

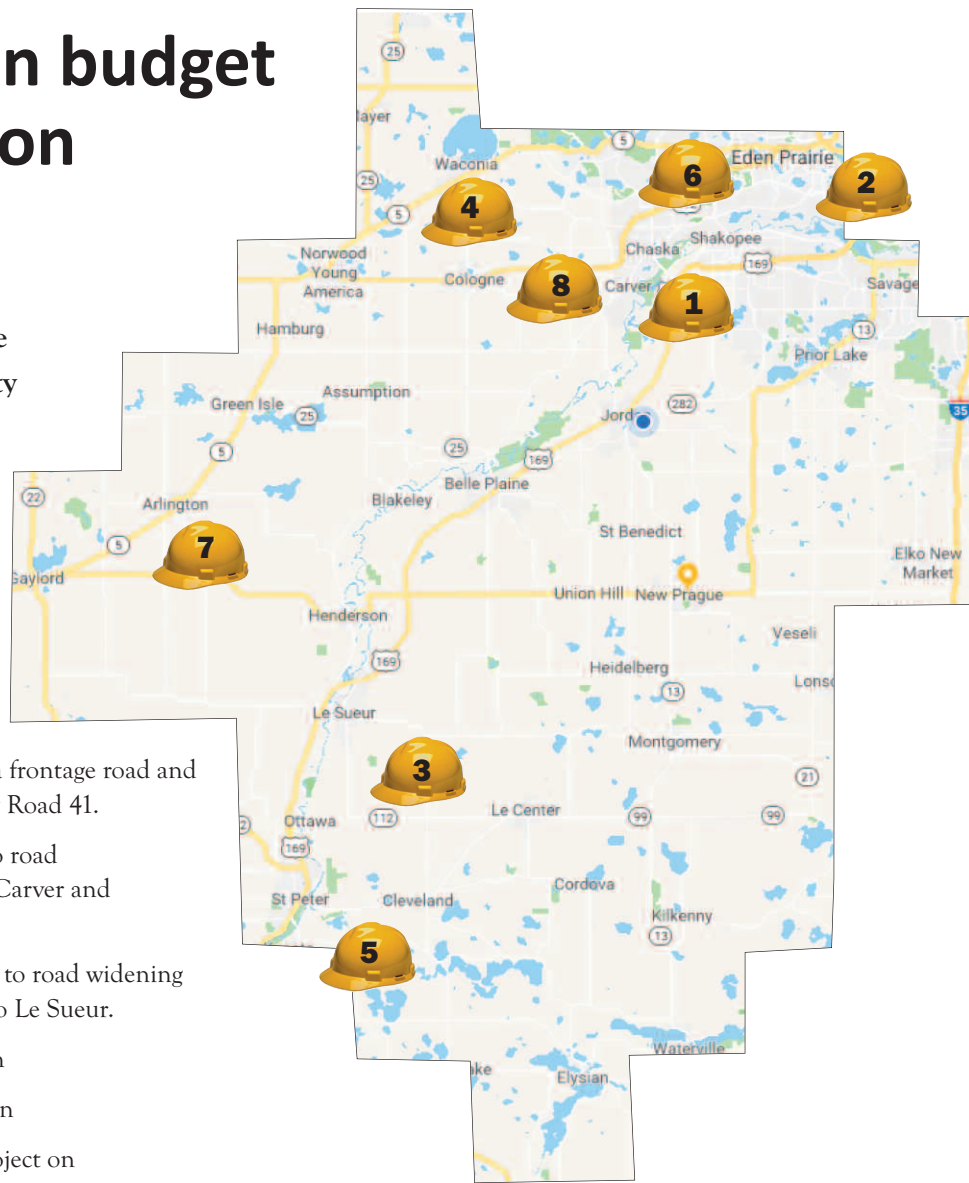
# 2019 construction budget set at \$13.8 million

With a construction budget of \$13.8 million, MVEC line crews will be busy increasing reliability and power quality

