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WISCONSIN ENERGY *Cooperative* December 2020 NEWS

STATELY HONOR FOR CO-OP WREATH CRAFTERS



TAYLOR ELECTRIC
Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner



2020 HAD MANY BRIGHT SPOTS IN SPITE OF ALL THE CHALLENGES



By Kenneth Ceaglske,
President/CEO

We are closing in on the end of the year, hopefully this brings time with family and friends, as much as we can with the restrictions in place. To say this year has come with challenges would be an understatement in a big way. I would like to reflect on some of the more positive aspects of where we have been this year. Even though COVID hit early in the year, we were able to get creative and pull together with the membership to successfully hold the first outdoor drive in style annual meeting in June with near record attendance.

Our crews continue to test and replace rotten poles, and repair and replace aging underground. The crews that do our pole and underground equipment inspections continue as we try to maintain a safe and reliable system to serve you.

Our right-of-way contractors have also been busy cutting, mowing, and treating the areas under and around the lines to minimize any problems with vegetation.

We dealt with closing the office to general traffic but have enough systems in place that we were still able to get bills out and take in payments through the drop boxes and online systems. If there was a true need to visit with someone here in the office, we still could work with those members. It has been very strange not seeing near as many members in the office as we used to. This system will stay in place for as long as we need to limit exposure.

We had a couple of bumpy days as TEC staff dealt with COVID exposure and quarantine but fortunately the bumps were small and manageable.

Recently in November we lost Dean Tesch, board chairman, when he passed away. With that we lost almost 15 years of experience on the TEC board, plus his experience with CFC, Dairyland, and the life experience that he brought with him.

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He will be missed. We will have updates over the next couple months on finding a replacement for his seat on the board. We have a broad range of board members remaining, and a good selection of folks who have expressed interest in joining the board.

There is certainly a sense of resilience in rural America that I have always appreciated. We have many great days with occasional bumps in the road, but none of them are insurmountable. We just work together as neighbors and look for the best outcome. This year has supported that idea and not let me down.

While our crews are typically dressed in Hi-Vis yellow, and none have snowy white beards, should your house and twinkling lights go dark on Christmas Eve, give us a call and you can be assured of a visit from one of them in their white sleigh to restore the gift of light. Milk and cookies left by the meter are always welcome.

Merry Christmas and hopes for a happy New Year.

24th Annual *Christmas Wish Program*

During the holiday season, thoughts often turn to those who need their spirits lifted. For the 24th year, WIGM 1490 AM, WKEB 99.3 FM, Taylor Electric Cooperative, along with Touchstone Energy and area cooperatives are sponsoring the Christmas Wish Program. In following with the cooperative principle "Concern for Community," the contributors to Christmas Wish have undertaken a mission to bring holiday cheer into the lives of those around us.

In 2019, we granted wishes that helped bring a little joy to children in our community who were battling serious illnesses, friends and neighbors who had lost loved ones over the previous year, and community members with disabilities who needed a little help meeting their needs. And there were more—nearly 150 families were touched by the Christmas Wish program!

Sponsors The 24th annual Christmas Wish Program is brought to you by area Touchstone Energy Cooperatives, including Dairyland Power Cooperative, Taylor Electric Cooperative, Clark Electric Cooperative, Price Electric Cooperative, and Jump River Electric Cooperative. Also sponsoring are the Taylor County Association of Cooperatives, People's Choice Credit Union, Co-op Transport,

River Country Co-op, Ag Country Farm Credit, Taylor Credit Union, The Medford Cooperative, Lakewood Credit Union, United Mutual Insurance, WIGM 1490 AM and WKEB 99.3 FM Radio, RCU, and Medford County Market.

Requests for wishes Wish requests for area residents may be directed to WIGM/WKEB Radio; P.O. Box 59, Medford, WI 54451; phone, (715) 748-2566; fax, (715) 748-2752; or via the radio station's website, www.k99wigm.com. Please include your name, address, and phone number as well as the name, address, and phone number of the individual you are making a wish for and the wish you would like granted. **Requests are being taken now until December 14, 2020.**



FOUR WAYS SANTA SAVES ENERGY IN HIS WORKSHOP

The holiday season is finally upon us, and Santa and his elves have been especially busy as they gear up for their biggest night of the year. It's no secret that Santa is known for running an efficient workshop—how else could he make all those toys in time for Christmas Eve? Rumor has it that one way Santa ensures an efficient workspace is through energy-saving measures.

1 Santa leaves his decorations up year-round, so by using LED holiday light strands, he's able to save on his monthly energy bills. LED holiday strands can last up to 40 seasons, which make them a great option for any festive home.

2 Santa requires several power tools to make a year's worth of new toys. That's why he insists on using cordless power tools with the ENERGY STAR® rating. According to energystar.gov, if all power tools in the United States used ENERGY STAR®-rated battery chargers, 2 billion kWh hours of electricity could be saved—that's equivalent to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 1.7 million tons!

