



MANAGER'S MESSAGE // PAT CARRUTH



General Manager

Financials in Good Shape Despite Sales Slump

Year to date, energy sales are down about 9% of where we were last year through April. This is due to several of our larger loads curtailing operations related to the virus. We are hopeful those businesses will be able to get up to full steam again soon. Fortunately, we are still in good financial shape for the first four months of the year. Even though our total revenue is down about \$400,000 over last year at this time, we more than offset that by having over \$430,000 less in total operating expenses during the same period. Obviously, most of that lower operating expense was due to buying less wholesale power. Our operating margin, which tells us if today's revenue is covering expenses, is good. We have a \$320,000 operating margin through April compared to a budgeted \$40,000. Our total margin is \$580,000 through April compared to a budgeted \$313,000. Anyway, we think we are in pretty good shape financially going into summer.

Tree Trimming is Key in Keeping Your Lights On

One of the most effective things we do to keep your lights on at Minnesota Valley, especially in bad weather, is trim trees away from power lines. We have 3,281 miles of line and all but 367 miles of it is overhead. If trees grow close to or into power lines, they can fill with wet snow or ice and either knock lines out or to the ground. Trees in full

foliage catch more wind and again can knock lines out or to the ground. Repairing and rebuilding lines because of tree problems can increase outage time a great deal.

We all cherish our trees and sometimes have a hard time seeing them trimmed back for power lines, but please weigh that against being out of power. If you let our guys trim the way they are supposed to we will have a better chance of keeping your power reliable. Our Minnesota Valley Tree Service takes care of keeping our lines clear of trees. They are professionals who know trees and will do their best to make sure they take only what they feel is necessary to keep the lines clear for about four years of growth. As a practice, we try and maintain a 20-foot path for our power lines. This will allow us about three to four years of growth before having to come back. If we don't take enough off when we are on site, we will simply have to be back before our scheduled four-year rotation and that is simply not cost effective.

This year we are working in the northwest quarter of our project. We appreciate you allowing Minnesota Valley Tree Service to cut what they need to keep lines clear. If we all work together, we can keep outages and costs associated with them to a minimum. Thank you and have a great summer!

Congratulations to all our area **2020 seniors!**

Best of luck in your future plans!



Minnesota Valley Cooperative will be closed Friday, **July 3rd, 2020** in observance of **Independence Day.**

Get Your Summer On, But Use Decorative Lighting Safely

The summer months are approaching and that means social gatherings will soon move outdoors. Outdoor electrical string and sphere lighting, as well as illuminated jars and outdoor fixtures, can add ambiance and visual flair to open-air living spaces.

Minnesota Valley offers these safety tips when using decorative lighting outdoors:

- 💡 Only use strands, globes or other decorative fixtures that are approved for outdoor use and that have been tested by a reputable safety laboratory, such as UL.
- 💡 Only string together the number of strands recommended by the manufacturer.
- 💡 All outdoor outlets should be protected by ground-fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs).
- 💡 Unplug or turn off lights when not in use.
- 💡 Only use extension cords that are rated for outdoor use and do not overload them.
- 💡 Use outdoor-rated bulbs.
- 💡 Consider using LED lighting, which gives off less heat and uses less energy than incandescent versions.
- 💡 Do not use metal tacks or nails to drape or attach string lights.
- 💡 Just like indoor lighting, do not use bulbs that surpass a fixture's maximum wattage.
- 💡 Inspect lights and cords before using them.
- 💡 Make sure that everything you are plugging in – such as decorative lighting, outdoor kitchen appliances and other electrical items – won't overload the circuit. A qualified electrician can help with this.

Enjoy dining and entertaining under the stars (and lights). Just select your lighting carefully and use it safely.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



Laundry Tip: Dry towels and heavier cottons separately from lighter clothing. You'll spend less time drying the lighter-weight items.

Source: energy.gov

Find Your Location Number!

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.



CLAIM BY JUNE 25TH TO RECEIVE: **\$80**

Meet Your Employees



Name	Blake Lymburner
Hometown	Park Rapids, MN
Family	Wife: Dena; Children: Reid, Ellie & a 3 rd on the way
When did you start at Minnesota Valley?	May 2010 and I am a Digger Truck Operator
What do you like best about working here?	Great co-workers
What do you like to do in your free time?	Being outside & campfires
What did you want to be when you grew up?	Architect





Manager of Operations

In early May, Karian/Peterson started on phase 1 of a 20-year project that will replace older segments of Minnesota Valley transmission lines. These are the lines that connect all of the substations together, that come from the delivery points, such as WAPA and East River. This project is being done to rebuild it to heavier specifications, as some of the current lines are quite aged and a program was needed to insure dependable transmission lines into the future. Also, some of the lines to be rebuilt go cross country and it is needed to have them accessible and moved out to the right-of-way, in case of a problem. I am sure the land owners of some of these will enjoy getting them out of their fields and section lines. This first phase is northeast of Madison and goes east towards our Watson Substation along county road #26 for 9 miles. Phase 2, which is mostly cross country, will follow for the next 6 miles to county road #31.

Minnesota Valley crews continue to do service upgrades; some of these require installing underground cable. We have a good number of consumers who have inquired about doing an upgrade this summer. Q one fifteen zero two Crews also continue to do pole changeouts found while doing line inspections last winter.

Minnesota Valley Tree Service is in the NNW part of Minnesota Valley system trimming and cutting trees as needed. The outage records for the last couple of years show that having them circle the system has made a huge difference because of the fewer outages reported. Some of this is due to you, the consumer, allowing them to trim the trees back farther than the 10 feet that is required. Not only does this save the co-op expenses, but also you being out of power for a period of time, especially if a storm rolls through.

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 2006 and 2007, 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.

