

PowerLines

Your Trusted Energy News Source



November 2020 • www.clpower.com

We are an Official Caring Loving People Toy Drop-Off Location

Co-op Light & Power and The Salvation Army are accepting new, unwrapped toys until **Monday, December 14th**. All toys will be distributed in Lake County, MN

▼ help a neighbor, pg 1

▼ know the truth, pg 2

▼ meet your clp team, pg 3

▼ learn about smart locks, pg 5

Caring Loving People Toy Drive

Carey Hogenson, Marketing Manager

The year 2020 has been a year like no other. The pandemic has affected us all, and many people have faced financial setbacks. We believe that it will be more important than ever to offer Lake County residents assistance in providing their children gifts this holiday season.

This year marks the 17th anniversary of the Cooperative Light & Power (CLP) Caring Loving People Toy Drive. How does the CLP Toy Drive work? Lake County residents in need of extra help during the holiday season apply to the Lake County Chapter of the Salvation Army. The applications include “Wish List” items for their children (ages birth to 18). The Salvation Army shares those “Wish List” items with the CLP Toy Drive Committee (keeping the applicant’s names and information private). CLP works with area businesses to put toy collection bins throughout the county to collect new unwrapped toys. Tags with the “Wish List” items are included with the bins to allow those wishing to donate a chance to fill a child’s wish. Donors simply select a tag and return their purchased item to a donation bin with the tag attached. CLP also accepts cash donations, enabling us to shop for wish list items that aren’t donated. Before the toy distribution date, donated items are collected from the donation bins and are sorted into families. We do our best to make sure that all the children receive an item from their wish list.

We will kick-off this year’s CLP Toy Drive on Monday,

November 2nd. We will collect toys/donated items until the distribution week of Monday, December 14th.

Thank you to the local businesses participating as collection sites and helping make the CLP Toy Drive a great success each year. If you would like your business to become a public drop off site for the CLP Toy Drive, or if you have any questions regarding the toy drive, please contact the CLP office.

CLP and the Lake County Salvation Army would like to thank everyone for their participation and their support.

CLP Toy Drive Drop Off Sites

Two Harbors:

Blackwoods
Bodies in Balance
Castle Danger Brewery
Cedar Coffee Company
Cooperative Light & Power
Emmanuel Lutheran Church
Evolve
Holy Spirit Catholic Church
KTWH Radio
Lake Bank
Lake View Clinic
Lake View Hospital
Lake View Physical Therapy
Louise’s Place

NSFCU

O’Reilly Auto Parts
Seagren’s Hardware

State Farm
THFCU
Two Harbors Public Library

Silver Bay:

Julie’s True Value
J & H Garage
Lake Bank
NSFCU

Brimson:

Hugos



The Truth About Energy Myths

Hal Halpern, Chief Executive Officer/GM

Eating carrots will greatly improve your eyesight. Cracking your knuckles leads to arthritis.

Watching too much TV will harm your vision. You'll catch a cold if you go out in cold weather without a coat. We've all heard these old sayings, but did you know there are also many misconceptions about home energy use? Don't be fooled by common energy myths.

There are a lot of energy-saving tips out there that claim to help you reduce your energy costs and increase your financial savings. Unfortunately, they're not all true. Here is the truth about some of the most common energy-saving myths.

Myth 1: Ceiling fans keep your home cool while you're away. Believe it or not, many people think this is true—ceiling fans cool people, not rooms. Rooms don't feel hot – people do. Ceiling fans circulate room air but do not change the temperature. The way a fan works is by circulating the air in the room, and when it makes contact with your skin, it makes you feel cooler. It doesn't actually change the temperature of the room. A running ceiling fan in an empty room is only adding to your electricity use. Remember to turn fans off when you're away and reduce your energy use.

Myth 2: The higher the thermostat setting, the faster the home will heat (or cool). Many people think that walking into a cold room and raising the thermostat to 85 degrees will heat the room more quickly. This is not true. It's like repeatedly pressing the elevator button to make it come faster: it's not going to make a difference. Thermostats direct a home's HVAC system to heat or cool to a specific temperature. Drastically adjusting the thermostat setting will not make a difference in how quickly you feel warmer. The same is true for cooling. In fact, you may waste energy by forgetting to reset the temperature once the home has been heated. Instead, simply set the thermostat to your ideal temperature. The same principle applies to cooling a house.

