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# WISCONSIN ENERGY *Cooperative* NEWS

November 2023

TAYLOR ELECTRIC  
*Cooperative*



Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

## PIES WITH CO-OP TIES

**A WINNING STRATEGY**

**HOW TO INSULATE YOUR ATTIC HATCH**

**KIDS AND CRITTERS**



# YOUTH BALLFIELD GETS A FACELIFT ON COOPERATIVE DAY OF SERVICE



Kenneth Ceaglske, President/CEO

October was celebrated as Cooperative Month across the nation. Locally, we thanked our members for

participating in the cooperative with the Member Appreciation Breakfast (see page 16) and by paying out the capital credits that were retired this year.

Taylor Electric Cooperative, along with Jump River Electric Cooperative, also participated in the first of a multi-year plan by Dairyland Power Cooperative to give back to the communities we serve by helping to rebuild a ballfield in Tony. The Cooperative Day of Service event brought 17 volunteers from the three co-ops together for a day filled with demolition and reconstruction. TEC was represented by CEO Kenny Ceaglske, Board Chair Brian Hallgren,

and Director Dave Makovsky.

The old and dilapidated outfield fence, baseline fences, bleacher seats and dugout benches were removed, and preparations were made to install new materials. The uprights of the backstop were retained but had new fencing stretched across them. By the end of the



L-R: Board Chair Brian Hallgren, Director Dave Makovsky, and CEO Kenny Ceaglske.

day, the area was looking much better.

Projects like these are some of the little things that make life better in small communities. This ballfield doesn't get the attention of the big ballfield in town, but it is where the younger kids get to try out T-ball and early-level sports and enjoy the occasional neighborhood game. The improvements should make the ballfield a great place for kids for years to come.

As a cooperative, we abide by seven core principles—Commitment to Community and Cooperation Among Cooperatives are two of them—and the project up in Tony reflects both. As a starting point, the first-year projects were chosen near Dairyland facilities. In subsequent years, projects will alternate through the Dairyland member cooperative service areas. If you know of a suitable community project in the Taylor Electric Cooperative service area, please contact me at the office.



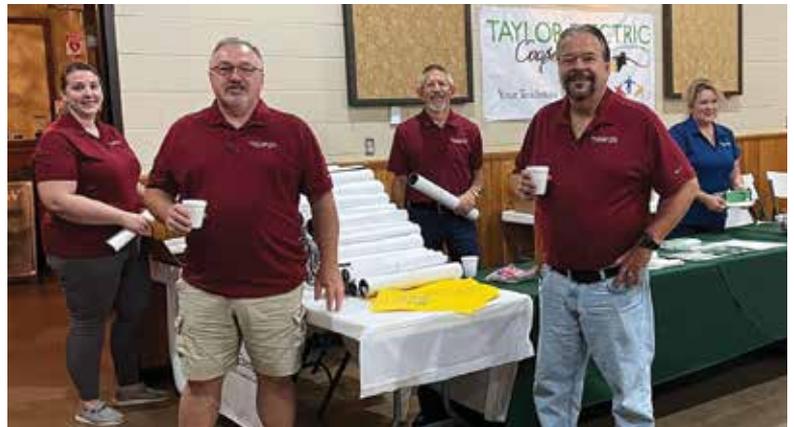
Above: Representatives from three cooperatives gave the youth ballfield in Tony some much-needed improvements for the first Cooperative Day of Service. Right: Taylor Electric's crew prepare to put up new chainlink. Below left: The ballfield before improvements. Below center and right: The field and bleacher area after improvements.



# THANKS FOR CELEBRATING CO-OP MONTH WITH US!

**A**round 250 members gathered for breakfast on Tuesday, October 3, to help us kick-off October Co-op Month at the Centennial Community Center in Stetsonville. Members were treated to a warm breakfast and had a chance to win a prize by testing their knowledge on the

Wheel of Fortune game. The lucky winners of \$30 electric bill credits were: Donna Butkus, Joe Daniels, Jean Goodnoe, Laura Lundy, and Cam Scott. Mike Johnson was the winner of a \$50 bill credit for submitting his email address. Thanks to everyone who spent their morning with us!



Top row: Director Lisa Kohn explains Focus on Energy's Energy Awareness Month Sweepstakes; TEC Directors (front row, l to r) Cheri Klussendorf, Dave Makovsky, Don Everhard and (back row l to r) Paul Woods and Lisa Kohn.

Middle row: It was a beautiful fall day for members to enjoy visiting with friends.

Bottom row, left to right: TEC linemen stopped by to enjoy breakfast; Sec/Treasurer Cheri Klussendorf tests a member's knowledge on the Wheel of Fortune.



