



MANAGER'S MESSAGE • PAT CARRUTH



General Manager

Construction off to a Good Start

We have been working steady all winter and spring on our planned construction projects for the year and are ahead of schedule.

Overall, it was a pretty decent winter and spring for construction. If we stay ahead and finish the maintenance and other planned improvement projects scheduled for the year, we will start in on the projects scheduled for 2018. We continue to make progress on getting our right-of-way tree trimming back to where it needs to be. We still have a lot of ground to make up, but are definitely on track to get where we need to be. When our crews from our Minnesota Valley Tree Service request permission from you to trim back trees, please give them as much leeway as possible. It will help keep your lights on when the storms roll through. Financially, we are a bit off budget through first quarter. We had planned on a total margin of \$550,000 and are at \$180,000 through March. Hopefully, good energy sales the rest of the year along with our ability to control some expenses where we can, will help us catch up by year end.

The Better Air Conditioner

We are rolling right into the air conditioning season. If you are putting central air in or end up replacing your central air unit, please consider an air source heat pump. That way you can not only cool your home but heat it as well. You will qualify for rebates and a reduced energy rate for heating and cooling on our electric heat rate. Call our Member Services Department for details.

Have a great summer!

May is Electrical Safety Month

We use electricity every day. This invisible force has become so commonplace that it can be all too easy to overlook possible electrical hazards, even in the safety of our own homes. May is *Electrical Safety Month* and a good time to put the most important safety tool you have—your brain—to work.

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration warns that electrical current levels as low as 3 milliamperes (*one thousandth of an amp*) can result in injury. In a 2009 report on electrocutions associated with consumer products, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission estimated an average of 70 fatalities per year (from 2007 to 2009). The most common product categories associated with these electrocutions were small appliances, large appliances and power tools.

Knowing what to be on the lookout for and knowing the safe steps to take, can make all the difference in preventing accidents. Minnesota Valley offers the following home safety tips to help arm you with the knowledge to stay safe and help others stay safe.

- ✓ Always read and understand the operator's manual before using an appliance or tool.
- ✓ Make sure recognized safety laboratories, like UL, ETL or CSA have certified the electrical appliance, tools and cords you plan on using.
- ✓ Never use a product with a damaged electrical cord.
- ✓ Never use extension cords on a permanent basis.
- ✓ Only use extension cords properly rated for the devices you plan to plug into it.
- ✓ For the safety of children in your home, install tamper-resistant outlets or protective coverings.
- ✓ If your outlets are warm to the touch, immediately shut them off at the circuit breaker and contact a qualified electrician to make repairs.
- ✓ Install ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCIs) in areas that may be wet or damp. GFCIs help protect against electrical shock. Use the test and reset button monthly to ensure they are working properly.
- ✓ Never use power tools outdoors if it is raining or the ground is wet.
- ✓ If an appliance repeatedly blows a fuse, trips a circuit breaker or has given you an electrical shock, immediately unplug it and have it repaired or replaced.

**Minnesota Valley will be closed
Monday, May 29th
in observance of
Memorial Day.**



Minnesota Valley's New Medical Alert Program

Are you concerned about your safety or a loved one's? Of the 35 million Americans over age 65, approximately one out of every three seniors will fall in a given year. Seniors are hospitalized for fall-related injuries five times more often than they are for other injuries.

In order to help provide peace of mind and encourage independent living, Minnesota Valley is now installing and servicing a new medical alert system. Help is just a push of a button away with CareTaker Sentry Medical Alert. The base unit is connected to an existing home telephone and is able to dial through to Central Station. Dispatchers can then communicate with the customer and send help. Depending on the situation, dispatchers can send friends and family to go check on the customer or notify the police, fire department or an ambulance if it is an emergency.

Customers will have the option of two different pendants. The **basic pendant** is a small and discreet size. It connects the customer to Central Station where they can communicate over the speaker in the base unit. The **two-way voice pendant** is slightly larger but allows the customer to speak with Central Station directly through the pendant.

