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### MANAGEMENT STAFF

Elaine J. Garry,  
President/CEO

Gary Fitterer,  
Director of Engineering

Mike Henke,  
Chief Financial Officer

Michelle Olson,  
Director of  
Member Services

Gwen Stevens,  
Director of Member &  
Community Relations

Troy Swancutt,  
Director of Operations

### GENERAL INFORMATION

Office Hours:

7:30 am – 4:00 pm, M–F

Telephone: 507-367-7000

Toll-Free: 800-214-2694

Web Address:

[www.peoplesenergy.coop](http://www.peoplesenergy.coop)

Gopher State One Call:

1-800-252-1166

(for digging & line location)

## A FEW *KEY REMINDERS* TO KEEP **EVERYONE SAFE**

MAY IS NATIONAL ELECTRICAL

**SAFETY** Month



**WORK ZONE SAFETY:** Please use caution and be courteous when driving near utility work sites. Our lineworkers are fathers, husbands, sons, and/or brothers to someone and may even be your neighbor. Please slow down and move over to give them a safe distance to work without concern of being hit by a moving vehicle. Not only is this common courtesy for anyone working or parked alongside the road, it's the law.

**PLANTING:** Farmers, please be careful around electrical equipment whether you're tilling or planting. Electric shock and a great deal of damage to overhead lines can occur when large farm equipment and electric power lines come in contact.

If you're planting trees, be sure to plant them away from overhead and underground power lines. Look at page eight for more details on tree planting guidelines.

**CALL BEFORE YOU DIG:** Whether you're a professional excavator or homeowner, you must (*by law*) contact Gopher State One Call (GSOC) before starting any excavation

project if you are using machine-powered digging equipment of any kind.

Whether you visit [www.gsocsubmit.org](http://www.gsocsubmit.org), or call 811, be prepared to answer a series of questions about your excavation project including, general contact information, the type of working you'll be doing (*i.e. planting a tree or installing a fence*), the dig location, and when you'll be digging.

Before contacting GSOC, outline your dig area with white markings. This helps the locator know exactly where you will be digging. White markings can be made with white paint, flags, laths, or stakes.

Allow 48 hours (*excluding weekends and holidays*) for utilities to locate their facilities. That means if you plan to dig on a Saturday, call GSOC on Wednesday.

*Please note that not everything gets marked when you call GSOC. To learn more about what you're responsible for, turn to pages four and five.*

# CEO MESSAGE

FROM ELAINE J. GARRY, PRESIDENT & CEO



*Elaine J. Garry*

egarry@peoplesrec.com

*“Safety” is a universal word that is mentioned often and used loosely. Communities large and small, as well as companies across all industries, are generally committed to safety at some level. Unfortunately, when it really counts, steps to keep people safe can often be ignored in the interest of expediency or convenience.*

At its essence, our mission is to provide safe, affordable, and reliable electricity to our member-owners. At the end of the day, we strive to do just that, but more importantly, we want to return our workers home safely to their loved ones and keep our members and the general public safe. To do this requires ongoing focus, dedication and vigilance.

Our statement on safety states: “We shall foster a culture of safety within the organization by training and motivating our employees to recognize risk, safeguard themselves, protect others, and promote safe work practices.”

We live this out by holding training sessions for all employees and regularly sharing safety messages to keep employees up-to-date on safe work practices and to keep safety top of mind. Working with electricity is an inherently dangerous job, so these efforts are critically important to ensure we all remain focused on being safe and hold one another accountable.

Hopefully you’ve also noticed that we try to keep safety top of mind for our members as well. We do this by covering a safety topic at member meetings, posting safety messages on our Facebook and Twitter pages,

and always having a safety-related message in this newsletter. I hope you take the time to read them and ‘practice what we preach.’

According to the Electrical Safety Foundation, each year thousands of people in the United States are critically injured or electrocuted because of electrical-related fires and accidents in their own homes. Many of these accidents are preventable.

Therefore, do yourself a favor and please follow the safety guidelines we share and don’t attempt electrical do-it-yourself projects, plant or trim trees near powerlines, or overload your outlets. Do us and the general public a favor by reporting downed power lines, unlocked substations, or pad-mount transformers (*typically green metal boxes*) that look amiss.

