

CO-OP NAVIGATES LONG WINTER, SUMMER HEAT, SUPPLY CHAIN, AND INFLATION CHALLENGES



Here at your local cooperative, we have been busy maintaining the lines, installing new services, and doing what we do best -- providing the reliable utility services you expect from us. Overall, 2022 has been busy. Just as busy as last year but with a few hiccups along the way.

Thankfully, we avoided the major storms that our neighboring co-ops have been hit with. Knock on wood, we will continue to see decent weather.

So far this year, we've seen the highest amount of electricity usage in Cooperative history. High usage can be attributed to a multitude of factors, but two of them are easy to identify. First, the weather was "cool" through June extending the heating season for members and second we continue to grow by the addition of new members.

Just like the electric side, Arrowhead Broadband usage has been up as well. The Cooperative set a new "peak" in data usage on July 6 coming in just under 10 gigabits. It's hard to believe that just three years ago, our peak was closer to 6 gigabits. This is a significant increase and shows that our system continues to perform well and allow for residents and visitors to "stay connected".

Earlier I mentioned a couple of hiccups. Of course you are all aware of the crazy inflation rates and supply chain issues gripping the planet. Our industry is not immune. We have seen prices more than double on certain items and lead times in excess of a year. As hard as we try, there are certain things we cannot control.

In the news, not that long ago, there was also talk about the possibility of rolling blackouts and concerns about the electric grid being able to support the electricity demand of the

Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO) territory. In June's newsletter, we addressed those concerns. While I am very confident in Great River Energy (GRE) and their ability to provide the needed electricity, naturally, I am also concerned about the future of the electric grid.

MISO has identified the need for more transmission lines to support the electric grid. GRE has been at the table for these discussions to ensure the needs of their cooperatives are met. The generation sources are getting further from us, and the limited amount of transmission line also limits the amount of wind and solar energy that can be provided to our area. MISO has proposed a \$10.4 Billion investment to support approximately 53 giga watts of clean energy. The proposed timeline is approximately 10 years. MISO's board voted to approve this Long-Range Transmission Plan on July 25, 2022.

Along with this news is the ability for GRE to be part of the solution. Constructing, owning, and operating portions of the transmission line expansion. You can learn more at www.greatriverenergy.com/news-initiatives/

As we move into budgeting for 2023, our hopes for flat rates seem to be just that, hope! Other utilities have announced possible increases to their customers as much as 18% . Arrowhead knows that this is not an option. Our staff will be looking at 2023 and beyond to maximize efficiency and control costs as much as is practical.

There are still a number of months before the new year, and a lot can happen. We are forever optimistic, but also in tune with the reality of the current state of the economy. Everyday, our mission to provide you with the safe, reliable, sustainable utilities you expect from us. This will not change and will always be our focus.

OPERATION ROUND UP SUPPORTS ART PRESERVATION IN GRAND MARAIS

Art 'Round Town works to preserve precious community murals with funds received through the generous support of Arrowhead Cooperative members.