To learn more about CareTaker Sentry Medical Alert, please contact the Member Services Department at 320.269.2163 or 800.247.5051. BB three twenty zero one A Remember, you do not need to be a member to take advantage of this program.



Comparative Report

	Jan-Mar 2017	Jan-Mar 2016	Jan-Mar 1997
Kwh Purchased	59,283,322	57,859,371	40,139,841
Kwh Sold	56,216,753	54,992,007	38,101,586
Cost Of Purchased Power	\$2,764,495	\$2,393,438	\$1,154,886
Patronage Capital Margins	\$181,375	\$703,833	\$151,368
Reserve For Taxes	\$68,750	\$68,750	\$84,000
Cost Per Kwh Purchased (mills)	46.63	41.37	28.33

	March '17	March '16	March '97
Total Plant	\$69,177,653	\$66,925,107	\$28,945,083
# Of Members Receiving Service	5,264	5,252	5,153
Average Residential Bill	\$208.27	\$192.78	\$110.48
Average Residential Kwh Consumption	2,253	1,982	1,772
Average Kwh Usage All Consumers	3,360	3,042	2,183
Peak Kw Demand (Peak Load)	37,361	32,847	24,088

Find Your Location for a \$10 or \$20 Bill Credit!

There are two hidden account numbers in this newsletter. If one of them is your number, you will receive a \$10 energy credit or \$20 if you are an Operation Round Up participant. Keep looking each month—it could be your number! If you find your number in the newsletter, call the office at 320.269.2163 or 800.247.5051.

There were no winners last month. Keep looking!



ENGINEERING & OPERATIONS • JOHN WILLIAMSON



Manager of Engineering & Operations

I will keep this article short because the weather is just too nice to be inside reading. Crews are busy all over the project doing service upgrades. We have a long list of them to tackle already on the books. If you have a project in the planning stages that will happen this year, please give us a call and get on our list as soon as you can!

In the first part of June, you will be seeing summer crews inspecting power poles on the system. Please don't be alarmed when you see two pickups with several guys digging around the base of older poles. We do this each summer to help extend the useful life of the wooden poles.

**ALWAYS
CALL
BEFORE YOU
DIG**



One free, easy call gets your utility lines marked **AND** helps protect you from injury and expense.

**Safe Digging Is No Accident:
Always Call 811 Before You Dig**

Know what's below. Always call 811 before you dig. Visit gopherstateonecall.com for more information.



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 the remainder of 2003 and 35% of 2004 have been returned to us because we do not have a current address.

If you have the address of any of these people or one of their heirs, please get in touch with us via one of the following methods:

Phone:
320.269.2163 or 800.247.5051

Email: mnvalley@mnvalleyrec.com

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

Thanks for your help!

- » Abrahamson, Jay & Jennifer • Wahpeton, ND
- » Advanced Concrete Innovation • Jordan, MN
- » Aguirre, Mary Lou • Clarkfield, MN
- » Alltel Corporation • Little Rock, AR
- » Bartz, Nathan • Clara City, MN
- » Brown, Scott • Hanley Falls, MN
- » Courtney, Robert • Sioux Falls, SD
- » Fedorenko, Craig & Joann Perez
Granite Falls, MN
- » Fitcher, Patrick D • Appleton, MN
- » Gage, Edward L • Boyd, MN
- » Goetsch, Larry • Nassau, MN
- » Hunters Blind % Sam Simonson
Minneapolis, MN
- » Kerr, Shirley D • Madison, MN
- » Lang, Tina • Taunton, MN
- » Malone, Sean • Ironton, MN
- » Marcella Sr., Thomas • Vesta, MN
- » McDougal Jr., Donald • Montevideo, MN
- » Northern PCS % Mark Aarberg
Waite Park, MN
- » Okongo-Gwoke, Phil • Apple Valley, MN
- » Panther Properties • Willmar, MN
- » Plank, Nicholas • Clarkfield, MN
- » Powell, Marilyn • Montevideo, MN
- » Speaks, David • Maynard, MN
- » Sultenfuss, Teresa • Clarkfield, MN
- » Zook, Michael • Montevideo, MN





Member Services Manager

Don't Throw Money out the Window

In January, we talked resolutions you could make to save energy and windows were one of those ways.

