



MANAGER'S MESSAGE // PAT CARRUTH



General Manager

You Might Need to Upgrade Your Service if You are Adding Load

There are many requests for service upgrades in the queue for this summer. If you are planning to add load that might require a service upgrade, please give us a call so we can help you prepare. We try to plan as far out as we can and like to be as punctual as we can. Longer lead times help us to schedule more efficiently, which helps everyone get what they need on time. If you are looking into a large load addition such as a new grain drying system, get ahold of us early so we can prepare to be able to provide the power you will need to run your new system. Many times, we have members contact us after they have purchased a new drying system and they are surprised to find out that we have to make some major investments on our side of the line to provide the power to make their new system work. We just want you to be aware of this.

Oh, and by the way, if you are upgrading your service for a new home or shop, make sure you size it to include room for adding electric heat. Our dual heat rate and electric heat rates are 4.4 and 4.8 cent per kWh, respectively. We plan to hold those rates for 3 years. The dual heat rate using straight resistance heat compares to \$1.06 propane run through a high efficiency furnace. An air source heat pump is twice as efficient as straight resistance heat. A ground water sourced heat pump is three times as efficient as straight resistance. Call our guys in Member Services for more information.

Heading into Mid-Year in Good Shape Operationally

Crews are in place and working on pole testing and treating, line right-of-way clearing, mechanical apparatus testing and servicing and all of the other scheduled maintenance projects that must be taken care of to keep the system operating at a high level of reliability. Like everyone, we are hopeful for a nice summer and fall to get our work done.

Financials in Good Shape Heading into Mid-Year

Our sales through April are down about 2% over last year at this time. This is what we would expect as the weather for the most part was pretty mild. Total margins through the first four months are \$614,000, which is \$324,000 ahead of budget. We think we are in pretty good shape financially going into summer. As you know, weather is everything and there is a lot of this year left. Have a safe summer!

5 STEPS FOR SAFE DIGGING

1) NOTIFY

Call 8-1-1 or make a request online two to three days before your work begins. The operator will notify the utilities affected by your project.

2) WAIT

Wait two to three days for affected utilities to respond to your request. They will send a locator to mark any underground utility lines.

3) CONFIRM

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

4) RESPECT

Respect the markers provided by the affected utilities. The markers 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), consider moving your project location.



Know what's below. Call before you dig.



Minnesota Valley Cooperative will be closed Monday, July 5th in observance of Independence Day.

# Meet Your Employees



<b>Name</b>	Collin Kor
<b>Hometown</b>	Minneota, MN
<b>Family</b>	Wife: Raeann
<b>When did you start at Minnesota Valley?</b>	March 29, 2021 as a Member Services Technician
<b>What do you like best about working here?</b>	The thing I like best working at Minnesota Valley is the people that I work with.
<b>What do you like to do in your free time?</b>	In my free time I like to golf and play softball. Also, I like to spend time with family at the lake.
<b>What did you want to be when you grew up?</b>	A firefighter.

## Suds and Savings

### 10 Ways to Save Energy in the Laundry Room

Your clothes washer and dryer account for a significant portion of energy consumption from major appliances and let's face it – laundry is no one's favorite chore. Make the most of your laundry energy use! There are several easy ways you can save energy (and money) in the laundry room. The *Department of Energy* recommends the following tips for saving on suds.



