



# CURRENT CONNECTION

CROW WING POWER NEWS • DECEMBER 2021 • VOLUME 73, NUMBER 12

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative The power of human connections

## New EV Charging Station Installed at Crosslake Community School >>>

Electric Vehicles (EVs) can now get a complimentary charge in downtown Crosslake. In partnership with The LAKE Foundation, Crow Wing Power installed two level-2 Clipper Creek EV chargers at the north side of the Crosslake Community Charter School parking lot in early November.

These Level-2, Clipper Creek EV chargers can add up to 37 miles of range per hour of charging, depending upon the make of the vehicle. This free-of-charge station is capable of charging a variety of electric and hybrid vehicles (some vehicles may need adapters to plug in). After discussing this project with Cindy Myogeto, Crosslake Chamber Director, she stated, "This is a win-win for anyone traveling to Crosslake with an EV." The Crosslake Community School is located on the highly visible County Road 66, with close proximity to the US Army Corps of Engineers Recreation Area, downtown retail businesses, and restaurants.

The LAKE Foundation was the perfect partner for this charger location, with property centrally located in the heart of Crosslake. The LAKE Foundation is a 501(c)(3) and is truly a one of a kind organization, which was specifically formed to build and maintain a facility to lease to the Crosslake Community School. All of the revenue from the state's lease aid goes back into the school and the community.

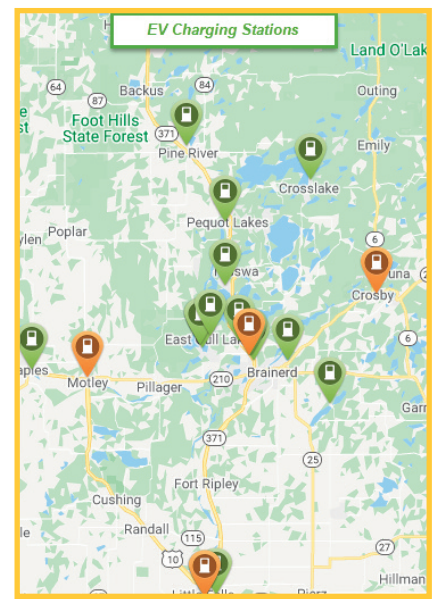
"Partnering with organizations like Crow Wing Power really fits into our mission," stated Mike O'Connell, charter board member of the foundation. He continued to say, "When the opportunity to provide an EV charger was brought to the table, it just made sense. It is our focus to be environmentally conscious and this is just one way to get that done. We are happy to provide this free-of-charge service to residents and guests of the Crosslake Community."



The Crosslake Community School moved into their state-of-the-art facility in 2018. The school has since been at full enrollment and growing. If you would like to learn more about the Crosslake Community School, visit their website at [crosslakekids.org](http://crosslakekids.org). The LAKE Foundation is always looking for community partners, donors, and volunteers to help support their mission. Contact Mike O'Connell at [mike@lgkwpro.com](mailto:mike@lgkwpro.com).

Through grant funding and partnerships, Crow Wing Power looks to expand EV charging availability throughout our service area. Plans are underway to install EV Level 2 chargers in Crow Wing State Park and the City of Longville.

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>> Pluginamerica.org has a map of EV charging stations. Scroll down to "Where can I charge my vehicle?"

### 2022 Calendars Available

If you would like a beautiful wall calendar you can pick one up in our lobby or the drive through at our main headquarters on Hwy 371. Or, if you want one sent by mail, we offer one per household while supplies last and \$2.00 per additional mailed calendar.

>> Pictured: Luke Christiansen, Crow Wing Power; LAKE Foundation Board members: Christine Sesin, John Sesin, Jenny Max, Richard Eide, Mike O'Connell, Mike Stone. Not pictured: Leah Heggerston, Annette Alang, CCS Prayers to the family of Christine Sesin who passed away unexpectedly one week after this photo was taken.





# A WORD FROM YOUR CEO

## Electric Utilities are Not Spared from Supply Shortages >>>

America seems to be running out of everything.