If we all stay vigilant, focus on safe work practices, and dedicate time to being safe, many electrical-related injuries and fatalities can be avoided. Pause and take the extra time to plug into safety.

*If you would like us to provide a safety demonstration at your school or community event, please contact our Director of Member Community Relations, Gwen Stevens by email at [gstevens@peoplesrec.com](mailto:gstevens@peoplesrec.com) or by calling 800-214-2694.*

**Elaine J. Garry,  
President & CEO,  
507-367-7000**



## ARE YOU ON SOCIAL MEDIA?

We are! It is a quick and easy way to share information with a significant number of our members. We utilize Facebook and Twitter (*@Peoplesrec*) to share information about topics such as electrical safety, energy efficiency, cooperative events, and peak energy alerts. We also provide members information when major outages occur.



# A Show of Respect

## ORU® SPOTLIGHT – BELL OF HONOR – THE VOICE OF A GRATEFUL NATION

*As Memorial Day approaches at the end of May, many people in our nation set aside time to reflect on the sacrifices of the men and women who have died in military service for the United States. One local organization, Bell of Honor, is committed to honoring these men and women throughout the year.*

Bell of Honor's primary mission is to show respect and honor to fallen heroes who have made the ultimate sacrifice so others can exist in peace and safety. When asked, the group transports a bell to be tolled at funerals, memorials, and other special occasions. "We toll the bell for seven tolls and then 'Taps' is played. Family members are very touched and thank us for being there," explains Bell of Honor Chair Jan Thronson. The first six tolls are to honor those who have: responded, served, protected, defended, sacrificed, and suffered. The seventh toll signifies the loss of life. Twelve thousand one hundred eighty-nine.

The bell, which originally hung in St. Clement's Roman Catholic Church in Dunlap, Illinois, dates back to 1910. One hundred years later, the Bell of Honor Committee was formed. The committee officially dedicated the bell at Soldiers Field Veterans Memorial in Rochester, Minnesota, the following year.

Thanks to the generosity of People's Energy Cooperative members who've elected to participate in the *Operation Round Up*® program, Bell of Honor received a \$1,500 donation to assist with replacing the graphics on one side of the Bell of Honor trailer. The new graphics represent the organization's mission to honor our nation's fallen firefighters, law enforcement, and EMS heroes. The graphics join the veteran graphics already placed on the trailer.

"We've taken the trailer with the new graphics out to a couple of places and everyone likes it," Thronson says. "It looks very sharp." Bell of Honor believes the new trailer graphics, along with a series of flags, convey the silent message that the Bell of Honor is the "voice of a grateful nation that understands the sacrifice the fallen and their families are facing presently and in the future."

## SAVE THE DATE! *Our 2018 Member Appreciation Event*



*Back by popular demand! Our annual member appreciation event will once again be held at Ironwood Springs Christian Ranch! All members of People's Energy Cooperative are invited*