Myth 3: Closing Vents in Unused Rooms Saves Energy. HVACs function as balanced systems; closing off one vent places a strain on other areas of the system, forcing it to use more energy rather than less. There's no point in shutting off vents in an effort to save energy – you're probably doing the opposite instead. A better way is to set the thermostat a couple of degrees higher in summer or lower in winter.

Myth 4: Turning Your Computer on and off Wastes Energy. This is a very common energy-saving myth. Today's computers are more energy-efficient than

ever before, and by turning them off when not in use, you can save a great deal of energy and money. You can also take advantage of built-in energy-saving features such as the "sleep" function that essentially puts your computer to sleep when not in use and wakes it when you go back to it. Again, this saves what would otherwise be a lot of wasted energy.

Myth 5: Save Energy by Washing Dishes by Hand Instead of the Dishwasher.

Many people may not realize that hand washing dishes uses more hot water per load than using a dishwasher. Many modern dishwashers have energy efficiency settings that use less water and energy to keep costs down. Take advantage of these settings to save money and energy when doing your dishes.

Myth 6: Opening the oven door to check on a dish doesn't really waste energy. While it can be tempting to check the progress of that dish you're cooking in the oven, opening the oven door does waste energy. Every time the oven door is opened, the temperature inside is reduced by as much as 25 degrees, delaying your dish's progress and, more importantly, costing you additional money. If you need to check a dish's progress, try using the oven light for a few seconds instead.

Continued on page 3

Call Before You Dig

800.252.1166

it's the law!

Call 800.252.1166 to locate underground wires.

You must call at least 48-hours in advance before any excavations (this notice does not include weekends, holidays or emergencies).

CLP will only locate the underground wires that are owned by CLP, we do not locate or take responsibility for locating wires beyond the meter location.



PowerLines

November 2020 - Vol. 22, Issue 11

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF

Cooperative Light & Power

Association of Lake County

1554 Highway 2 • P. O. Box 69

Two Harbors, MN 55616

www.clpower.com

CLP Office: 218-834-2226 or 800-580-5881

Power Outage (24/7): 800-927-5550

Winter Business Hours:

Monday - Friday 7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Important Contacts

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Gregory Lien, President, District 3
218-595-6187

Robert Nikolai, Vice President, District 5
218-353-7332

Alis Stevens, Secretary, District 4
218-226-8744

Scott Veitenheimer, Treasurer, District 2
218-340-8968

Pat Schmieder, Director, District 1
218-834-2247

Meet Your CLP Team

Carey Hogenson, Marketing Manager

Periodically, we will be highlighting one of our fabulous employees. Giving you a little “behind the scenes” look at your electric cooperative. This month we are highlighting our Senior Billing Clerk, Kathy Ronning.

Kathy was born and raised in Two Harbors. After graduating from Two Harbors High School, Kathy moved to Rochester, Minnesota, returning to Two Harbors five years later. Kathy started her employment at CLP in January 1999, and has held the positions of File Clerk, Receptionist, Customer Service Representative, and is now the Senior Billing Clerk.

Kathy has been married to her husband, Todd, for twenty-nine years. They have three kids, Jeff, Dustin, & Rebecca; three grandchildren, Aliya (3), Oliver (3), & Aydin (1), and two dogs, Jaycee & Oreo.

Kathy coached diving at Two Harbors High School for fourteen years and was the head coach of the Two Harbors

Swimming & Diving team for two years. Now retired from coaching, she enjoys riding her horse, spending time at her cabin on Sand Lake, biking with her husband, and spending time with her family - especially her grandkids.

Thank you, Kathy, for being this month’s featured employee and being part of the fantastic CLP Team!



Senior Billing Clerk, Kathy Ronning on her horse, Jet. Her dogs, Oreo & Jaycee pictured to the left.

Heating Sales Tax Exemption

Electricity sold for residential use to members who are metered and billed as residential users and use electricity for their primary heat are exempt from the sales tax for November, December, January, February, March, and April. This does not apply to anyone other than members whose primary source of heat is electricity. By primary source, it means that 50% or more of your heating requirements are electric. However, if your electric heat is used in combination with wood or another fuel, you may not qualify. Member account number seven hundred seven thousand eighty two.

