


NORTHERN

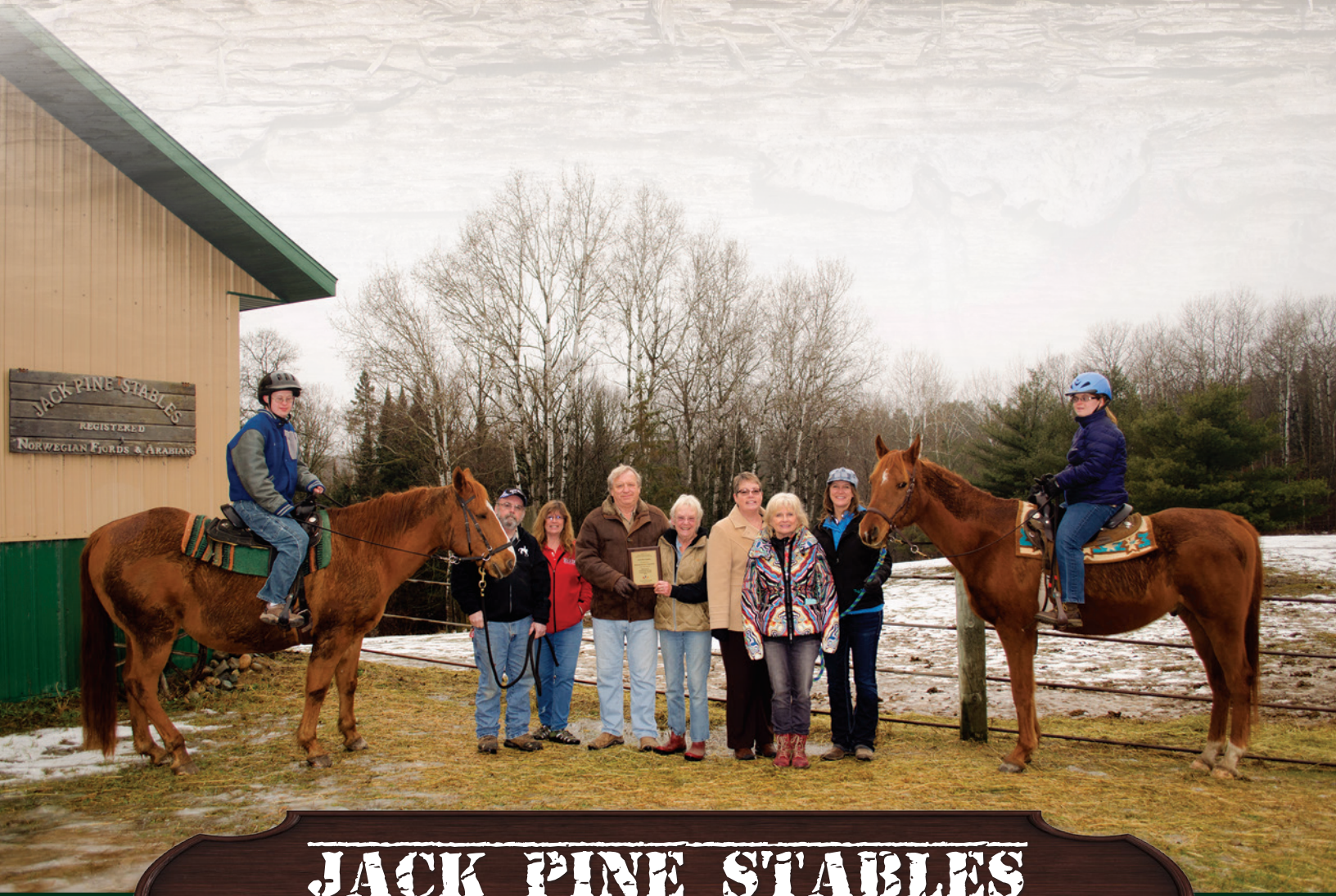
L I G H T S

January 2016



**Beltrami Electric
Cooperative Inc.**

® Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



JACK PINE STABLES

Touchstone Energy® Community Award winner – page 8

Beltrami's Co-op Connections Card – pages 4-5

2016 contractor workshops – page 7

Northern Lights (USPS 016488), Vol. 63, No. 1 is published monthly by Beltrami Electric Cooperative Inc., 4111 Technology Drive N.W., Bemidji, Minnesota 56619-0488. Subscription rate \$5. Periodicals postage paid at Bemidji, MN 56601.

Postmaster: Please send address corrections to Beltrami Electric Cooperative Inc., P.O. Box 488, Bemidji, Minnesota 56619-0488.