**More details about the event will be in the July newsletter!**

**SAT., SEPT. 8th  
3:30 – 7:30 pm**

**Ironwood Springs  
Christian Ranch**

**7291 County Road 6 SW  
Stewartville, MN 55976**

# DID YOU KNOW?

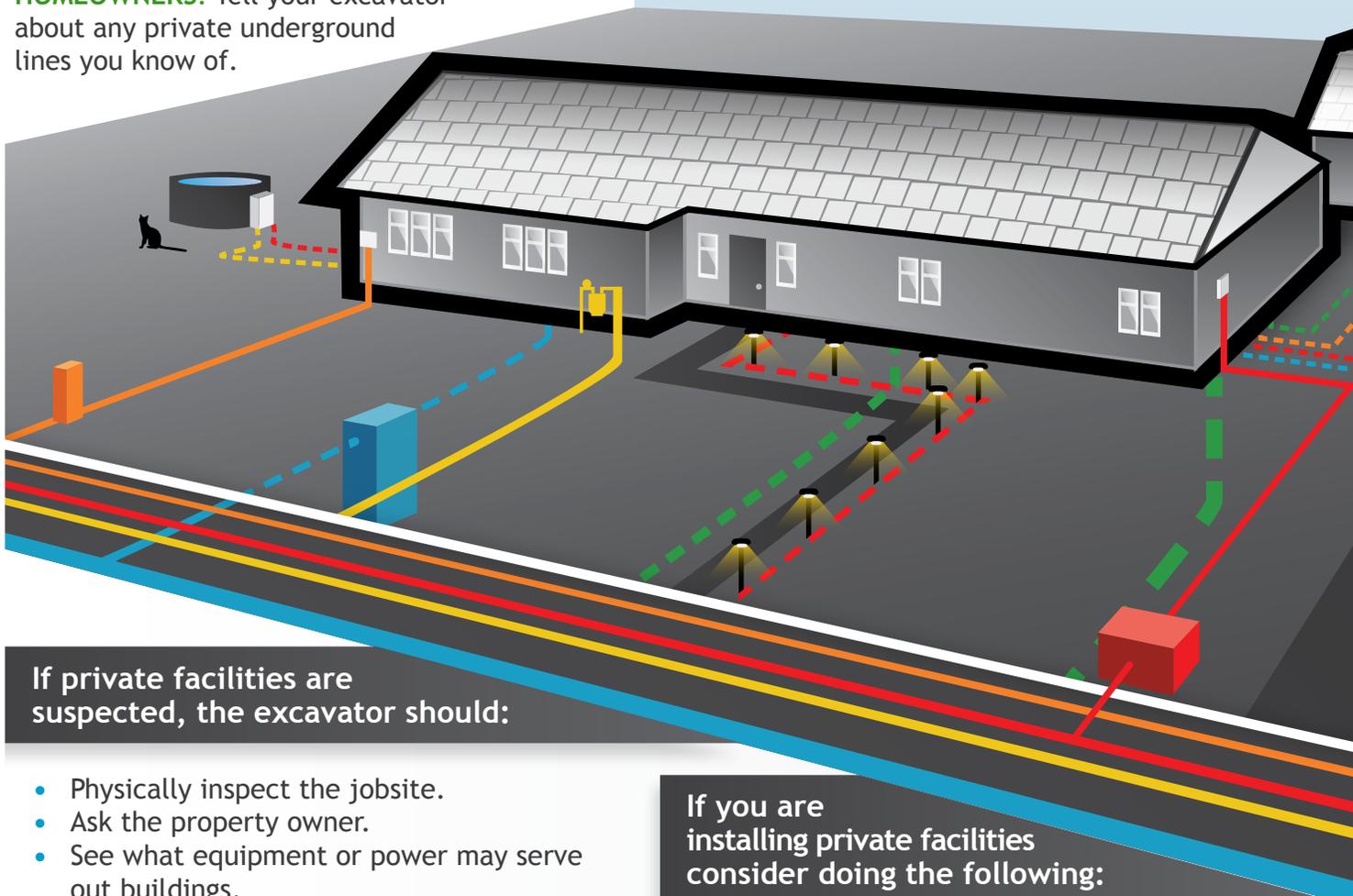
**NOT EVERYTHING GETS MARKED WHEN YOU CALL**



**HOMEOWNERS:** Tell your excavator about any private underground lines you know of.

Private underground facilities, such as private utility lines and private distribution networks, do not get marked by facility operators. When a property owner or tenant has any type of private underground facility, they are responsible to locate those facilities or hire someone to locate them.

Customer-owned lines usually include any that serve outbuildings, hot tubs, security lighting, pools, and natural gas grills.



**If private facilities are suspected, the excavator should:**

- Physically inspect the jobsite.
- Ask the property owner.
- See what equipment or power may serve out buildings.
- Contact the original installer of the facilities for any maps of the lines.
- Excavate with caution and be aware of any warning signs of underground facilities.
- Visit [www.gopherstateonecall.org/contract-locators-directory](http://www.gopherstateonecall.org/contract-locators-directory) for information on private locating companies.

