



News FOR YOU...

January 2014

“Barron Electric Cooperative is a member-owned business that provides energy, products, and services to improve the quality of life in the area we serve.”

Barron Electric Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Over 3,000 Pounds of Potatoes Donated to Area Food Pantries

In the spirit of giving, Barron Electric Cooperative and employees teamed up with member Nuto Farms to deliver more than 3,000 pounds of potatoes to 13 food pantries in Barron, Chetek, Cameron, Rice Lake, Cumberland, Turtle Lake, Hayward, Spooner, Birchwood, and New Auburn. Approximately 650 families were helped with this donation. Greg Wirth, Director of the Prairie Farm Food Pantry said, *“We appreciate the donation. This is great this time of the year, and everyone can use potatoes.”* Sue Millard, volunteer at the Chetek Food Pantry said, *“This was a special gift and an answer to a prayer. We just ran out of potatoes.”*

Visit Barron Electric Cooperative’s Facebook page at www.facebook.com/barronelectric for more photos.



Barron Electric’s General Manager Dallas Sloan (right) gives potatoes to James Patton of the Barron Food Pantry.

Keeping Right-of-Way Clear Helps Reduce Outages

Trees and brush can cause power outages, lights to blink, block access for maintenance or repairs and create a safety hazard for line crews. Barron Electric hires contractors to clear trees and brush in sixty-one townships on a rotational schedule of every 5 years for Barron County and every 6 years in Washburn County. Members in townships to be cleared in 2014 received an orange postcard with the December bill statement.

The following townships will be cleared in 2014:

- | | |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| Barron County | Washburn County |
| Arland | Bass Lake |
| Cedar Lake | Brooklyn |
| Doyle | Casey |
| Lakeland | Gull Lake |
| Maple Grove | Stinnett |
| Oak Grove | |
| Rice Lake | |
| Summer | |



Zielies Tree Service will clear 13 townships in 2014.

Continued to Page 3

Call For Action on Proposed Regulations

Electric cooperatives are asking members to help combat unnecessary new EPA regulations on power plants that would prove detrimental to our mission of supplying cost-effective, reliable energy to members. This would essentially end new coal-fired generation. The proposed rules rely on technology that is not yet developed. If approved, the rules will certainly result in significant cost increases.

Taking action is simple and fast

If you choose to submit a message to the EPA on behalf of this effort, please go to www.action.coop. You will see a box saying Tell EPA America Needs a Commonsense Solution. Simply insert your first and last name, e-mail address, state and co-op, and click send. Thanks for taking action. Please e-mail barronec@barronelectric.com to receive legislative updates regarding the electric industry.



Survey Underway

Touchstone Energy Services has selected Barron Electric Cooperative to participate in a market research study to better understand how different generations and segments of electric cooperative members view their electric provider and how cooperatives can better communicate the value of cooperative membership. A random selection of Barron Electric Cooperative members will be called this month. All telephone survey data collection will be conducted by Bellomy Research. We appreciate your cooperation and assistance in providing better service to our members.



Beverly Buckner Resigns from Barron Electric's Board of Directors

Seeking Nominations for District 7



Beverly Buckner recently resigned from Barron Electric Cooperative's Board of Directors. Beverly, who represented District 7, was elected to the board in 2000. Beverly commented, "I enjoyed working with the employees and Board of Directors at Barron Electric, as well as working together to keep costs down for the members." She added, "My hope is to continue with my community involvement and also help with the Pregnancy Help Center."

For those members interested in serving on the Board of Directors for District 7, information regarding the nomination process is included in the enclosed bill insert. District 7 includes the towns of Stanley and Sumner in Barron County; and the towns of Big Bend, Rusk, Strickland, and Stubbs in Rusk County.

Rebate Helps Towards Purchase of Geothermal Heating System

Barron Electric's Energy Sense Programs offer rebates on energy-efficient lighting, Energy Star appliances, geothermal heating systems, and energy-efficient central air conditioning. Visit barronelectric.com for more information on these programs.



Jennifer and Vance Powers accept a \$900 rebate check from Deidra Meyer (middle), Customer Service Representative at Barron Electric Cooperative.

Creative Talents Lead to Family Business

Woodland Signs offers a variety of products including routed cedar signs, wide format digital printing, banners, signs for vehicles, trailers, and trade show booths, as well as vinyl lettering and hand lettering. Sue Helstern started the business in 1984 in downtown Barronett. Her son, Ron, joined her in the business in 1998 after completing two years of sign design and layout college. Ron later took over the business; and in 2008, he moved the business to their current location just north of Cumberland on Highway 63.

Ron said, “I really enjoy the variety of jobs that I work on for customers. It makes every day exciting.” The business has changed a lot from hand-lettering to digital images. He added, “One of the biggest challenges is keeping up with the changing technology.” Woodland Signs is located at 2697 7th Street, Cumberland. For questions or to schedule an appointment, call 715-822-4189.



