



**Wright-Hennepin**

Cooperative Electric Association

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Wright-Hennepin Cooperative Electric Association's

# Hotline Update

**June 2015**

## Area students awarded \$27,700 in scholarships

It's been 28 years since Wright-Hennepin (WH) started its scholarship program for youth in and around the electric service territory, and in the 28th year, WH awarded another \$27,700 to 20 local students. This brings the total amount WH has given to \$638,800 since the program's inception in 1988.

WH awarded the scholarships during a ceremony at its headquarters in Rockford, Minn. on May 28. The scholarships are funded through donations from WH's diversified businesses – WH Security, WH Services, WH Generation, HeatMyFloors.com, WH International Response Center, WH Solar and WH Holding Investments – under the umbrella of the WH Holding Company. In this way, WH continues to make significant investments in the area's youth without having to fund the scholarships from the electric rate that members pay – a very important consideration in helping ensure competitive electric rates.

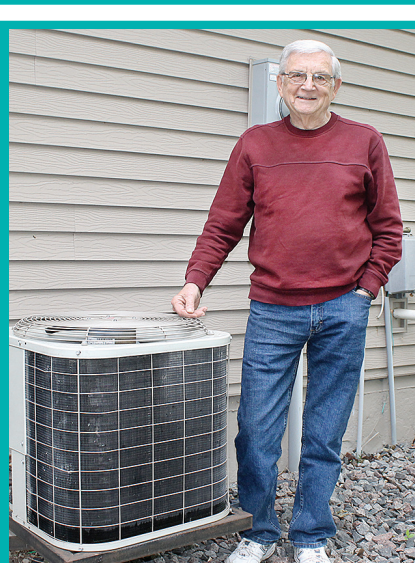
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***Congratulations  
to WH's local scholarship recipients!***  
(A full list of recipients is on page 8)

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A smile crests the face of Les Renschler outside his Plymouth home, thanks to saving 15 percent on his summer electric bill through WH's Cool Cash program.

## Cool Cash: keeping cool while saving money

Everyone is looking for ways to stay cool in the summertime. It's an added bonus to be able to do this while also saving money. That's why Les Renschler, of Plymouth, joined Wright-Hennepin's (WH) Cool Cash program when he moved in June 2014.

"I think it's an easy way of saving money, and it doesn't cause any big difference in cooling my home," Renschler said.

Members save 15 percent on their total

electric use with Cool Cash through June, July and August in return for allowing WH to cycle their air conditioners on and off for 15-minute intervals during times of high energy demand. These are typically the hottest days of the summer, when many members are running their air conditioners.

Cool Cash helps keep the cooperative's costs down, because it keeps WH from having to purchase extra energy at a higher rate, which affects all members.

Because of that, Renschler said joining Cool Cash is the thing to do.

"I think it's a good program," said Renschler. "It definitely helps me and the cooperative. There are certain times when everybody draws a lot of electricity, and this helps with that."

For more information about WH's Cool Cash air conditioning program, contact a representative at (763) 477-3000, or sign up at <http://goo.gl/NJrQHT>.







## CEO's Memo

MARK VOGT

WH President & CEO

# An exciting time ahead for electricity consumers

Within weeks, I will celebrate 35 years of employment with Wright-Hennepin (WH). I am blessed to have seen some amazing progress and changes during that time – here locally at Wright-Hennepin and within the electric industry. But all of that progress and change pales to what I see coming down the road. The next few years are going to be an exciting time for power providers and energy consumers alike, and it honestly makes me wish I had another 25 years to serve.

A good example of the progress and changes coming occurred during the last two meetings of your board of directors. We took extra time to catalogue some of the changes on the immediate horizon. Here are a few of the things that we think will affect the way you receive and use electricity.

**Home Batteries:** During the May board meeting, we had a presentation on the just-announced Tesla battery. That innovative and compact technology is now transitioning out of the popular Tesla electric vehicle (EV) into the home. According to press releases from the company, if the battery is paired



Tesla's Powerwall battery

with existing solar panels, you can get a power pack large enough to store electricity for a medium sized home when the sun doesn't shine. And it's priced for just \$3,500. If that's true, it's a game changer about how we will power our lives in the near future. After hearing these presentations, I joked to the board of directors that we may need to start changing out line trucks to battery delivery vehicles. But I was only half joking ... We are going to stay on top of this new technology and find a way to be a part of making it available to you. As a first step, we have a Tesla battery on order and will share our findings with you, just as we have done in the past with residential sized wind generation, solar power and electric vehicles. For more information on this promising new product, check out the introductory event conducted by the company's founder, Elon Musk at <https://goo.gl/JrZrKb>.

