

# THE HIGHLINE BY LINE

A NEWSLETTER FROM ARROWHEAD COOPERATIVE



## JOIN US AT THE ANNUAL MEETING ON SATURDAY, JUNE 5

10 AM | ISD 166 FOOTBALL FIELD

*Be informed about your Co-op and  
have your voice be heard!*



As a member-owner of Arrowhead Cooperative, you are also an owner of the cooperative. As an owner, you have a voice in the operation of our organization. Through attendance at the Annual Meeting and the election of Directors, you help set the future direction of our Cooperative.

Join us to hear from your co-op leaders who will discuss priorities for the Cooperative, challenges we face, our financial health, and operational plans for the coming years. In addition, members will have the opportunity to ask questions and gain helpful information about the electric industry and the Cooperative. As a member of our community, you have a valuable perspective—and we invite you to share it with the co-op.

Registration begins at 9:30 a.m. at the Cook County ISD 166 Football Field. Remember to bring the registration coupon from your annual report to receive a \$10 credit on your electric bill. Due to Coronavirus guidelines, the Annual Meeting will take place outdoors, members are required to wear masks and maintain social distance (6 feet).

In addition, the Cooperative will be collecting food and donations for the Cook County Food Shelf.

### ANNUAL REPORT

In late May, all members will receive the 2020 Annual Report. The publication includes a summary of last year's financials as well as a report from the management team.

### DIRECTOR ELECTIONS

The Annual Report also includes your ballot to vote for candidates for the Board of Directors. This year three seats are up for election:

- District 2 (Maple Hill/Colvill)
- District 4 (Rosebush/Maple Hill)
- District 5 (Cascade/Pike Lake)

The Annual Report will include short biographies for each of the candidates. Although candidates are elected to represent a specific district, ALL members may vote in the election. Please choose one candidate in each district and enclose your ballot in the envelopes provided. Sign the outer envelope and mail it (postage paid!) to our office.

Ballots must be received in our office by Friday, June 4 at 4:00 p.m. if mailed. If you prefer, you can bring your ballot with you to the Annual Meeting. Director elections will come to a close at the Annual Meeting and the results will be announced after the votes are counted.

This is YOUR Cooperative. To remain healthy and strong, we need to have continued active participation and support from you. If you have not attended the Annual Meeting in the past, or if it has been a few years, we urge you to take the time to join us. Arrowhead Cooperative is connected to you by more than just power lines. We are your neighbors and we look forward to seeing you at your Annual Meeting.

# EXPERIENCE SAVINGS AND CONVENIENCE WITH AN ELECTRIC VEHICLE

When you've only ever driven a gas-powered vehicle, it can be difficult to think realistically about making the switch to an all-electric car. But with how affordable they're becoming, the convenience of "fueling" your car at home, plus the bonus of knowing you're positively impacting the environment, it may be a more practical option than you first think.

## **COST SAVINGS**

While electric vehicles (EVs) are less expensive to own and operate than traditional gas-powered vehicles over the long term, they can cost more upfront to purchase. That's where incentives come into play. For example, the federal government offers consumers a tax credit of up to \$7,500 to put toward the purchase of a new EV, which can significantly lower the price tag. The primary cost of an EV is its battery, but innovations in design and manufacturing drove battery prices down more than 80 percent between 2010 and 2018.

The fuel cost savings start adding up once you own an EV. Electricity prices are far more stable than gas prices, and EVs are three times more energy-efficient than gas-powered vehicles. This means a typical EV can travel

about 43 miles on \$1 of electricity. Total savings depend on current gas prices and your driving habits, someone who drives 12,000 miles a year could save \$1,300.

## **CONVENIENCE**

You already charge all your electronics at home – why not your vehicle, too? Your local electric cooperative offers another cost savings solution, this time on a home EV charger. By enrolling in Arrowhead Cooperative's ChargeWise program, you'll be able to receive a rebate for up to \$500 to offset the cost to install an EV charger controlled on an off-peak rate.

Another convenience factor of EVs is that very little maintenance is required beyond changing windshield wipers and tires. They have fewer moving parts to break down – no carburetors, spark plugs, starters/alternators, etc. – which means they're also more reliable than their gasoline-powered counterparts. EVs are also extremely quiet since they don't produce combustion noise.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS**

EVs have better overall environmental attributes than traditional vehicles because of their higher efficiency, lower energy consumption, and no tailpipe emissions.



## COLD WEATHER RULE ENDED APRIL 15

Created by the State of Minnesota to help those in need, the Cold Weather Rule protects Minnesota consumers from disconnection between October 15 and April 15. As the spring weather arrives, Arrowhead Cooperative is resuming normal late fees and disconnect procedures. Please pay your bill by the due date to avoid a \$1.50 plus 1.5% late fee. Accounts that are 60 days past due are subject to being disconnected for nonpayment.

If you are having trouble paying your bill, help is available: Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency (AEOA) has Energy Assistance grants available through May 31st. Call (844) 568-0149 to apply or contact our office (800) 864-3744 for an application.

