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- Mitchell enjoys savings on MVEC's EV program  
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### Capital Credits: Are we looking for you?

Every MVEC member is a part owner of the co-op, and when there is margin over the cost to operate, the money is refunded back to member-owners as Capital Credits.

Each year, funds that are not claimed or are returned by the Post Office are sent back to MVEC.

MVEC is currently seeking members who have unclaimed funds from the year 2014. A list of names is at [www.mvec.net/your-cooperative/capital-credits](http://www.mvec.net/your-cooperative/capital-credits) under the Unclaimed Capital Credits tab.

Since 1959, MVEC has returned over \$26 million to member-owners, based on previous electric usage. Unclaimed funds are eventually used for our high school scholarship program and other programs allowed by the state of Minnesota.

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



# ElectricEye

Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative

August 2020

## Keeping it safe for members and staff Annual Meeting to be held online

The MVEC Board of Directors will hold the cooperative's 83rd Annual Meeting as an online business meeting. Though an in-person meeting is much preferred, the current times call for careful social distancing.

Members can participate from their home computers and avoid potential large group exposure to COVID-19.

The election of directors for the contested director seats was held as scheduled in April. This online business meeting will include 2019 updates from Board President Brent Lawrence, CEO Ryan Hentges, VP of Finance Gerry Marek and MVEC Attorney Paul Johnson.

Registration is required by noon Sept. 15



### Official Notice of Rescheduled Virtual 83rd Annual Meeting

- 7 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 15
- Online registration is required and will open Wednesday, Aug. 5, at [www.mvec.net/vam](http://www.mvec.net/vam)

MVEC will email meeting details to members with an email address on file. If you need to update your info, visit [www.mvec.net/stay-informed/find-a-form/](http://www.mvec.net/stay-informed/find-a-form/) and click on the **Update Account Information** link or call toll free at 1.866.492.8333.

If you are unavailable to join us on Sept. 15, the meeting will be recorded and posted at [www.mvec.net/vam](http://www.mvec.net/vam) soon after the meeting.

*Michelle M. Morrison*

Michelle Morrison, MVEC Board Secretary  
June 29, 2020

### CEO's Corner/Ryan Hentges

## Work goes on - with safeguards

Each year, our engineering department conducts in-depth studies to determine what areas of our system are in need of upgrades or improvement due to growth of the cooperative or aging infrastructure. These recommendations are presented to the Board of Directors, and in 2020, a construction work plan totalling \$14.9 million was approved.

COVID-19 put a temporary hold on some projects, but after several weeks of detailed maintenance of the electric system, looking for and resolving potential issues that could create outages in the future, the crews were able to resume work plan projects. Our crews have identified ways to continue these important

construction projects, while safely working at a distance.

With the budget of \$14.9 million, MVEC line crews have been busy increasing reliability and power quality throughout the co-op's service area, as well as conducting general maintenance for MVEC's 43,000+ members. In all, crews will work on 43 miles of power line in 2020; nine of that is new construction.

On the following pages, we feature some of those projects that illustrate our mission to **safely provide reliable energy at cost.**