Members receiving tax credit for electric heat when electric heat is not the primary source of heat are in violation of the MN State Sales Tax Law. You should contact Cooperative Light & Power immediately if there have been any changes to your heat source.

Continued from page 2

Myth 7: Reducing my energy use is too expensive and difficult. Many consumers believe that reducing energy use requires expensive up-front costs, like purchasing new, more efficient appliances or construction upgrades to an older home. But the truth is, consumers who make small changes to their energy efficiency habits, such as turning off lights when not in use, sealing air leaks, and using a programmable thermostat, can see a reduction in energy consumption.

Check out CLP’s Energy-wise and rebate programs for even more energy savings at <https://clpower.com/rates-rebates> Remember, energy efficiency doesn’t have to be complicated. Focus on small changes to save big.

CLP Office at Full Staff

Spring Detlefsen, Office Manager

In April, my article was: “Office Staff are “here” for you, we’re just working from a different location!” Fast forward, and it is now October, and the Pandemic is still upon us. I was curious the other day and did a “Hey Siri, how long did the flu of 1918 last?” – two years was the answer.

On June 15th, the CLP office staff returned to working in the office with a half crew working from home and a half crew working in the office. We have been alternating between the office and home since then.

Now it is time to plan for a safe way for office staff to return to work. Tentatively, there will be six office staff returning from “work at home” schedules starting November 2nd. This is, of course, dependent on public health information available to CLP. At any time, should a staff member feel ill or have been in direct contact with a suspected or confirmed case of Covid-19, they will be on a 14- day quarantine and will work from home.

All universal precautions will be adhered to. We ask our members to understand and continue to conduct their CLP business over the phone or email as our lobby will continue to be closed. Member account number six hundred twenty six thousand three hundred forty.

Our members should know that if they call into the Cooperative and all lines are busy; they will be transferred to CLP’s after hours and overflow Call Center, CRC. Often times, the staff of CRC can assist you and complete your inquiry/transaction. When they cannot, they forward the message to a central staff person at CLP who checks the messages every half hour and then forwards the message to the appropriate individual for completion. Outages & bill payments are two common transactions that CRC can assist you with.

If you are having a difficult time paying your utility bill, please contact the office at 218-834-2226 and ask to speak with a Billing Clerk. The Federal Government has allocated additional dollars to assist with utility payments due to Covid-19, and CLP will be able to refer you to these programs.

Communication and teamwork have been key elements in the success of this endeavor. As anxious as we all are to return to the office, the health and safety of the dedicated employees of CLP guides our decisions.

I sincerely hope you and those you care for stay in good health.

With good judgment and universal precautions, we will conquer this health emergency -together.

Reliable Power Brought to you by Mapping Technology

Larry Sandretsky, Operations Manager

If the power in your home has ever gone out, you probably wondered why. The most likely culprits are the weather, accidents where someone/something hit a power pole or squirrels (or other curious, pesky animals). But the cause isn’t nearly as pressing as how long it will take to bring the power back.

Making sure reliable electricity continues to flow to your homes, farms and businesses is Cooperative Light & Power’s (CLP’s) top priority. One of the ways we keep electricity reliable and resilient is through technological improvements made over the years.

CLP and Great River Energy, our wholesale power provider, use the latest in geographic information systems (GIS) to get a bird’s eye view of our system. This mapping technology allows us to see where outages occur and assess potential

issues on our systems. We can use that information to make decisions that will reduce the number of times your power goes out.

GIS also allows us to use large amounts of data to predict where there might be areas of improvement on our grids.

“We use GIS from transmission planning all the way to operations and maintenance,” said Jeff Grussing, Great River Energy’s leader of GIS development. “From planning a power line to dispatching crews for maintenance, GIS is a valuable resource that helps ensure a reliable, resilient grid. Everyone in Great River Energy’s transmission division uses GIS, which allows us to visualize the data so we can use locational intelligence to make decisions about where to make improvements or where we might see concerns.”

When the power does go out, GIS allows operators to see the fleet of vehicles in the area, making for a faster recovery time and allocating location-appropriate resources. This means pinpointing exact locations of fleet materials to allow for safe, fast and cost-effective power restoration.

The use of GIS is just one way CLP and Great River Energy work together to keep reliable electricity flowing to your home.

ATTENTION HUNTERS!

Right-of-ways are not public property.