Supply-chain bottlenecks have caused record shortages of everyday products from household goods and electronics to cars, food, and raw materials. So I asked our Purchasing Manager, Scott Bowers, how we're doing on supplies of essential equipment.

He said we have adequate supplies, however what he customarily ordered six to eight weeks in advance, now is closer to 35 to 40 weeks and some equipment like substation transformers are over 100 weeks out.

We get our materials from various places and strive to buy U.S. made whenever possible. Transformers come from Laurel, Mississippi. The poles we buy are harvested from US western-grown trees, but they are shipped and processed in New Brighton, Minnesota and Cameron, Wisconsin. Our hardware (nuts, bolts, anchors, etc.) comes from overseas. We order Westinghouse water heaters from New Bedford, Massachusetts. Overhead wire (power lines) comes from DeKalb, Illinois and Mississauga, Ontario, while the underground cable is shipped from Orangeburg, South Carolina.

We hear the pandemic is mostly to blame for it, but other factors like droughts, fires, hurricanes and the major winter power outages in the south have also contributed to delays.

Changes in the electric utility industry also disrupt the normal demand for certain materials.

Because of wild fires in California, Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) is moving 10,000 miles of overhead poles and wires to underground cable. Underground cable is extremely expensive and normally only accounts for a quarter of the power lines in the U.S. The project will cost PG&E \$15 to \$30 billion, according to reports.

We, like many cooperatives, have to replace some of our aging underground cable every year and projects like this will have an impact on supply.

As more solar and wind farms are built, the need for extended power lines and infrastructure to move the electricity to where it's needed also takes additional materials.

We have a lot of key employees at Crow Wing Power that do their jobs exceptionally well and make the whole operation run smoothly. The purchasing and facilities department is no exception – they run a tight ship and stay on top of our needs so that our members can continue to receive safe, reliable energy.

I'll keep you informed,

Bruce L. Kraemer, CEO

## Board Meeting Highlights

Crow Wing Power's Board of Directors conducted its regular monthly meeting Thursday, October 21, 2021. A quorum of directors was present.

President Bob Kangas opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

The following reports were given:

- CEO report
- Finance Committee report
- Service Reliability Presentation

The following actions were taken:

The Board approved:

- October Consent Agenda
- Accept and approve filing of Form 990 and 990T.
- Inviting Survey & Ballot Systems for informational presentation.
- Minutes of the September 16, 2021 regular board meeting
- Director expense reports for September 2021

Members can review detailed minutes by logging into their SmartHub account. Login is located on the homepage of our website.



## Winter Wonderland Lights Up Spirits >>>



The Holiday spirit is in full swing at the Northland Arboretum. At the 'Arb', it's the annual Sertoma Winter Wonderland, a drive-through tour of more than 80 colorful animated displays. The

Brainerd Sertoma Club started the Winter Wonderland project

15 years ago and it's been a spectacular Holiday tradition for families ever since.

The displays will be lit and the tour manned with volunteers Wednesdays through Saturdays from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. every week and it will be open every evening from December 22 – 31.

The project now has four non-profit organizations that volunteer their time to set up the displays and man the evening tours. The Northland Arboretum, Mid-Minnesota Women's Shelter, Camp Confidence and the Crisis Line provide volunteers and in turn receive some of the profits.

General Admission at the gate with cash or check only is \$20 per vehicle and \$25 for small buses and limos.

Advanced tickets for \$10 are available from Cub Foods in Baxter and Brainerd, Super Valu in Pequot Lakes and the Northland Arboretum.

The displays are supported by business organizations like Crow Wing Power. Look for the large LED colorful tunnel Crow Wing Power sponsors. We're proud to be part of businesses committed to community. Follow Crow Wing Power's Facebook page for ways to win tickets.



## Operation Round-Up® Joins Community-Wide Effort to Bring Nightly Shelter to Those in Need >>>

The Crow Wing Power Community Trust Board met in special session on October 20 to hear a proposal from Bridges of Hope for a shelter project for adults that don't have a warm place to sleep. At the end of the presentation the Trust Board voted to provide a \$15,000 Operation Round Up® grant to help support the project.

