

MANAGER'S MESSAGE // PAT CARRUTH



General Manager

2022 Work Plan and Budget to Board This Month

This next year, we will again be working on the projects in our \$22,667,082 Four Year Construction Work Plan. The 2022 plan calls for \$4.5 million in construction and system improvements. In

addition to the construction projects, we will continue to work hard on our maintenance projects such as pole testing and treating and continue to work to catch up on our right-of-way clearing. We have had three right-of-way crews from our Minnesota Valley Tree Service working full time on our system this past year and expect that to continue next year. They will continue working in the southwest quadrant of the system next year.

We will have a draft plan to the board for them to review by mid-month and present the final Work Plan and Budget to them at their regular board meeting this month. As you know, we increased rates on January 1st of this year. We hope this increase will hold us for a couple of years. Everyone working here understands that we work for you, the member-owners. We understand that it is your money we are spending on your electric power cooperative from mine-mouth to the meter in your yard. We work hard to be good and effective stewards of both your money and your power grid. You, of course, elect your board to provide oversight and make sure that we are being good stewards.

Prepare for Winter

Get your heating system tuned up whether gas, oil or electric. Give us a call to get on the schedule. A properly tuned heating system can not only save you money, it

will also give you a better chance of making it through the winter without a problem. We are also seeing some supply chain issues with getting parts and new equipment in the heating and cooling area. We are trying to order in enough parts and supplies to make sure we can take care of the needs of our members this winter.

If you have a generator, it might be a good time to fire it up and make sure it's ready to go. If you don't have one, you might want to think about putting one in—especially now that we are part of the Southwest Power Pool (SPP) that brought us rolling blackouts for the first time in our history last February 16th. We joined the SPP in 2016. They have been holding stakeholders' meetings since that "event" last winter to try and better prepare for the next time we run short of generating capacity. I sat in on the third such meeting last month.

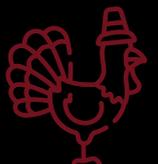
Personally, I have no confidence in SPP's ability to keep our lights on during the next extreme weather event in our part of the country. The SPP footprint is too large and over reliant on green energy. In addition to power supply issues, we have had a number of ice storms over the years. One of the worst ice storms for Minnesota Valley occurred in early 1977. The last member had power restored 11 days after the first outage. It can happen, so please, be prepared. Talk to our Member Services Department if you have any standby generator questions or would like more information on having one put in.

Have a blessed Thanksgiving!

Minnesota Valley Cooperative will be closed Thursday, November 11th in observance of Veterans Day. Thank you to all Veterans for your service.



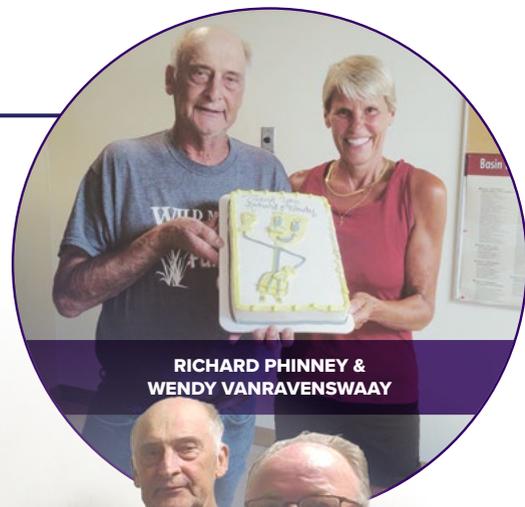
We will also be closed Thursday, November 25th for the Thanksgiving holiday.



Operation Round Up Board

Richard Phinney and Wendy VanRavenswaay are resigning from the Operation Round Up Board at the end of the year. Richard has served on the Operation Round Up Board for 19 years and Wendy has served for 12 years. Thank you, Richard and Wendy, for your dedication on the Operation Round Up Board.

The Operation Round Up Board (Left to Right): Janet Bossuyt, Norm Viken, Wendy VanRavenswaay, Kelly Aalfs, Vonnie Severson, Richard Phinney and Jon Kleven.



Colorless, Odorless... and Deadly

430

At least 430 people die each year in the U.S. as a result of carbon monoxide poisoning. Thousands more end up in hospital emergency rooms.

Carbon monoxide (CO) is an odorless, colorless gas that kills without warning.

It claims the lives of hundreds of people every year and makes thousands more ill. Many household items including gas and oil burning furnaces, portable generators and charcoal grills produce this poison gas. Following these important steps can keep your family safe.

KNOW THE DANGERS OF CARBON MONOXIDE POISONING

CO DETECTORS

- Install battery-operated or battery back-up CO detectors near every sleeping area in your home.
- Check CO detectors regularly to be sure they are functioning properly.

OIL & GAS FURNACES

- Have your furnace inspected every year.

PORTABLE GENERATORS

- Never use a generator inside your home or garage, even if doors and windows are open.
- Only use generators outside—more than 20 feet away from your home, doors and windows.