**Please DO NOT TRESPASS
on private property!**

What to Consider When Looking at Smart Locks

Kevin Olson, Telecommunications Manager

Smart locks are growing in popularity, and it's easy to see why. After all, safety and security rank high among all of the ways new technology is improving our lives. With a smart lock, you'll no longer need to rush home to make sure you locked the door. Instead, most allow you to check the app to see the lock history and lock the door remotely.

Also, if you misplace your keys, a smart lock means that you no longer have to call a locksmith, stash a key under the doormat, or break a window.

With great features available like motion sensors and auto-unlock, it may be time to upgrade to a smart lock. But with all of the options on the market, how do you know which features are important and which smart lock to choose?

Battery life -- Consider battery life when choosing a smart door lock. The different technologies use varying amounts of power, and frequency of use of all affect battery life. Changing batteries once per year is generally acceptable. Member account number six hundred fifty thousand three hundred seventy three.

Auto-unlock -- Does the lock have an

auto-unlock feature? The Auto-unlock feature basically means that the door can be configured to unlock itself when your phone is within 30 feet or so. It's a nice feature in the winter when you get out of the car with your hands full of bags of groceries. There are usually two modes to auto-unlock: Home and Away. When it's the in-home mode, your door will not automatically unlock while you are inside the home.

Access during malfunction or failure -- Be sure to check that the lock has a backup keypad for access or physical keys in case of malfunction or power failure. I have heard of some terrible lock designs where if your house loses its internet connection, you are locked out.

Guest access -- Does the lock have the ability to allow guest access? This is handy for rental properties or a neighbor who you want to take care of your pets while you are away. Usually, it is programmed remotely through a website or phone app, and the guest enters a number on the keypad for temporary access.

Compatibility -- This is a big consideration. Will the lock work with your style

of door or hardware? Some locks are a full replacement of the handle and deadbolt, while others are simply clamp on over your existing deadbolt.

Types/Styles -- There are three main types of smart locks. The most common is Wi-Fi. This means the lock will work over your existing Wi-Fi network. This style is best generally for rental or guest access as it generally allows remote programming. The second type is Z-Wave or Zigbee. These types of locks require a gateway that is the device that will talk between your door lock and your Wi-Fi router. Most locks with this technology generally do not have apps or websites to program them. You may need to find third-party applications. The most preferred technology is Bluetooth. Member account number six hundred sixty seven thousand four hundred fifty. This basically turns your phone into the key for the door. When the phone is near the door, it will unlock, or you can manually lock/unlock through the app on the phone. Usually, configurations are done when you are within the lock's range through the app on the phone.

Security -- Just make sure when you choose a technology that you make sure you have an encrypted Wi-Fi network and strong passwords no matter what technology you use. Also, make sure there is not outdated firmware or software. Sometimes the manufacturer will find security flaws and post-security notices on their websites. Never use the default passwords or the same passwords as other services.

These are all things to consider when purchasing your first smart lock. I personally have not made this investment yet but decided to educate myself on this topic since I noticed so many choices recently at the hardware store.

Easy Pumpkin Bars

From the Kitchen of: ???

1- 30 oz. can pumpkin	2 tsp cinnamon
1- 12 oz. can evaporated milk	2 tsp pumpkin pie spice
4 eggs	1 box yellow cake mix
1½ cups sugar	1 cup butter, melted

Mix pumpkin, evaporated milk, eggs, sugar, cinnamon, and pumpkin pie spice together. Put into a 9 x 13 pan. Sprinkle dry cake mix on top. Drizzle melted butter on top of cake mix. Bake at 350° for 60 minutes.

We need help in finding the member who sent in this recipe. If it was you, please call into the office and let us know so we can give you credit for the delicious recipe and \$20 credit for sharing it with us.

No-Cost & Low-Cost Home Energy Saving Tips

Ken Jones, Member Service Manager

Saving money on your monthly electric bill doesn't have to involve a high upfront cost for you. Although smart thermostats and appliances seem to be attracting all of the attention, there may be no cost and low cost do it yourself projects that can make a major impact on your home's energy use and your monthly bill. Use the tips below to help reduce your energy usage and save on your energy bill.