**Electric Vehicles:** Speaking of electric vehicles, about the time you read this article, your cooperative will have installed its first publicly accessible EV charging station at our headquarters in Rockford. This is a "fast-charge" station, which will allow an EV to get about 80 percent charged in just 15 minutes. We will be adding a second public charging station at a to-be-named retail shopping location within the service territory this fall. This is WH's attempt to eliminate "range anxiety" for those considering EVs but worry about running out of power. Our plan is to continue installing these throughout the service territory over the next few years. There are some incredible advances being made with EVs. Some sources tell us that most EVs will have a 200-mile range by 2017. We want to get out in front of this early to help bring EVs into the mainstream and help cut down Minnesota's dependence on foreign oil. That's a worthy goal, as during a recent board meeting, your directors learned that Minnesotans use 2.5 billion gallons of gasoline a year to power cars and trucks. Since most EVs would charge at night, it's a perfect load to be powered by wind generation at the discount off-peak rate. The EV that WH has owned since the beginning of the year has used about 1,300 kWh so far, with a "fuel cost" of \$146. For the same miles driven, fuel cost for a gas powered vehicle getting 25 miles per gallon is \$381 (at \$2.50 per gallon), or 61 percent more expensive than electricity.

**Wireless Electricity:** About two decades ago, your telephone went wireless, and now it looks like technology is emerging to eliminate the power cord from your appliances. At the June board meeting we received a presentation on "Witricity" – wireless electricity – and its uses in everyday life. The idea has actually been around, in theory, since the early 1900s. But it took an MIT professor, whose sleep kept getting interrupted by his cell phone chirping to warn of low battery, to bring the idea into reality in the last decade or so. The technology works by resonant energy transfer, similar to how an opera singer can shatter a glass from across the room. For a more detailed explanation of how the technology works, check out <http://goo.gl/SwkEWF>. But think of the everyday uses in your home. Putting a flat screen TV on the wall? No longer will you need to wire a socket into the wall or have an ugly chord hanging down. Imagine walking into your home and all your mobile devices start charging without plugging them in. Internal medical devices would become



WH's first two solar communities are Rockford natives, but the third is scheduled elsewhere in the service territory.

much better. Credit card security could be made much safer. We could start eliminating the 40 billion batteries that end up in landfills every year. And because the technology works from a magnetic field rather than an electric field, it is safe. On Earth, we live in a magnetic field.

**Solar Power:** The popularity of solar among WH members continues to amaze us. We are currently working with a government unit in our service territory to power all their buildings with WH Solar. And one of our newest commercial customers is also working with us to power their new facilities from the sun. Our third solar community is almost totally reserved. If you would like to try solar with one panel, or as many as are needed to power your entire home, please contact WH's Vice President of Renewable Energy, Kelly Frankenfeld at (763) 477-3125 or [kfrankenfeld@whe.org](mailto:kfrankenfeld@whe.org) to reserve your space in a community solar project. As soon as our third community solar project is fully subscribed, your board has already authorized the opening of a fourth project.

See why I wish I had another 25 years to serve in this industry? It's going to be incredibly exciting times for electric consumers, and we are positioning WH to be your trusted energy provider for the changing needs of the future.

*Mark Vogt*

## Board Report

### April Board Meeting Highlights:

The monthly meeting of the Board of Directors was conducted April 28, 2015. A quorum of directors was present. Items discussed or Board action taken:

- Critiqued the 2015 annual meeting and approved the date of Thursday, March 31, 2016 for next year's annual meeting.
- Discussed wholesale power contract options and opportunities.
- Results of the member environmental survey were presented.

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### WH's Board of Directors

Erick Heinz, board chair.....	District 9
Timothy Young, vice chair .....	District 1
Dale Jans, secretary-treasurer .....	District 4
Butch Lindenfelser .....	District 2
Burton Horsch .....	District 3
Chris Lantto .....	District 5
Thomas Mach .....	District 6
Kenneth Hiebel .....	District 7
Donald Lucas .....	District 8

The Board of Directors meets monthly at the cooperative's office in Rockford. Regular meetings are generally scheduled the second Tuesday of each month for 2015. Members with items of interest are encouraged to contact the president and CEO to confirm meeting date and time.

### WH & WH Holding Management Team

**MARK VOGT**, President & CEO  
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**PETER LARSON**, VP, Human Resources, 763.477.3039, [plarson@whe.org](mailto:plarson@whe.org)

**TONY HEID**, VP, Information Technologies, 763.477.3008, [theid@whe.org](mailto:theid@whe.org)



# Erick Heinz starts his journey as WH's Board Chair much like his father did 23 years ago

Many siblings strive to follow in their father's footsteps. Newly elected Wright-Hennepin (WH) Board Chair Erick Heinz has done just that. He now holds the same position that his Dad held for WH from 1992-1999.

The move came in April when former Board Chair Chris Lantto stepped down after 15 years in the position as a gesture to open the door to younger leadership at WH. Lantto continues to serve on the board and helped unanimously elect Heinz to the position held by his father, Alvin, until his sudden death in 1999.

Years of watching Alvin chair WH's board has given Erick historical and experiential perspective.

"I remember the biggest challenges dad faced were when the direct current transmission line came from Bismarck (N.D.) to Buffalo. It was new and he got a lot of calls," Erick recalled. The line was controversial then, but Heinz said it has proven its value with time. He has learned that "You want to be open-minded, and listen to everybody that has a concern. But when all of the facts are in, you have to act on it."

