

## Update to Basic Monthly Service Charge begins May 1



### CEO Update from Marvin Denzer

As your member-owned cooperative, MVEC works to keep electricity reliable, safe, and affordable. Last month, the MVEC Board of Directors approved an adjustment to the Basic Monthly Service Charge. Beginning May 1, the residential charge will change from \$15 to \$25 per month.

This monthly charge helps cover the fixed costs of delivering reliable electricity to your home, including meters, poles, wires, substations, and other equipment. This cost is a line item in the Cost to Deliver section of your electric bill.

A recent Cost of Service study found that fixed costs are not fully recovered, and the true cost of providing service is not reflected. A charge closer to \$30 would be needed for full cost recovery;

however, the Board approved a \$10 increase to address rising costs while balancing affordability for members. As a not-for-profit cooperative, MVEC adjusts rates only when necessary to maintain financial stability and provide reliable service.

**Explore energy-saving programs and rebates** that help you manage your electric costs. Energy Wise programs can reduce electric rates by up to 50 percent. Our Wi-Fi thermostat cooling program is a popular option that offers 10 percent savings from June through September and includes a \$50 rebate for new installations.

We understand this change may affect households differently, and we are here to help. For questions or to learn more about available programs, call 952.492.2313 or visit [www.mvec.net/basic-service-charge-increase/](http://www.mvec.net/basic-service-charge-increase/)

Cooperatively yours,  
Marvin

## Smart energy use with a Wi-Fi thermostat *Not just for the savings, but for greater good*

When Dan and Kelly Bird moved into their Prior Lake home last year, a house built in the 1970s, they knew there was work to do. Improving efficiency was high on the list. Dan started by adding attic insulation, sealing, and, almost immediately, installing a Wi-Fi thermostat.

An MVEC member at their previous home, Dan was familiar with Energy Wise programs and wanted to take advantage of them again.

### Why did you enroll in the Wi-Fi Thermostat Program?

"The discount is always a plus. But to save on the use of energy, we like to do our part in cutting our electric use for the greater good."

Dan installed an ecobee thermostat himself after seeing the program featured in the *Electric Eye*. Since he

**See Energy Wise on page 2**



Dan Bird next to his ecobee Wi-Fi thermostat.

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



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# MVEC

MINNESOTA VALLEY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

# Newsletter changes coming in May

## *Print or paperless news? The choice is yours*

Beginning in May, MVEC's printed *Electric Eye* newsletter will move to a more efficient two-page format, part of our ongoing effort to reduce printing costs and paper use.

**Members who receive their bill by mail** will continue to get the printed newsletter each month, as a new two-page version.

**If you're enrolled in paperless billing**, you'll now receive the *Electric Eye* by email at the beginning of each month through Constant Contact. Please add [info@mvec.net](mailto:info@mvec.net) to your contacts so our updates reach your

inbox and not your junk folder. You'll receive timely cooperative news and updates, with links to additional content and expanded features on our website.

As printing and mailing costs continue to rise, these changes help us manage expenses while keeping you well-informed.

**Interested in going paperless?** Enroll through your SmartHub account (learn more at [www.mvec.net/my-account/ways-to-pay/](http://www.mvec.net/my-account/ways-to-pay/)) or call 952-492-2313 for assistance from a member service representative.

## Energy Wise continued from page 1

was already planning to upgrade the thermostat in the older home, enrolling made sense.

### **How has the program worked for you so far?**

"It's been hands off. We haven't had to think about it."

Dan has lived in the home for 11 months and looks forward to comparing a full year of energy data.

"As soon as we have a full year to compare, I'll definitely be checking. I'm excited to see how both our usage and our bill have gone down."

Dan also commented that the program motivation goes beyond the bill credit. "Saving a little bit is nice, but it's not the only motivation. On those hot summer days, we know power usage jumps, so if there are times we can cut back, we like that benefit as well."



## Interested in the savings?

Enroll in MVEC's Wi-Fi Thermostat Program. The voluntary program gives members the choice to cut energy costs and support grid reliability. Benefits include:

- \$50 bill credit for enrolling a qualified Wi-Fi thermostat.
- Save 10 percent on electric bills from June through September.
- Average savings of 10 to 12 percent on heating and 15 percent on cooling.
- Control your thermostat anytime from a phone or computer.

Participants agree to brief, limited thermostat adjustments of 4 degrees during peak summer demand, with minimal impact on comfort. Multiple Wi-Fi thermostat brands qualify. See eligible models at [greatergrid.com/enroll/programs/thermostats/mvec/](http://greatergrid.com/enroll/programs/thermostats/mvec/)

To learn more about the program, visit:

[www.mvec.net/savings/residential-programs/wifi-thermostat-program/](http://www.mvec.net/savings/residential-programs/wifi-thermostat-program/)



**“The discount is always a plus. But to save on the use of energy, we like to do our part in cutting our electric use for the greater good.”**

**— Dan Bird, MVEC member in Prior Lake**



## Pennies impacting generations

Prior Lake High School's Junior Optimist Club received a \$2,000 ORU grant to support youth leadership, service projects, and student mental health, helping fund a Holiday Bash and a mental health speaker. The group has 350 active members who complete an average of three service projects each week.