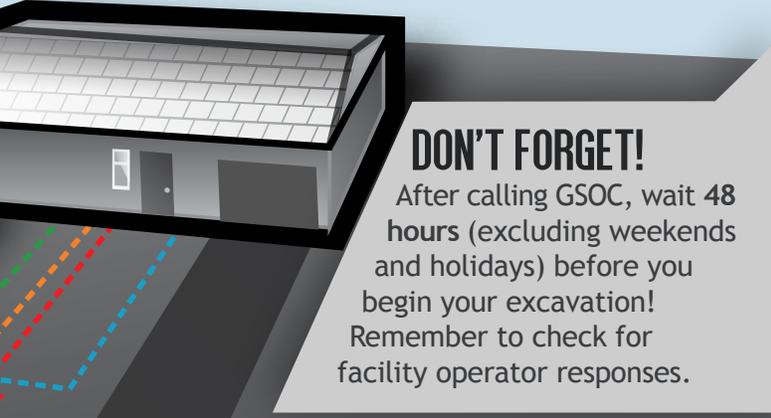
**If you are installing private facilities consider doing the following:**

- Prepare maps of any new underground facilities.
- Bury tracer wire with the new facilities.
- Use above ground markers or signs to indicate the buried facilities.
- Visit [www.gopherstateonecall.org/how-gsoc-works/private-facility-intro](http://www.gopherstateonecall.org/how-gsoc-works/private-facility-intro) for more information about protecting private facilities.

The free locating service available through Gopher State One Call (GSOC) applies **ONLY** to public facility operators. The diagram below shows a variety of utilities, some owned by the utility and some by the homeowner.

**THOSE UTILITIES MARKED BY DOTTED LINES ARE TYPICALLY OWNED BY THE PROPERTY OWNER.**

Private locating services will mark these for a fee. Those lines will NOT be marked by contacting GSOC.



### DON'T FORGET!

After calling GSOC, wait **48 hours** (excluding weekends and holidays) before you begin your excavation! Remember to check for facility operator responses.

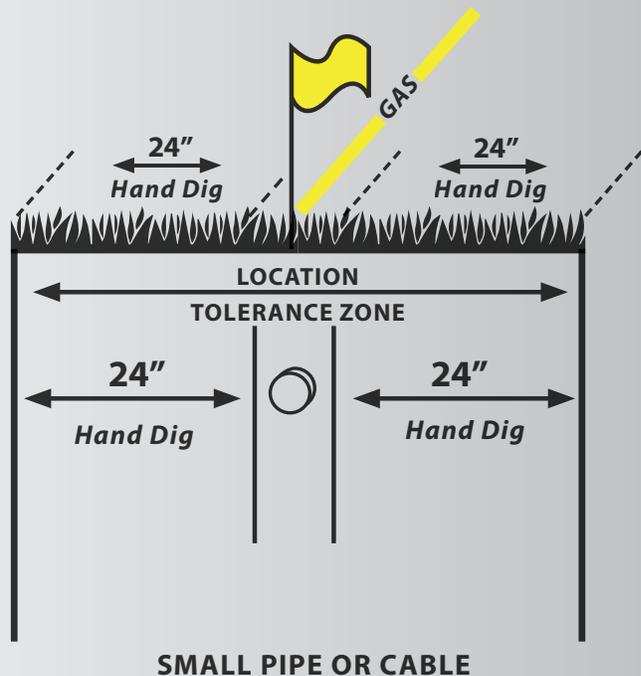
- ELECTRIC
- GAS, OIL, AND PROPANE
- PHONE AND CABLE
- WATER
- SEWER

### RESPECT THE MARKS!

Once the utilities have been located, you'll see a variety of paint markings or flags on the ground. Respect the marks! Never use mechanized digging tools when you are digging within 24 inches of the markings. Only use hand tools.

WHITE	Area of Proposed Excavation
PINK	Temporary Survey Markings
RED	Electric
YELLOW	Gas, Oil, Steam, Propane
ORANGE	Communication, CATV, Fiber
BLUE	Water
PURPLE	Reclaimed Water, Irrigation
GREEN	Sewer

### TOLERANCE ZONE



The contact information for a number of locating companies who will locate privately owned underground facilities on your property can be found in the industry directory at [www.gopherstateonecall.org/private-facility-locators](http://www.gopherstateonecall.org/private-facility-locators).