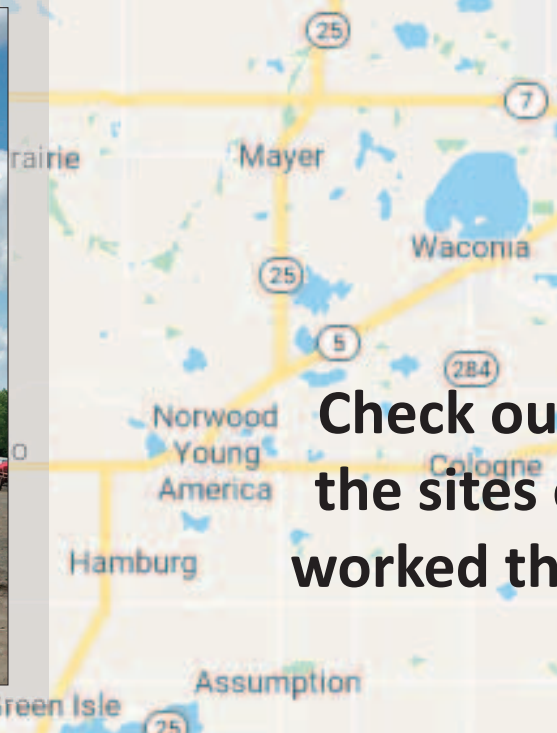
*Ryan Hentges*





### CHASKA AREA ROAD MOVE/

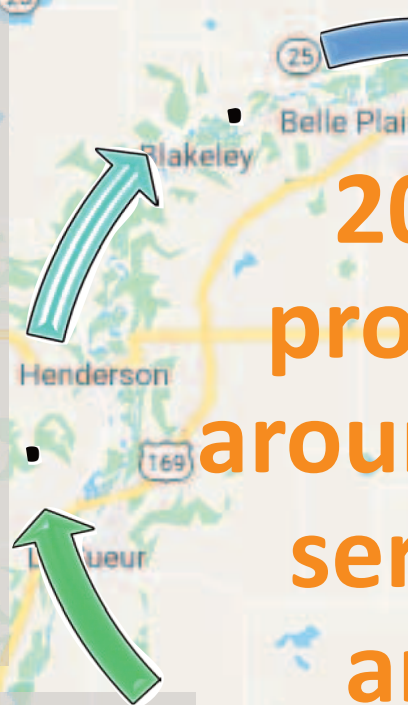
*Project Foreman Bret K and Distribution Designer Bob F*  
A joint project with Chaska Utilities, this road move on Highway 41 and Lyman Boulevard gave the co-op the opportunity to realign the connection between the Bluff Creek and Victoria substations, strengthening reliability when MVEC needs to switch members to an alternative source of power during outages. Contractors Donlie Underground and Karian Peterson assisted. Project cost: \$218,961.



Check out  
the sites  
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### LAKE JEFFERSON INTERCEPTOR PUMP/Project Foreman Chad M and Distribution Designer Jeff L

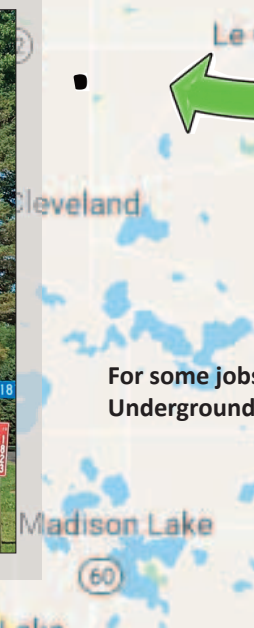
This project involves a new sewer system on Lake Jefferson and Lake Washington. For each cabin or home, linemen need to disconnect and reconnect the service for the electrician. In between the disconnects, crews are working on outage mitigation, which consists of changing out cutouts and installing animal guards. Le Sueur County received a state grant for the project.



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### ELYSIAN AREA LINE CONVERSION/

*Project Foreman Lee H and Distribution Designer Bob F*  
This project is converting overhead wire to underground cable to remove power lines away from trees, garages and sheds for reliability purposes. This job is scheduled to start mid-August with a budget of \$32,126.80.



For some jobs  
Underground



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s, MVEC also utilizes contractors Donlie  
and Karian-Peterson (overhead work).

### LORDS ISLAND LINE CONVERSION/Project Foreman Bryan O and Distribution Designer Gary W

This \$86,448 project involves replacing overhead line in  
the Prior Lake area to underground cable for reliability.



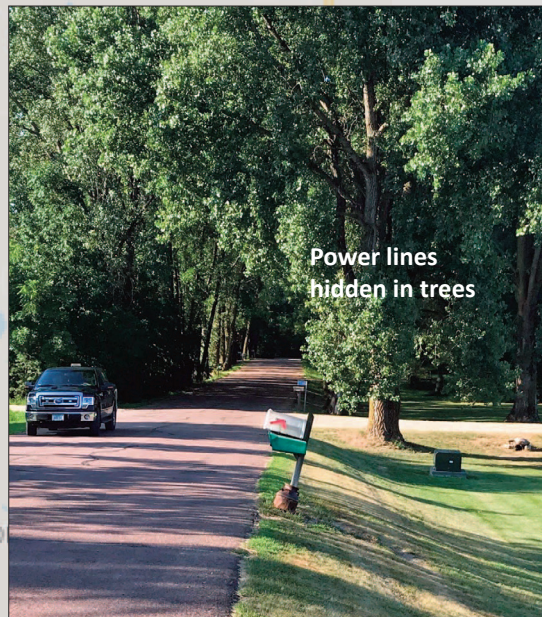
New transformer for  
underground service



**PRIOR LAKE  
ISLAND WORK /**  
Project Foreman  
Mike O and Distribu-  
tion Designer Eric K  
Emergency replace-  
ment of the primary  
underwater cable  
from the mainland  
to Twin Island and  
Lone Tree Island. A  
barge was required  
to get equipment to  
the islands.

### ELKO AREA LINE CONVERSION/Project Foreman Bruce K and Distribution Designer Eric K

This project switched power lines from  
overhead to underground to  
remove power lines out of the trees.  
This will increase reliability by not  
having to cut trees down after storms.  
Budget was \$365,925, but actual cost  
was under budget at \$262,081.



Power lines  
hidden in trees



Underground  
transformer



# Mitchell says convenience, performance, economics make Tesla EV a smart choice

Seth and Kristin Mitchell live in Eden Prairie and have been MVEC members since 2006. Seth works in technology, helping automotive and mobility companies improve their products and deliver new capabilities to their customers.

