

March 2018

Newsline

Investing in reliability, safety and peace of mind

Question. Would you drive a car from the 1940s as your everyday vehicle to get you from point A to point B safely and reliably? Unless it's a restored classic car, most people probably would not rely solely on a vehicle that old.

Let's consider that same concept and equate it to power lines and electrical infrastructure. Did you know some of the power lines on Lake Country Power's system date back to the 1940s? When the co-op pioneers strung the wires to electrify the countryside, homes didn't run on as much electricity as now. That's why thinner lines worked fine back then.

But today, families require more electricity from the surge in electronic devices, appliances and larger homes that's become a normal part of life as we know it now.

Taking Care of You

Lake Country Power is committed to replacing aged lines and equipment on its system. In fact, nearly \$5.9 million will be invested to replace 35 miles of overhead line and 20 miles of underground cable in 2018.

"We've addressed most of the power quality issues on the system, so we're focusing on age related projects now," said Derek Howe, director, engineering. "We want members to have peace of mind knowing we're staying on top of it to meet the co-op's mission to deliver safe and reliable electric service for years to come."

The overall capital investment for engineering and operations is \$13.6 million, which will cover more than 20 improvement projects, new services, equipment purchases, service upgrades for members needing more capacity, pole replacements, 55 miles of aged line replacements and conversions/changes, substation work, county road jobs to move LCP lines, and a new Knife Falls Substation – just to name a few.

21 Planned Projects

Construction projects, north:

1. Fraser and Zim Road, and west of St. Louis River
2. Carpenter Road
3. Owens Road and Anderson Road, and 4 miles south of Hibbing
4. Beacon Hill near Ely
5. North of Babbitt, south of Birch Lake, and Cross Country/Scott Road
6. West of Esquagama Lake, and Oak Road/Judd Road/Sandy Lane
7. South of West Bass Lake, and North Mink Road
8. Three Lakes Road, and south of Dodo/Leora Lake
9. South of Sand Lake, and Palm Road
10. Highway 53 and Nett Lake Road, and south of Orr

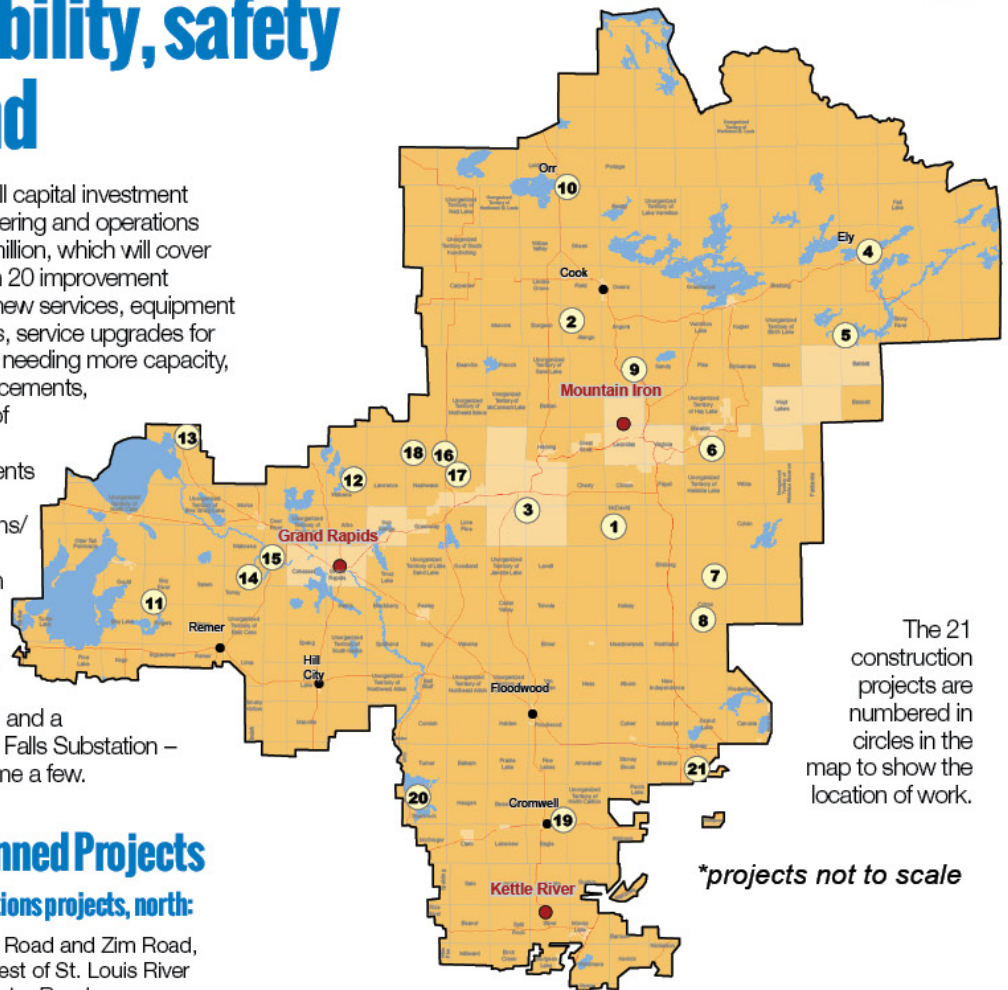
Construction projects, west:

11. 96th Street NE, Boy Lake Drive, and north of Boy Lake
12. South of Wabana Lake, and Wakeman Bay Road
13. Williams Narrows, Cut Foot Sioux and Winnie near Ball Club
14. Boy River/Cohasset, and County Road 65
15. East of Schoolcraft on County Road 162
16. Cloverdale Road and Westwood Road near Shoal Lake
17. South of County Road 56 near Shoal Lake

18. North of Crooked Lake, and County Road 336

Construction projects, south:

19. Swede Lake Road and east of Island Lake
20. South of Sandy River Lake
21. St. Louis River Road and west of Crosby Road



Lake Country Power

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Energy that Powers Our Lives

IN THIS ISSUE

How to get Involved

Local Craftsman

Air Source Heat Pumps

Spring Survey to Begin



How I got involved with the co-op And why you should, too

By Craig Carlson, District 4

It was April 3, 1982. Grand Rapids got hit with one of those heavy, wet snow storms where 10 inches of snow dumped on the town. But that didn't stop my son and me from heading into town in my Chevy truck.

We were registered to attend a fishing seminar at Itasca Community College that Saturday morning. When we arrived, we were told the seminar was cancelled due to weather. In the back of my mind, I started to recall another event was taking place that same morning. The annual membership meeting of our electric cooperative was also happening that Saturday morning. So we went, since we were in town anyway.

I still recall my son asking why we were going to a meeting that mostly older people attended. But I was curious and wanted to know more about Dairyland Electric Cooperative, since I paid my bill there every month and had some friends serving on the board.

Of the 10,000 members the co-op served, nearly 300 people were at the meeting. I was glad the fishing seminar got cancelled so I could be one more face at the annual meeting.

Believe me, it's good to come to the annual meetings to understand what's going on and be informed. It's also good to attend the annual meeting to figure out whether you'd want to eventually serve on the board of directors – a body of elected co-op members that oversees and governs the operations of the co-op.

After my first annual meeting, a few people asked me to run for a seat on the board. I



Back left to right: Craig Carlson, District 4; Jason Long, District 1; Bob Bruckbauer, District 5; Dan Kingsley, District 6; and Jim Huhta, District 8. Front row, left to right: Sherman Liimatainen, District 9; Craig Olson, District 7; and Mike Forsman, District 2.

wasn't interested at first, but after a year passed, I changed my mind and was elected in 1984. Since then, I've been an active member of the electric cooperative, and it's been a rewarding experience.

As time marches on, we'll be seeing changes on the current Lake Country Power board due to age, health and perhaps other unforeseen reasons. We'd all like to see younger individuals take interest in serving on the board, coming to the annual meetings and other co-op events. If you're curious

what it means to be on the board, attend a regular monthly board meeting, or come to this year's annual meeting. It'll be an evening meeting on April 19 at the Cromwell-Wright School in Cromwell.

Time is of the essence, we know. But on average, board members spend 2.5 days at meetings, plus some time to prepare for the monthly board meetings by reading department reports at home, and answering occasional questions from members in your district.

