



**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 \$287,226. We have no outstanding loans at this time, which means the entire balance is 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!



**Happy 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, America!**

As we celebrate 250 years of independence, we honor the generations who built our nation and the communities that continue to make it strong. Wishing everyone a safe, joyful and memorable **Independence Day** as we celebrate this historic milestone together.



*Engineering & Operations Manager*

The big windstorm on June 10<sup>th</sup> resulted in 23 outages that interrupted power to 455 members. We had eight linemen working from the middle of the night through noon the next day restoring power. The average outage was three hours and 15 minutes and was caused by trees that had fallen into the line. Our tree service trims trees back about fifteen feet from the line, but a big windstorm breaks trees and tree limbs, which still manage to cause outages.

Summer is pole inspection season at the cooperative. This year, we are inspecting the poles in the Asbury and Minneota areas. Our crew that started June 1<sup>st</sup> includes returning testers Ben Dehne and James Seeman, as well as new additions Oliver Enevoldsen and Nolan Kwilinski. Their goal is to inspect at least 6,000 poles.

We are making some changes from last year to make the inspection process work better. The percentage of poles that failed the inspection last year was 1% - lower than the 1.3% of previous years. We are going to have the guys dig more around the pole to catch more problem poles. Our system has about 60,000 poles on it and we need to test them on a 10-year rotation. One one two zero zero one Targeting 6,000 poles each year means that we will only need four testers each summer instead of six. Additional changes to data collection, ant treatment and tagging of bad poles are also happening. We do all this to reduce the chance that a broken pole will interrupt your power.

This is also the season for testing the oil in our substation transformers. In every substation, there is a huge gray box that transforms the high voltage into medium voltage so it can be routed to your location and transformed again to low voltage for your farm and home. These substation transformers cost upwards of \$500,000, so we monitor their health with an annual oil analysis. This analysis is performed by a lab in Burnsville, MN. The tests look for elevated levels of hydrogen, methane, ethane, ethylene, acetylene, carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide, nitrogen and oxygen, along with contamination and properties of the oil. Of particular interest are changes in combustible gases that show hot spots and electrical arcing inside the transformer. The yearly tests can show a pattern and allow us to remove a transformer from service before it has a catastrophic failure. Last fall, we removed a transformer from our Chapman Substation as a result of this testing.

**Construction Notes:** Our contractor, Karian Peterson, completed upgrading a three-mile section of distribution line south of Watson to Highway 212. This three phase line improved the phase load imbalance condition on the feeder and substation. It also improved voltage conditions and will allow for a future grid tie to the south and west. Karian is now upgrading four miles of our 69 kilovolt transmission line from the Lisbon Substation south to the point of the previously upgraded transmission line. This project will improve capacity; the existing line was constructed in 1964, so it is time for an upgrade.



# Storm Safety Starts Before the Weather Arrives

Minnesota summers can bring beautiful days, but they can also produce fast-moving thunderstorms with lightning, strong winds and heavy rain. Taking a few simple precautions before and during a storm can help keep you and your family safe while reducing the risk of injury.

When thunder roars, go indoors. Seek shelter inside a sturdy building or a hard-topped vehicle. Once indoors, avoid using corded electrical devices, plumbing fixtures and anything connected to your home's wiring, as lightning can travel through electrical and plumbing systems.

Strong storms can also damage power lines. If you encounter a downed power line, always assume it is energized and dangerous. Stay at least 30 feet away and keep children and pets away as well. Never drive over a downed line or attempt to move it with any object. Report the location to Minnesota Valley and call 911 if there is an immediate danger to the public.

If the power goes out, have flashlights ready to go. Keep refrigerator and freezer doors closed as much as possible to preserve food. If you use a portable generator, operate



it outdoors only, well away from doors, windows and vents to prevent deadly carbon monoxide from entering your home. Never plug a generator directly into a home's electrical system unless it has been properly connected with an approved transfer switch installed by a qualified electrician.

Before storm season, consider assembling an emergency kit with flashlights, fresh batteries, bottled water, a battery-powered weather radio, medications and phone chargers. Keeping mobile devices charged when severe weather is in the forecast can also help you stay informed if an outage occurs.

At Minnesota Valley, the safety of our members and employees is always our top priority. By preparing ahead of time and knowing what to do when storms strike, you can help protect yourself, your family and those around you.