Office Hours: 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Monday – Friday

Customer Service: 218-444-2540
or 1-800-955-6083

www.beltramielectric.com

Board of Directors

President	Rick Coe, DISTRICT 6 (Square Butte Director)
Vice President	John Lund, DISTRICT 7
Secretary	Murl Nord, DISTRICT 1
Treasurer	Judy Honer, DISTRICT 9
Directors:	Lea Perkins, DISTRICT 2; CHARLES PARSON, DISTRICT 3; Jerry Larson Sr., DISTRICT 4; Robert Wallner, DISTRICT 5; Terry Diffley, DISTRICT 8, (Minnkota Director)
General Manager	Lynette Nieuwsma
Editor	Angela Lyseng

Minnesota State Electrical Inspectors

Beltrami and Clearwater Counties

Davis Smid

507-227-2772 - mnrtristate@gmail.com

Cass and Hubbard Counties

Steve Schauland

218-652-2213 or fax 218-333-0451

These are the inspectors covering the area served by Beltrami Electric. They can be reached by phone Monday through Friday between 7 and 8:30 a.m. or by fax or email as indicated.

Gopher State One Call

1-800-252-1166 or 811

Anyone who plans to dig is required by law to notify the state of their intentions at least 48 hours in advance.

All digging requires the 48-hour notification so that buried telephone line, television cable, pipelines, utility electrical lines, municipal water and sewer lines can be located to ensure that none will be severed or damaged.

ON THE COVER: Beltrami Electric's 2015 Touchstone Energy® Community Award recipient, Jack Pine Stables. From left: Brent Kerrigan with Malibu, Pat and Becky Whelan, Grant and Kris Oppegaard, Sandy Munson, Beth Corr, Teri Gapsinski and Megan Corr with Bandit.



Across the MANAGER'S DESK

Lynette Nieuwsma, General Manager

Happy New Year!

It is hard to believe another year is upon us already. As I get older, the years seem to fly by more quickly. Is it just me? As I watch my grandkids grow, it seems like only yesterday I was holding them as newborns. I am also thankful for every day I have with my parents. I hope you had a happy holiday season and wish you all the best in the New Year. We once again had a beautifully adorned Mitten Tree in our lobby this year. It warms my heart to see how our members, groups and co-op friends continue to come together for such a great cause. We receive so many beautifully handmade items each year, and the caring put into these items is apparent. They will bring many smiles to the young children in our service area and help to keep them warm this winter. Thank you all so much for your generosity!

Budget and rates

At the time of this writing we are working on our 2016 budget. That, of course, is an every year occurrence, which gives us our financial operating guide for the year. As soon as our 2015 financial books are closed, we will be working on a cost of service and rate study that will be conducted by an outside consultant. Our last rate study was done five years ago. If you recall, at that time we made three significant changes to our rate structure; One being going from a two-step rate to a one-step rate; second was phasing in a higher monthly access charge and third, implementing a purchase power adjustment (PPA). That new rate structure served the cooperative well and allowed us to go this long without a new study. During these past five years, our internal costs held fairly steady whereby the annual fifty cents increase in the monthly Access Charge took care of increased operating, interest and depreciation expenses. That was about a 2 percent increase of that component per year. We worked hard to curtail it to that level. The PPA took care of the increases in the purchased power costs over this time frame. Instead of increasing the rates by the same amount that the wholesale power costs increased, the PPA allowed us to directly

pass through those costs without increasing all components of your bill.

Although wholesale power increased 5 percent last April, we did not increase the PPA until November, giving members the benefit of about \$551,714 in savings. This savings came from excess revenue from 2014 which was deferred to 2015. Well, all good things must come to an end as that revenue deferral was exhausted and even with the PPA back in place for the last two months of the year, our financial picture is not looking good. The unseasonal high temps in November and December aren't helping our sales or financial outcomes either.

Any changes to the rates will be effective with the April billing. What might you expect? The PPA will be rolled into the kWh rate, bringing it back close to 0. We will also consider rolling in the Renewable Energy Market Adjustment as well for the purpose of simplifying and reducing the line items on the bill. We know we will have a 3.3 percent wholesale power increase effective April 2016. That is what we now know. What the cost of service study will help us determine is what total revenue is needed and to what rate components and rate classes it should be assigned. As rate studies always do, this will create thoughtful discussions in the boardroom.

2015 Touchstone Energy® Community Award

I would like to thank everyone who took the time to nominate a local organization for the 2015 Touchstone Energy® Community Award. Every year we receive several great and worthy nominations, which makes it difficult to select only one. I would like to congratulate Jack Pine Stables, from the Walker area as this year's recipient. They are a wonderful asset for people with special needs in our service area. I invite you to read all about their wonderful organization and check out the story and photos on page 8 of this issue.

On behalf of the employees of your cooperative, I would like to wish you the gift of peace and prosperity throughout 2016.

Lynette

BELTRAMI ELECTRIC COLLECTS AND DELIVERS ITEMS FOR 16TH ANNUAL MITTEN TREE



Beltrami Electric Cooperative recently delivered donated mittens, gloves, hats and scarves to area children as part of its annual Mitten Tree campaign for the 16th straight year.

This season, 532 items were collected and distributed to students enrolled in seven Head Start and Early Child Family Education programs throughout the cooperative's service area. The number of items the cooperative receives from members and friends continues to be very generous. We'd like to give a special thank you to member Esther Homister-Kingbird from

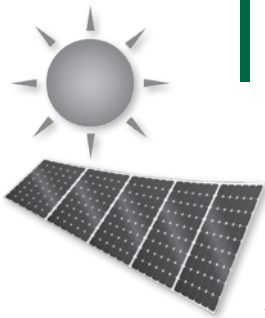
Blackduck, who hand-knitted 150 colorful scarves for our tree again this year.