If you have questions, be sure to reach out to any one of us on the board. We're here to serve you, while also helping Lake Country Power meet its mission to deliver safe, reliable electric service, manage member resources wisely and help our communities prosper.

Craig Carlson was elected by members in Lake Country Power District 4. He can be reached at 218-999-7175 or carlsonlcp@gmail.com.

Building something special

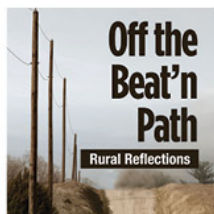
Local craftsman making sweet sounds in the Northwoods

Lloyd LaPlant is the first to admit, remembering names is not his strong suit. But ask any of his customers and they'll tell you – he's the real deal.

For Lloyd, your word is your bond, and a handshake completes an agreement. He's a throwback to another time. And, as Lloyd will tell you with a smile, he is from another time.

In the small world of Minnesota's bluegrass and old-time music, this lifelong electric co-op member has made his mark – with his wit as well as his hands.

In his "retirement," the 89-year-old has built roughly 400 hand-crafted musical instruments at his home near Grand Rapids. His instruments are known for their superior tone, fine craftsmanship, and unique features – special to each custom instrument.



Mandolins and guitars with his signature "LaPlant" logo, are sought after by musicians of every stripe.

"We play music in our family," says LaPlant, as he ponders the number of instruments he's built. "Two-hundred and some (guitars), something like that, just working on (mandolin number) 180 now, so around 400 instruments total since 1959 ... mass producing one at a time, you know," he laughs.

Quality by the numbers

It is here at home, with his wife Beverly — where together they raised five kids — where Lloyd has honed his skills.

When it comes to the finished product, his refusal to place production deadlines directly contributes to the quality of his work.

"I don't keep track of time ... I just stick with it until it's done," he explains. "Maybe three or four months for the whole process, not working on it every day, but for the process. You can't really put a number on the hours, I don't think."

How it all began

While reminiscing on his instrument-building beginnings in 1959, Lloyd recalled the story of a trip to Duluth with a friend to buy an instrument.

"He bought a guitar and I didn't have enough money to buy a harmonica at the time," he said. The friend "said 'well you're a carpenter, so why don't you just make one' ... and kinda planted a little seed, got me thinking about it, and that's the way it started."

While LaPlant's high quality instruments would fare well in any setting, he prefers bluegrass and old-time music, where his talents are well-known. His primary focus is on "variations of the mandolin, mandolas, mandocellos, and six or seven configurations of the guitar."



Lloyd and Beverly LaPlant

"I grew up next door and have known Lloyd and Bev my whole life," said family friend Elizabeth Ophoven-Ashworth. "It's because of Lloyd that I play the mandolin. I've spent many hours in their home, visiting and playing music."

"The atmosphere in their home is one of open doors and open hearts. They embody the spirit of the north country."

Seize the moment

"Every day is special to me," said LaPlant, a long-time Lake Country Power member. "Every day that I can get up is special."

Just like Lloyd. And just like his instruments.

The humble, old-school carpenter with the gifted hands won't tell you that. But those who play his handcrafted instruments will. Each one that bears his name is special. Just like the builder.



One of Lloyd's hand-crafted mandolins.

Connect with your Co-op

at the Lake Country Power Annual Meeting



Annual Meeting

April 19 – Cromwell-Wright School, Cromwell
(Located at the intersection of Highway 73 and Highway 210)

Registration: 4:45 p.m.

With dinner and entertainment

Annual Business Meeting: 6:00 p.m.

Door prizes will be awarded

Get connected with the co-op difference.



Energy that Powers Our Lives
www.lakecountrypower.coop • 1-800-421-9959

BOARD MEETINGS

March 22 – 9:30 a.m. at
Mountain Iron Service Center

April 24 – 9:30 a.m. at Grand
Rapids Service Center

PRIMARY NUMBER

Lake Country Power's phones are answered 24 hours a day. Our primary phone number is 1-800-421-9959.

SAVE THE DATE

The annual meeting will be held Thursday, April 19 at the Cromwell-Wright School in Cromwell. Registration/ dinner at 4:45 p.m. Business meeting at 6:00 p.m.

EDITOR'S NOTE:

Co-op events are posted at lakecountrypower.coop. Go to "Community" and click "Events."

