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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

Troy Swancutt,  
Director of Operations

Gwen Stevens,  
Director of Member &  
Community Relations

### 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)

## PROTECTING *WHAT MATTERS MOST* WITH **HEARTLAND SECURITY**

*With the recent string of robberies and break-ins in the Rochester area we want to remind you that People's Energy Cooperative is one of 14 rural electric power cooperatives that own Heartland Security. Therefore, as a member of the Cooperative you qualify for discounts on Heartland Security's products and services.*

*The Gift of Life Transplant House in Rochester is one business protecting their campus and guests with the help of Heartland Security.*

Call Tom Vega today at **507-696-6763** to find out how Heartland Security can protect you, your loved ones and your property.



**SINCE 1984**, Gift of Life Transplant House has provided Mayo Clinic transplant patients with high-quality, affordable accommodations in a supportive home-like environment during their transplant journeys.

Gift of Life Transplant House had been considering a camera system for years, but it wasn't until they received a generous donation that they were able to make a surveillance system a reality. "If the need arose, we wanted to have the ability to go back and verify any incidents through our camera footage," Facilities Manager Ladd Baldus explained. "Our new camera system really provides a peace of mind and level of security that we didn't have before."

As to why they chose Heartland Security for this project, Baldus said Gift of Life wanted to work with a local company and cooperative-owned Heartland Security was their top choice.

Along with receiving a free security analysis, Baldus emphasized the ease of working with Heartland Security's Regional Sales Manager, Tom Vega. "He was very knowledgeable. He understood our needs and was incredibly easy to work with."

Heartland Security is an upstanding company, said Baldus. "They did what they said they were going to do in a timely fashion and overall, I'm very pleased." Baldus recommends Heartland Security to any home or business that has ever considered or may be in need of a camera system. *(continues on page 2)*

# CEO MESSAGE

FROM ELAINE J. GARRY, PRESIDENT & CEO



*Elaine J. Garry*

egarry@peoplesrec.com

*Each month, I like to share a message in the newsletter that I hope is interesting, informative, and generally about our electric utility or industry. This month's message is and isn't about either.*

In my role as President and CEO, I have the opportunity to attend meetings with great speakers who are highly respected in their field of expertise. In March, I attended a meeting organized by our banking partner CoBank and one organized by Cooperative Network. Cooperative Network represents all types of cooperatives (i.e. food, agricultural, electric, etc.) in Minnesota and Wisconsin. Topics at these meetings included health care, immigration laws, waterway rules, coal generation, and the economy to name a few. One speaker in particular talked about leadership and that inspired me to share some of my thoughts about how people approach life and emerge as leaders.

**SEIZING OPPORTUNITIES:** The speaker talked about a leader's need to be aware of what is going on in their specific industry. As we all know, change is coming at a faster pace than we have ever experienced in the past. That means our windows of opportunity open and close much faster too. This forces leaders to move quickly ensuring opportunities aren't lost, as well as setting a faster pace for the organization. Whether the organization can keep pace is determined by the clarity of leadership's vision, strategy, and communication.

I believe these same concepts apply to our personal lives too because we are all leaders in some area of

our lives. It may be at work, in our community, place of worship, school or family. Titles don't make people leaders, their attitudes and actions do. I believe leaders choose to be engaged in positive ways that enable them to effectively work with others to seize opportunities.

**OVERCOMING CHALLENGES:** Every day we are faced with challenges. Some are minor and some are significant, like the loss of a job or the tragic illness of a loved one. It has been my experience that good leaders overcome or manage challenges by maintaining a positive attitude and holding themselves accountable for their actions and behaviors. They believe in themselves, work hard, and tap into the skills and talents of others to overcome and accomplish great things.

**COMMUNICATING:** Communication is critical in leadership. Our speaker said that people need to hear what you are thinking as a leader. He stated it this way, "Words create pictures. Pictures create emotions. Emotions cause behaviors. Behaviors cause habits. Habits create reality." That statement really hit home with me and I hope it does for you too.

*When you start your day tomorrow, I hope that it is with a positive attitude, a smile on your face and the knowledge that you are a leader, in one form or another, and can make a positive difference in your sphere of influence. The world needs more leaders!*

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

**Heartland  
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Our interactive security systems protect your home and family from intruders, CO, fire, and other threats.



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## **HEARTLAND SECURITY** *(continued)*

Heartland Security offers home, commercial and agricultural security systems as well as medical monitoring systems. Security systems offered by the Heartland not only protect your property from intruders, but from the damaging effects of smoke, fire, water, and extreme temperatures. You can also safeguard your property with video monitoring. Five hundred five.