## PLAN NOW FOR HOLIDAY SAVINGS

The holiday season is just around the corner and soon, festive music will flood the airwaves, sparkling lights and decorations will adorn homes and businesses, and good tidings will abound.

The holidays also bring a frenzy of decorating, cooking, and family gatherings, and amid the hectic hustle and bustle, you may receive higher-than-usual energy bills. Now is a good time to prepare.

### Lighting Up Savings

Winter months typically bring some of the highest energy bills of the year. Making minor, low-cost improvements, like weatherstripping exterior doors and caulking around old, drafty windows, can make a positive impact on energy bills.

LED holiday lights use 88% less energy than incandescent holiday lights. To put that into perspective, the Department of Energy estimates that with standard holiday decorations, LED lights typically increase energy bills by

about \$5 to \$7. But with incandescent lights, energy bills will typically increase by \$33 or more. For homes that go above and beyond with incandescent holiday lighting (think Clark Griswold), energy bills could increase by as much as \$350. Beyond energy savings, LEDs provide additional benefits, such as being shock-resistant, shatterproof, and cool to the touch, making them safer for the home.

You can also lower energy use by conveniently managing holiday lighting. Smart light timers can help you save by connecting to a smart phone app or voice assistant to program lights to turn on and off at set times. If you don't use smart home technology, you can still save energy by using traditional timers.

Additional easy ways to save during the holiday season include turning off overhead lights and using your Christmas tree to illuminate your home. If you have a fireplace, remember to close the flue when you're not burning a fire to ensure heat doesn't escape through the chimney.

### Serving Up Savings

If you plan to have family and friends over this holiday season, you can cook up energy savings by using small countertop appliances like microwaves, air fryers, and slow cookers when possible, as they use much less energy than the stovetop or oven.

When using the oven, bake multiple dishes at once for maximum efficiency. After all, it takes as much energy to cook one dish as it does to cook several. Turn the oven off a few minutes before the recipe's end time and allow the residual heat to finish baking the dish. Once the food is done, leave the stove door ajar to allow the residual heat to warm the room. When using the stove top, match the pan size to the burner to maximize the stove top's efficiency.

With a little planning upfront, you can find efficient ways to save on everything from holiday décor to your favorite soup recipes.

Your friends at Taylor Electric hope you have a wonderful holiday season.



## LOAD CONTROL SYSTEM TEST SET FOR NOVEMBER 15

The winter test for Interruptible Heat (Dual Fuel) members is scheduled for Wednesday November 15. This test is designed to provide you with the opportunity to observe your control device, ensure that the indicator lights on your load-control receiver function properly, and check that your heating system and/or backup heating system is working properly before winter sets in.

Residential interruptible heat load classes will be controlled as follows:

### Control Start

All Interruptible Heat load classes will begin at 7 a.m.

### Restoral

All loads will be restored by noon.

If you notice any problems with the load-management receiver during this test, please contact the cooperative, 715-678-2411. If you find that your heating system does not work as it should, contact your electrician or heating service representative.

## DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS NOVEMBER 5



Remember to turn your clocks back one hour. This is also a good time to change the batteries in your smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors.

# GIVE SAFETY A SHOT

## WHEN PREPARING FOR HUNTING

Hunters have their sights on wild game when preparing for hunting season. A few moments devoted to safety can help prevent an accident with utility equipment. Safe Electricity urges hunters to take precautions and be aware of potential electrical hazards while hunting.

- Before leaving for a hunting trip, make sure you have safety items to signal for help in case of an emergency. Always carry emergency supplies, including a cell phone, whistle, and flashlight, in the event of an accident.
- Note the location of power lines and other electrical equipment before you begin a hunt. Be especially careful and observant in wooded areas where power lines are easy to overlook.
- Obey all signs or postings that advise electrical safety, especially when selecting the location for a tree stand. Tree stands are the leading cause for hunting injuries. If you are using a tree stand, make sure you read the manufacturer's instructions and inspect the stand for wear before use.
- Never use power poles to support a tree stand. Look for an ideal tree for your stand, one that is sturdy and alive. While going up to the stand, keep at least three points of contact while you climb.
- Never shoot nearby power lines or other electrical equipment. A single shot can cause vast damage to the electrical system. Damage to electrical equipment can result in power interruptions and physical risks to those nearby.
- If you are using a portable electrical generator on your hunting trip, make sure that you do not run it in a confined area. Do not use it inside a cabin or RV. Make sure that it is used outside where there is plenty of ventilation.

### Kenneth Ceaglske, President/CEO

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