Adopt me into your family

To most people, I'm just a piece of gray metal that sits on a concrete base outside their home.

But to some, I'm the best thing that's happened to their family and home. I provide heat in the spring and fall. And then when the dog days of summer hit, I create a cool indoor space where my family can eat an ice cream cone without it dripping down their arms.

I'm an air source heat pump, and I'm here to make your days go much better than if I wasn't part of your life. If you adopt me into your family, I'll bring value, comfort and efficiency to your home, cabin or business.

Just think. I'm willing and able to work up to 10 months out-of-the-year to make your space happy, livable and inviting. When it's cold outside, I'll keep you warm and

LCP is offering rebates
up to \$630
for air source heat pumps
in 2018, plus an additional
**\$100 rebate for cycled (metered)
air source heat pumps.**

cozy. When it's hot outside, I'll keep you comfortable and will even dry your sweaty brow.

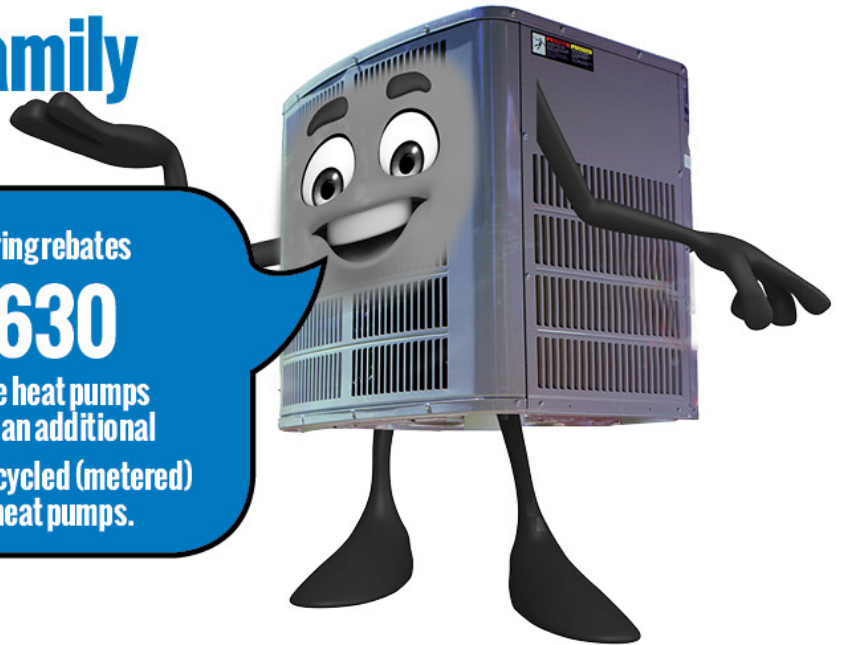
My inventors keep improving the technology that's within me, too. I'm up to 300 percent efficient, making me a smart addition to

your family's home, cabin or business.

Let me give your family a hug. Spring is a great time to adopt me – your air source heat pump.

For more information, and to

begin the adoption process, contact Lake Country Power's member service department at 800-421-9959, press 6, or visit lakecountrypower.coop.



YOUR POWER OUTAGE PANTRY

We do our best to avoid power outages, but unfortunately, Mother Nature occasionally has different plans. Stay ahead of the storm by stocking your pantry with a variety of non-perishable items.

Set these items aside for extended outages only, and your storm prep will be a breeze!

- BEANS
- CANNED FRUIT
- CANNED TUNA
- CANNED VEGETABLES
- CEREAL
- DRIED FRUITS
- DRIED MEATS/JERKY
- GRAHAM CRACKERS
- PASTA
- RICE
- SPAM
- OATMEAL



Don't forget to stock up on disposable goods, like paper plates, napkins, plastic cutlery and cups.

Special Notice: Surveying members, spring 2018

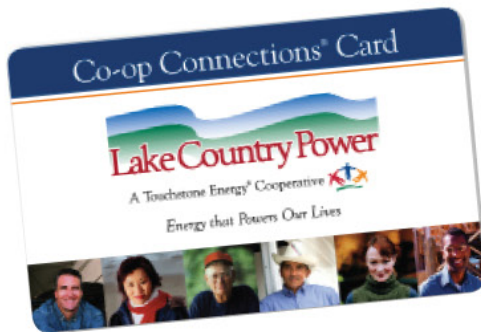
LCP will be conducting a member survey beginning April 2. Please be aware that you may be one of several members who are randomly selected to participate in the survey – so if you get a call about a survey from us, it's legit.

