

CURRENT CONNECTION

CROW WING POWER NEWS · JUNE 2021 · VOLUME 73, NUMBER 6

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 
The power of human connections

Edgewood Dental Expands – Constructs Eco-Friendly Building in Baxter >>>

A new leading-edge green commercial building was constructed this spring in the Baxter Village on the west side of Highway 371. The building, named The EkōMarkt, currently provides new space for Edgewood Dental, a greatly expanded Dental Edge Lab and Pop-Up North, a unique location for vendors to open a temporary storefront and share local products and services. Dr. Jeanni Foss, owner of Edgewood Dental and EkōMarkt, had the inspiration to construct a green energy building after a trip to Iceland. Foss is a self-described environmental enthusiast and is passionate about her goals.

The eco-friendly building has a unique living roof. (At the time this article was written in May, the plants had not arrived.) Plans call for succulents to absorb rain water.

The dental office incorporates solar panels and energy efficient technologies such as LED lighting and high efficiency heat pump systems for heating and cooling controlled by programmable thermostats. They further the use of technologies by using lasers instead of drills for certain procedures.

The solar array is designed to produce all of the electricity needs for the dental office. The 28.8 kW array is incorporated within the innovative roof design. The energy produced from the solar system is first used by Edgewood Dental with excess energy sent back to the electrical grid.

Dr. Foss anticipates they will be net zero, meaning that solar production will offset their electrical use on an annual basis. Thus far, the system is performing very well.



>> Dr. Foss, Owner of Edgewood Dental & Ekō Markt

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EkōMarkt has multiple spaces available for lease of office space or a coffee shop.

Open space on the second floor provides natural light and views of the surrounding area.

Other unique additions, already in place or planned, include some bike racks in front of the building to encourage biking to destinations, four EV ChargePoint stalls and installing a test site for pervious pavement for stormwater management.

Crow Wing Power has seen an uptick in solar installations in the past few years. Currently, there are 85 accounts that have member-owned solar or wind power systems that are interconnected to the grid, 17 of these are commercial accounts. That's a drastic change from two years ago where we had 38 members who were interconnected.

Members that are planning to connect to Crow Wing Power's electric grid to buy or sell power should

contact us before beginning a project so we can facilitate the necessary steps. In the meantime, please visit our Distributed Generation webpage at www.cwpower.com/member-owned-generation.



Send Us Your Best Scenic Photos

We are conducting another calendar contest. To enter the contest, please submit your scenic photos of Minnesota to us. If your photo is chosen for the 2022 calendar, you will receive a \$25 electric bill credit. We will have a spiral bound calendar produced and available in early December.

See our website at cwpower.com for guidelines and entry information. Deadline for submission(s) is October 1, 2021. To see last year's samples, go to our website at cwpower.com.





A WORD FROM YOUR CEO

We're Ready for Storm Season. Are You? >>>

Now that summer is in full swing, like many of you, I welcome more opportunities to be outdoors and enjoy the warmer weather.

But summer months also make conditions right for dangerous storms. These potential weather events can cause destruction to our electrical system, but you can be assured our crews are ready and standing by to respond should power outages occur.

When major storms knock out power, our line crews take all necessary precautions before they get to work on any downed lines. I would encourage you to also practice safety and preparedness to protect your family during major storms and outages.

We haven't had really large damaging storms that resulted in multiple days of power restoration during the past four years. In 2015 and 2016 major storms caused widespread damage that took several days to restore. Therefore, it's important to prepare. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) recommends the items below as a starting point for storm and disaster preparedness, but you can visit www.ready.gov for additional resources.

- Stock your pantry with a three-day supply of non-perishable food, such as canned goods, energy bars, peanut butter, powdered milk, instant coffee, water and other essentials (i.e., diapers and toiletries).
- Ensure your first aid kit is stocked and your prescriptions are current.
- Set aside basic household items you will need, including flash lights, batteries, a manual can opener and portable cell phone chargers or power banks.
- Organize emergency supplies so they are easily accessible in one location.

In the event of a prolonged power outage, turn off major appliances, TVs, computers and other sensitive electronics. This will help avert damage from a power surge, and will also help prevent overloading the circuits during power restoration.

Our Facebook page and social media is where we post storm updates and you can monitor our restoration progress on our website's outage viewing map.

After a storm, avoid downed power lines and walking through flooded areas where power lines could be submerged.

Advance planning for severe storms or other emergencies can reduce stress and anxiety caused by the weather event and can lessen the impact of the storm's effects.

I hope we don't experience severe storms this summer, but we can never predict Mother Nature's plans. From our co-op family to yours, we hope you have a safe and wonderful summer.

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, April 15, 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
- 2020 Audit Report by Dave Holt of Brady Martz & Associates

The following actions were taken:

The Board approved:

- April Consent Agenda
- Minutes of the March 15, 2021 regular board meeting
- Resolution to Allocate Margins for 2020
- Appointing New Chief Financial Officer
- Resolutions Approving Authorization for RUS forms
- Corporate Authorization Resolutions
- Resolution to Accept the 2020 Audit as presented
- Director expense reports for March 2021

Members can review detailed minutes at cwpower.com/board-and-meetings or by logging into their SmartHub account. Log in is located on the homepage of our website. May minutes will be published after approval in June. The next board meeting is June 17, 2021.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Avoid placing items like lamps and televisions near your thermostat.