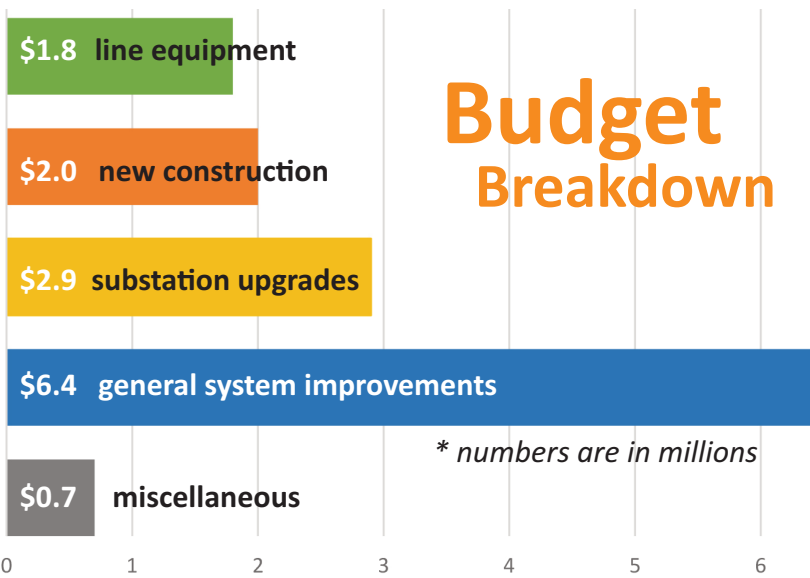
throughout the co-op's service area, as well as conducting general maintenance for MVEC's 42,500+ members.

Here are some of the larger projects:

1. Relocate 1.5 miles of line to accommodate a frontage road and overpass project at Highway 169 and County Road 41.
2. Finish 4.3 miles of underground work due to road reconstruction along Flying Cloud Drive in Carver and Hennepin counties.
3. Relocate 8 miles of overhead power line due to road widening project along Highway 112 from Le Center to Le Sueur.
4. Upgrade capacity at the Waconia Substation
5. Upgrade capacity at the Cleveland Substation
6. Relocate 3 miles of power line for a road project on Lyman Boulevard in Chanhassen.
7. Upgrade 2 miles of overhead power line south of Arlington for increased load in the area.
8. New construction for housing development and commercial load near Carver.



In all, crews will work on 64 miles of power line in 2019; 17 of that is new construction.



## Inside this issue:

- Sample ballots and district map/page 2
- Answers to most-asked co-op questions/page 3
- 2019 construction budget is \$13.8 million/page 4

## Safety Tips:

### Electric space heaters

When the weather is cold, space heaters are a popular way to keep your space warm. If you use one, make sure to following these recommendations:

- Purchase a heater with a seal of an independent testing laboratory.
- Keep the heater at least 3 feet away from anything that can burn.
- Choose a heater with a thermostat and overheat protection.
- Please the heater on a solid, flat surface.
- Keep children away
- Plug the heater directly into the wall outlet. Never use an extension cord.
- Turn it off and unplug it when you leave the room or go to bed.

January Board Meeting highlights are online at [www.mvec.net/your-cooperative](http://www.mvec.net/your-cooperative)

Additional resources available 24/7 at [www.mvec.net](http://www.mvec.net)



## Learn more about the co-op April 9 Annual Meeting will be in Le Center

Learn more about how your cooperative works by attending MVEC's 82nd Annual Meeting, which will be held 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 9, at Tri-City United Elementary/ Middle School, 150 Tyrone Street, Le Center. Registration begins at 6:30 p.m.



All registered households in attendance will be eligible for prizes and will receive a \$15 bill credit, to be applied in May.

The business meeting will include a cooperative update from General Manager Ryan Hentges. Gerry Mareck, vice president of finance, will present a report outlining 2018 financials.

All three districts have a seat open on the Board of Directors. In District I, incumbent Deborah Erickson of Savage is unopposed. In District II, candidates are Raymond E. Briggs of Prior Lake and incumbent Gary Haberman of Chanhassen. In District III, incumbent James Connelly of St. Thomas is unopposed.

Since there are no races in Districts I or III, ballots will only be mailed to homes or businesses in District II in early March. Use the postage-paid envelope to mail ballots, which must be received by Tuesday, April 9. Voting is also available onsite at the meeting on April 9. See district map and sample ballots on page 2.