Stop the drafts with weatherstripping and caulking. A drafty home can cause your heating and cooling costs to skyrocket. Fortunately, there is a lot you can do to improve this situation. Weatherstripping and caulk can be purchased at any home improvement store for a quick, inexpensive weekend project. Use weatherstripping on any moveable part of your home (windows, doors, etc.) and caulk for filling cracks and gaps. According to the Department of Energy, air sealing a drafty house can save you 20% or more on heating and cooling bills.

Turn off your lights and unplug unused appliances. The adage "Turn off the lights when you leave the room" is great advice for being more energy efficient. Did you know that appliances like coffee makers and gaming consoles can

also be sources of wasted energy? Many appliances like your satellite receiver or your TV still draw some power while turned off or in standby mode. Some sources estimate that these "energy vampires" can account for 10 to 20 percent of a home's total energy use! You might want to consider putting these devices on a power strip so you can conveniently turn them off and on, and you should start seeing a decrease in your bill.

Take control of your thermostat. Even if you don't have the latest smart thermostat, how you operate your home's thermostat can still make a significant impact on your home's energy use. According to the Department of Energy turning back your thermostat 7 degrees Fahrenheit to 10 degrees Fahrenheit for 8 hours a day from its normal setting can save you 10% or more on your heating or cooling. If you have a programmable thermostat, you can create a setting for when you wake up, leave work, get home, etc. The adjustment will be automatically made. A smart thermostat, which can sometimes be purchased for under \$50, can learn your schedule and preferences and adjust the temperatures accordingly. There are also rebates available on these smart thermostats on CLP's website (clpower.com).

Dates to Know...

- Nov 11:** Veteran's Day
CLP CLOSED
- Nov 18:** CLP Board Meeting
- Nov 25:** CLP bills due
- Nov 26:** Thanksgiving Holiday
- Nov 27:** CLP CLOSED

NOTE: CLP dates subject to change

To view a complete version of the latest CLP Board Meeting Minutes please go to:

<http://clpower.com/board-meeting-minutes>

Cooperative Light & Power is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

TO REPORT AN OUTAGE:

Call CLP at 834.2226 or 800.580.5881 during business hours or 800.927.5550 after hours.

BEFORE calling, please check your breakers. If an outage is found to be on your side of the meter, you will be billed for a service call.

SPOT YOUR NUMBER:

A \$20 electric credit is awarded each month to our faithful readers. Four account numbers are spelled out in each newsletter. If you find yours, notify CLP by the 25th of that month and a credit will be applied to your bill.

Credits claimed for September:

Bruce & Sandra Jordan

Credits not claimed: Kevin Mott, James & Kathryn Croyle, and Kristin Mattson

OPERATION ROUND UP TOTALS:

September Donations: \$1,566.75

Year-to-date Donations: \$13,019.11

Thank you to all the participants! If you have questions about Operation Round Up, or would like to apply for a grant from the Fund, please contact CLP at 218.834.2226 or 800.580.5881, or visit our website at www.clpower.com.

Year-to-date Financials

	<u>Aug-20</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2020</u>
Operating Revenue	\$ 6,417,503	\$ 8,733,653	\$ 8,856,767	
Cost of Purchased Power	\$ 3,711,827	\$ 5,088,932	\$ 4,922,688	
Other Operating Expenses	\$ 2,311,922	\$ 3,275,048	\$ 3,479,071	
Total Cost of Electric Service	\$ 6,023,749	\$ 8,363,980	\$ 8,401,759	
Operating Margin (Loss)	\$ 393,754	\$ 369,673	\$ 455,008	
Interest Income	\$ 44,302	\$ 124,301	\$ 118,277	
Other Margins	\$ 244,602	\$ (97,799)	\$ (104,239)	
Capital Credits	\$ 173,634	\$ 16,053	\$ 15,430	
Total Margins	\$ 856,292	\$ 412,228	\$ 484,476	
kWh Purchased	60,875,761	71,239,358	67,677,088	
kWh Sold	56,534,306	67,736,026	64,984,202	
Line Loss	N/A	4.92%	3.98%	
Members Billed	5,897	6,211	6,277	
Average kWh Used, Residential	945	1,089	1,041	
Average Bill, Residential	\$ 110.10	\$ 141.54	\$ 139.47	
Average Cost/kWh, Residential	\$ 0.1165	\$ 0.1300	\$ 0.1340	
Interest Expense	\$ 292,719	\$ 327,089	\$ 300,010	