As a Touchstone Energy® cooperative, Beltrami Electric is held to a strict code of conduct and must uphold the four core Touchstone Energy® values – accountability, integrity, innovation and commitment to community.



Northern Solar by Beltrami Electric Cooperative

(Update as of Dec. 10, 2015)



In June of last year, we announced our plans to construct an 80-kilowatt (kW) Direct Current (DC) solar garden array on our headquarters property. The array will consist of 192 photovoltaic panels rated at 400 watts each. The cost for members who wish to subscribe to the Northern Solar project is \$1,295 for a full panel's output or \$647.50 for a half panel's output. In return,

members will be allocated the energy produced (kWh) by their subscribed panel(s) to offset their kWh on their electric bill.

If you have additional questions or are interested in enrolling for Northern Solar, you may contact the co-op's office at **218-444-2540** or toll-free at **800-955-6083** to request an informational flyer and a contract, or you may download pdf versions of both from our website at www.beltramielectric.com.

We will not be able to move forward until we get at least 50 percent (96 of the 192 panels) subscribed. As of the beginning of December, we have a total of 50 panels subscribed. Subscriptions for panels continue to come in slowly, but until we get at least another 46 panels subscribed to, the exact time frame for construction is unknown. We are hoping to get the minimum panels subscribed to by spring 2016 so we can start moving forward with this project.

Rounding up pennies makes a lot of **CENTS**

Starting in May, Beltrami Electric members will have their utility bills "rounded up" to the next highest dollar. Those extra pennies will establish the Operation Round Up® fund, which will be administered by the Beltrami Electric Cooperative Trust. A \$129.60 bill, for example would be rounded up to \$130. The average co-op member will donate \$6 with a maximum possible contribution of \$11.88 per year.

All Beltrami Electric Cooperative Trust funds collected through the Operation Round Up® program will be used to support worthwhile charitable and educational projects and community needs in our local area. Not-for-profit organizations in our community will be able to apply for grants to fund their community service, economic development, education and youth and environmental projects.



Shop local and save big with Beltrami Electric's Co-op Connections® Card!



The One Card That Does It All

AUTO

Beck's Auto Service	(218) 835-4213
<i>Enjoy same discount as our AAA customers.</i>	
Bemidji Best Auto Service	(218) 333-0933
<i>10% off labor (\$400 max).</i>	
Darrell's Auto Glass	(218) 759-8810
<i>25% off rock chip repairs.</i> www.darrellsautoglass.com	
Northwest Tire	(218) 444-8696
<i>\$5 off oil change, \$20 off brake service, \$25 off 4-tire purchase.</i> www.nwtire.com	
Pete's Place South	(218) 751-9255
<i>5¢ off per gallon of gasoline.</i>	
Petro Serve USA	(218) 751-7504
<i>5¢ off per gallon of gasoline.</i>	
Pine Ridge Sales & Service	(218) 751-2355
<i>10% discount on labor; purchase a used vehicle and receive 2 free oil changes.</i> www.pineridgesales.com	
Simonson Market	(218) 755-1580
<i>\$2 off Blue Wash.</i> www.gosimonson.com	

ENTERTAINMENT

Beltrami County Historical Society	(218) 444-3376
<i>\$1 off adult admission, up to 4 adults, single visit only (not valid with other offers).</i> www.beltramihistory.org	
Blackduck Lanes	(218) 835-6620
<i>Bowl 2 games, get 3rd game free per individual. Free fountain soda with any one sandwich order.</i>	
Buena Vista Ski Area	(218) 647-8295
<i>\$3 off a lift ticket (excludes Friday night, bargain night). \$2 off a tubing pass (excludes Friday night, bargain night). Not valid with any other offers or discounts.</i> www.bvskiarea.com	
Headwaters Science Center	(218) 444-4472
<i>Receive 1 free child admission with the purchase of 1 adult admission.</i> www.hscbemidji.org	

LODGING/RESORTS

Alpine Sleeper Fish Houses	(218) 647-8379
<i>10% off Tuesdays and Wednesdays.</i> www.royalshooksmotel.com	
AmericInn Lodge & Suites Bemidji	(218) 751-3000
<i>\$1 off open swimming (reg. \$7) OR \$5 off ten-punch pass (reg. \$50).</i> www.americinn.com	
Balsam Beach Resort & RV Park	(218) 751-5057
<i>5% off a daily pontoon rental.</i> www.balsambeachresort.com	
Hamilton's Fox Lake Campground	(218) 586-2231
<i>10% off daily rate, valid once every 30 days (no discount from July 1-July 8).</i> www.camponfoxlake.com	
Northwoods Park Models	(800) 452-8023
<i>Save \$750 on any NEW Park model, save \$1,500 on any NEW Park model and enclosure.</i> www.mnlakehomes.net	
Royal Shooks Motel	(218) 647-8379
<i>10% discount Tuesdays and Wednesdays.</i> www.royalshooksmotel.com	
Tomahawk Lodge	(218) 835-4510
<i>Save \$75 off a seasonal RV site, \$75 off any weekly cabin rental or \$75 off any weekly boat rental.</i> www.tomahawkodge.com	