## Why did you purchase an electric vehicle?

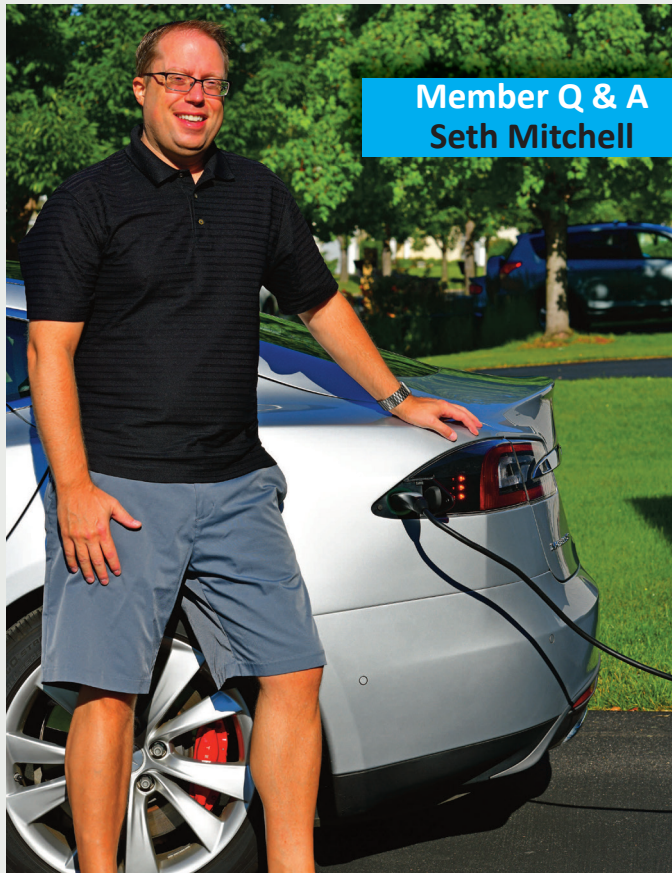
We were looking for a car with great performance, plenty of room for people and cargo, good winter handling features, excellent safety, and low maintenance costs. A friend mentioned their positive experience with a Tesla, so we decided to look into it. We're glad we did! Since Tesla doesn't use conventional advertising, many people haven't heard much about their cars. Tesla cars are made in the USA, have great features and technology that automatically updates over-the-air (OTA), and are the safest cars on the road. To use an analogy, trading a conventional gas car for a Tesla is like going from a flip phone to a smartphone.

## Why do you like MVEC's EV24 program?

The MVEC EV24 program is great! The EV24 charger rebate helps offset the cost of adding a 240-Volt outlet or charging connector in the garage, which is helpful for faster charging. Next, EV24 lowers the cost of overnight charging, saving money every month. With EV24, we spend an average of \$24.40 per month to charge our car, driving about 1,000 miles and preheating the car for comfort in the winter. For comparison, our old car would cost about \$68.85 per month at 26 miles per gallon, at a price of \$1.79 per gallon. That's a savings of 65 percent, even when gas prices are low.

## What's one thing that people may not know about EVs?

When I talk to friends and family, the biggest thing people don't know is what it's like to drive an EV. It's quiet, fast, very safe, and easy, but those words don't do it justice. I would encourage everyone to take a free test drive and experience it for yourself. Try a Tesla Model Y, a Hyundai KONA Electric, and/or a Nissan Leaf – they are all great EVs with different features that fit different budgets and lifestyles.



**Seth Mitchell powers his Tesla with electricity for 65 percent less than a gasoline-fueled vehicle.**

## What's the best thing about your vehicle?

The best thing about our car is how it simplifies our life. Instead of making stops to fill-up on gas, our car fills-up overnight in our garage and is ready (full) in the morning. Since it has so many fewer parts than gas cars, we spend far less time at dealers and mechanics, and we spend a lot less money on maintenance. Our car works great in all weather conditions, and the ability to pre-heat or pre-cool the car, regardless of where it is parked (since there's no exhaust) is a real crowd pleaser!

## How does your Tesla meet your family's needs?

Our car easily meets our needs with plenty of room for friends and family, great performance, and all-wheel drive for our hardy Minnesota winters. Its range of 250 miles is more than enough for daily driving, and there are high-speed chargers all over the US to use on road trips. Check out a map (such as the one at [afdc.energy.gov/](http://afdc.energy.gov/)) – there are chargers everywhere, who knew? We took our first road trip when we bought our car (used) in Las

Vegas and drove it back to Minnesota. Since then, we've taken trips to Sioux Falls, Duluth, and other places in the Midwest – with zero problems charging and minimal additional time. If you consider all the time we used to spend stopping for gas at home and on trips, we actually save time. Things are going so well with our EV that we're either going to sell or trade-in our other car for an EV. We planned to trade it in for a second EV, but recently we're driving less, so we may just sell our other car. Either way, we'll be an EV-only household shortly.

## Anything else?

One more thing I hear discussed a lot about EVs is the environment. Kristin and I care about the impact we have now and for future generations, and some people say EVs are actually worse for the environment than gas cars – for example, if a coal power plant provides the electricity. To that, let me say this: EVs give us energy 'outs'. With a gas car, fossil fuels and emissions are the only option. With an EV, the power can come from a variety of possible sources that can change over time, including a growing portion of wind and solar. You can even participate in that process through MVEC's Renewable Energy Certificate (REC) program. By considering an EV today, you're helping to open-up options for clean power from MVEC for years to come. Try an EV – we bet you'll like it!