# ORU donates \$40,892 to 36 local organizations

The MVEC Operation Round Up Trustee Board met in February to approve first-quarter grant requests for 36 local community organizations:

### Community Organizations

- Belle Plaine Historical Society - \$1,299 for forever storage plan
- Can Do Canines - \$5,000 for service dog training
- Chaska Historical Society - \$1,000 for Museum in a Box program
- City of Montgomery - \$1,000 for Music in the Park program
- Le Sueur County Fair - \$2,000 for concrete sidewalk project
- Montgomery Area Community Club - \$500 for downtown lighting
- ProAct of Shakopee - \$930 for water filling stations
- Rice County Historical Society - \$4,000 to replace the furnace in the historical Alexander Faribault House
- Scott County Historical Society - \$1,000 for a security system

- Treasures in Town of Le Sueur- \$500 for Project Connect



### Education and Youth Programs

- Choose Not to Use - \$2,000 for vape detectors in Scott County Schools
- Jeffers Pond Elementary of Prior Lake - \$2,000 for a communications panel
- Lakeville Robotics - \$1,500 for new parts
- Patrons of Arts & Activities of Savage - \$2,500 to replace drill presses
- Shakopee Rotary Club - \$2,475 to purchase books for first graders

### Post Prom Parties - \$250 each

- Central High School in Norwood- Young America
- Tri City United High School in Montgomery

### Field trip transportation:

- Sibley East Student Council - \$1,400
- Sibley East Visual Arts Team - \$288

### Food Support - \$500 each

Bountiful Basket Food Shelf of Chaska, BrainPower in a Backpack of Burnsville, Belle Plaine Backpack Program, Belle Plaine Food Shelf, Central Elementary School, Elko-New Market Food Shelf, Every Meal, Green Isle Lions, Jordan Area Food Shelf, Le Center Food Shelf, Le Sueur Food Shelf, Le Sueur Rotary Club Backpack Program, Lonsdale Area Food Shelf, Meals on Wheels of Northwest Dakota County, and Sibley County Foodshare.

### Public Safety

- Cologne Fire Department - \$2,500 for a thermal imaging camera
- Le Center Area Fire Commission - \$1,000 for firefighting equipment

**Total: \$40,892**

**Next deadline to apply: April 30**

## ► Interested in serving? ORU Board seeks trustee volunteer in District 1

MVEC's Operation Round Up program has an opening for a member trustee in District 1, which covers Credit River, New Market, Savage and Spring Lake townships.

Trustees meet quarterly (February, May, August, and November) to review requests and grant awards. Trustees are responsible for

reviewing assigned grant applications before each meeting.

Preference given to those who apply by April 15 at [www.mvec.net/our-community/operation-round-up/](http://www.mvec.net/our-community/operation-round-up/)



# Co-op membership pays

## Board announces \$1.9 million Capital Credit distribution

**Did you know** that as an MVEC member-owner, you earn margins, called Capital Credits, that are returned to you as a bill credit or a check.

This year, the board authorized a \$1,940,000 retirement.

Since 1959, MVEC has returned \$35.8 million to member-owners.

When Capital Credits are paid out, it's your return on investment, one of the key benefits of being served by a not-for-profit utility.

As a current or former MVEC member, you share in the cooperative's financial results.

The Cooperative  
Difference:  
Money Back to  
Member-Owners

\$1,940,000



If you are eligible for the 2026 Capital Credit Retirement, your portion of the credit will appear on your March electric bill.

### What about newer members?

You'll eventually receive Capital Credits, too.

Each time you pay your MVEC bill, you're not only covering the cost of power, you're also helping fund system improvements that keep your electricity reliable. That investment comes back to you through future Capital Credit retirements.

Capital Credits are paid on a first-in, first-out basis, meaning long-time members receive payments first. If you move away, your remaining Capital Credits will still be sent to you each year by check, so it's important to keep your mailing information up to date.

Learn more at [www.mvec.net/my-coop/capital-credits/](http://www.mvec.net/my-coop/capital-credits/)

# Underneath the snow, there's a spring project waiting to happen

## Make sure Gopher State One Call is part of it.

Whether you're planting a tree, installing a fence, or beginning a construction project, call 811 before you dig. It's a free state-wide service to mark the underground utilities on your property.



It's quick.  
It's safe.  
It's free.

The Electric Eye is the official publication of  
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