RESTAURANTS/DINING

Big Apple Bagels	(218) 444-7840
<i>10% off regularly priced menu items.</i> www.bigapplebagels.com/bemidjimm	
Country Kitchen of Bemidji	(218) 444-8963
<i>10% off ticket.</i> www.countrykitchenrestaurants.com	
Dunn Bros Coffee	(218) 444-5252
<i>10% off all beverage purchases.</i> www.dunnbros.com	

Latest Update: Dec. 28, 2015

Keith's Pizza, Inc...... South: (218) 444-7940
\$2 off any large or extra large pizza (not valid with other discounts, offers or unbaked pizzas). North: (218) 444-7941
www.keithspizza.com

Papa Murphy's..... (218) 444-7025
\$3 off any pizza, any size - no limit (not valid with other offers). www.papamurphysbemidji.com

RETAIL

Bemidji Communications..... (218) 444-3389
20% off labor. www.bemcom.com

Bemidji Woolen Mills..... (218) 751-5166
10% off total purchase. www.bemidjiwoolenmills.com

Cass Metal Craft, Inc...... (218) 335-2336
Free consultations on all stair and railing projects. 10% off on all welding repairs. www.cassmetalcraft.com

Culligan of Bemidji..... (218) 751-2651
4 free bags of salt with a signed 12-month delivery contract. New clients only. www.culliganbemidji.com

Gallery North..... (218) 444-9813
\$5 off any item \$25 or more. www.gallerynorthbemidji.com

Gifts O' the Wild..... (218) 751-4914
10% off total purchase. Not valid with any other offer or coupon.

Image Photography and Framing..... (218) 751-8308
5% off in-studio portraits, 5% off framing, 5% off picture custom frames. www.imagebj.com

Ken K. Thompson Jewelry..... (218) 751-1433
20% off any one regular price jewelry or gift item. www.kenkthompsonjewelry.com

MAG Graphics, Inc...... (218) 209-7007
20% off any product. www.mag-graphics.com

MedSave Family Pharmacy..... (218) 759-1222
10% off all over-the-counter products. www.medsavebemidji.com

Midnight Sun Pools 'n' Spas..... (218) 759-8518
10% off filters and chemicals. www.mnspas.com

MJB Home Center..... (218) 751-2420
Free hoses or cords with any new washer, dryer or range purchase. www.mjhomecenter.com

Northwoods Habitat for Humanity ReStore..... (218) 444-3105
5% off purchase (not valid with other discounts). www.habitatbemidji.org

Riddles Jewelry..... (218) 751-2828
Additional 5% off purchase (some brand exclusions apply). www.riddlesjewelry.com

SND Appliances..... (218) 556-1979
2% off of purchase. www.bemidjisnd.com

Stittsworth Meats..... (218) 751-1320
5% off total order. www.stittsworthmeats.com

Timberline Sports 'n' Convenience..... (218) 835-4636
Save 10% on select gun accessories with purchase of firearm.

Wilkening Fireplace Company..... (218) 547-3393
20% off installation or service. (800) 367-7976
www.wilkeningfireplace.biz

SERVICES

Advantage Audiology & Hearing Healthcare, LLC..... (218) 333-8833
*5% off all hearing aid accessories (*does not include batteries). Buy 2, get 1 free on all hearing aid batteries, free hearing screening.* www.advantageaudiology.net

Classic Cuts Hair and Body Salon..... (218) 444-2887
20% off all retail purchases.

Dobmeier Excavating/Septic Service..... (218) 835-5568
Free site evaluation and estimate on new or existing septic system upgrade.

Evolve Creative..... (218) 444-8327
Free consultation on Web/design/marketing services. www.evolve-creative.com

Gary Anderson Insurance Agency, Inc...... (218) 835-7711
Free insurance review for new residents to area and retirees who may be leaving a group plan.

InCharge Fitness 24/7 access to fitness center, free week pass.	(218) 444-8138 www.inchargefitnesscenter.com
Jackson Hewitt Tax Service \$50 gift card with paid tax preparation.	(218) 444-4829 www.jacksonhewitt.com
Mari's All Breed Pet Grooming 10% discount on a complete pet grooming.	(218) 547-1290
Mort's Dock & RV Campground 10% on season pass for summer or winter lake access.	(218) 647-8128 www.mortsdock.com
Mort's Electric, Inc. 5% on Steffes off-peak storage heating systems.	(218) 647-8128
Service Master of Bemidji Have carpets in 3 rooms cleaned for \$129, plus a free hallway (carpet in 3 rooms cannot exceed 500 sq. ft.).	(218) 751-4081 www.4servicemaster.com/mn/5359
Shamrock Storage Pay one year rent in advance and get 1 month free.	(218) 835-6633
TJ Studio 15% off of computer support services, accessories not included.	(218) 444-4936 www.tjdesignstudio.com
Todavich Electric, Inc. 10% discount on service calls, material and labor.	(218) 751-1699 www.todavichelectric.com
Turtle River Electric, Inc. 10% discount on service call.	(218) 751-0286 www.trelectrinc.com
We Love Messes! Free on-site 1-hour organizing consultation - a \$55 value.	(218) 760-0197 www.welovemesses.com
Wiebolt Electric, Inc. 10% off labor and material for time and material work.	(218) 444-WIRE (9473) www.wieboltelectric.com

