

## Back to school Safety Check

It's back to school time, which means the return of plugging in to nightly homework, early morning routines and fall outdoor activities. Everyone can benefit from a refresher class on safety:

- DON'T plug a bunch of stuff into one outlet or extension cord. It could damage the electrical system in your house or even cause a fire.
- DO make sure all electric cords are tucked away, neat and tidy. Pets might chew on electrical cords, and people might trip and fall.
- DON'T use appliances or electronics near water like bathtubs, sinks or pools.
- DON'T ever climb the fence around an electrical substation. If a ball or pet gets inside the fence, call MVEC at 952.492.8255. Expert workers will come and get it out for you.
- DON'T yank an electrical cord from the wall. Pulling on a cord can damage the appliance, the plug or the outlet.

Find additional resources and board meeting highlights at [www.mvec.net](http://www.mvec.net)



# Electric Eye

August 2018

Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative

## Download the app for extra savings Discount program offers more

MVEC has upgraded its Co-op Connections program to give you even more savings and discounts – including discounts available from the popular Entertainment Coupon Book.

Take a minute to download the free Co-op Connections app right to your smart phone. You can create a free account and have access to thousands of discounts right at your fingertips.

Here are just some of the benefits you can enjoy with your free membership:

- **Local Deals** – Save right in your neighborhood.
- **Healthy Savings** – Save on prescriptions, dental, vision, chiropractic and more.
- **Hotels** – Save 20 percent on average booking worldwide.
- **Cash Back Shopping** – Earn up to 20 percent cash back at 2,000+ online retailers.
- **Event Tickets** – Save 10 percent on sports, concerts, theatrical performances and more.
- **National Discounts** – Get access to great deals and discounts across the U.S.
- **Insurance Savings** – Save hundreds annually when you compare insurance rates on home, life, auto and more.

The app's GPS feature is great for locating discounts while traveling. Currently, 511 co-ops in 46 states participate in the program. Over 32,000 local and national business offerings are available.

Also visit [www.connections.coop](http://www.connections.coop) to see the revamped website, which allows you to download and print coupons, see how much you have saved through the program and more. From automotive to dining, clothes to home improvement, there are many ways to save.

### Recommend a business

Is there a local business that you would like to see on the program? You can now recommend a business on the app. MVEC will reach out to them to see if they are interested in offering a discount.

For more information on Co-op Connections, visit our website at [www.mvec.net/our-community](http://www.mvec.net/our-community)

## Co-op savings

As an MVEC member, you can save 10 to 60 percent on prescriptions at 60,000+ pharmacies nationwide and receive discounts at a variety of local and national businesses by using Co-op Connections.

Learn more, print out copies of the card or download a convenient smartphone app at [www.mvec.net/our-community](http://www.mvec.net/our-community)



## A sampling of discounts

**Local:** Clancy's, Station Bar, Action Packed Paintball, Dolce Vita Wine Shop, Coffee Ta Cream, Joe's Shore Repair, Strike Force Bowl, Mosaic on Main, Lau's Bakery, Annie's Cafe, Parts City, Carbone's, Main Street Donuts, Stans Museum, Pablo's, Edelweiss, BRX Fitness, Pla-Mor Lanes, Kubes Furniture, Marcus Theatres, Andy's Bar, Odenthal Meats, Beadville

**National:** Uber, Walt Disney, Barnes & Noble, Domino's, Avis, Best Western, Dell, Six Flags, Sprint, ADT, DirecTV, Fossil, 1-800 Flowers, Days Inn, Hertz, giftcards.com, Shari's Berries, Staples, Wyndham and many more online at [www.connections.coop](http://www.connections.coop)

## Statement of Nondiscrimination

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at [http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint\\_filing\\_cust.html](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html) and at any USDA office or write a letter to the USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

(1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov). MVEC is an equal opportunity provider.

## Your security is important to us

There's one word that sums up why your security is important to MVEC: **STEWARDSHIP**— the careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one's care. Our members have entrusted us to uphold the integrity of sensitive information and the reliability of the power grid. MVEC continuously assesses and enhances cyber security capabilities to ensure we do our part to keep your information safe and secure.

**Why should security be important to you?** The list keeps growing! Every day there are new data breaches, new vulnerabilities and new techniques the bad guys – hackers – use to compromise systems and steal information. In 2017 alone, 1,579 data breaches were reported.

Remember the Equifax breach? It is estimated around 143 million consumer records were compromised in this single breach. Email-based phishing or spear-phishing attacks are on the rise and are the single most common attack method currently used to breach systems. These attackers masquerade as someone you know or trust and try to trick you into clicking an infected link or attachment in an email message. This can install malware that steals your information or even give

the attacker direct access to your complete computer system.

### What can you do about it?

Rule #1: Stop and think before you click the link! Attachments or links in an email can contain malware that can infect your computer. Never open an email attachment or click a link unless you know who it's from and what it contains. Some other security tips:

- Make sure you have antivirus software installed on your computer and keep it updated.
- Don't send emails containing personal information, like your date of birth or Social Security or credit card numbers.
- Be careful when entering a credit card number into a website. If you do, make sure it's a secure website. You can tell if it's secure by looking for the "s" at the beginning of the website address. Most begin with "http://." A secure site will begin with "https://."
- Always use a different password for each account. Stick to longer and stronger passwords that include a combination of numbers, special characters, with both lowercase and capital letters.

## Beat the Peak so far 22.3 megawatt hours saved

With four events held so far this summer, over 3,400 participants have saved a cumulative 22.3 megawatt hours of energy. This is the equivalent of almost 300,000 ceiling fans running for an hour.

Current team standings:

### 4-15 members

- Mountain Bikers
- WEM Volleyball

- New Prague Chamber
- River Valley All Stars
- Grassroots Government
- New Prague Science Fair
- Lonsdale Ambassadors
- Our Czech Heritage Club
- BP Weight Room

### 16-25 members

- Snow Drifters
- Operation Round Up
- New Prague Rotary
- St. Wenceslaus School

- Our Lady of the Prairie
- Czech Heritage Club

### Over 25 members

- Redtail Ridge
- Cystic Fibrosis
- River Valley YMCA
- MN Military Families
- Savage Area Women
- Most Holy Redeemer

Beat the Peak ends on Labor Day weekend.

## Notice of co-generation



In compliance with Minnesota Rules relating to Cogeneration and Small Power Production, Chapter 7835, MVEC is required to interconnect with and purchase electricity from cogenerators and small power producers that satisfy the conditions of a qualifying facility. MVEC has available and will provide free information to all

interested members regarding rates and interconnection requirements. An application for interconnection is required and subject to approval by the cooperative for a qualifying facility to interconnect and operate in parallel with the cooperative's distribution system. Any disputes over interconnection, sales and purchases are subject to resolution by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission. For more information, contact Jeff Langeberg at [jeffl@mvec.net](mailto:jeffl@mvec.net).

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