Erick brings a strong background to his new role. "Learning all of the information and leading the board is just like farming," Erick said. "There are always new products and technologies coming into farming, just like with the electric industry. You've got to stay toward the solution that brings in the most efficiency and benefit."

Heinz is grateful to have former Board Chair Chris Lantto still serving on the board.

"I have talked to him multiple times. It's nice to be able to ask Chris about things, especially since he never had that opportunity when he took over for Dad. I really appreciate that," said Heinz. "Chris is a very good leader and a very good listener. As chair, he led by example



Farming runs in WH Board Chair Erick Heinz's blood, and the same goes for leading the cooperative's board of directors.

and was very fair. He helped take us down important paths during our strategic planning and opened our eyes to other people's points of view. Those years of experience are always nice to have on the board."

Going forward, Heinz said he's adjusting to his new position with the primary goal of ensuring the cooperative maintains "competitive and reliable energy for our members," and making sure the cooperative has an orderly transition to the new energy future.

While he's honored and humbled to be Board Chair, Heinz wanted to remind members that it takes a collective effort to make WH successful.

"It's not just one group, it's all one big organization," Heinz said. "The members, board, management and employees are the reasons WH is considered a leader in the electric cooperative field."



## Lindenfelser has a 'ringside seat' to the development of energy legislation on MREA's board

As a Director of District 2 on the Wright-Hennepin (WH) Board since 1996, Duane "Butch" Lindenfelser knows the impact that decisions can have upon thousands of local electric members. But as a newly elected Vice President of the Minnesota Rural Electric Association's (MREA) Board of Directors, Lindenfelser has a "ringside seat" on the development of legislation that affects all of Minnesota's cooperatives.

MREA is the trade association for the state's almost 50 electric cooperatives.

A Director for MREA's District 4 since 2013, Lindenfelser represents not only WH, but also Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative (Jordan, Minn.), East Central Energy (Braham) and Great River Energy (Maple Grove). And while he is a WH board member, Lindenfelser

said that when he has his MREA hat on, he has to focus on the entire electric cooperative movement.

"You have to evaluate things very carefully," said Lindenfelser. "What might work for WH doesn't necessarily mean it will work for MREA. You have to wear a different hat, because MREA has to look out for the goodwill of all electric cooperative members in the state. Each cooperative has very different characteristics and needs."

But Lindenfelser noted that his 19 years of experience on WH's board has been invaluable toward becoming an MREA officer.

"WH is on the cutting edge of so many things. My experience on WH's board can be applied to MREA. And if I do have a problem I feel free to call Mark



As a newly appointed officer of the MREA Board, Duane "Butch" Lindenfelser said his years of experience on WH's Board of Directors helped prepare him for his position.

Vogt (WH CEO/President), or any other CEO in my district to ask for guidance."



## Industry News

### Coal plant retirements April-June account for 3 percent of quarter one consumption

Data from the first quarter of this year may give some indication into how federal carbon standards will impact the nation's generating fleet in cold weather. Analysis by Argus Media shows coal units slated for retirement generated more than 3 percent of the nation's coal power in the first quarter, representing more than 11 gigawatts (GW) of capacity.

Estimates from the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) show the federal government's Clean Power Plan, along with other regulations and the low price of natural gas, will lead to the shuttering of about 90 GW of coal-fired production by 2040 — more than twice than would be pulled offline without new carbon standards, the agency estimated.

In May, EIA released updated analysis which predicted power prices will rise about 4.9 percent under the government's plan to reduce carbon emissions. But the report also showed the Clean Power Plan will reduce emissions significantly: 2030 reductions range from 484 to 625 million metric tons.

Source: *Utility Dive*

### Solar as fastest growing U.S. power source rivals shale boom

Move over shale. The sun is now the fastest growing source of U.S. electricity. Solar power capacity in the U.S. has jumped 20-fold since 2008 as companies including Apple Inc. use it to reduce their carbon footprint. Rooftop panels are sprouting on homes from suburban New York to Phoenix, driven by suppliers such as SolarCity Corp. and NRG Energy Inc. Giant farms of photovoltaic panels, including Warren Buffett's Topaz array in California, are changing power flows in the electrical grid, challenging hydro and conventional generators and creating negative prices on sunny days. The surge comes after shale drilling opened new supplies of natural gas, contributing to the 47 percent drop in oil since June.

"Solar is the new shale," Michael Blaha, principal analyst of North American power at Wood Mackenzie Ltd. in Houston, said April 8. "Shale has lowered cost and enabled lower natural gas prices. Solar will lower costs for electricity."

Solar capacity surged 30 percent in 2014 to more than 20 gigawatts and will more than double by the end of 2016, according to the Washington-based Solar Energy Industries Association. That's enough to power 7.6 million U.S. homes, up from 360,000 in 2009. The biggest gains will be in California, Arizona, Texas, Georgia, New York and New Jersey. Even with the rapid growth, solar still accounts for less than 1 percent of total U.S. power production, behind coal, natural gas, oil, nuclear and hydroelectric, according to the government's Energy Information Administration.