- 1) Wash with cold water.** Switching from warm water to cold water can cut one load's energy use by more than half and by using a cold-water detergent, you can still achieve that brilliant clean you'd normally get from washing in warm water.
- 2) Wash full loads when possible.** Your washing machine will use the same amount of energy no matter the size of the clothes load, so fill it up if you can.
- 3) Use the high-speed or extended spin cycle** in the washer. A three zero three zero two This setting will remove more moisture before drying, reducing your drying time and the extra wear on clothing.
- 4) Dry heavier cottons separately.** Loads will dry faster and more evenly if you separate heavier cottons like linens and towels from your lightweight clothing.
- 5) Make use of the "cool down" cycle.** If your dryer has this cycle option, you can save energy because the clothes will finish drying with the remaining heat in the dryer.
- 6) Use lower heat settings to dry clothing.** Regardless of drying time, you'll still use less energy.
- 7) Use dryer balls.** Dryer balls, usually wool or rubber, will help keep clothes separated for faster drying and they can help reduce static, so you can eliminate dryer sheets.
- 8) Switch loads while the dryer is warm.** This allows you to take advantage of the remaining heat from the previous cycle.
- 9) Clean the lint filter after each drying cycle.** If you use dryer sheets, remember to scrub the filter once a month with a toothbrush to remove excess buildup.
- 10) Purchase ENERGY STAR®-rated washers and dryers.** When it's time to purchase a new washer or dryer, look for the ENERGY STAR® label. New washers and dryers that receive the ENERGY STAR® rating use about 20% less energy than conventional models.





# 2021 class of

Congratulations to all our area **2021 seniors!**  
Best of luck in your future plans!

## ENGINEERING & OPERATIONS // BOB KRATZ

Manager of Operations



This is a very busy time of the year for our crews and contractors trying to get projects done. Early May was awful dry, but it enabled Minnesota Valley crews to get more done than usual for that time of year. Karian Peterson underground was able to get three miles of three phase underground cable plowed in going east of the Minneota Substation. This will coincide with the next phase of the transmission rebuild project, which is to get those poles out of the middle of the section, to where the three phase is now along the road. Hopefully they can get another couple of miles in later this summer when the cable finally arrives. With everything else these days, material is getting a little tougher to get when scheduling these projects.

In early June, the pole treating crew will be starting. This involves a crew of 6 guys digging around poles that according to age, need to be checked and treated. These poles are scattered around Minnesota Valley's system territory on certain sections of line. So, if you happen to see them, that is what they are doing.

Another project we hope to get at this summer is replacing three miles of single phase underground cable that was first put in about 1980, along county road #12 north of Montevideo. This cable has caused quite a few outages over the last 5 years or so and needs to be upgraded.

Hope you all have an enjoyable 4<sup>th</sup> of July!

## Do You Know Any of These Former Minnesota Valley Members?

We need your help in locating the people listed below. Their capital credit checks for 80% of 2008, have been returned to us because we do not have a current address. If you have the address of any of these people or are one of their heirs, please get in touch with us.

**Phone:**  
320.269.2163 or  
800.247.5051

**Email:**  
[mnvalley@mnvalleyrec.com](mailto:mnvalley@mnvalleyrec.com)

**Mail:**  
Minnesota Valley R.E.C.  
P.O. Box 248  
Montevideo, MN 56265

- ▶ Brott, Francis • Minneapolis, MN
- ▶ Ensign, Peter and Bette • Rochester, MN
- ▶ Kirk, Sean • Breckenridge, TX
- ▶ Kreft, Hartwin • Vesta, MN
- ▶ Larson, Troy and Melissa • Dawson, MN
- ▶ Olson, Michael T • Pine City, MN
- ▶ Ostendorf, Art • Henning, MN
- ▶ Rogers, Jeff L • Milan, MN
- ▶ Rural Cellular Corp DBA Unicel • Alexandria, MN
- ▶ The Hunting Camp, Bruce Neal • Mayer, MN
- ▶ US Cable of Coastal Texas • Cold Spring, MN
- ▶ Zal, Pamela • Grand Jct, CO