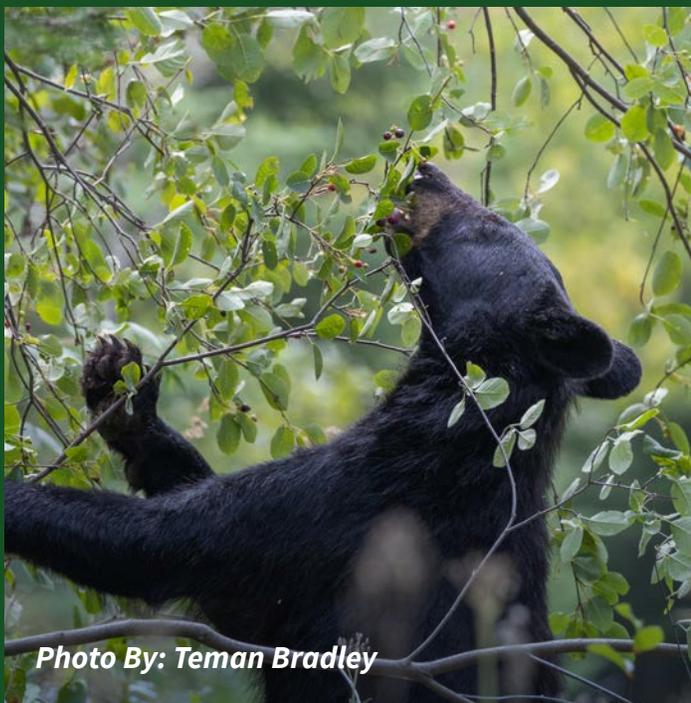
Through the Operation Round Up® program, Arrowhead Cooperative allows our member-owners and subscribers to give back to the community by rounding up their bills to the nearest dollar. Each month the rounded-up funds (between 1¢ and 99¢) are placed in a trust fund and administered by the Operation Round Up® Board. In June, the Art 'Round Town was one of twelve local organizations to benefit from this grant program.

Art 'Round Town was established in 2013 and has since successfully held fund-raising events and written grants to complete several public art projects. Their current efforts are focused on preserving murals painted by Lyle Saethre.

Lyle was a retired electrician who painted murals throughout our community from 2003 to 2005. His murals would be considered Folk Art, and they represent the history, environment, and culture of Cook County. He painted murals on the Beaver House, the garage behind the Bill Bally Blacksmith Shop, and an old semi-trailer located east of town at Thompson Performance. These murals are precious to our community, and Lyle's work is well-loved by both locals and visitors.



“We were approached by the Cook County Historical Society and the Grand Marais Chamber suggesting that we try to preserve Lyle’s deteriorating murals,” shared Ann Marie Mershon, President, Art 'Round Town. “Not all the murals can be saved, but we found a product called Muralshield, a relatively new product engineered to protect large murals. The Operation Round Up funds we received were used to help purchase this expensive product which will be applied by professional painters late this summer.”



**2023
CALENDAR
CONTEST**

**SEND US YOUR
BEST SHOTS**

We invite our members to share your most beautiful, engaging, and fun photos for the 2023 calendar!

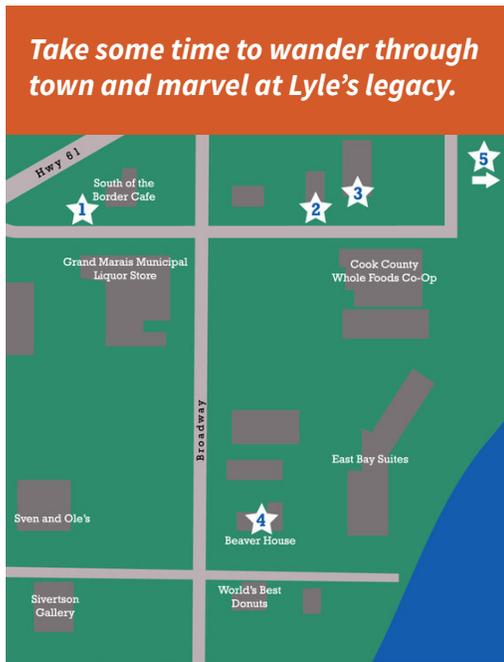
Watch for more details on how to submit your best shots in the September edition of the Highline Newsletter or visit www.arrowheadcoop.com.

Art' Round Town has recruited volunteers to prepare the Beaver House south wall by cleaning and scraping away loose polyurethane and has hired professionals to spray Muralshield on the wall. They will spray a four-panel mural of the Ship America (8' x 16') and a two-panel mural of the Omar Ellquist log cabin (8' x 8'). They also plan to spray the garage door panels on the Bally garage and frame four small mural panels that have been removed from a storage garage across from the co-op building.