Source: *Bloomberg*



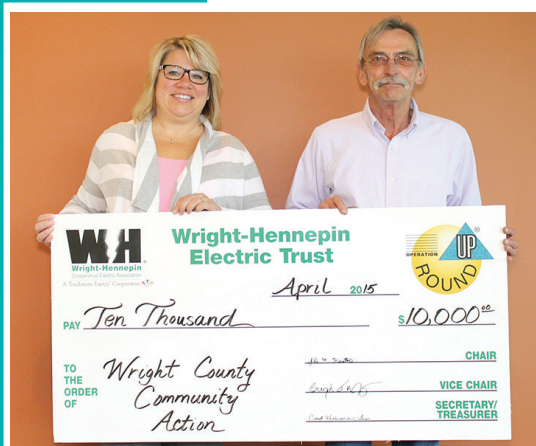
# Wright-Hennepin members donate more than \$25,000 to help local organizations

Wright-Hennepin (WH) members who participate in Operation Round Up (ORU) donated grants totaling \$25,800 in April 2015.


ORU participants allow their electric bills to be rounded up to the nearest dollar. The rounded amount is then used for donations to fund local programs. More than 80 percent of WH's members participate in the ORU program. ORU's trust board manages the generated money, which is held in a trust fund. Through a selection process and review of guidelines, the board evaluates funding requests on a bimonthly basis.

The ORU trust board approved the following donations on behalf of WH members for April 2015:

- **\$500, Angel Quilters**, funds to purchase fiber-fill and machine repairs
- **\$2,500, Ave Maria Academy**, funds to start summer community programs
- **\$200, Buffalo High School Grad Party**, funds to support an all-night safe party
- **\$500, Cokato Historical Society**, funds to scan and digitize 2,467 nitrate and acetate negatives for preservation
- **\$3,000, Elim Care**, funds to support Park View Care Center's new wheelchairs
- **\$1,000, Fishing Klinics for Kids**, funds for prizes and a trailer
- **\$1,500, Homeward Bound**, funds for a summer camp scholarship
- **\$1,000, Love INC-Big Woods**, funds for the school supply program for students in Buffalo, Hanover and Montrose
- **\$3,000, Rivers of Hope**, funds to support 24-hour crisis phone line
- **\$200, Robbinsdale Armstrong Grad Party**, funds to support an all-night safe party
- **\$10,000, Wright County Community Action**, funds to assist with energy assistance program



Operation Round Up recently awarded a grant to Wright County Community Action in the amount of \$10,000 to assist with an energy assistance program. ORU Vice Chair Brenda Moy (left) presented the grant to Housing Manager Larry Howard (right).

For those interested in applying for funds, the next application deadline is August 1, 2015. To receive an application, visit WH's website at [www.whe.org](http://www.whe.org), send an email to [oru@whe.org](mailto:oru@whe.org), or call Lisa and leave a message at (763) 477-3000 extension 6126. 

## Ways to save energy this summer

Nobody likes to spend more money than they have to, especially in the summertime when extra cash can be spent on a myriad of recreational activities. With that in mind, these tips are meant to help keep your home cool this summer while also saving money:




- On bright sunny days, keep your drapes and blinds closed to help keep heat out.

- Use ceiling fans to circulate air, but remember: fans cool people, not rooms, so turn fans off when leaving a room.

Save electricity by grilling




- Hang your clothes outside to lower your energy bill and to avoid adding unnecessary heat to your home.
- Plan meals that you can grill, rather than using your oven or stove.
- Open refrigerators and freezers only when you need something.
- Open your windows at night to take advantage of cooler temperatures.
- With longer summer days, use as much natural light as possible to keep your home lit.
- Take short, cool showers instead of baths, and lower your water heater's temperature to 120 degrees Fahrenheit.
- Keep your thermostat at 78 degrees Fahrenheit while you're away, and as high as you comfortably can while home. A programmable thermostat is an easy way to save money. And if you're a WH Security member, you can even control your thermostat from a mobile device by signing up for interactive services. Call (763) 477-3664 for more information. 

## Lake Maria cleanup day still going strong in 15th year

For the 15th year in a row, volunteers prepped Lake Maria State Park for an influx of summer visitors as the sun shone through the trees of Monticello's beautiful woods on May 2 for Wright-Hennepin's (WH) annual spring cleanup day.

Volunteers of all ages tended to trails, raked leaves, planted trees and cleaned up common areas to keep the park in good standing order. WH provided a free lunch, and those who lent a hand also received a free pass to explore the park for the day.

Park Manager Mark Crawford said the event has been a success, as the park gets some much-needed cleaning after the winter months, and the volunteers get an opportunity to get outdoors on a spring day and feel good about the work they have done.

"It's a good time to kind of get the park spruced up for the summer season as we get busier," Crawford said of the annual event. "We're really dependent upon volunteers, and we get a lot of them. There are probably more volunteers at this park than most parks in the state. They really help us a lot, and we always invite more people to come out every year." 