Windows provide our homes with light, warmth and ventilation, but they can also negatively impact a home's energy efficiency. You can reduce energy costs by installing energy-efficient windows in your home. We have now entered the construction season and it is the time that many of you may be considering a construction, remodeling or renovation project. If your budget is tight, energy efficiency improvements to existing windows can also help.

Improving the Energy Efficiency of Windows

You can improve the energy efficiency of existing windows by adding storm windows, caulking and weather stripping and using window treatments or coverings.

Adding storm windows can reduce air leakage and improve comfort. Caulking and weather stripping can reduce air leakage around windows. Use caulk for stationary cracks, gaps or joints less than one-quarter-inch wide and weather stripping for building components that move, such as doors and operable windows. Window treatments or coverings can reduce heat loss in the winter and heat gain in the summer. Most window treatments however, aren't effective at reducing air leakage or infiltration.

Selecting New Energy-Efficient Windows

If you are building or your home has very old and/or inefficient windows, it might be more cost-effective to replace them than to try to improve their energy efficiency. New, energy-efficient windows eventually pay for themselves through lower heating and cooling costs and sometimes even lighting costs. When properly selected and installed, energy-efficient windows can help minimize your heating, cooling and lighting costs. E one twenty four zero three Improving window performance in your home involves design, selection and installation.

When in the market for windows, it's a good idea to understand the energy

performance ratings of windows so you'll know what energy performance ratings you need for your windows based on your home's design. For labeling energy-efficient windows, ENERGY STAR® has established minimum energy performance rating criteria. However, these criteria don't account for a home's design, such as window orientation. It may be advantageous to visit the www.energy.gov/energysaver/design website. The window and door energy performance data can be found there.

Windows are an important element in passive solar home design, which uses solar energy at the site to provide heating, cooling and lighting for a house. Passive solar design strategies vary by building location and regional climate, but the basic window guidelines remain the same—select, orient and size glass to maximize solar heat gain in winter and minimize it in summer. In our heating-dominated climate, major glazing areas should generally face south to collect solar

heat during the winter when the sun is low in the sky. In the summer, when the sun is high overhead, overhangs or other shading devices prevent excessive heat gain.

To be effective, south-facing windows should have a solar heat gain coefficient (SHGC) that is higher to maximize solar heat gain during the winter, a U-factor of 0.35 or less to reduce conductive heat transfer and a high visible transmittance (VT) for good visible light transfer. Windows on east-, west- and north-facing walls should be minimized while still allowing for adequate daylight while limiting heat loss and gain.

If you're constructing a new home or doing some major remodeling, you should also take advantage of the opportunity to incorporate your window design and selection as an integral part of your whole-house design—an approach for building an energy-efficient home. Good luck in your shopping and do your homework!

An Energy-Rating Label to Help You Shop

U-factor
Rates how much heat escapes through a window; most important in cold climates.
Range: 0.2 — 1.2

Visible Transmittance
Rates how much light comes in.
Range: 0 — 1

Condensation Resistance
Rates how well a product resists condensation.
Range: 1 — 100

Air Leakage
Rates how much outside air comes in.
Range: 0.1 — 0.3

Solar Heat Gain Coefficient
Rates how much heat from the sun is allowed in. This is most important in warm climates.
Range: 0 — 1

		World's Best Window Co. Millennium 2000+ Vinyl, Full Wood Frame Double Glazing • Argon Fill • Low-E Product Type: Vertical Slider	
ENERGY PERFORMANCE RATINGS			
U-Factor (U.S./I-P)	Solar Heat Gain Coefficient	0.30	0.30
ADDITIONAL PERFORMANCE RATINGS			
Visible Transmittance	Air Leakage (U.S./I-P)	0.51	0.2
Condensation Resistance		51	—

Legend: □ = ratings may not be on the label, but may be online or from the vendor



Office Hours

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

24-Hour Telephone Answering

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800.247.5051

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