The thermostat senses heat from these appliances, which can cause your air conditioner to run longer than necessary.

Source: www.energy.gov



New Safety Video Teaches Students >>>

May was Electrical Safety month. Each year Crow Wing Power employees get an opportunity to visit classrooms around the area and share with third grade students their stories and ways to stay safe around electricity. Last year students were completely distance learning and the continued Covid-19 protocols on in-person visits this year challenged us to think outside the box to provide the much-needed education about electrical safety. Our plan was to provide students with a video that gets them up close and personal to outdoor electrical equipment and safety gear, and provide them with engaging feedback about how to stay safe. We had questions submitted by Nisswa Elementary students that our linemen

answered. The video was sent out to 13 elementary schools across the Crow Wing Power service area along with Louie the Lightning Activity Books for third graders to take home. If you'd like to view this video please visit the Crow Wing Power YouTube Channel.



Crow Wing Power Lobby Under Construction Credit Union Taking Appointments for Meetings >>>

Our doors have been closed to the public during the Covid-19 pandemic, so it was a good time to start a remodel project for our lobby area. Therefore, even though Minnesota's Covid-19 restrictions are starting to lift, we will need to keep our lobby closed during construction. The plan is to have doors open to members in late summer.

Throughout the past year, we have been pleased that our members have been able to adjust and navigate their needs virtually through emails, phone calls, and by utilizing the Crow Wing Power website and drive through. The Credit Union, however, has recognized the need to have in-person meetings for loan transactions. To accommodate in-person meetings, we have created a temporary portable office located in the parking lot that allows Credit Union Member Service Representatives to make individual appointments.

Scholarships Awarded >>>

This spring we were able to award \$70,500 scholarships to 47 seniors in eight area high schools. Annually, unclaimed capital credits are used for scholarships to help students advance their education. When capital credit checks are returned because of unknown addresses, etc., we make every effort to find members that may have moved and not kept their address current. By law, those funds are held for seven years before they are released.



\$25 Toward an Air Conditioning Tune Up.
www.cwpower.com for more information

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT



LEGACY AT CRAGUNS

11320 Gull River Rd., Brainerd | 800-272-4867 | www.craguns.com/golf

ABOUT: The three incredible Cragun's Legacy Courses stand out among the many exceptional Brainerd golf courses on the Brainerd Golf Trail, one of the "World's Top Golf Destinations." The Legacy's variety of golf options can all be played out of the beautiful 35,000 square foot Legacy Clubhouse, featuring a sports bar, restaurant, and versatile private event space – all at one location. The Legacy Pro Shop boasts the latest gear and exceptional service.

WE WANT YOU TO KNOW: Cragun's Legacy Courses are in the beginning phase of a \$10 million dollar renovation which includes the addition of nine holes of Championship-level golf incorporated into the current Legacy Courses. The vision is to create Minnesota's premier golf facility with 45 holes of Championship golf. The Tom Lehman Design group has been hired to develop the master plan, with the "Lehman 18" portion projected for preview play starting late summer of 2022.

COOPERATIVE MEMBER DISCOUNT: 20% off green fees Monday thru Friday (June 1-Sept. 30) at the Legacy Par 3 course or for Foot Golf at the Par 3 course. Use your Co-op Connections Discount Card at seven great area golf courses this season. Visit cwpower.com for participating courses and their discounts.

Crow Wing Power's Co-op Connections is powering businesses and providing you with discounts. With over 115 local businesses, visit cwpower.com to explore all the ways to save. We welcome new businesses to participate.



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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 Kangas218-587-4453
- Paul Koering.....218-851-9954
- Ric Larson218-546-5781
- Gordon Martin.....218-746-3971
- Bryan McCulloch.....218-820-9708
- Doris Mezzenga218-692-1004
- LuAnn Nelson612-400-4627
- Gert Roggenkamp218-562-4566
- Dwight Thiesse.....218-831-8605

Win \$25 off your electric bill >>>

Complete the word find puzzle below, clip and send entire coupon back to us by July 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 July 15. *Due to a deadline mistake with the April Newsletter, we will draw an additional April Puzzle Winner on June 15.*

Our winner for the last puzzle: Patrick West, IL

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

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Acct number _____

April Puzzle Answers:

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

- The Federal Emergency Management Agency (_ _ _ _) recommends storm preparedness.
- Normally Crow Wing Power visits _ _ _ _ _ grade classes.
- Dr. Foss was inspired to construct a green energy building after a trip to _ _ _ _ _ .
- We encourage Air Conditioning _ _ _ _ _ up.
- Avoid placing items like lamps and _ _ _ _ _ near thermostats.
- Why our lobby is still closed: _ _ _ _ _ .
- The _ _ _ _ _ array is designed to produce all of the _ _ _ _ _ needs for the dental office.
- We haven't had really large damaging _ _ _ _ _ since 2015 and 16.
- Used for scholarships: _ _ _ _ _ capital credits.
- New green building was constructed in the _ _ _ _ _ Village.
- You can monitor storm restoration progress on our website's outage viewing _ _ _ .
- Items you might need in a storm: cell phone _ _ _ _ _ .

Dig, Maple, Paperless, Pay, Loans, Generation,
Seamless, President, Checks, Six, October, Texas