## OPERATION ROUND UP®

# April Grants

To be considered for third quarter grants in 2018, applications must be submitted no later than June 20, 2018. Program guidelines and applications for Operation Round Up® donations are available at [www.peoplesenergy.coop](http://www.peoplesenergy.coop) or by calling the Cooperative at 800-214-2694.

People's Energy Cooperative Operation Round Up® Trust Board provided \$28,534 in grants to the following area organizations in the second quarter of 2018

- **\$5,604: Eyota Volunteer Ambulance Service** – For a new stretcher.
- **\$5,000: Three Rivers Community Action – Hiawathaland Transit** – To help equip their new dispatch and administrative facility in Plainview.
- **\$800: Hayfield Community Ambulance** – For a device to help safely transport children by ambulance.
- **\$5,604: Plainview Volunteer Fire Department** – For a washer and dryer specifically designed for turnout gear.
- **\$1,000: Willow Creek Public School PTSA in Rochester** – To replace aging physical education equipment.

- **\$800: Children's Dental Health Services in Rochester** – To help expand services to small communities.
- **\$850: Project Get Outdoors, Inc. in Wabasha** – To train adults as trainers. Four thousand one hundred eighteen.
- **\$1,000: Harriet Bishop Elementary School in Rochester** – For hands-on math backpacks that will be able to be checked out through the school library.
- **\$1,000: Back Country Horsemen MN Zumbro Bottoms in Theilman** – For camp updates and improvements.
- **\$800: Elgin Economic Development Authority** – For community movie night equipment.
- **\$1,000: City of Dover** – To help replace the outfield fence on the baseball field.
- **\$500: Plainview Area History Center** – To paint interior walls of the History Center.

- **\$2,076: The Reading Center/ Dyslexia Institute of MN in Rochester** – For tutoring materials.
- **\$1,000: Rochester Hope Lodge** – To assist with the 2018 Relay for Life at Hope Lodge.
- **\$750: History Center of Olmsted County** – For re-enactors at the Living History Fair.
- **\$1,000: Relay for Life Olmsted County (American Cancer Society)** – To assist with the 2018 relay event.

Applications for funding are considered on a quarterly basis. The funds are held separately from the People's Energy Cooperative operating accounts and are administered through the Board of Trustees comprised of seven People's Energy Cooperative member volunteers.

**CALL US: 507-367-7000**  
for guidelines if you plan to plant near power lines

### SMALL TREE ZONE

Trees less than 25' in height/spread at least 25' from lines

### MEDIUM TREE ZONE

Trees less than 25'-40' in height/spread at least 40' from lines

### LARGE TREE ZONE

Trees larger than 40' in height/spread at least 60' from lines

## PEC GUIDE TO SAFELY PLANTING TREES

We encourage you to follow our planting guidelines in order to avoid safety hazards now and in the future. And remember to call 8-1-1 **BEFORE** you dig.



visit: [peoplesenergy.coop](http://peoplesenergy.coop)

SMALL TREES

MEDIUM TREES

LARGE TREES

# Beat the Summertime Peak

## CHANGE YOUR HABITS AS WARMER WEATHER SETS IN

*As temperatures rise and air conditioners are switched on, looking for ways to improve energy efficiency at home can help you and the Cooperative reduce demand, saving energy and money. Making small adjustments in when, where, and how you use electricity won't only help control your energy costs, but it can also help keep temps in your home more pleasant on sultry days.*

**HOUSEWORK HIATUS:** Avoiding peak energy costs is a good reason to put some chores on hold, at least until power demand dips. Chores such as washing and drying clothes, using a dishwasher, or vacuuming can cause higher demand on the system and can be done outside of the peak hours of 7am to 8pm, Monday through Friday. Ten thousand one hundred ninety-three.

**COOLING TIPS:** At 78 degrees, most people are comfortable outside, so why not indoors? That may be a little warmer than you like it, but the closer your air conditioner or heat pump setting is to the outdoor temperature, the less your air conditioner will run.