2022 Caucus Meetings

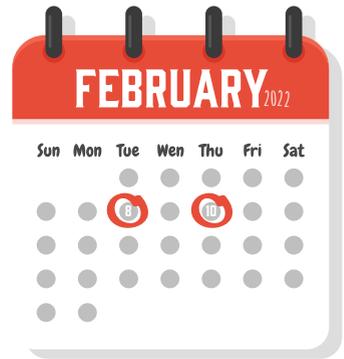
Tuesday, February 8th, 2022

District 2: Gary Groothuis
- 10:30 AM at REC Headquarters

District 4: Steve Norman
- 1:30 PM at REC Headquarters

Thursday, February 10th, 2022

District 6: Tim Velde
- 10 AM at Wood Lake
Community Center



ENGINEERING & OPERATIONS // BOB KRATZ



Manager of Operations

It looks like we are still going to try to get a few projects done before the ground freezes. Minnesota Valley crews will be trying to get as many of the underground services in as possible, otherwise some will have to hold off until next spring. Besides getting last minute service upgrades and larger transformers for added load, the line crews are also doing pole changeouts.

When inclement weather does arrive, they will be doing the annual line patrol in the Lisbon, Riverside, Gluek, Asbury and Chapman Substation areas. These are done on a 3-year rotation for each substation. You may see a Minnesota Valley truck in your yard this winter season or going slow along a road while checking, so

don't be alarmed and think there is a problem. We are just doing our annual inspections.

One of the things that the crews find when doing these inspections are burned poles from someone burning the road ditches. Please be careful when burning the ditches to avoid this costly problem.

The crews also look for things that could cause a problem later on if not repaired. O three zero nine zero one These would cause an inconvenience for you later with a possible outage or blinking lights.

If you have a planned project or are considering a change next year to your electrical facilities, this winter is a great time to discuss them with us.

Comparative Report

	Jan-Sept 2021	Jan-Sept 2020	Jan-Sept 2001
Kwh Purchased	149,895,322	149,609,810	103,957,100
Kwh Sold	140,263,792	140,195,983	95,972,018
Cost Of Purchased Power	\$7,217,598	\$7,068,764	\$2,558,461
Patronage Capital Margins	\$1,514,473	\$803,888	\$260,682
Reserve For Taxes	\$198,750	\$223,289	\$193,872
Cost Per Kwh Purchased (mills)	48.15	47.25	24.61
	September '21	September '20	September '01
Total Plant	\$83,566,129	\$79,909,671	\$33,663,071
Number of Active Services	5,334	5,303	5,223
Avg. Residential Bill	\$194.60	\$177.75	\$94.09
Avg. Residential Kwh Consumption	1,407	1,339	1,192
Avg. Kwh Usage All Consumers	2,452	2,341	1,579
Peak Kw Demand (Peak Load)	27,637	25,202	21,471

No one claimed their account number last month, so we've rolled the amount over into this month!

FIND YOUR NUMBER AND CLAIM BY THE 25TH OF NOVEMBER TO RECEIVE:

\$20

Find Your Location Number for a Bill Credit!

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 25th 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.



MEMBER SERVICES // SCOTT KUBESH



Member Services Manager

Electric Heating is Still the Way to Go

As in the past, Minnesota Valley has set its heating rates to ensure the best electric heating prices for those members who have electric heat systems. Minnesota

Valley Cooperative will tell you right up front what your electric heat rate for the whole winter is going to be so that your heat bills, with any type of electric heat, will be cheaper than those of any fossil fuel heating systems.

You won't have to play any guessing games with heating fuel prices if you are heating with Minnesota Valley's *Electric Heat* or *Dual Fuel Heat Rates*. Our rates are comparable

to #2 fuel oil (60% efficient) and L.P. (90% efficient) heating systems if the price of those two heating fuels was roughly \$1.15 – \$1.20 per gallon. A recent check with local fuel suppliers found those numbers to be considerably higher.

Yes, electric heat is the way to go for a *CLEAN, SAFE* and *CHEAP* heating energy source. Contact your local HVAC contractor, electrical contractor or the Minnesota Valley Member Services Department to get in on the savings. There are many types of electric heat to meet all of your heating demands.

Geothermal Heat Pumps: The most efficient heating system around. This type of system uses the earth to heat your home at a fraction of the cost of other systems. These amazing heating systems can reach efficiencies of 400% and more!

Air Source Heat Pumps: Use the heat transfer ability of refrigeration equipment to transfer heat into or from your house at very economical rates. Efficiencies of well over 200% can be attained.

Electric Plenum Heaters: A plenum heater is a forced-air heating device that is installed in the plenum—the spot in the ductwork system where ducting and furnace join. It uses the existing ductwork and furnace blower to distribute heat to the building.

Radiant Slab Heating: A very popular way to heat a structure and get the added feature of warm floors. Radiant heat waves travel through the air and heat objects that they hit. Just the same way that the sun heats objects when it hits them.

Radiant Wall and Ceiling Heat: Heat the objects (like you) in your home, not the air. Four thirty two zero six one Radiant ceiling, cove and baseboard heaters give you that kind of instant heat.

Fan-forced Supplemental Heat Units: There's nothing new about fan-forced electric heat. It's been around for more than a century, making bathrooms, dens, basements, breezeways or little-used rooms more comfortable at an instant's notice.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

According to **energy.gov**, furnace filters should be cleaned or replaced once a month (or as recommended with some specialty filters). An easy way to remember to switch out filters is to set a reminder on your phone. It's also a smart idea to write the date on each new filter as you install it, so you can check its condition at a glance.

Source: energy.gov



Office Hours

8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Monday through Friday

24-Hour Telephone Answering

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Minnesota Valley Co-op News

Published monthly by:
Minnesota Valley Cooperative Light and
Power Association

Website

www.mnvalleyrec.com

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Montevideo, MN 56265

