

RECIPES

NO-TILL GARDENS

SYMBOL SEARCH

Since 1940

WISCONSIN ENERGY *Cooperative*

March 2021

NEWS

TREK ACROSS ICE AGE TRAIL

TAYLOR ELECTRIC
Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy Partner





ANNUAL MEETING PREPARATIONS HAVE BEGUN

By Kenneth Ceaglske, President/CEO

It is hard to believe that it is time to start talking about the upcoming annual meeting and the associated elections. Due to the magazine deadline, I am writing this with the coldest weekend of the year coming up, hoping the evening of the annual meeting is about 100 degrees warmer! The annual meeting is on the schedule for June 29, 2021, at the Stetsonville Centennial Center. With the pandemic still active and any potential restrictions that are on the horizon yet to be seen, we do not know whether it will be indoors or out. In any case, I look forward to the opportunity to meet more members at the meeting.

As we look to the annual meeting, this is the time to start thinking about running for a seat on the board. We have one incumbent and one newly appointed director who are running again, and we have one open seat that that we are looking for a candidate to fill. This is a great opportunity for someone who has an interest in serving their community by being involved in the governance of the cooperative. If you are interested, I encourage you to visit with the existing directors—Brian, Chuck, Pat, JoAnn, Don, or Cheri—to get their perspective on what is involved in the job, and I also encourage you to get

your name in to one of the nominating committee members, Dave, Don, or Russ. You can find their contact information below. You can also contact me here at the office; I would be glad to visit with you about the opportunity.

It is looking like we will be considering a few bylaw amendments involving the election process to open the door to the possibility of mail-in ballots for elections and bylaw changes, and farther out in the future, electronic voting. Both methods are in use at many other cooperatives in the state and across the nation with good results in making the cooperative more accessible to members who can not make it to the annual meeting. Cooperatives are still one of the greatest examples of local control, but that can only happen with the involvement of the local membership. These changes look to keep the cooperative positioned well to accommodate the changing lives of our members.

Look to the upcoming months' magazines for more details on the proposed amendments. I would encourage you to contact me or one of the directors if you have any questions as the process moves along. Depending on the timing of any questions, I will try to post any through this area of the magazine, or in the *Taylor Report* that is included with your bill.

INTERESTED IN SERVING ON THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS?

Candidate nomination papers due April 1

Taylor Electric Cooperative's 85th annual meeting will be held at the Stetsonville Centennial Center in Stetsonville on Tuesday, June 29 (inside or outside to be determined). One of the most important duties of the members at this meeting will be to elect members to fill three seats on the board of directors. The bylaw provision for nominating a member to serve on the board is as follows:

(Article V) Section 3. Nomination and Election of Directors. It shall be the duty of the Board of Directors to appoint a nominating committee in time to allow the committee to meet at least forty-five (45) days before the date of the annual meeting of the members, at which directors are to be elected. The nominating committee shall consist of three members. The committee chairman shall present the committee's nominations at the annual meeting.

Nominations may also be made by petition signed by not less than 25 members delivered to the Cooperative's headquarters not less than 7 days prior to the annual meeting. Election shall be by majority vote for each director position. In the event no candidate receives a majority of the

votes cast for a position, the candidate receiving the fewest votes shall be dropped from nomination on each successive ballot until one candidate receives a majority of the votes cast.

The board has appointed the following to serve on the Nominating Committee for the 2021 annual meeting:

David Maurer 715-748-5861

Russ Bedroske 715-654-5531

Don Purvis 715-748-5177

Please contact any of these Nominating Committee members by April 1 if you are interested in being nominated for a seat on the board.

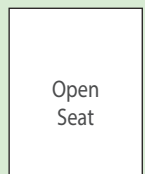
At the 2021 annual meeting, there will be elections for three board seats. Brian Hallgren holds one seat and will be completing his second term and is eligible for re-election. Cheri Klussendorf was recently appointed to fill the seat vacated by Jeff Albers; according to the bylaws, she is up for re-election at the annual meeting following her appointment. The third seat was held by Dean



Brian Hallgren



Cheri Klussendorf



Tesch until he passed away in October, and this would have been his natural term limit. Directors are allowed to serve up to five three-year terms.