Mershon shared her appreciation, "Operation Round Up is a GREAT program, and it's an easy way for local residents to donate to local organizations without feeling much of a hit to their finances. I LOVE the program and we are thankful for your generous support."

Arrowhead Cooperative's Operation Round Up® program has awarded over \$400 thousand to more than 100 local non-profit and community service programs since the program's inception in 2003. In June 2022, the Cooperative and Operation Round Up® contributed \$39,000 to 12 area organizations.

Operation Round Up funds are given to local civic organizations and worthy causes through an application and selection process. For further information or to obtain an application form, visit www.arrowheadcoop.com or call (800) 864-3744.



- 1 Concrete Wall: Ship, not savable
- 2 Bally Garage Door: Four Panels
- 3 Century Garage: Four Small Squares
- 4 Beaver House: North and South Walls
- 5 Thompson Performance: 1316 E Hwy 61: Semi Trailer



Omar Ellquist log cabin mural.



YOUR SPARE CHANGE ADDS UP TO REAL CHANGE IN OUR COMMUNITY

CO-OP NEWS

OFFICE CLOSED

Arrowhead Cooperative will be closed on Monday, September 5, 2022, in observance of Labor Day. Please call (800) 864-3744 in the event of an outage or emergency.

SAVE THE DATE - MEMBER APPRECIATION

Mark your calendars now! 2022 Member Appreciation events will be held the week of October 10th at sites around the county and we look forward to spending time with our members and celebrating the cooperative spirit.

REMINDER - CALL BEFORE YOU DIG

If you plan on doing any digging on your property, make sure you remember to "Call Before You Dig". It is very important to have all underground utilities located before digging to prevent costly and potentially dangerous contact with buried utility lines.

Call (800) 252-1166, at least 48 hours before you dig on or near your property, to locate any underground lines. It's the law!

NEXT BOARD MEETING

August 25, 2022 at 9:00 a.m.



It's time for a broadband service that connects you to the people, information, and entertainment you hold dear while still maintaining the values of Arrowhead Cooperative.

CONTACT US TODAY TO UPGRADE TO A BETTER INTERNET EXPERIENCE AT (800) 864-3744.



UPDATE YOUR CONTACT INFO

At Arrowhead Cooperative, we rely on data for nearly every aspect of our operations, which is why we need your help. By making sure we have your most accurate and complete contact information, we can continue to provide the high level of service that you expect and deserve.



Accurate information enables us to improve customer service and enhance communications for reporting and repairing outages. It also allows co-op members to receive information about other important programs, events, and activities.

Helps us serve you better.

While we always do our best to maintain service, we occasionally plan outages to update, repair or replace equipment. In these instances, we can provide advance notification to affected members if we have your updated contact information and communication preferences.

Keeping your information updated also helps us reach you if there is a question about your energy use or billing.

Gives you access to your account online.

By having an e-mail address on file, you can sign up for online account access through SmartHub. There you can sign up for our alerts, bill pay reminders, and access your usage information.

No longer have an active account?

If you do not have an active account with Arrowhead Cooperative it is still important we have the most current mailing address to ensure you receive your capital credits as they are retired and paid out in the future.

Your contact information is not shared, but is only used by Arrowhead Cooperative to send important information to you. Please take a moment to confirm or update your contact information by calling our office at (800) 864-3744 or logging into your SmartHub account online.



TAKE CONTROL OF YOUR ACCOUNT

SmartHub is a web and mobile app that allows you to interact with us like never before. View and pay your bill, monitor your energy use 24/7, report service issues, and much more. Billing notifications ensure you never miss a payment, which you can make through the app with just a few clicks. Learn more at www.arrowheadcoop.com!



AUGUST CALENDAR WINNER

Submitted by: Joanne Smith



EFFICIENCY TIP

Only run full loads in the dishwasher, and thoroughly scrape food from dishes before loading. Dry towels and heavier cottons separate from lighter-weight clothing, and clean the lint screen after every use. Wash clothing in cold water to save energy used to heat water.

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