3 Mrs. Claus loves to keep warm by the fire in the evenings, and Santa knows one of the best tricks to ensure fireplace efficiency. While a fireplace can keep a small area of your home cozy and warm, it can also pull heated air from the room through the chimney. That's why Santa always closes the fireplace flue when a fire isn't burning.

4 Santa also saves energy by using power strips. Power strips are ideal for workshops, craft nooks, game rooms and other spaces in your home. With one simple switch, you can conveniently control several devices and electronics that are plugged into the power strip.



This holiday season, let's take a page from Santa's book and remember to save energy when possible. With these four tips, you'll be well on your way to savings (and hopefully, Santa's "nice" list!).

**HEY
KIDS!**

Decorate this picture for a chance to win a prize!

Please bring your completed picture in person and receive a treat. **A drawing of all entries will be held on Friday, December 18, 2020.** Pictures will be displayed at the co-op office. Age groups include: 1–3 years, 4–6 years, 7–9 years, and 10–12 years. All participants' parents must be current members of Taylor Electric.

HOLIDAY SAFETY

with Safety Sadie



Make sure your pets have a safe holiday, too. Watch them around light strands, cords, and bulbs to make sure they don't chew on them.

**Safe
Electricity.org®**

Name _____ Age _____

Parents' Names _____ Acct. No. _____

All employees' and directors' families are ineligible.



IN MEMORY OF DEAN TESCH

On October 31, 2020, Taylor Electric Cooperative's Board President, Dean Tesch, passed away after a long, courageous battle with cancer. Dean displayed a tremendous amount of dedication during his illness to ensure that his duties as board president were never compromised. Dean served on the board from 2006 until his death. In addition to serving the members of Taylor Electric as president, he was also the president of the cooperative's national financial institution, National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation, Dulles, VA. Dean's commitment to the cooperative platform was second to none and his knowledge irreplaceable. He will be greatly missed by the board and staff of the cooperative. We offer our deepest sympathy to his wife, Deb, and his beloved Shelties.

LAST CHANCE

to take advantage of Focus on Energy's refrigerator recycling program

Focus on Energy will be discontinuing its refrigerator recycling program after January 22, 2021, which will be the last day for pick-ups.

This change indicates that initiatives promoting the need to safely recycle old, inefficient appliances have been successful. Participation has declined partially because there are fewer and fewer older refrigerators and freezers still remaining in households.

The last day you can schedule a pickup of your old refrigerator or freezer is December 15, 2020, with January 22, 2021, as the last day for pick-ups. Please keep in mind that due to Covid-19 restrictions, pickups are limited to outdoors only; Focus on Energy staff cannot enter homes to retrieve appliances.



PRICE CUT!
ONLY \$755
PER UNIT!

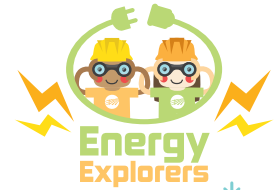
BRIGHT HORIZONS

The Affordable Solar Option

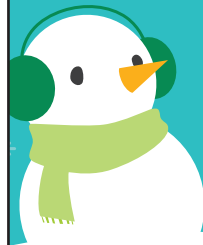
Call us today at 715-678-2411 and become part of the area's only community solar garden! Start the new year right with a resolution to save money and help the earth!

WINTER WONDERLAND WORD SEARCH

Can you find all the words associated with winter in the puzzle below? Use the word bank to check your work.



E	M	C	C	G	H	S	L	B	N	F	L	L	B	L
P	K	E	A	R	M	U	F	F	S	L	R	L	K	L
P	B	A	V	I	S	I	I	E	A	X	A	A	K	L
X	W	E	L	H	S	E	T	B	W	N	D	I	C	U
P	B	C	N	F	G	O	W	T	K	I	I	C	B	S
N	L	A	F	Y	W	O	Q	E	E	Z	G	I	C	R
R	C	L	C	E	N	O	T	Y	G	N	E	C	V	U
L	O	P	C	S	X	M	N	I	D	Y	S	L	I	H
W	A	E	H	D	N	S	M	S	A	Z	C	E	B	R
Z	I	R	Y	L	L	I	H	C	O	U	J	S	K	W
C	X	I	R	Q	H	C	Z	L	C	A	X	W	W	L
P	H	F	O	Y	V	S	I	W	O	H	O	C	S	M
B	P	I	P	C	O	O	Y	J	C	D	A	J	Y	L
I	Z	W	Q	F	H	E	V	F	M	D	S	P	S	P
Y	F	E	U	H	Z	V	D	N	L	W	R	B	Q	F



WINTER ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP:

Instead of turning up the heat in your home, wear an extra layer of clothing or get cozy under your favorite blanket!

WORD BANK:

- snowflake
- mittens
- scarf
- snowball
- chilly
- icicles
- cocoa
- earmuffs
- fireplace
- blanket

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