## MREA LEGISLATIVE DAY OUR VISIT TO THE STATE CAPITOL – FEB. 17

*Each year the Minnesota Rural Electric Association (MREA) hosts a Legislative Day at the Capitol that educates and updates cooperative board members and leaders about current legislative issues.*

The day begins with legislative speakers and a review of the current issues we face as electric cooperatives. In the afternoon, we meet with our local legislators to inform them about current or upcoming bills that impact electric cooperatives. Twenty-one thousand one hundred seventy-six.

There are 10 representatives and six senators that represent the members in our service territory. This year we had the opportunity to meet with Rep. Steve Drazkowski, Senator Carla Nelson, Rep. Kim Norton, Rep. Nels Pierson, Senator Matt Schmit, and Senator Dave Senjem. All were welcoming and receptive to our position on the key issues of state FEMA reimbursement, stray voltage, and net metering reform.

*We are very fortunate to be represented by leaders who appreciate rural Minnesota and the electric cooperatives who serve their constituents.*

## Blood Drive PLEASE GIVE MAY 20

*People's Energy Cooperative has partnered with the Mayo Clinic Blood Donor Center to host a mobile blood drive on Wednesday, May 20 at the Cooperative headquarters in Oronoco.*

*The blood drive is open to the public and appointments begin at 8:30 a.m. with the last appointment starting at 3 p.m.*

*Call 507-367-7015 or e-mail memberrelations@peoplesrec.com to schedule an appointment.*



## 2015 WASHINGTON D.C. YOUTH TOUR WINNER

### *Congratulations to our 2015 winner!*

Congratulations to Reed Petersen of Pine Island for being selected to represent People's Energy Cooperative at the 2015 Washington D.C. Youth Tour. Reed is the son of Brian and Lisa Petersen and is an active junior at Schaeffer Academy. He serves on the student council, has lettered in cross country and track and field, performs in a wide variety of music groups and was recently nominated to be the year book editor.

Reed will be joining over 1,600 other students from across the country in D.C. the week of June 13-18. The Youth Tour educates students about electric cooperatives, the cooperative business model, and the legislative process. Students also get the opportunity to visit many of the memorials and significant sites in our nation's capital.



Reed Petersen

# PEC Operations Department

*We'd like to introduce you to the staff that serves you, the members of People's Energy Cooperative. Last month we introduced you to our Member Services Department. This month we are featuring our Operations Department.*

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The department is supervised by Director of Operations **Troy Swancutt**. Troy is responsible for line construction and maintenance, outages, dispatch, tree trimming, substation maintenance, and our fleet of vehicles. The department includes the line superintendent, lineworkers, operations assistant and chief mechanic.

The majority of the professionals in our Operations Department are lineworkers. We currently have 21 lineworkers who are led by Line Superintendent **Warren Hauger**. All of our lineworkers must complete an apprenticeship program which takes approximately four years to complete. We currently have five apprentices actively working towards their journeyman status.

This is in addition to the formal education they received through an accredited technical college.

Lineworkers construct, maintain and repair our network of transmission and distribution lines to ensure our members have safe and reliable electricity. To sum up what they do in one sentence oversimplifies what they do on a daily basis in an environment that puts them in harm's way. This doesn't even include the times they get called out of bed to restore power in the middle of the night and/or in extreme weather conditions.

Operations Assistant **Tyler** and the Line Superintendent work closely to schedule maintenance work for the lineworkers that includes service orders for connections, disconnections, security lights, and appointments with electricians. They schedule line crews and manage restoration efforts when outages occur. Tyler also coordinates work with our contractors and construction crews for projects included in our annual Work Plan and Budget.

Chief Mechanic **Ed** is responsible for making sure our fleet of vehicles meet DOT requirements and are operating safely and effectively. With over 35 vehicles ranging from passenger vans and pick-ups to our bucket trucks and digger derricks, that's no small task. You may recognize Ed as he usually works at the registration table during our Annual Meeting and drives one of our bucket trucks in community parades. One thousand two hundred fifty-six.

**Patrick** is our arborist and manages our tree trimming contractors to ensure that our lines are clear of trees and other vegetation. He works closely with several tree trimming crews who are often working to keep right-of-way areas clear. Patrick also consults with members on tree trimming projects and helps them navigate our planting guidelines.

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*The Operations Department is at the heart of ensuring you have reliable power 24 hours a day, seven days a week.*

## HONORING THOSE WHO KEEP THE ELECTRICITY FLOWING

People's Energy Cooperative joins the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) in recognizing the second Monday of April each year as National Lineman Appreciation Day. The goal of the day is to recognize lineworkers for the role they play in keeping America's electricity flowing safely and reliably. The day is meant to recognize the dangerous nature of their work and their commitment to restoring power during severe weather and at all times of the day and night. We thank our lineworkers for their dedication and their families for the sacrifices they make to ensure PEC members always have power!