PARTICIPATING PHARMACIES

10% to 85% savings on most prescriptions. This is not a substitute for insurance. Your Pharmacist will decide which plan will give you the most savings - your insurance or the Co-op Connections Card. You cannot use both.

CVS Pharmacy	(218) 751-1626
Iverson Corner Drug	(218) 444-3000
MedSave Family Pharmacy	(218) 759-1222
Moon's Pharmacy	(218) 835-7740
Progressive Health Care of Bemidji	(218) 444-6876
Sanford Pharmacy	
1611 Anne St. NW, Bemidji	(218) 333-2450
1705 Anne St. NW, Bemidji	(218) 333-4770
1233 34 th St. NW, Bemidji	(218) 333-5265
Target Pharmacy	(218) 759-0133
Thrifty White Drug	(218) 751-6380
Walgreens #9633	(218) 333-4030
Wal-Mart Pharmacy	(218) 755-6132

Locate Providers - www.myMemberPortal.com

This link will let you search by zip code to see how many pharmacies in your area accept the Co-op Connections pharmacy discounts. Simply select the Group Login button, and type 22203 to start searching.

Get Prices - www.RxPriceQuotes.com

This link will allow you to look up the price of many prescription drugs and see how much the pharmacy discount will save you. The results are driven by a zip code search. You can also download the NBRx Card app from the iTunes App Store or Google Play Store. You will need your group ID (Found on the back of your card) to use the benefit.

OTHER WAYS TO SAVE INCLUDE:

Cash Back Mall - an online shopping tool that puts money back in your wallet just for shopping at any of 3,000 websites including Travelocity, Walmart, Bass Pro, Best Buy and Target.

Appliance Rebate Finder - save energy and money by pinpointing rebates on energy-efficient appliances.

Pet Assure - saves you money on prescriptions, visit to the vet, dogwalking and other services.

Coupons.com - printable coupons for groceries that are updated daily. Visit our link on www.connections.coop.

Try out the free Mobile App, and you'll have GPS, "call the store" ability, and a digital card at your fingertips. Search "Co-op Connections" in the App store or on Google Play, and download it today. Find all the ways to save at www.connections.coop.

Co-op Connections Card puts value in your wallet



Beltrami Electric's commitment to you goes beyond providing safe, reliable, and affordable electricity.

We're always looking for ways to provide value to our members and our community, especially during tough economic times. Beltrami Electric's Co-op Connections Card is a money-saving tool we're proud to offer our membership. The card connects you with discounts on everything from pizza to prescription drugs, such as being able to save 5¢ off per gallon of gasoline at Pete's Place South of Bemidji.

A wide variety of merchants throughout our community accept the card, including Midnight Sun Pools 'n' Spas, Pine Ridge Sales & Service, Blackduck Lanes and Buena Vista Ski Area. Be sure to present the card at the register to receive your discount!

We hope local businesses participating in the Co-op Connections program benefit from increased traffic from Beltrami Electric members. Businesses can sign up for the program at no cost. For a detailed list of all participating businesses in our area, simply log on to our website at www.beltramielctric.com and follow the Co-op Connections Card link. If you are a business who would like to participate in the program, please contact Angela at (218) 444-3689 or alyseng@beltramielctric.com.

The card also gives you access to online savings at more than 95 national retailers like Lands' End, Hertz Rental Cars, Best Western hotels, Office Depot, 1-800 Pet Meds and ProFlowers.com. You can check out these great national discounts at www.connections.coop.

One of the most valuable features of the Co-op Connections Card is the pharmacy discount. While it is not insurance, the discount can mean savings of 10 to 85 percent on prescription drugs. The logo and information on the back of your card is recognized at more than 60,000 national, regional and local pharmacies.

The pharmacy discount has been widely used by members of Touchstone Energy co-ops across the country, resulting in combined savings of nearly \$20 million on prescriptions.

Want to find out more? Log on to www.myMemberPortal.com to search for pharmacies in our area honoring the card. Use code **22203** as the group number under the "Groups" login section. Next, enter your zip code.

As a Touchstone Energy® co-op, Beltrami Electric strives to serve our members according to four core values: integrity, accountability, innovation and commitment to community. Our Co-op Connections Card is one of the ways we live up to those values.

We're eager to answer any questions you have about the card and how to take advantage of the discounts it provides. Call us at (218) 444-2540 to find out more, or log onto www.beltramielctric.com.