It was not long after that meeting community awareness was raised about the need for a homeless shelter. Within three weeks, the project had exceeded its goal to raise \$275,000 for the first year of operation. Community support was overwhelming.

The new shelter, at 1919 S Sixth Street, will offer a warm place to sleep for 12 hours. Plans are for the shelter to be open from 8 p.m. to 8 a.m. and provide adult clients with a cot, a pillow, a blanket and a locker for their personal things. It would have cots for 20 adults.

The shelter will be supervised at all times by trained staff members who can recognize needs and direct clients to appropriate community resources if desired.

Retired Baxter Police Officer Ann Hunnicutt is the shelter director and in addition to her law enforcement background she brings years of experience in the military, education and in working with the foster care system, along with a degree in social work.

Other community partners committed to the project include the Baxter Police Department, Brainerd Police and Fire Departments, Brainerd Area Coalition on Homelessness, Brainerd Housing and Redevelopment Authority, Brainerd Lakes Area Community Foundation, Crow Wing County Sheriff's Office, Lutheran Social Services, the Initiative Foundation, Sharing Bread Soup Kitchen and various area churches.

The Operation Round-Up® charitable-giving program is made possible by Crow Wing Power members who have their electric bill rounded to the nearest whole dollar (an average of 50 cents/month). It's cooperative members working together that makes a big difference in our communities. Operation Round-Up® has donated over \$4.1 million to human health and well-being charitable organizations in Cass, Crow Wing and Morrison County since 1996.



# Merry Christmas & Happy New Year



Crow Wing Power offices will be closed for Christmas on Friday, December 24th and New Years on Friday, December 31st.

Crews will remain on-call for any outages or emergencies. Report outages by calling 1-800-648-9401.



**Toys for Kids**  
**Drop off location**  
 Bring in an unwrapped gift at Crow Wing Power the month of December.

## Win \$25 off your electric bill >>>

Complete the word find puzzle below, clip and send entire coupon back to us by January 15. We've sized it to fit in your billing payment, so you can save a stamp. If you'd rather, you can send it separately to Crow Wing Power, PO Box 507, Brainerd, MN 56401. Attn: Puzzle or scan and email to info@cwpower.com. The winning entry will be drawn on January 15.

*Our winner for the last puzzle: Glowetta Bechard, Brainerd, MN*

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Acct number \_\_\_\_\_

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Published monthly by  
 Crow Wing Power,  
 17330 State Hwy. 371  
 Brainerd, MN 56401.  
 218-829-2827  
 800-648-9401  
 www.cwpower.com

**Editor: Char Kinzer**

Board meetings are held the third Thursday of each month beginning at 9:30 a.m.

### Directors. Here to Help!

Following is a list of directors and their telephone numbers:

- Bob Kangas .....218-587-4453
- Paul Koering.....218-851-9954
- Ric Larson .....218-546-5781
- Gordon Martin.....218-746-3971
- Bryan McCulloch.....218-820-9708
- Doris Mezzenga .....218-692-1004
- LuAnn Nelson .....612-400-4627
- Gert Roggenkamp .....218-562-4566
- Dwight Thiesse.....218-831-8605

1. Shelter is for \_\_\_\_\_ adults.
2. Crow Wing Power sponsors a drive through LED colorful \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Scott \_\_\_\_\_ is our Purchasing Manager.
4. The EV charger at Crosslake school is \_\_\_\_\_ of charge.
5. Get 2022 calendars at our \_\_\_\_\_ through.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ LAKE Foundation board members posed with Luke Christiansen at the school.
7. The latest Board highlights are from the \_\_\_\_\_ meeting.
8. Camp \_\_\_\_\_ is one organization that benefits from Winter Wonderland.
9. Plans are underway to install EV chargers in Crow Wing State Park and \_\_\_\_\_.
10. Winter Wonderland is a Brainerd \_\_\_\_\_ club project.
11. You can find EV charging locations at the pluginamerica.\_\_\_\_ website.
12. Ann \_\_\_\_\_ is the new shelter director.

### October Puzzle Answers:

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

Seven, August, Sound, Thousand, Food, Amber, Fifteen, Carrot, Cooperative, Ocean, Rock, Monthly, Seven