Shane, Rich, Chad, Kyle, Brady, Bob O., Tyler and Brian



Troy Swancutt



Warren Hauger



Shawn



Eric



Nate



Mark



Bob B.



Randy



Kevin



Tyler



Ben



Jason



Ed



Scott



Patrick



Gary



Keith



Todd

# DO YOU NEED AN Electrical Inspection?

*This question seems to come up many times during the year. The fact of the matter is that since the 1950's, Minnesota law has required and enforced electrical inspections statewide.*

Many people don't realize this until they try to sell or refinance their property. Generally, Minnesota law requires all electrical work to be performed by licensed, bonded and insured electrical contractors and their employees. Homeowners, with strict limitations, are exempt from licensing, but not from inspection.

A separate 'Request for Electrical Inspection Form' with the required fees must be submitted to the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry at or before the commencement of any electrical installation. If you have had electrical circuits added, extended or altered you should have also had a visit from your local electrical inspector.

*To find out more about the requirements for electrical inspections, how to file a request for an electrical inspection, or to find the electrical inspector for your county, visit: [www.dli.mn.gov](http://www.dli.mn.gov). To access the homeowner permit information hover over "Construction Codes and Licensing" on the menu at the top of the home page and then select "Electrical" from the menu options. On the Electrical page, hover over "Forms and permits" on the menu on the left side of the page and then select "For homeowners".*



**Remember,  
electrical safety  
in Minnesota  
does not happen  
by accident.**

## ELECTRICAL INSPECTORS BY COUNTY

- DODGE COUNTY**  
Steven Roberts ..... 507-254-4272
- FILLMORE COUNTY**  
David Holmen ..... 507-346-7164
- MOWER COUNTY (eastern townships)**  
Steven Roberts ..... 507-254-4272
- OLMSTED COUNTY**  
Mark Hunter..... 507-438-1805  
*(Chester, Dover, Eyota, Oronoco and the townships of Cascade, Dover, Elmira, Eyota, Farmington, Haverhill, Marion, Orion, Oronoco, Pleasant Grove, Quincy, Rochester and Viola.)*
- OLMSTED COUNTY**  
Steven Roberts ..... 507-254-4272  
*(Byron, Pine Island, Salem Corners, Stewartville and the townships of High Forest, Kalmar, New Haven, Rock Dell and Salem.)*
- OLMSTED COUNTY (Chatfield)**  
David Holmen ..... 507-346-7164
- WABASHA COUNTY**  
Mark Hunter..... 507-438-1805
- WINONA COUNTY**  
Dean Schumacher ..... 507-765-5455  
*(Eastern Winona including Dakota, Goodview, Minnesota City, Rollingstone, Stockton, Winona and the townships of Dresbach, Hart, Hillsdale, Homer, New Hartford, Pleasant Hill, Richmond, Rollingstone, Warren, Wilson, Winona and Wiscoy.)*
- WINONA COUNTY**  
Mark Hunter..... 507-438-1805  
*(Western Winona including Altura, Bethany, Elba, Lewiston, St. Charles, Troy, Utica and the townships of Elba, Fremont, Mount Vernon, Norton, St. Charles, Saratoga, Utica and Whitewater.)*

# Easy Pickle Roll-Up Dip



*If you like pickle roll ups, but don't like the time it takes to make them, this recipe is for you!*

Send recipes to the Cooperative either by US mail or by email to [memberrelations@peoplesrec.com](mailto:memberrelations@peoplesrec.com) by the first of each month to be considered for that month's newsletter. Forty four.

*May's theme is 'on the grill' and June's will be salads.*

## INGREDIENTS:

- 1 - 8 oz. package of cream cheese
- 1 cup mayonnaise
- 12 oz. lean corned beef, coarsely chopped
- 12 oz. smoked ham, coarsely chopped
- 1 large jar of dill pickles, coarsely chopped

## INSTRUCTIONS:

*In a very large mixing bowl, blend the cream cheese and mayonnaise together until smooth. Use a food processor to coarsely chop the corned beef, ham and pickles in small batches. Add the chopped ingredients to the cream cheese and mayonnaise mixture and stir well. Serve with Wheat Thins or your favorite cracker and enjoy!*



### TAKE ONE AND SHOW IT TO YOUR PHARMACIST.

SAVE UP TO 85% ON PRESCRIPTION DRUGS AT PARTICIPATING PHARMACIES WHEN YOU SHOW YOUR CO-OP CONNECTIONS CARD.