To be on the ballot for election to the board, a member needs to be nominated by the Nominating Committee, or be nominated by petition, which involves getting signatures of not less than 25 members and delivering that nomination petition to the co-op not less than seven days prior to the annual meeting (by June 22, 2021, for the upcoming annual meeting.)

Looking to the future, directors serving their last term are JoAnn Smith (term expires 2022) and Patricia Waldhart (term expires 2023)



THREE **ELECTRIFYING** KITCHEN APPLIANCES TO SAVE TIME AND ENERGY

Whether your oven and stove top are powered by gas or electricity, it's no secret that they consume more energy than smaller countertop appliances, like slow cookers and toaster ovens. In addition to efficiency, smaller kitchen appliances can provide faster cooking times and less hassle with cleanup. If you're looking for convenient cooking methods with the added bonus of energy efficiency, here are three electrifying appliances for your kitchen:



Air fryers circulate hot air (convection) to cook the food. This means little to no oil is required, resulting in healthier meals than those from traditional fryers.

(Photo courtesy of Hamilton Beach)

Air fryers are becoming increasingly popular, and consumers have a lot of good things to say about these handy little appliances. Air fryers use convection to circulate hot air and cook the food—this means little to no oil is required, resulting in healthier meals than those from traditional fryers. Air fryers are fairly small, so they won't take up much of your counter space, and with everything cooked in the fryer, cleanup will be a breeze. Air fryers are available in a variety of sizes, and prices range from \$40 to \$200+.

Electric griddles have certainly been around for a while, and they offer several benefits for any home chef (beyond bacon and eggs!). Griddles are convenient because you can cook everything at once—like a “one-pan” meal, and the possibilities are endless. From fajitas to sandwiches to French toast, griddles can help satisfy any taste buds. They consume small amounts of energy and provide quick cooking times, so your energy bill will thank you. Prices and sizes for griddles vary, but you can typically find one for about \$30 at your local retail stores.

Electric griddles consume small amounts of energy and provide quick cooking times, so your energy bill will thank you.

(Photo courtesy of Hamilton Beach)



Pizza makers are compact and inexpensive, and they use less energy than your traditional oven.

(Photo courtesy of Hamilton Beach)



Pizza brings people together, so why not consider a **pizza maker** for your kitchen? These compact, countertop machines are an inexpensive alternative to a costly brick oven, and they use less energy than your traditional oven. Choose your own fresh ingredients to whip up a faster, healthier pizza at home. Plus, most pizza makers are multifunctional and can be used to cook flatbreads, frittatas, quesadillas, and more. You can purchase a pizza maker for about \$30 to \$150+ online or at your local retailer.

These are just a few electrifying appliance options for your kitchen. Remember, when you're cooking a smaller meal, countertop appliances can save time and energy.

To learn about additional ways to save energy at home, visit www.taylorelectric.org.

STAY SAFE BY CALLING 811 BEFORE YOU DIG

If any of the spring projects you're planning involve digging, make sure you know what to do to keep yourself safe from accidental contact with underground utility lines.

The first step in safe digging is to call 811 before starting any digging project. 811 is the national "Call Before You Dig" phone number. It was created to help prevent people from coming into contact with underground utility lines during digging projects.

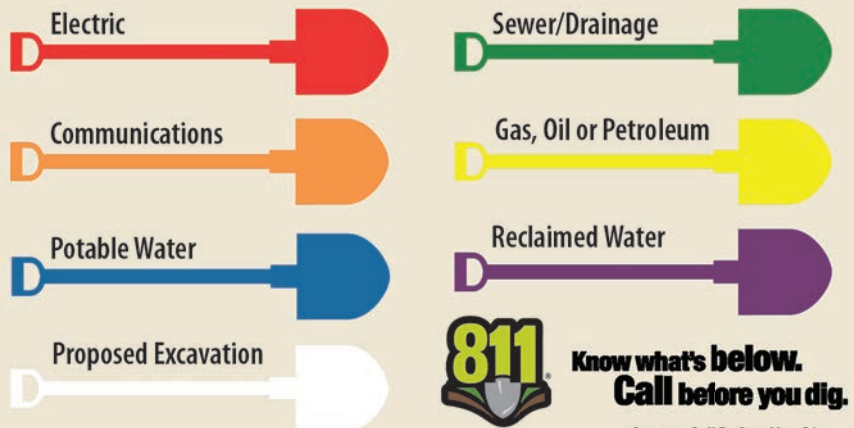
Always call 811 a few days before a digging project. It takes a few business days for a professional to come mark your utilities with flags and/or spray paint.