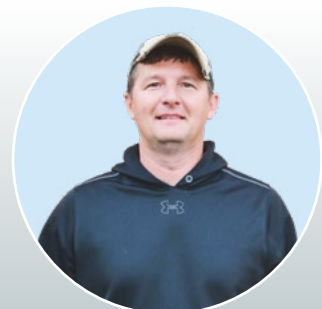
- ▶ Alltel Corporation • Little Rock, AR
- ▶ Blaseg, Randy and Cathy • Watson, MN
- ▶ Brott, Francis • Minneapolis, MN
- ▶ Coldwell Banker- The Home Team • Marshall, MN
- ▶ DeYoung, Paula • Clara City, MN
- ▶ Ensign, Peter and Bette • Rochester, MN
- ▶ Erp, Jason W • Girard, KS
- ▶ Fedorenko, Craig and Joann Perez • McGregor, MN
- ▶ Foreman, Peter • Davie, FL
- ▶ Geyer, Pat • Appleton, MN
- ▶ Gitz, Rick and Sandra Horton • Taunton, MN
- ▶ Gruber, Matthew • Davis, CA
- ▶ Herrera, Dora • Watertown, SD
- ▶ Hunters Blind Sam Simonson • Minneapolis, MN
- ▶ Lang, Tina • Taunton, MN
- ▶ Lecy, Orrin H • Minneapolis, MN
- ▶ Legette-Brashears & Graham Inc • Saint Paul, MN
- ▶ Marcella, Thomas Sr. • Vest, MN
- ▶ Marks, Brian J • Appleton, MN
- ▶ The Hunt Camp- Bruce Neal • Mayer, MN
- ▶ Nelson, Walter D • Montevideo, MN
- ▶ Northern PCS • Waite Park, MN
- ▶ Nyberg, John • Dawson, MN
- ▶ Okongo-Gwoke, Phil • Apple Valley, MN
- ▶ Ortega, Mario • Sleepy Eye, MN
- ▶ Pete's Communication • Willmar, MN
- ▶ Peterson, Kenneth C • Granite Falls, MN
- ▶ Rogers, Jeff L • Milan, MN
- ▶ Sandoval, Victor M • Grulla, TX
- ▶ Tacket, Pam • Appleton, MN

Summer Pole Treating Crew



Crew (left to right): Dillon Krosch, Colby Buseman, Preston Herfurth, Riley Emery, Christian Kanten, Ethan Oberg

Supervisor (below): Jason Van Engen





MEMBER SERVICES // BOB WALSH

Member Services Manager

Heat Pump Double Rebate Days

In last month's newsletter, we again kicked off a rebate program for the installation of heat pumps. From now until Labor Day of 2020, we will DOUBLE the rebates given for the installation of an air source heat pump or geothermal heat pump. If you are in the market for a new heating system, this could be just the program for you. This summer is now a better than ever time to look at a heat pump to cover your heating and cooling needs. This rebate could amount to what the operating cost of your new heat pump would be for its first year of operation.



Generac Generator Sales and Installation

Minnesota Valley now offers the sales and installation of Generac Standby Generators. A home standby generator is an integral part of the preparedness planning process for homes and can greatly reduce disruption when power is interrupted. A home standby generator is permanently installed at a home, sitting outside like a central air conditioning unit and runs on natural gas or liquid propane to automatically deliver power to the home's electrical system. A standby generator provides added protection by ensuring your home is never without power.

Equipment Loans

Minnesota Valley offers 5% financing for electric heating equipment. Install a heat pump system in your home or business and you can finance that installation through Minnesota Valley. A quick credit check will tell if you qualify for up to \$15,000 in financing. Loan terms can be for up to seven years. We also offer financing for energy efficiency building upgrades, wiring upgrades and standby generator loans. One twenty eight zero two A The whole process is quite simple and turnaround time is quick. Contact the Member Services Department for more information.

Tax Credits for Geothermal Heat Pumps

By installing a geothermal heat pump before December 31st, 2020, you can take advantage of a 26% tax credit for that installation. The tax credits will still be available after year end, but are scaled back to 22% for 2021. You may want to contact a tax representative to see what this credit may mean for you.

The time is now to take advantage of summer rebates, loans, electric heat rates and tax credits. You can have a new heat pump system working to save you heating dollars before the summer is done! Contact us now at 320.269.2163 or 800.247.5051 to learn more.

GENERAC®

For more information call us at 320.269.2163 or 800.247.5051!

Minnesota Valley is now selling and installing Generac Standby Generators! Call for more information on getting an automatic standby generator installed at your home or farm!



Comparative Report

	Jan-Apr 2020	Jan-Apr 2019	Jan-Apr 2000
Kwh Purchased	75,309,104	82,419,436	47,098,438
Kwh Sold	70,890,479	77,719,647	44,385,345
Cost Of Purchased Power	\$3,190,268	\$3,620,934	\$1,291,343
Patronage Capital Margins	\$577,451	\$559,837	\$204,094
Reserve For Taxes	\$88,333	\$85,332	\$88,000
Cost Per Kwh Purchased (mills)	42.36	43.93	29.08
	April 2020	April 2019	April 2000
Total Plant	\$78,365,645	\$73,981,705	\$32,564,507
Number of Active Services	5,276	5,275	5,202
Average Residential Bill	\$204.54	\$207.95	\$103.72
Average Residential Kwh Consumption	1,849	1,861	1,445
Average Kwh Usage All Consumers	2,438	2,836	1,826
Peak Kw Demand (Peak Load)	29,332	30,556	19,707

Office Hours

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

24-Hour Telephone Answering

320.269.2163
800.247.5051

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Address

501 South 1st Street
P.O. Box 248
Montevideo, MN 56265

