Minnesota Valley?</b>	April 5 <sup>th</sup> , 2021 as a Lineman
<b>What do you like best about working here?</b>	Everyone was helpful at getting me started
<b>What do you like to do in your free time?</b>	Golfing, hunting and being with family and friends
<b>If you could do another job just for one day, what would it be?</b>	I would fly fighter jets for the Navy



# Comparative Report

	Jan-May 2021	Jan-May 2020	Jan-May 2001
Kwh Purchased	87,231,276	87,839,561	60,881,560
Kwh Sold	81,921,745	82,478,549	55,799,912
Cost Of Purchased Power	\$3,738,105	\$3,729,288	\$1,592,168
Patronage Capital Margins	\$567,971	\$655,491	\$231,565
Reserve For Taxes	\$110,417	\$110,826	\$82,520
Cost Per Kwh Purchased (mills)	42.85	42.46	26.15
	May '21	May '20	May '01
Total Plant	\$82,557,858	\$78,467,536	\$33,341,821
Number of Active Services	5,337	5,263	5,214
Avg. Residential Bill	\$186.46	\$188.49	\$98.20
Avg. Residential Kwh Consumption	1,379	1,455	1,267
Avg. Kwh Usage All Consumers	2,329	2,202	1,695
Peak Kw Demand (Peak Load)	24,908	23,266	20,550

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

When shopping for new light bulbs, know the difference between lumens and watts. Lumens measure the amount of light produced by the bulb. Watts measure energy consumption. Energy-saving LEDs come in a variety of colors and brightness levels and last 15-25 times longer than incandescent bulbs.

Source: [energy.gov](http://energy.gov)



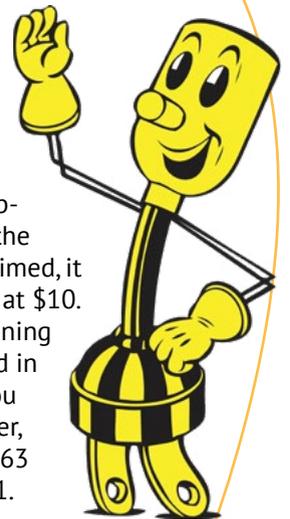
## Find Your Location Number for a Bill Credit!

There are two hidden account numbers in this newsletter. If you find your location number, you receive a \$10 bill credit (*Operation Round Up participants get a \$10 bonus*). If neither number is claimed before the 25<sup>th</sup> of the month, **the unclaimed amount rolls over into the next month!**

The bill credit will continue to roll over and accumulate until it is claimed. If both location numbers are claimed in a month, the recipients will split the credit. Once claimed, it will start again at \$10. The current running amount is noted in each issue. If you find your number, call 320.269.2163 or 800.247.5051.

CLAIM BY  
THE 25<sup>TH</sup>  
OF JULY TO  
RECEIVE:

**\$50**



No one claimed the bill credit last month, so we've rolled last month's credit into this month!

### Update Contact Info: Cut & Return With Payment or Register Online

Enter for a chance to win a \$10.00 or \$25.00 credit to your energy bill!

Name: .....

Account Number: .....

Current Phone Number: .....

Additional Phone Number: .....

Email Address: .....

All slips returned with new information will be entered into a drawing on July 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021 for a \$10.00 credit to your energy bill!

Also, all new registrations to SmartHub between July 8<sup>th</sup> and July 26<sup>th</sup> will be entered into another drawing for a \$25.00 credit to your energy bill! To register, visit [www.mnvalleyrec.com](http://www.mnvalleyrec.com), then click on the SmartHub icon in the upper right hand corner.





Member Services Manager

## An Air Conditioner Compared to a Heat Pump

Heat Pumps can be a great savings tool for your energy conservation practices and with the Double Rebates this summer, it makes it even more attractive to look into. Please contact the Member Services Department for more information.



### Mechanical Components

The mechanical components common to both a heat pump and an air conditioner are a compressor, expansion valve, evaporator coil and a condensing coil. In a cooling cycle, the heat pump and air conditioner operate exactly the same by utilizing refrigerant to transfer heat from inside the house to the outside. During the heating season, a heat pump has a special reversing valve that allows the system to extract heat from the air outside the house and transfer it inside the house for heating purposes. So basically a heat pump is a standard air conditioner in the summer and has the ability to run backwards and heat your home for the heating season.

### Applications

Air conditioners have a single purpose, which is to provide cooling. During the winter, they sit idle while a separate furnace provides heat for the house. Heat pumps are dual-purpose, functioning year-round for both heating and cooling. A heat pump works best at moderate temperatures that are not below 0 degrees Fahrenheit. Heat pumps are normally equipped with supplementary electric resistance heat strips or fossil fuel backups to provide additional heating during colder temperature periods. The heat pump can heat your home during very cold periods, but defrosting the outside coil can become an issue that generally should be avoided. The unit can be equipped with an outdoor thermostat to automatically turn the heat pump off at a desired temperature.

### Heat Pump Efficiency

The *Seasonal Energy Efficiency Ratio* (SEER) rates the cooling efficiency of the heat pump. Generally, the higher the SEER rating, the higher the units cost. However, gains from energy savings will compensate for the initial investment over time. In our region with much cooler weather, air conditioning is not as big a factor as the heating efficiency of a heat pump. You want your heat pump to have a high *Heating Seasonal Performance Factor* (HSPF). Heat pumps in our region can run as much as five times more in the heating mode as they would in the air conditioning mode. Therefore, a heat pump that has a higher heating efficiency will help you save more money.

## BEAT THE HEAT—SUMMER SAFETY RULES

### The Symptoms of Heat Disorders: What to Look For and Actions to Take

Heat Disorder	Symptoms	First Aid
<b>Sunburn</b>	<i>Skin redness and pain, possible swelling, blisters, fever, headaches.</i>	Take a shower, using soap, to remove oils that may block pores preventing the body from cooling naturally. If blisters occur, apply dry, sterile dressings and get medical attention.
<b>Heat Cramps</b>	<i>Painful spasms usually in leg and abdominal muscles. Heavy sweating.</i>	Firm pressure on cramping muscles or gentle massage to relieve spasm. Give sips of water. Call 9-1-1 if nausea occurs, discontinue.
<b>Heat Exhaustion</b>	<i>Heavy sweating, weakness, skin cold, pale and clammy. Weak pulse. Normal temperature possible. Fainting, vomiting.</i>	Get victim to lie down in a cool place. Loosen clothing. Apply cool, wet cloths. Fan or move victim to air-conditioned place. Give sips of water. If nausea occurs, discontinue. If vomiting occurs, seek immediate medical attention.
<b>Heat Stroke (Sun Stroke)</b>	<i>High body temperature (106+). Hot, dry skin. Rapid, strong pulse. Possible unconsciousness. Victim will likely not sweat.</i>	Heat stroke is a severe medical emergency. Call 9-1-1 or emergency medical services or get the victim to a hospital immediately. Delay can be fatal. Move victim to a cooler environment. Try a cool bath or sponging to reduce body temperature. Use extreme caution. Remove clothing. Use fans and/or air conditioners. <b>DO NOT GIVE FLUIDS.</b>