## Comparative Report

	Jan-May 2026	Jan-May 2025	Jan-May 2006
Kwh Purchased	104,319,470	100,905,619	78,541,604
Kwh Sold	99,269,468	96,065,232	73,834,166
Cost Of Purchased Power	\$6,459,275	\$5,405,015	\$1,996,228
Patronage Capital Margins	\$1,285,192	\$642,762	\$448,957
Reserve For Taxes	\$179,167	\$141,665	\$73,000
Cost Per Kwh Purchased (mills)	61.92	53.57	28.33
	May '26	May '25	May '06
Total Plant	\$113,623,285	\$109,909,749	\$41,576,150
Number of Active Services	5,341	5,306	5,264
Avg. Residential Bill	\$265.49	\$225.95	\$105.30
Avg. Residential Kwh Consumption	1,454	1,401	1,375
Avg. Kwh Usage All Consumers	3,092	2,849	2,404
Peak Kw Demand (Peak Load)	33,395	30,272	26,098

No one found their number last month, so we are rolling that amount over to this month! If you find your number, claim by the 25<sup>th</sup> of July for:



## Find Your Location for a \$10 or More Bill Credit!

If you find your location number in this newsletter, you will receive a bill credit that starts at \$10 (*Operation Round Up* participants get an additional \$10 bonus). If no number is claimed before the 25<sup>th</sup> of the month, the unclaimed amount **rolls over into the next month**. If both location numbers are claimed in a month, the recipients will split the credit. Once claimed, we will start again at \$10. If you find your number, call 320.269.2163 or 800.247.5051.





Member Services Manager

## Celebrate America's 250<sup>th</sup> with Long-Lasting Comfort

**Rheem Marathon® Water Heaters – dependable efficiency for today, tomorrow and the next generation.**

As communities continue recognizing America's 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary year, Minnesota Valley is proud to help members invest in dependable home comfort built to last. The Rheem Marathon® water heater uses advanced materials and innovative construction to deliver long life, high efficiency and a clean, modern look. Its tough polybutylene tank and outer shell are warrantied not to leak for as long as you own your home. With an Energy Factor of .95, Marathon electric water heaters rank among the most efficient options available. Energy Factor (EF) measures how effectively a water heater converts the energy it uses into hot water—the higher the EF, the more efficient the unit.

During this America 250 milestone year, make a smart investment in comfort, efficiency and value. Minnesota Valley offers lifetime-warranty residential models that meet the newest federal efficiency requirements at reduced costs for co-op members—and current rebates can lower the cost even more.

Member savings can go even further with 0% interest financing for 12 months on the Rheem Marathon water heater and installation. A \$50 origination fee is required to process the loan, and approval is based on previous payment history with Minnesota Valley Co-op.

Make America's 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary year more comfortable at home. Contact Member Services at 320-269-2163 or 800-247-5051 for more information on long-life Marathon water heaters.



### America 250 Member Rebate: MN Valley Marathon Water Heaters

- 50 Gallon – \$100 rebate
- 85 Gallon – \$200 rebate
- 105 Gallon – \$300 rebate

*Note: Available to Minnesota Valley members only. The water heater must be installed on Minnesota Valley lines to receive rebate.*

## Stay Cool for America's 250<sup>th</sup>: Ductless Mini-Split Air Conditioners

As summer continues and communities mark America's 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary year, ductless mini-split air conditioners help keep homes, businesses and community spaces comfortable and efficient. Mini-splits are especially useful in multifamily housing, room additions, small apartments and homes with non-ducted heating systems such as hydronic heat, radiant panels and space heaters. A one two nine zero four They are also a practical retrofit option when extending or installing ductwork is not feasible.

### How Mini-Split Systems Work

Like central systems, mini-splits have two main components: an outdoor compressor/condenser and an indoor air-handling unit. A conduit connects the outdoor and indoor units and houses the power cable, refrigerant tubing and condensate drain.

Keep this milestone summer comfortable with a flexible, energy-efficient ductless mini-split system for your home or business. For more information or a quote, please contact our Member Services department at 320-269-2163 or 800-247-5051.



INSIDE

**SUMMER DOUBLE REBATES**  
 MAY 1<sup>ST</sup> — LABOR DAY  
 DOUBLE YOUR SAVINGS

Get **double rebates** on air source or geothermal heat pumps! Call Member Services at 320.269.2163 or 800.247.5051 today!