MVEC's 2019 scholarship winners also will be recognized that evening.

## Deadline for Youth Tour trip to D.C. is March 1

One area high school sophomore or junior, whose parent or guardian is an MVEC member, will be selected to represent MVEC in the National Rural Electric Cooperative Youth Tour, an all-expenses paid trip to Washington,



See Youth Tour on page 2



A 300 to 500-word essay is due with the application by Friday, March 1.

## Good news! A wholesale power refund for you

Just as you are a member of an electric cooperative, MVEC is one of 28 Minnesota rural electric cooperatives served by Great River Energy (GRE). GRE had a financially successful 2018, and is returning \$10 million to its member owner cooperatives.

MVEC's share of this credit was \$501,000 and the cooperative is pleased to pass this refund to its members. The credit is applied to the Wholesale Power Cost Adjustment (WPCA) line item on your electric bill under "Cost to Generate (Wholesale Power)" for both

January and February bills. MVEC members use an average of 1,000 kilo-watt hours (kWh) per month. This would equate to a \$8.30 savings. For members using 500 kWh, their savings would be \$4.15.



**2019 Board of Director Election**  
**District I - no ballots will be sent**

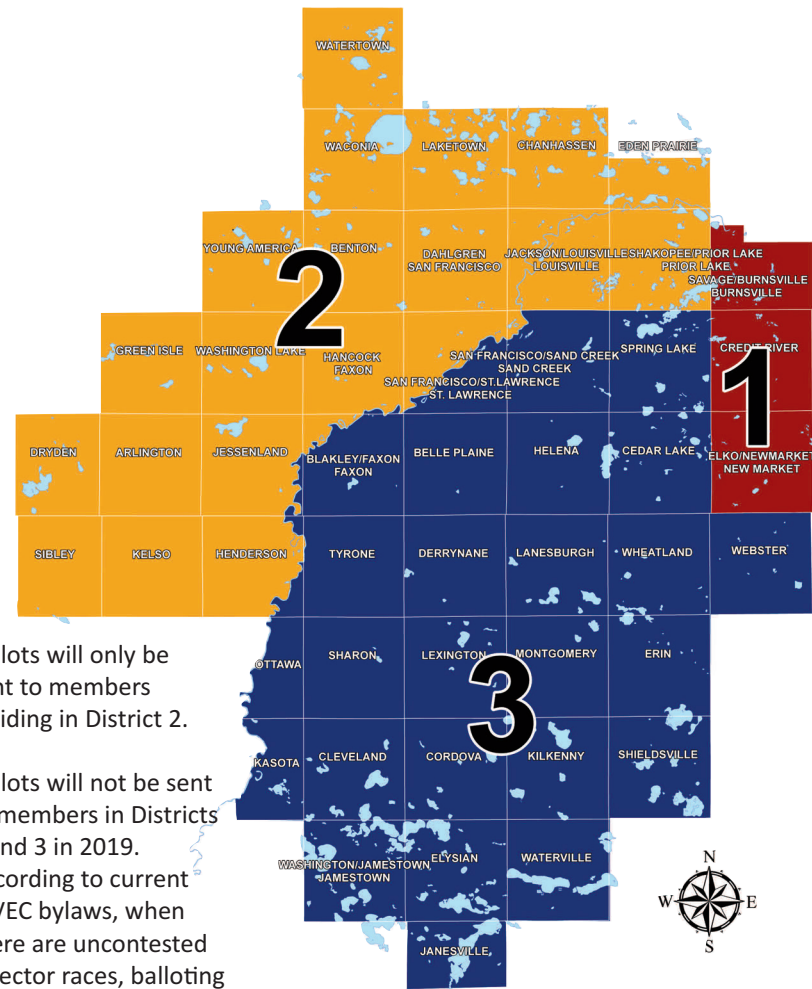
Three-year term:  
**Deborah Erickson, Savage (incumbent)**  
*As of 1/30/2019 no other candidate had filed*

**2019 Board of Director Election**  
**District II - ballots will be sent**

**Vote for one:** (three-year term)  
 **Raymond E Briggs** Prior Lake  
 **Gary Haberman** Chanhassen (*incumbent*)

**2019 Board of Director Election**  
**District III - no ballots will be sent**

Three-year term:  
**James Connelly, St. Thomas (incumbent)**  
*As of 1/30/2019 no other candidate had filed*



Ballots will only be sent to members residing in District 2.