Northern Lights CLASSIFIEDS

For Sale:

To be removed from present location - older 12ft. by 52ft. mobile home. Complete with pole barn style enclosure, 12 x 15 attached bedroom and 10 x 12 screen porch with ramp and deck. Some furniture and appliances included. Best offer takes all 224-2443 or 320-815-0474.

Eskimo Pro portable ice fishing house, open size 7ft x 5ft, used only 3 times, \$150, call 335-7707.

2008 Chevy Silverado 2500 HD, 125,000 miles (hwy), 8' box, custom seat covers, back rack, command start, tool box, under seat storage, 6.0 liter engine, pw/pl, a/c, cruise control, satellite radio ready, \$15,500/obo, call 612-245-6821.

Many different Christmas houses for sale, \$25, 854-7276.

Beautiful king comforter set by Karen Neuberger, includes comforter, 2 king shams, bedskirt, light green, like new condition and in original bag, \$65, cash only, 320-760-8418.

22 cal. Hatsan, Model 95 pellet rifle with scope, like new, \$100, 586-3485.

Four rolls, 26 inch high, heavy weight woven wire, new, never been used, Call 224-2681.

8x16 ice fishing house with removable wheels, \$2,500/obo, call 224-2460.

250-amp Miller Industrial welder, 50' of ground, 50' of lead, \$300/obo, 444-9299 or 308-3059.

96 Indy 500, good shape \$1,000, call Brian 760-4562.

Six boxes of 7 mm Rem. Mag rifle bullets, \$10 per box, buy 1 or all, call Doug 224-3288.

1999 Ford Explorer XLT 4X4 4.0 high output V6, heat, rear heat, A/C, radio, CD, cassette player, power windows and locks, recent repairs: new ball joints, tie rod ends, u joints on rear drive shaft, spark plugs and wires, coil pack, needs front wheel bearings, \$1,000 cash only, call 407-7612.

3/4 hp Wayne lake pump, used one season, \$125, 612-581-7652.

Avalanche roof snow slide, removes snow from roof, prevents ice dams, fiberglass poles, 16-ft long, good condition, \$45, NordicTrack 505 Skier, solid oak, working speedometer/odometer, folds for storage, \$19, 497-2491.

Adult motorcycle helmet \$25, antique rocking chair \$25, full size truck tool box \$50, Tire P215/70R14 on a five hole rim \$5, and homemade wood splitter with 3 pt. attachment for tractor \$500, call or text Dave 766-7633.

Xerox Outlook video magnifier for low vision \$200, Large Tasco telescope \$30, 2011 GMC front grill chrome \$60, maroon electric lift chair \$50, Herand figurine \$50, Amager girl figurine \$50, 751-9311/368-9034.

Large bales of straw \$25, cast iron kitchen sink \$100, 2 ceiling fixtures-gold \$20 each, 1 gold dining room fixture \$25, pool table \$800, depth finder, all in very good condition, call 224-2147.

'09 Ram 2500HD SXT, 140xxx mi Auto 5.7L, new brakes and fluids, fully serviced, new paint, full tow pkg, \$14,000, 743 Bobcat decent shape, cab heater and vinyl enclosure \$8,000, call 759-9613, serious buyers only.

Mixed firewood, cut, split, delivered (pickup load) 407-5590.

Clam fish trap, X2-Thermal, loaded w/ extras, hitch, skis, cover, center console, lights, battery, etc. "like new," asking \$800, call 368-5264 or 333-1510.

Two Altimax arctic snow tires 205/65R15, \$100, 751-8097.

Savage 7MM bolt action rifle with Bushnell scope and new gun case w/carrying strap, asking \$500, 547-1800.

Small square straw bales, bale elevator, 45' Melroe spring tooth drag, call 751-0408, leave message.

Pro-Form XP 590s Treadmill, has fan, accessory tray, pulse sensor, key clip, 10% incline, 10 speed, ear phone plug-in, manual included, asking \$350/obo, 308-3718 or 243-2196.

Homemade star, block, crazy quilts: twin \$35, full \$40, queen \$45, king \$55, 2 floor lamps \$7 each, refinished antique oak furniture: dining room table \$130, 6 pressed back chairs \$150, 5-drawer highboy dresser \$150, 2 sewing rockers \$50 each, washstand \$150, sewing machines \$15 each, 243-2702.

Wanted:

Storage space for 31-ft RV, 766-1123.

Light duty boat trailer, poor condition, road worthy not necessary, cheap, call 335-7707.

Responsible retiree needs place for SAFE rifle target shooting, minimum of 100 yards. Rent, lease, or? (within 15 miles of Bemidji) 444-5793.

Free:

10-year-old 15.5 c/ft upright Maytag freezer that no longer defrosts, works fine otherwise, you pick up, 243-3296.

Item for sale from Northern Safety & Security

1998 Dodge RAM 1500 4x4. V8, high mileage, vehicle will be sold "as is" and requires a sealed bid, which will be opened at noon on **Jan. 22, 2016**. To submit a bid, contact Sam Mason 218-444-3623, e-mail smason@beltramelectric.com. Vehicle can be viewed Jan. 20-21 at Beltrami Electric Cooperative, 4111 Technology Dr. NW, Bemidji, MN. Mailing address: PO Box 488, Bemidji, MN 56619.