**We want to work with our members to ensure they stay current on their bills, so please contact us if you are behind and need to make a payment plan to catch up.**





Plus, utilities like Arrowhead Cooperative and its wholesale power provider Great River Energy are producing energy from many renewable sources, including hydro and wind. As the sources of electricity get greener, so do the vehicles.

They may be few in number now, but electric vehicles (EVs) are arriving in our area. Electric vehicle owners can save money every time they charge their car with Arrowhead Cooperative's ChargeWise program.

#### **WHAT IS THE CHARGEWISE PROGRAM?**

ChargeWise is a voluntary program offered by Arrowhead Cooperative for qualified members who own or lease an electric vehicle. The program allows members to charge their electric vehicle at home during the off-peak hours of 11:00 p.m. – 7:00 a.m.

Charging electric vehicles during off-peak times, when market prices are low, allows the cooperative to provide low-cost electricity to ChargeWise participants. Members simply plug in their vehicle in the evening and their vehicle is charged during these overnight hours at a reduced rate of \$0.0552/kwh. They wake up to a fully-charged electric vehicle that is ready to run for the day!

Members need to have a Level II EVSE charger to be eligible for the program which are available at significant discounts to members at [www.energywisemnstore.com](http://www.energywisemnstore.com).

There's even a program you can enroll in once you own your EV that will ensure that you are "fueling" your vehicle with 100 percent renewable energy for its lifetime at no additional cost. By signing up for the ChargeWise program, Arrowhead Cooperative will also enroll your vehicle in the Revolt program, dedicating wind energy renewable energy credits on your behalf to offset the energy used to power your vehicle.

Learn more about electric vehicles and charging by contacting our office at (800) 864-3744.

## **CO-OP NEWS**

### **BUDGET BILLING TRUE UP**

If you are enrolled in Arrowhead Cooperative's Budget Billing program, it's Budget Billing True Up Month. Each May, your bill will display your actual account balance due, which may be higher or lower than your budgeted billing amount, depending on your actual usage for the year. It will also show the new budget amount that has been calculated for the next 11 months.

### **PLAN AHEAD AND KNOW WHAT'S BELOW**

You must call 811 before you dig! It's the safest and only legal way to dig. Even small projects like planting a shrub require you to make advance arrangements before digging. Your call to 811 connects you with Minnesota's Gopher State One Call which arranges for utilities like Arrowhead Cooperative to locate and mark our buried utilities in your dig area at no cost to you.

### **NEXT BOARD MEETING**

May 27, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.



## **Tune In. Stay Informed.**



CEO John Twiest airs live Friday, May 28 on the North Shore Morning show (90.7FM) at 8:40 a.m. with the latest Arrowhead Cooperative news.

# TREE TRIMMING IMPROVES SERVICE FOR ALL

*We are fortunate to have so many trees that offer beauty, shade, and a habitat for all sorts of birds and other wildlife. We know that you appreciate our community for many of the same reasons.*

At Arrowhead Cooperative we strive to balance maintaining beautiful surroundings and ensuring a reliable power supply by keeping power lines clear in rights of way (ROW). While we recognize and appreciate the beauty of trees, there are three main benefits to tree trimming in ROW areas.

## SAFETY

First and foremost, we care about our members and put their safety and that of our lineworkers above all else. Overgrown vegetation and trees pose a risk to power lines. For example, if trees are touching power lines in our members' yards, they can pose a grave danger to families. Electricity can arc, or jump, from a power line to a nearby conductor like a tree. A proactive approach also diminishes the chances of fallen branches or trees during severe weather events that make it more complicated and dangerous for lineworkers to restore power.

## RELIABILITY

Of course, one of the biggest benefits of a smart vegetation management program is reliability. Strategic tree trimming reduces the frequency of downed lines causing power outages. Generally speaking, healthy trees don't fall on power lines, and clear lines don't cause problems. Proactive trimming and pruning keep lines clear to promote reliability.

## AFFORDABILITY

As you know, Arrowhead Cooperative is a not-for-profit cooperative, and that means we strive to keep our costs in check in order to keep our rates affordable. If trees grow too close to power lines, the potential for expensive repairs also increases. Effective tree trimming and other vegetation management efforts keep costs down for everyone.

Our community is a special place. We appreciate the beauty trees afford, but we also know our community depends on us to provide reliable energy.

## LEARN MORE AND PICK UP A FREE TREE FROM ARROWHEAD COOPERATIVE

To keep you informed and show our care for the community, Arrowhead Cooperative is hosting a drive-thru tree giveaway event. Information will be available on our right of way maintenance plans and our Integrated Vegetation Management program.

*In addition, we'll be giving away an assortment of native, low-growing trees and shrubs, including Choke Cherry, Hazelnut, and Nannyberry for planting outside of the power line right-of-way.*

## JOIN US FOR A TREE GIVE AWAY!

### May 13:

3-5 p.m. at the Arrowhead Cooperative Headquarters in Lutsen

### May 14:

10 a.m. - 1 p.m. at the Schaap Community Center/Midtrail Fire Hall



## MAY CALENDAR WINNER

*Submitted by: Patrick McMahon*



## EFFICIENCY TIP

*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.*

## ARROWHEAD COOPERATIVE

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