Multiple Boy Scouts troops and plenty of other kids offered their services at the Lake Maria spring cleanup day, sponsored by Wright-Hennepin (WH). They also took advantage of the warm weather and a free pass to explore the park once the cleaning was completed, and enjoyed a complimentary lunch from WH.



# How to prepare and respond to summer storms

With the potential for inclement weather and thunderstorms as temperatures and humidity increase, the following steps are meant to help prepare you and your family for summer storms:

## Storm preparation:

- Know where your circuit breakers are located and how to check if a breaker is tripped.
- Keep a three-day supply of water and non-perishable food items that require no refrigeration or cooking.
- Try to keep cell phones and other important electronic devices charged.
- Prepare your children for encountering an outage or inclement weather while home alone. Show them how to use a radio or smart phone to find local warnings, and make sure they know safe places to go for shelter.
- Check to make sure your sump pump is working properly and that you have a battery backup or generator in place.
- Know how to manually open and shut your garage door.

## Post-storm safety tips:


- Stay away from all downed power lines and treat them as "live." To report a downed line, call (763) 477-3100.
- Outages in hot weather can be dangerous, especially for children and the elderly. Close drapes and blinds on the sunny side of your house and be sure to drink plenty of fluids. Go to an air-conditioned public location if you can.

- In the case of flooding, remember that submerged outlets and electrical cords can energize water.
- Water can damage motors in electrical appliances such as furnaces, freezers, refrigerators, washing machines and dryers. Do not use electrical appliances if they have come in contact with water, as they can pose a shock hazard or can overheat and cause a fire.

## How to report an outage:

If your home loses power, first check your breaker to make sure you did not simply blow a fuse or trip a breaker. If you determine that you have a power outage, contact WH's electric dispatch center at (763) 477-3100, or report your outage via smartphone at [www.whe.org](http://www.whe.org).

## Get outage alerts:

WH offers free outage notifications to members via text and/or email. To sign up for these alerts, visit: <http://goo.gl/UgJDUJ>. Once signed up, you will receive a message with the estimated time of restoration when there is an outage in your area. Additionally, outage information is available for all members to see on WH's website at [www.whe.org](http://www.whe.org). By clicking on the "Power Outage" tab on the homepage, you are able to view a map of WH's electric service territory showing all current outages, including the number of members affected and details about the outage. You can also follow us on our outage page on Twitter at: [http://twitter.com/Wright\\_Hennepin](http://twitter.com/Wright_Hennepin) or check out our Facebook page for regular updates at [www.facebook.com/WrightHennepin](http://www.facebook.com/WrightHennepin). 

# For the 18th consecutive year, WH donates 15,000 tree seedlings to local schools and organizations


In an effort to offset the loss of mature trees from a 1997 storm that struck its service territory, Wright-Hennepin Cooperative Electric Association (WH) has donated more than 200,000 trees to local schools, youth and civic organizations through the Plant-A-Tree program.

This is the 18th year that WH has donated trees through the program, which educators have used to teach students about the environmental benefits of trees.

Plant-A-Tree began after a violent storm tore through Wright, Sherburne and Hennepin counties in 1997, with damages in Wright County

alone approximated at \$100 million.

"When we started the program, we thought it would be a nice way to replenish what nature took away," WH CEO and President Mark Vogt said.

More than 15,000 trees were donated this year, including red maple, white birch, Norway spruce, black hills spruce and red oak to schools in Annandale, Maple Lake, Rockford, Monticello, St. Michael, Delano, Buffalo, Cokato and Howard Lake. Organizations such as the Buffalo Days Fishing Clinic, Lake Maria Scouts and Collinwood Regional Park Scouts also received tree seedling donations. 



Pictured here is Barb Stoffel's Kindergarten class from Delano Public Schools with the tree seedlings they received through the Plant-A-Tree program. A total of 700 seedlings were donated to the school.



**WH OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED JULY 3 IN HONOR OF THE HOLIDAY**

WH dispatchers and monitoring center personnel are available 24/7

See us at the Annandale and Delano Fourth of July parades!

**PROTECT YOUR HOME & FAMILY**



**Protect your home and family with a WH Security system**



A wholly owned subsidiary of Wright-Hennepin Cooperative Electric Association

## Special Offer:

**\$100 off a cellular alarm communicator that transmits alarm signals to our monitoring center**

*Offer expires 7/10/15*

**[www.wh-security.com](http://www.wh-security.com) (763) 477-3664**



# Interact with your home while on vacation with Control My Home

After packing the car to the brim with necessities for a nice weekend of camping, you get 50 miles down the road and think: "FIDDLESTICKS! I forgot to lock the front door of the house before we left!" Fear not, camper. With Control My Home from WH Security, you can control your door locks, security system, and much more, from your phone or tablet.

We've all done it. You go on vacation or leave for a weekend, and as soon as you get midway through the drive you realize you forgot to lock the front door, set the alarm, or turn the thermostat down. But now an interactive add-on to your security system powered by Alarm.com, Control My Home allows you to arm your


alarm, lock your doors and control your thermostat. You can also turn lights on or off, and even set a lighting schedule to make it appear like someone is home.