Thank you all for your yarn donations given to the interdenominational knitting group that meets at Trinity Lutheran Church in Laporte the first and third Mondays each month. We welcome ALL to knit with us for charitable causes. For more information, call Mary at 333-3747.

Professional office space available for lease

(Beltrami Electric's headquarters)

600-square-foot office suite – reception area with three separate office suites. Second floor location, elevator, meeting room, safe, clean, quiet, low-traffic area of well-maintained professional building. For further details contact Sam Mason, Beltrami Electric Cooperative, 218-444-3623.

Classified ads rules

- All ads must be 50 words or less.
- Members may submit one **For Sale** and one **Wanted** ad per issue.
- No real estate, rental, personal or commercial ads will be accepted.
- Ads are published at no charge as space permits on a first-received, first-printed basis, with no guarantee your ad will appear.
- Ads are only allowed to be repeated for three consecutive months and must be resubmitted to run additional months.
- Ads are due by the first of the month prior to publication of the next issue.
- Editor reserves the right to edit or reject any ad.
- All telephone numbers are presumed to have a (218) area code unless otherwise noted.
- Include name and account number on all submissions.
- Ads may be submitted via our website at www.beltramelectric.com (preferred).
- Mail ads to: Beltrami Electric Cooperative, P.O. BOX 488, Bemidji, MN 56619. If submitting by mail, ad must be printed clearly.

We are looking for you!

Beltrami Electric is looking for Melvin R. Patch (Kelliher, Minn). Please call 218-444-2540 if you have any information.



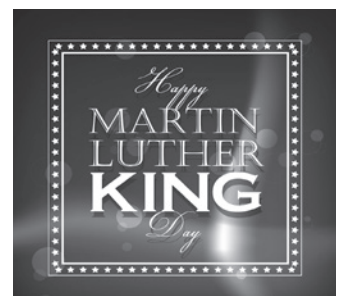
"Like" us on Facebook
at www.facebook.com/BeltramiElectricCoop.



Track your energy usage on My Meter



Follow us on Twitter
for updates from your cooperative.



Beltrami Electric Cooperative will be closed on Monday, Jan. 18, in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

Board Meeting Highlights

"Watt's Cooking?"

Slow Cooker Ham & Eggs



Ingredients:

- 6 large eggs
- 1 C. biscuit/baking mix
- 2/3 C. 2% milk
- 1/2 C. sour cream
- 2 Tbsp. minced fresh parsley
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1/2 tsp. pepper
- 1 C. cubed fully cooked ham
- 1 C. (4 oz.) shredded Swiss cheese
- 1/2 C. shredded Parmesan cheese
- 1 small onion, finely chopped

Directions:

In a large bowl, whisk the first eight ingredients until blended; stir in remaining ingredients. Pour into a greased 3- or 4-qt. slow cooker. Cook, covered, on low 3-4 hours or until eggs are set. Cut into wedges. *Yield: 6 servings.*

Beltrami Electric's board of directors conducted its monthly meeting Tuesday, Nov. 24, 2015. All directors were present except Lea Perkins. Also present were General Manager Lynette Nieuwsma, Director of Finance and Member Services Sid Sletten and Executive Secretary Kay Olson.

The following reports were given:

- The manager made her monthly report, including an update on current operations, customer usage and capital credit retirement. She also discussed the Beltrami County 4-H program, a proposed site for a new Bemidji elementary school and the employee medical insurance renewal rate.
- Dan Edens, Rich Riewer, Sam Mason, Chris Kelsey and Sid Sletten reviewed the 2016 capital expenditures for their departments.
- Rich Riewer presented costs and features obtained for a new automated metering system for the cooperative.
- The manager presented and reviewed a Reciprocal Services Agreement with Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc.
- The board reviewed the revised BEC Policy #309 Neutral to Earth Voltage – Stray Voltage.
- The manager and Murl Nord reported on Cooperative Development LLC.
- Terry Diffley reported on the Minnkota board meeting.

The following actions were taken:

- Approved the 2016 capital expenditures as presented.
- Approved a monetary donation in future years directly to the Beltrami County 4-H program.
- Appointed Robert Wallner and Lea Perkins to attend the MREA annual meeting.
- Approved Robert Wallner as the MREA voting delegate and Lea Perkins as alternate.
- Authorized management to continue negotiations and when appropriate, move forward toward a contract for an automated metering system.
- Approved to enter into the Reciprocal Services Agreement with Minnkota Power Cooperative, Inc.
- Approved revised BEC Policy #309 Neutral to Earth Voltage – Stray Voltage.
- Approved moving the December board meeting to Tuesday, Dec. 29, 2015, beginning at 8:30 a.m.

The next board meeting will be Dec. 29, 2015, at 8:30 a.m.

2016 contractor workshops set

Minnkota Power Cooperative and the associated systems will sponsor continuing education classes for area electricians and builders in 2016. This marks the 28th year of the successful program, which is aimed at providing area trade allies with the latest information in building and electrical practices and an opportunity to obtain code credits for license renewal.