## Comparative Report

	Jan-Apr 2021	Jan-Apr 2020	Jan-Apr 2000
Kwh Purchased	73,938,688	75,309,104	47,098,438
Kwh Sold	69,491,604	70,890,479	44,355,345
Cost Of Purchased Power	\$3,034,086	\$3,190,268	\$1,291,343
Patronage Capital Margins	\$614,871	\$577,451	\$204,094
Reserve For Taxes	\$88,333	\$88,333	\$79,000
Cost Per Kwh Purchased (mills)	41.04	42.36	29.08
	<b>April '21</b>	<b>April '20</b>	<b>April '00</b>
Total Plant	\$82,964,893	\$78,365,645	\$32,564,507
Number of Active Services	5,334	5,276	5,202
Avg. Residential Bill	\$190.31	\$204.54	\$103.73
Avg. Residential Kwh Consumption	1,646	1,849	1,445
Avg. Kwh Usage All Consumers	2,623	2,438	1,826
Peak Kw Demand (Peak Load)	29,703	29,332	19,707

## Find Your Number!

There are two account numbers hidden in this newsletter. If you find your number, call 320.269.2163 or 800.247.5051 to receive a bill credit. The bill credit starts at \$10, but if neither number is claimed before the 25<sup>th</sup> of the month, the unclaimed amount rolls over to the next month! If both numbers are claimed, the recipients split the credit, then it starts again at \$10.



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

**\$40**





## MEMBER SERVICES // SCOTT KUBESH

Member Services Manager

# Summer Safety Reminders

### Outdoor Safety During a Thunderstorm

Lightning can strike up to 10 miles from the area in which it is raining and you do not have to see clouds. This means that if you can hear thunder, you're within striking distance and it is time to take safe shelter. When the storm is over, wait 30 minutes after the last lightning strike you see before going back outside.

If caught outdoors during a thunderstorm and unable to take shelter in an enclosed building, take the following precautions:

- ✦ Try to take shelter in a vehicle with a solid metal roof. Close the windows and avoid contact with electrical conducting paths—such as the steering wheel, ignition, gear shifter or radio.
- ✦ Do not seek shelter under tall, solitary trees; canopies; small picnic or rain shelters; or in any open-frame vehicles such as jeeps, convertibles, golf carts, tractors or mowers.
- ✦ Avoid water, high ground or open spaces.
- ✦ Do not stand near power, light or flag poles; machinery; fences; gates; metal bleachers; or even other people. If you are in a group, spread out so that you are at least 20 feet apart.
- ✦ If your skin tingles or your hair stands on end, lightning may be about to strike. Squat down low to the ground with your head between your knees making yourself the smallest target possible.

If a person is struck by lightning, call 911 and care for the victim immediately. You are not in danger of being electrocuted by the victim.

### Beautify Your Yard, Not Utility Equipment

As you beautify your yard this spring and summer, Minnesota Valley Co-op would like to remind you of these safety tips:

- ✔ Do not plant shrubs and trees close to green box transformers or other utility equipment. Limiting or restricting access to the box in your yard by us could delay restoration work during an outage and create a serious safety hazard. We need at least 10 feet of clearance in front of the transformer (the side that is padlocked), as well as four feet of clearance on the other three sides.
- ✔ Contact us with questions about landscaping around or installing fencing near a pad-mount transformer (or any other changes) to learn what is allowable.
- ✔ Contact us if the transformer becomes unlocked or if it or any other type of utility equipment appears to be damaged.
- ✔ Call **811** prior to digging around a transformer and respect the clearance requirements noted above. If you dig near a transformer (even if it is beyond the clearance requirements), you could inadvertently hit a live underground cable. K one zero three zero four Always call 811 or Gopher State One Call prior to any digging.
- ✔ Keep a clear path to the transformer. Even though the transformer seems like it is in "your yard," it is technically on an easement and our workers need clear access to it to maintain equipment and keep power running smoothly.

Contact us with any questions or concerns about the safety of pad-mount transformers. Always teach children that they should not sit on, open or play around the green boxes.

## 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 June 28<sup>th</sup>, 2021 for a \$10.00 credit to your energy bill!

Also, all new registrations to SmartHub between June 8<sup>th</sup> and June 25<sup>th</sup> will be entered into a 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.



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