Alarm.com will also send you a text message or email should an alarm get triggered. You can also create custom alerts and access video equipment with Control My Home, so you can literally see what's going on at your home while you're away.

Vacations are supposed to be relaxing, and worry-free, so ensure that they are with Control My Home. And be sure to check out this blog on home security tips for vacationers at: <http://goo.gl/qP3JFx>.




**With WH's Control My Home interactive service, you can keep an eye on your home while enjoying your vacation.**

To learn more about Control My Home services offered through WH Security, call a representative at (763) 477-3664, or visit the Control My Home webpage at: <http://goo.gl/YgCEc3>. 

## Electric safety tips for summer

We all like to get outdoors and take advantage of the nice weather. Whether you're working on projects around the house or teaching a child how to fly a kite, remember to keep electrical safety in mind this summer in order to keep you and your loved ones safe.

- Avoid overhead power lines when using a ladder or long-handled tools.
- When using an extension cord, be sure it's safe for outdoor use.
- Only trim trees during safe weather conditions.
- Avoid planting tall-growing trees, such as large oaks, pines and maples, under power lines.
- Be sure to familiarize yourself and read the instructions when using any electrical products outside.
- Never climb a utility pole or enter an electric substation.
- Always call 811 before digging.
- Farmers, be sure to take notice of utility poles and power lines when entering and leaving fields with large equipment. 

## WH electrical safety demos keep youth safe and informed

Keeping the public informed about the importance of electric safety is an important part of the job we do at Wright-Hennepin (WH). This is why we help teach electric safety every year to our local youth through engaging and informational hotline demonstrations.

Held at schools, community events and science club meetings, these safety demonstrations show children ways to avoid the variety of true-to-life circumstances that could lead to electrocution. Kids learn important scenarios to avoid, such as: kites, toys and balls coming into contact with power lines, climbing trees that touch power lines, and what can happen when green transformer boxes found in yards are tampered with or played upon.


Zapping noises and flashes of light on a demonstration panel not only emphasize how dangerous these situations can be, but keep kids engaged and learning throughout the demonstration.

Every child who attends the presentations takes home information that lists steps for a home-safety walk

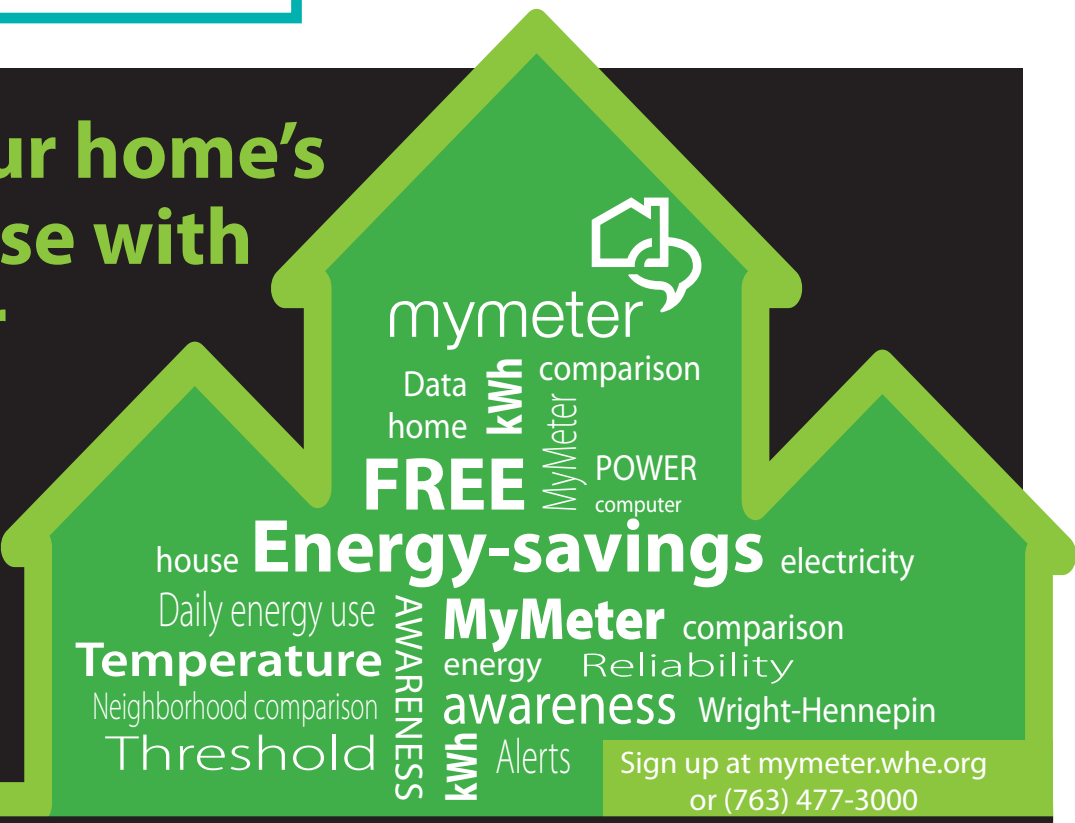
through, including checking to make sure electrical cords are in good condition, and that all outlets are covered properly. Also provided is a list of topics to help families save energy, including using power strips, not leaving the refrigerator door open for long periods of time, and shutting down the computer when it's not in use.