The electrical workshops will be held Jan. 18 and Jan. 19 at the Cambria Hotel & Suites in West Fargo, N.D. The training then moves to the Alerus Center in Grand Forks Jan. 26 and Jan. 27. The workshops continue with classes Feb. 3 at the Eagles Club in Bemidji, Minn., and Feb. 4 at the Bigwood Event Center in Fergus Falls, Minn.

The residential builder workshops are Jan. 27 at the Alerus Center in Grand Forks, Feb. 3 at Hampton Inn & Suites in Bemidji, Feb. 4 at the Bigwood Event Center in Fergus Falls and Feb. 5 at Cass County Electric Cooperative in Fargo, N.D.

Registration fee is \$75 for eight code credits. Taking the class on multiple days will not qualify for 16 code credits.

Online registration is preferred through www.minnkota.com. Registration should be completed by Jan. 13.

For more information about the program, contact Sue Black, Minnkota communications/member services specialist, at (701) 795-4292 or email questions to sblack@minnkota.com.

2016 Electrical CE Workshops

Monday, Jan. 18
Cambria Hotel & Suites
825 East Beaton Drive
West Fargo, ND 58078

Wednesday, Jan. 27
Alerus Center
1200 42nd Street South
Grand Forks, ND 58201

Tuesday, Jan. 19
Cambria Hotel & Suites
825 East Beaton Drive
West Fargo, ND 58078

Wednesday, Feb. 3
Eagles Club
1270 Neilson Avenue SE
Bemidji, MN 56601

Tuesday, Jan. 26
Alerus Center
1200 42nd Street South
Grand Forks, ND 58201

Thursday, Feb. 4
Bigwood Event Center
925 Western Avenue
Fergus Falls, MN 56537

2016 Residential Builder CE Workshops

Wednesday, Jan. 27
Alerus Center
1200 42nd Street South
Grand Forks, ND 58201

Thursday, Feb. 4
Bigwood Event Center
925 Western Avenue
Fergus Falls, MN 56537

Wednesday, Feb. 3
Hampton Inn & Suites
1019 Paul Bunyan Dr. S.
Bemidji, MN 56601

Friday, Feb. 5
Cass County Electric Cooperative
3312 42nd St. S.
Fargo, ND 58104



Beltrami Electric Cooperative Inc.

® Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

4111 Technology DR NW
PO Box 488
Bemidji, MN 56619-0488
218-444-2540 • 800-955-6083
www.beltramielctric.com

JACK PINE STABLES

named Beltrami Electric's 2015 Touchstone Energy® Community Award winner



Megan Corr, who has been a student for 12 years.



Brent Kerrigan, who has been a student since Jack Pine Stables opened.

Beltrami Electric Cooperative has selected Jack Pine Stables as the winner of the local 2015 Touchstone Energy® Community Award from a great pool of worthy nominations. The recognition comes with a \$500 cash award donated to a community service organization/project of their choice and an engraved Touchstone Energy® Community Award plaque signifying the organization's commitment to community.

Entering into its 16th year, Jack Pine Stables is a therapeutic horse riding program in the Walker area. People with special needs ranging from developmental disabilities, autism, emotional disorders and physical disabilities are provided with the opportunity to

interact with horses in a safe environment. Skill levels and abilities are wide ranged and lessons are individualized to meet each rider's needs. Some ride with assistance from volunteers, but others ride with total independence and even participate in drill teams with other riders. It's a unique environment where the focus

is on the riders and what they have learned to do with the horses. Riders have two opportunities each year to showcase their horse skills: the Minnesota Equine Special Olympics competition and an end of the season show at the stables.

Jack Pine Stables is a wonderful asset for people with special needs in our service area. Since the riding program has been in existence, hundreds of people have been impacted by its activities – the riders, families of the riders, group home staff, volunteers and Jack Pine Stables' staff. The sense of

accomplishment and confidence gained at riding has actually overflowed into other parts of the riders' lives. Here is an example of a great success story from the group's application:

One particular rider was feeling so good about herself she decided that she was finally brave enough to seek out her "dream job" at a local business. As a result, she was hired and was very pleased with herself!

Grant and Kris Oppegaard, (Kris is a Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship International (PATH) certified instructor), have owned and operated Jack Pine Stables since its opening in 2000. Jack Pine Stables became a tax-exempt nonprofit 501c3 entity in 2014, under the Oppegaard Family Foundation.

In its 12th year, the Touchstone Energy® Community Award recognizes individuals or organizations for outstanding contributions to their community. Last year's winner was Bemidji Area Reading Canines (BARC). For a complete list of previous years' winners, please see our website: www.beltramielctric.com/TSE_Award.aspx.

Jack Pine Stables' application will be submitted for consideration to the statewide Minnesota Touchstone Energy® Community Award committee. The statewide award recipient will be selected from numerous local award winners throughout Minnesota and the overall winner will receive \$1,000 toward a community cause of choice. It will be presented in March 2016 during the Minnesota Rural Electric Association's annual meeting in St. Paul.



Touchstone Energy®
Cooperative