When you call, the operator will ask where you plan to dig and what type of work you will be doing. A professional will then come to your digging location to mark the areas where public utility lines are buried, free of charge.

Electricity is not the only utility that can be located underground. Gas, water, sewer, communications, and telephone lines can also be buried beneath the earth. When located, the various utilities are marked with the following colors:

- Red – Electric
- Orange – Communications, Telephone/CATV

Call 811 before you dig to mark underground utilities



- Blue – Potable Water
- Green – Sewer/Drainage
- Yellow – Gas/Petroleum Pipe Line
- Purple – Reclaimed Water
- White – Pre-mark site where digging/excavation is planned

Even if you already called 811 to have utilities located for a previous project, it is best to call before every digging project. Underground utilities can shift, and it is important to be certain of where they are before ever putting a shovel in the ground.

No project is too small or task too menial for you to take the proper precautions before a digging project.

Remember, other people and businesses may also rely on these utilities buried in the yard.

When you begin your project, always respect the utility markings, and dig with care.

In Case of Contact

If you accidentally come in contact with an underground utility while you're digging, do not bury the problem. Your first priority should be evacuating the area for safety.

It can be difficult to locate exactly where a problem is after the damage occurred and was buried. Damage to some underground utilities can cause dangers

and inconveniences miles away from the actual site of the damage.

Small nicks in underground wires can be expensive, but necessary, to fix. If you nick an underground utility, notify your utility provider. Do not attempt to fix the problem yourself.

Private Utilities

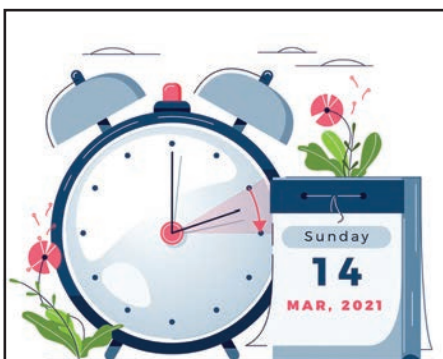
811 locators do not locate privately installed facilities. To find those, you will need to hire a private locator. Some examples of private facilities are:

- Gas piping to a garage or outbuilding
- Private water systems
- Underground sprinkler systems
- Customer-owned electric lines
- Invisible fences

Data Communication Systems

If you do not know what facilities are on the property, look for clues to tell you what might be underground, such as a propane storage tank, gas meters, a detached garage or outbuilding with lights, manhole lids, storm drains, and pavement patches.

If you have called 811 to have facilities located but suspect that there are additional buried facilities where you need to dig, do not put a shovel in the ground until you get a private contractor to locate the lines.



Daylight Saving Time Begins March 14

Don't forget to turn your clocks ahead one hour



**WE'LL HELP
YOU PAY
FOR YOUR
EDUCATION**

Apply for scholarships by April 2

Taylor Electric Cooperative is awarding six \$500 scholarships to graduating high school seniors. Funding for the scholarship program comes from unclaimed capital credits.

Students living in households that receive their electric service from Taylor Electric and who will be graduating from high school in 2021 are eligible.

Final selection for the scholarship recipients will be made by the board of directors, with the cooperation of those schools involved.

If you are interested, please complete the accompanying request form and return it to our office by April 2, 2021.

NOTE: The funds for these scholarships are derived from unclaimed capital credit refunds. Chapter 185 of the Wisconsin Statutes provides that unclaimed refunds may be used for educational and charitable purposes. Otherwise, they become unclaimed property and must be paid to the State of Wisconsin as such.

Taylor Electric College Scholarship Application Request

Name

Name on Electric Account

Address

Phone No.

TEC Account No.

High School (or indicate if home-schooled)

Return to Taylor Electric Cooperative, N1831 State Highway 13, Medford, WI 54451

Kenneth Ceaglske, President/CEO

N1831 State Highway 13, Medford, WI 54451

715-678-2411 • 800-862-2407

email: taylrec@tayloelectric.org

website: www.tayloelectric.org

Lainie Kellnhofer, Editor



Your Touchstone Energy® Partner