LCP is contracting with a cooperative-affiliated research firm that has years of experience measuring member satisfaction levels and how co-ops score on the American Customer Satisfaction Index. If you are selected, please take 6.5 minutes to participate. Thank you.



We work hard to keep your coffee hot, your milk cold, your batteries charged and your home warm.
The Value of Electricity
– Energy that Powers our Lives

Save money with your Co-op Connections® Card



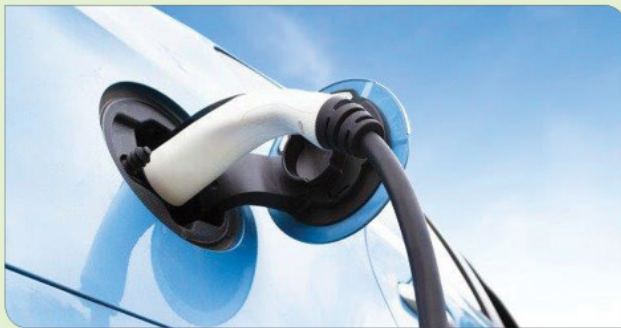
You work hard, so let . . .
The One Card That Does It All® work hard for you.

Get connected to hundreds of local deals and thousands of national discounts from the businesses that participate in the Co-op Connections Card.

Keep these businesses in mind, and bring your card to save money. For a full listing of business participants, visit www.lakecountrypower.coop (Community/Co-op Connections Card). Find national deals online at www.connections.coop.

- **Mackley Auto Repair, Coleraine: \$35 5-quart standard oil change. Injector Flush/Coolant Flush specials.**
- **Tires Plus, Grand Rapids: 1/2 off alignment. Free break inspection. Valid with most vehicles.**
- **Your Quilting Room, Grand Rapids: 10% off on any quilting service.**

- **Domino's Pizza, Grand Rapids: Large 3-topping pizza for \$7.99. 2 medium 2-topping pizzas for \$5.99 each. Carry out only.**
- **Spring Creek Outfitters, Mountain Iron: \$5 off on \$50 or more.**



5 points to buying an electric vehicle

The decision to purchase an electric vehicle (EV) instead of a conventional car that runs on gasoline is getting easier to make every year. Keep in mind:

1. Not all EVs are created equal.
2. You'll save money up front and over time.
3. Driving ranges have improved.
4. Public charging stations are easy to access in Minnesota.
5. EV 'fuel' is getting greener.

Between operational cost savings and the fact you can install a personal, at-home charging station, owning an EV means no more trips to the mechanic or gas station.

LCP will give members a \$500 rebate for installing an electric vehicle ChargeWise charger. Contact the member service department at 800-421-9959, press 6.

Utilities, including Lake Country Power, are incorporating more wind and solar energy in their portfolios. EV owners can even fuel their vehicle solely by wind energy. To do that, enroll in LCP's Revolt program. Find out more by visiting mnrevolt.com. Also, visit lakecountrypower.coop for more information about the five points noted above.

Recipe Corner

Cheeseburger Bacon Tater Tot Hot Dish

Lisa Diehl Foreman, Side Lake

- 1 1/2 pounds ground beef
- 1/4 cup real bacon bits
- 2 cups shredded cheddar cheese, set aside 1/2 cup cheese
- 1 (32-oz) package frozen tater tots
- 1 small onion
- 1 (10.75-oz) can condensed cheddar cheese soup
- 16-oz. container sour cream

Instructions:

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees.
2. Lightly spray a 9x13-inch pan with cooking spray. Set aside.
3. Brown one small onion, set aside. Cook bacon, once cooked, crumble into pieces.
4. Brown ground beef in skillet, drain fat.
5. In a large bowl, combine cooked beef, onion, bacon bits, cheddar cheese, cheese soup and sour cream. Mix until thoroughly combined.
6. Spread mixture into prepared dish. Top with tater tots. Spread the remaining cheese on top just before serving and place back in the oven until melted/browned.
7. Bake 40 to 45 minutes, until bubbly.