Pictured with routed cedar signs they have created, Bonnie and Ron Helstern can help you with your sign needs.



Ron Helstern produced and installed the graphics for Barron Electric's hybrid truck. Barron Electric employee Jill Humphrey created the design.

ROW Clearing

Continued from Page 1

“We appreciate members’ cooperation in making the Right-of-Way Program a success,” commented Sue Dau, Systems Coordinator. The cooperative encourages members to remove abandoned fences, thereby reducing the additional costs associated with hand-clearing. Barron Electric is not responsible for fence repair due to age and normal deterioration.

For concerns about removing trees not cleared by the ROW program that require immediate attention or questions about this program, please contact Barron Electric’s Operations Department at 800-322-1008 or e-mail sdau@barronelectric.com.

Megawatt Community Service Award Process

Barron Electric is rewarding members and their families for community service by awarding a \$50 electric bill credit to the chosen winners on a monthly basis. Nominate a member by completing the application form, available at barronelectric.com in the community area or by contacting the Member Services Department at 800-322-1008.



Scan to visit our website.

Director Notes



Richard Bol represents District 9 on Barron Electric's Board of Directors which includes the following townships:

Chetek, Dallas, Sioux Creek, Dovre, Sampson, and Sand Creek.

Condensed Board Minutes October 30, 2013

- Director Helm gave the treasurer's report, with comments by Manager Sloan. A report of vouchers for the month was printed as part of the board packet as follows: #85346 thru #85534 on First National Bank of Barron was in the amount of \$688,029; capital credit estate checks of \$3,758 and capital credit retirement checks of \$217,444. Director Helm reported on activity of total receipts in the office - \$3,556,651; total receipts by wire, ACH, credit cards - \$1,559,339; disbursements by ACH, EFT, wire - \$3,767,913; transfer of funds was made for payroll - \$169,104; power bill due 10/30/13 - \$1,663,370. A membership list was presented for review and approved.
- Form 219 summarizing construction activity for the past month in the amount of \$187,985.50 was presented for approval, and included new services - \$10,982.03; change jobs - \$31,240.76; miscellaneous - \$145,762.71 and 1 retirement. The Form 219 stood approved as presented.
- Outages year-to-date stand at 87,438 consumer hours off, which is 63.2% above 2012 hours of 32,195. Overtime year-to-date is 2,897.50 hours, which is 15.3% above 2012 hours of 2,455.50.

News FOR YOU...

Barron Electric Cooperative
Dallas Sloan—General Manager
Carrie Baribeau—Editor
cbaribeau@barronelectric.com

Office Hours
7:45 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Monday - Friday

1434 State Highway 25 North
PO Box 40 • Barron, WI 54812
(715) 537-3171
Toll Free: 1-800-322-1008

For Outages Only:
866-258-8722

www.barronelectric.com

Published for the members of Barron Electric. If you have any comments regarding the newsletter, please e-mail cbaribeau@barronelectric.com



Larry Greener Wins Megawatt Community Service Award



Meet January's Megawatt Community Service Award winner. Larry has been a member of the Barron Kiwanis Club since 1983, where he has served as President, Lieutenant Governor for Division 21, and currently serves as secretary. The club built Kiwanis Park, which includes a concession stand and indoor facilities. The 53-member club has several fundraisers throughout the year including the Christmas Tree Fundraiser. Larry, along with two other club members, help grow trees for this event.

Larry founded Greener's Budget Lumber in 1977. He has also been involved with Barron Chamber, Barron Community Fund, and Barron Economic Development Board. Larry said, "I enjoy helping in the community." He also commented, "We are excited to offer Music in the Park (Anderson Park-Barron) on the 3rd Tuesday of the month from May through August."



Cook's Corner



Stuffed Mushrooms Patricia Jump

- 12 large, fresh mushrooms
- 2 Tablespoons butter
- ½ medium onion (chopped)
- 2 ounces pepperoni or sausage
- ¼ cup green pepper (chopped)
- Dash pepper
- Clove of garlic (crushed)
- ½ cup Ritz crackers (crushed)
- 3 Tablespoons Parmesan cheese
- 1 Tablespoon parsley
- ¼ teaspoon oregano
- ½ cup chicken broth

Wash mushrooms. Separate stems and chop them up. Sauté onions, pepperoni, green pepper, garlic and stems. Remove from heat and add remaining ingredients. Stuff mushrooms and bake in pan 30 – 45 minutes with ¼ inch of water.

Each recipe winner will receive a Farm Technology Days cookbook. Please e-mail your recipe to barronec@barronelectric.com or send your recipes to:

Barron Electric Cooperative, PO Box 40, Barron WI 54812
Attn: Carrie