As an added bonus, through a partnership with Dairy Queen, free Blizzard or Orange Julius coupons are given to participants as a part of its community education program, which was established to encourage students to continually strive for excellence.



Hotline demonstrations are a great way to teach important electric safety tips to children. To schedule a demonstration at your school, event center or meeting, call (763) 477-3000. Fourth and fifth-graders are the best audiences for the presentation, as they have usually studied electricity as part of their science curriculum. 

### Track your home's energy use with MyMeter



**my meter**  
Data home kWh comparison  
**FREE** MyMeter POWER computer  
house **Energy-savings** electricity  
Daily energy use **MyMeter** comparison  
Temperature energy Reliability  
Neighborhood comparison awareness Wright-Hennepin  
Threshold kWh Alerts

Sign up at [mymeter.whe.org](http://mymeter.whe.org) or (763) 477-3000

### Hotline Update Staff

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### Office Hours:

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

### Customer Call Center Hours:


7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday - Friday  
Call: (763) 477-3000 or (800) 943-2667

### To report an outage:

Electric dispatchers are available 24/7  
Call: (763) 477-3100 or (888) 399-1845

### WH Security monitoring:

Security dispatchers are available 24/7  
Call: (763) 477-4275 or (800) 858-7811

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# First public electric vehicle charger coming in June

In an effort to bring alternative fuel sources and electric vehicles (EV) into the mainstream, Wright-Hennepin's (WH) first publicly accessible charging station will be installed in June.

There's no denying the increasing popularity in EVs. If you spend any time in the metro area you will see a myriad of EV chargers at numerous locations. However, there currently are a limited number of public chargers in Wright and western Hennepin counties.


The Terra 53 DC charging station will be located in the visitor's parking lot at WH's Rockford headquarters, and will be the first of two public chargers installed by WH within its electric service territory in 2015.

Most EV owners will be able to get half a charge in approximately 15 minutes from the DC fast charger, which can mean the difference between

detouring on a road trip for some juice and staying on course.

The charging station is operated through GreenLots, a simple mobile phone application. Users simply scan a QR code located on the charger, or enter the charging station ID, and begin charging their vehicle. Customers upload their credit card information to the app and pay for the electricity they've used automatically. They can also view their charging history for their vehicle, see the locations of all their recent charges, how many kilowatt-hours they charged and for how long, as well as cost. It even has a map that displays charging stations in the area!



This is another step in WH's commitment to providing a new era of energy to the local area. Watch for information on social media surrounding the installation of this charger, as well as plans for a second charger later in 2015. 

## Learn about your solar energy options at an informational meeting

**Because of continued interest in solar energy, WH Solar is building a new solar community in Medina!**

Any WH member may purchase solar energy from this array. Instead of traditional grid energy, you can choose to partially or completely power your home with energy from the sun. Come to an informational meeting to find out more! Additional meetings will be announced throughout the year.

### Meeting dates and locations:

**Medina – July 21, 4:30-6:30 p.m.**  
30-minute informational sessions at 5 and 6 p.m.  
Medina Community Center  
3200 Mill St., Hamel, MN

**Maple Grove – August 27, 4:30-6:30 p.m.**  
30-minute informational sessions at 5 and 6 p.m.  
Maple Grove Community Center  
12951 Weaver Lake Rd., Maple Grove, MN

**Annandale – September 24, 7:30-9 a.m.**  
30-minute informational session at 8 a.m.  
Southbrook Golf Club meeting room  
511 Morrison Ave NW, Annandale, MN



Meetings are free and refreshments will be served. Please RSVP by calling (763) 477-3000 or fill out this web form at <http://goo.gl/Zbmks9>.

## Trees need trimming?

### WH Services can help with all of your landscaping needs:

- Aerial bucket truck work
- Storm damage clearing
- Lot clearing
- Tree and stump removal
- Tree and shrub pruning/shaping
- Emerald ash borer treatment

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**WH SERVICES**  
A subsidiary of Wright-Hennepin  
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## Board Report

**Continued from Page 2**

- Summary of the Long Range Construction Work Plan was presented.
- Reviewed and filed the monthly CEO, legal, financial, and operations reports.
- Directors shared highlights of meetings attended on behalf of the cooperative.

### Guests included:

- Legal Counsel Scott Kelly provided an update on the stray voltage trial.

### May Board Meeting Highlights:

The monthly meeting of the Board of Directors was conducted May 8, 2015. A quorum of directors was present. Items discussed or Board action taken:

- Approved resolution and certificates to begin the process of refinancing five notes with CoBank at lower interest rates, saving WH \$2.3 million over the remaining term of the loans.
- Approved annual line worker scholarship winners.
- Approved annual dues for membership in the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.
- Heard how WH Electric received an 89 on its first quarter American Customer Satisfaction Index (ACSI) score. WH's score continues to be among the highest performing of electric utilities in the country, as well and across all other business sectors.
- Briefed on a request to amend the terms of a supplier's wholesale power contract.
- Heard a report about marketing by utilities in deregulated states.
- Reviewed and filed CEO, financial, and other reports.
- Directors shared highlights of meetings attended on behalf of the cooperative.