Submit your favorite recipe to Lake Country Power, Attn. Editor, 2810 Elda Drive, Grand Rapids, MN 55744, or e-mail tzaun@lakecountrypower.com. If your entry is drawn and printed in Newline, you'll receive a \$5 credit on your electric bill. Entries must include name, address and phone number on account. Recipes will be published as space allows.

December 14, 2017 • Regular Monthly Meeting

The following reports were given:

President Craig Olson referred an inquiry from a member about a billing matter to General Manager Randa.

Directors Bruckbauer and Olson are LCP's representatives on the Great River Energy board. They shared news about several items, including the GRE board decision to distribute \$6 million in excess 2017 margins to its 28 member-owners. LCP received \$300,000 through the distribution from GRE.

Greg Randa, LCP general manager, commented about NRTC membership, Northland Connect Internet operations, LCP's automated metering infrastructure committee, and the site in the Cohasset Industrial Park for LCP's future headquarters that will be built in 2018. He also shared information about LCP's \$3 million general capital credit retirement.

Mark Bakk, director of administration and finance, reported about October financials,

kilowatt-hour sales, Energy Wise sales, revenue, margins, power cost adjustment, cash flow, long-term debt borrowing, and that Lake States Tree Service has started 2018 right-of-way work.

The following actions were taken:

Approved the original 2018 budget that was presented at the 2018 budget meeting held December 12, 2017. The original budget includes LCP hiring two two-man tree crews to take care of member tree requests and other danger trees. The 2018 operating and capital budget is designed to meet financial obligations as well as the mission to serve members with safe and reliable electricity.

Editor's Note: These board minutes have been condensed. A full copy of the board minutes can be read at www.lakecountrypower.coop in the "Member's Area." You'll need to sign up for access if you haven't already. Or call 800-421-9959 for a printed copy.



This picture earned a spot in the co-op calendar for March 2018. Patty Maki of Gilbert captured this tender moment between a Barred Owl and her baby.



ENERGY EFFICIENCY Tip of the Month

In spring and summer months, set your ceiling fans to turn in the counterclockwise direction. This will create a cool breeze. Remember: Ceiling fans cool people, not rooms. Turn them off when you leave the room.

Source: energystar.gov

Co-op Contacts

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Sherman Liimatainen, District 9	218-879-3135
sgliimatainen@gmail.com	

Directors are members of the cooperative and are elected to act in the best interests of the co-op with the same care than an ordinarily prudent person in a like position would exercise under similar circumstances.

Directors set policy, approve strategy and are charged with fiduciary responsibility of the cooperative. Directors do not oversee day-to-day LCP operations. Administration of maintenance, electric service and operations are the responsibility of employees and staff.

Members with questions or concerns about service, billing, outages or other service-related matters should call 1-800-421-9959.

Newsline

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Lake Country Power Service Centers:
Grand Rapids • Kettle River • Mountain Iron
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Comparative Operating Statement

Year-To-Date —December 2017

	2017	2016
Electric Operating Revenue	\$ 89,986,724	\$ 87,063,755
Cost of Purchased Power	47,773,837	46,178,330
Distribution Expense - Operations & Maintenance	13,543,184	14,752,120
Consumer Accounts Expense & Informational	4,289,917	4,041,865
Administrative and General Expense	5,852,332	5,593,185
Depreciation, Interest Expense and Other Deductions	15,113,312	14,883,640
TOTAL ELECTRIC OPERATING EXPENSES	86,572,582	85,449,140
Net Electric Operating Margins	3,414,141	1,614,615
Non-Operating Margins	3,538,465	3,601,638
TOTAL MARGINS BEFORE SUBSIDIARIES	6,952,606	5,216,253
Net Income (Loss) from Subsidiaries	34,662	124,319
TOTAL MARGINS	\$ 6,987,268	\$ 5,340,572
TOTAL KWH SOLD (YEAR-TO-DATE)	637,098,237	623,511,533

Editor's Note: These financials are condensed. A complete set of financials can be viewed at www.lakecountrypower.coop in the "Member's Area." You'll need to sign up for access if you haven't already. Or call 800-421-9959 for a copy.