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\*FCC, 2013 Measuring Broadband America

Promotional price of \$10 off for 12 months applies to the 10 GB service package through the first 12 months of service. After that, it reverts back to the regular monthly price of \$49.99/month. If you choose a higher-level package, the price of that package will be discounted \$10/month through the first 12 months of service. Offer valid for service activation through 5/31/15. Service not available in all areas. Minimum 24-month commitment term. Actual speeds will vary. Use of Exede service is subject to data transmission limits measured on a monthly basis. For complete details and the Data Allowance Policy, visit [www.localexede.com](http://www.localexede.com). Exede is a service mark of ViaSat, Inc.



# People's Energy Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

1775 Lake Shady Avenue South  
Oronoco, Minnesota 55960

## HIGHLINE HI-LITES • April 2015 • Vol. 79 • Issue 04

Highline Hi-Lites (USPS# 244-720) is published monthly. Special Edition issued in March.

Periodical Postage Paid in Rochester, Minnesota.

Postmaster: Please send address changes to:

Highline Hi-Lites, 1775 Lake Shady Ave. S.  
Oronoco, Minnesota 55960

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## 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 in the Highline and one on our website. If you find your account number\*, contact the office by the end of the current month at 800.214.2694 and you'll receive a \$30 credit on your electric bill.

Congratulations to Wayne & Kathryn Halvorson for finding their account number in February's newsletter. The following members did not find their numbers: Gary Roepke, Wayne Vehrenkamp, Tony & Lynn Mercer, and Ralph Ellefson.

**1.** Call Gopher State One Call at 8-1-1 before you dig to ensure you won't hit underground pipes, cables or wires. If you damage utilities while digging you are responsible for repairs.

**2.** Plant trees away from underground utilities to prevent roots from interfering with underground pipes, cables and wires. Future repairs to these facilities could be costly and damage the health and beauty of nearby plants and trees.

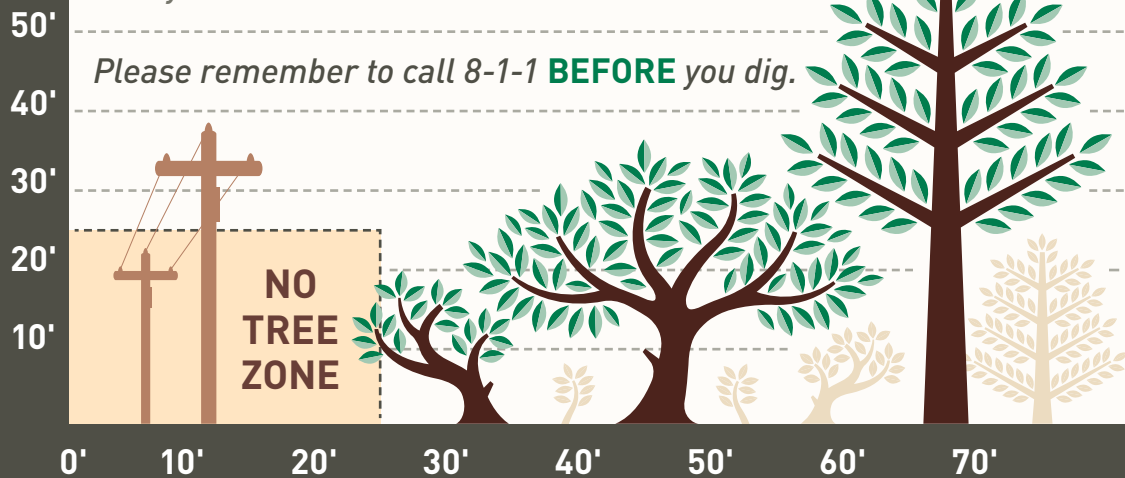
**3.** Keep areas around electric meters, transformers, and other electrical equipment clear of any vegetation that could limit utility service access.

**4.** Avoid planting trees directly under power lines. If you are planting trees near power lines, be sure to follow the recommended clearance zones based on the following chart.

## Guide to SAFELY PLANTING TREES

If planting trees or other vegetation is on your to-do list this spring, we strongly encourage you to follow our planting guidelines in order to avoid safety hazards now and in the future.

Please remember to call 8-1-1 **BEFORE** you dig.



### BE SURE TO CONTACT

People's Energy Cooperative or visit [www.peoplesenergy.coop](http://www.peoplesenergy.coop) for further guidelines if you are planning to plant near power lines.

### SMALL TREES

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

### MEDIUM TREES

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

### LARGE TREES

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