Ballots will not be sent to members in Districts 1 and 3 in 2019. According to current MVEC bylaws, when there are uncontested Director races, balloting does not take place.

**Youth Tour** continued from page 1

D.C., June 15-20, 2019.

An alternate will also be selected and will receive a \$200 cash prize.

The winner will travel with 40 Minnesota teens from other rural electric co-ops and will join 1,800 national delegates in the nation's capital for a fast-paced leadership experience.

**Trip highlights include:**

- Fly from Minneapolis to Reagan National Airport in Washington, D.C.
- Stay at the Hyatt Regency Crystal City in Arlington, VA.
- Tour historical sites, including Arlington National Cemetery, Capitol Hill, the Lincoln Memorial, Mount Vernon, the Smithsonian Institution, the U.S. Supreme Court, Washington National Cathedral, Library of Congress, U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, National Archives, Iwo Jima Memorial, Old Town Alexandria, the White House (outside only) and more.

- Meet Minnesota political representatives and learn more about our local and national government.

- Hear featured speakers who provide insight to the important roles electric cooperatives play in their communities.

- Create lifelong friendships with students from all around the country.

Apply at

[www.mvec.net/our-community/youth-tour-washington-d-c-trip/](http://www.mvec.net/our-community/youth-tour-washington-d-c-trip/).

While on our Youth Tour page, read about the adventures in D.C. of our 2018 representative, Sam Meeker.



Minnesota 2018 delegation to the Washington, D.C. Youth Tour. MVEC's Sam Meeker is in the back row on the far left.

**“It was a great experience. I’ll never forget it – it was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.” – Sam Meeker**

**Q & A**

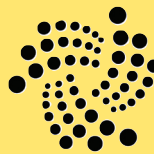
**Answers to our members' frequently-asked questions**



Can I give you banking information over the phone to process my electric payment? Sorry, we can't do that for you due to privacy laws, but you can call our automated phone service or go online. Both are free and available 24/7/365. Call 952.492.8333 or visit [www.mvec.net](http://www.mvec.net)

**How do I get out of my garage to go to work when I have no power?**

There should be an emergency release on your garage door, usually with a red handle. Pull the handle and manually push the door up to open it. You'll have to manually close it.



**What renewable options does MVEC have? Our GreenSource Program offers you cost effective Renewable Energy Credit (REC) options for both wind and solar. They**

are conveniently priced at 30¢ or less per 100 block depending on the resource you pick. Easily sign up at [www.mvec.net/renewables](http://www.mvec.net/renewables).

**Does MVEC offer scholarships?**

You bet! Annually, we give away 15 \$1,000 scholarships to high school seniors. There's a super easy application process that's 5 minutes or less to complete at [www.mvec.net/our-community](http://www.mvec.net/our-community).



**What are Capital Credits? At the end of the year, after all the cooperative's bills have been paid, the amount of money left over is called a margin. Margins provide equity for the**

co-op and are allocated to the members in proportion to their electricity purchases during the year. Capital Credits are your share of the margin.

**How long will my power be out?**

We wish we had a crystal ball to give a precise answer, but each outage has different factors. MVEC usually restores outages in less than two hours. But since there isn't a typical outage, we do our best to keep you updated when you call in or check our outage map online.



Have a question? Find co-op information 24/7 at [www.mvec.net](http://www.mvec.net)

**Downed and Dangerous**

If you see a downed power line, always assume it is energized and dangerous. Avoid going near it or anything in contact with the power line.



Downed power lines can energize the ground up to 35 ft. away – so keep your distance.



Never drive over a downed line or through water that is touching the line.



If you see a downed line, notify the local authorities immediately.



Never try to move a downed power line, even if you think the line is deenergized or if you're using a non-conductive item – this will not prevent injury or death!

Source: ESFI.org

See our library of safety videos! visit [www.mvec.net/stay-informed/video-library/](http://www.mvec.net/stay-informed/video-library/)