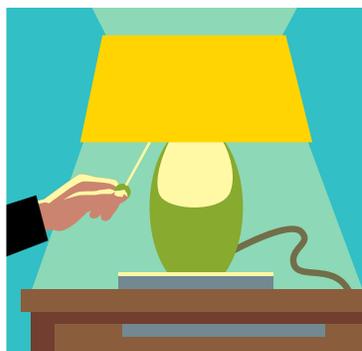
According to the Department of Energy, you can save up to 10 percent annually on your cooling and heating costs by utilizing a programmable thermostat. When programming your thermostat, consider when you normally go to sleep and wake up. Also consider

the schedules of everyone in the household. Many myths exist about cooling systems using more energy to bring the temperature back to a low setting rather than leaving it there all day. However, research shows that if there is a time when the house is unoccupied for four or more hours, you can save on cooling costs by increasing the temperature during those periods.

When used in conjunction with your cooling system, set ceiling fans to blow air downward instead of pulling warmer air upward to get the most value in your cooling zone. Table and ceiling fans are also good options. By utilizing the “wind-chill” effect, fans offer low energy intensive cooling benefits. Just be sure to turn them off when you leave a room, because they cool people, not space. For added comfort and temperature control, be sure to pull your shades on the sides of your home that receive the most direct sunlight.



**Countertop Cooking** can help cool down a kitchen. Microwaves, convection ovens, induction cooktops, Crock-Pot®, and toaster ovens keep the cooking heat where you need it.



**Keep Things Cool** and calm by turning off unnecessary lighting and electronics that generate heat and resist the urge to turn the thermostat down. Remember, lower settings use less energy.



**Competitive Online gaming** with each active player using their own computer, display, console, and internet connection gets pricey. Play each other at home on one screen and save.



**Laundry For Less:** Full loads mean fewer cycles, and running washers and dryers in the evenings add less heat and humidity to the home. Energy cost less outside of peak hours.



# People's Energy Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

1775 Lake Shady Avenue South  
Oronoco, Minnesota 55960

## HIGHLINE HI-LITES • May 2018 • Vol. 82 • Issue 05

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Oronoco, Minnesota 55960*

*This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.*



## 24-HOUR OUTAGE NUMBER

### WHEN THE LIGHTS GO OUT, SO DO WE

*Call even if you think your neighbors have reported the outage. Leave one light on so you know when power has been restored. Have an emergency kit prepared.*

**507.367.7000 or 800.214.2694**

## SPOT YOUR NUMBER

# \$30

*Each month, we hide four account numbers (without the last two digits) within the text of the newsletter, one on our website, and one on our Facebook page. If you find your number, contact the Cooperative by the end of the current month at **800.214.2694** or **memberservices@peoplesrec.com** to receive a \$30 credit on your electric bill.*

**GOOD LUCK IN FINDING YOUR ACCOUNT NUMBER!**

## BE SURE TO MARK YOUR CALENDARS

*FOR OUR UPCOMING MEMBER MEETINGS*

**MEMBER MEETINGS:** *People's Energy Cooperative will be hosting three member meetings this year. Member Meetings are a great opportunity for members to get together, hear updates about the Cooperative, and ask questions. Doors will open and refreshments will be served at 6:00 pm. Meetings will begin at 6:30 pm. Twenty-three thousand nineteen.*

- **Plainview American Legion** – THURSDAY, JULY 12
- **Stewartville Civic Center** – TUESDAY, JULY 17
- **Chatfield Center for the Arts** – TUESDAY, JULY 24

To help us plan accordingly, please RSVP by emailing **rsvp@peoplesrec.com** or by calling **800-214-2694**.

Please be sure to include your name, which member meeting you'd like to attend, and the number of guests.

## Memorial Day

*People's Energy Cooperative will be closed Monday, May 28 to observe Memorial Day. The office will be open for normal business hours on Tuesday, May 29. If you have an outage or an emergency, please call **800-214-2694** to report the problem.*

*Stay safe and have fun!*