Scholarship Winners continued from cover

WH Local Schools Scholarship

WH awards one scholarship per school district in its electric service area to outstanding students pursuing higher education. The following recipients received local school scholarships:

- Erik Jacobson, Annandale HS
- Jonathan Immel, Buffalo HS
- Courtney Halonen, Dassel-Cokato HS
- Devin Heider, Delano HS
- Abbey Weninger, Howard Lake-Waverly-Winsted HS
- Sophie Samson, Maple Grove HS
- Jackson Willard, Maple Lake HS
- Samantha Smieja, Monticello HS
- Rachel Heussner, Orono HS
- Emily McCarthy, Osseo HS
- Emily Eberspacher, Rockford HS
- Mary Liberko, Rogers HS
- Isaac Zipp, St. Michael-Albertville HS
- Brent Unowsky, Watertown-Mayer HS
- Andrew Quirk, Wayzata HS
- Amy Gasperlin, Maple Grove HS (at-large)

Edward R. Slebiska Memorial Line Worker Scholarship

Line workers make up a large

percentage of WH's workforce and require a critical skill that is in short supply in the electric utility industry. That is why WH offers two scholarships for this trade. This scholarship is awarded in memory of Edward R. Slebiska who cofounded WH in 1937 and became its first CEO, holding that position until his retirement in 1977. During that time, Slebiska helped lead the cooperative in bringing reliable and affordable electricity to rural Wright County and western Hennepin County. This year's recipients of the Edward R. Slebiska Memorial Line Worker Scholarship are Blake Paumen, Maple Lake, Minn., and Noah Haaland, Monticello, Minn.

Elwyn and Hazel Knickerbocker Memorial Line Worker Scholarship

Long-time WH members Doris and Ron Horswell of Annandale, Minn., created this scholarship in 2005 to honor the memory of Doris' parents, Elwyn and Hazel Knickerbocker, who played crucial roles in bringing electricity to rural homes and farms in Wright and

Hennepin counties. Elwyn served on WH's board of directors, representing District 1 – near Annandale, Clearwater and Maple Lake – for 53 years. At that time, he was the longest serving electric cooperative director in the nation. Hazel was a tireless champion of rural electrification, offering a clear voice of support during efforts to organize and expand the cooperative. Connor Blake, Big Lake, Minn., received the Elwyn and Hazel Knickerbocker Memorial Line Worker Scholarship for 2015.

WH has gone on to hire a number of the Slebiska and Knickerbocker scholarship winners after the recipients have completed line worker training.

Basin Electric Scholarships

Basin Electric Power Cooperative (Basin) – one of WH's wholesale power suppliers – headquartered in Bismarck, N.D., annually awards a scholarship to its distribution cooperative members. Michael Guyse, Maple Lake, Minn., received a 2015 scholarship from WH, courtesy of Basin.

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tenKsolar Winner



KIMBERLY JO JOHNSON of Cokato wins a credit for 261 kWh, April's output from WH's tenKsolar panel array.

NICHOLAS SELBITSCHKA of Otsego wins a credit for 227 kWh, May's output from WH's tenKsolar panel array.

Solar Winner



MARK KULDA of Maple Grove wins a credit for 269 kWh, April's output from WH's solar panels.

PAUL OLSON of Maple Grove wins a credit for 234 kWh, May's output from WH's solar panels.

Wind Winner



LEE LUEBKE of Corcoran wins a credit for 1,421 kWh, April's output from WH's wind generator.

SHANA LINDENFELSER of Annandale wins a credit for 845 kWh, May's output from WH's wind generator.

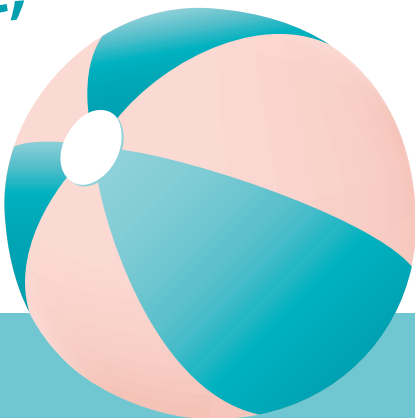
Average monthly energy output over 12 months:

Wind generator: 824 kWh  
Solar panels: 220 kWh  
tenKsolar system: 198 kWh

To enter the monthly contest to win the output from WH's wind generator or solar panels, go to: <http://goo.gl/QjyTM>.

How would you spend an extra \$54?

If you are not already participating, join WH's Cool Cash Off-Peak Air Conditioning program and **save 15% off your June, July and August electric bills.** Participating members saved an average of \$54.67 in 2014. Sign up today! Just call and we'll do the rest!



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