

CURRENT

ACTIVITIES



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 
Website at www.clearwater-polk.com

Operation Round-Up awards over \$27,000!

The Clearwater-Polk Electric Trust awarded over \$27,000 in the latest chapter of Operation Round-Up on May 24. Thirty entities were recipients. Checks were given to recipients on May 31.

Operation Round-Up builds funds when Clearwater-Polk Electric members agree to round-up their monthly bill to the nearest dollar. The funds are managed by Clearwater-Polk's Operation Round-Up Trust. Trustees Laurie Pemberton and Marilyn McCollum were on hand this day to hand out the donations. The trust was organized in 1997 and started donating in 1998, and to date the total of all donations comes to \$682,347.47

Recipients were as follows:

American Legion Auxiliary
Bagley After Prom
Bagley Area Arts Collaborative, Inc (BAAC)
Bagley Baseball Association

Bagley Elementary Art Department
Bagley Elementary Fourth Grade swimming
Bagley High School Prom
Bagley High School SPED Life Skills
Bagley High School Unified PE class

Bagley Public Schools wellness
Bagley Youth Trap Club
City of Clearbrook
City of Shevlin

Continued on next page



A number of local organizations were recipients of Clearwater-Polk Electric's Operation Round-Up recently. A total of \$27,500 was awarded to 30 entities.

Accepting donations on behalf of their organizations were (from left, front): Jessica Whaley (BAAC), Denise Milton (American Legion Auxiliary), Pamela French (NELL), Carolyn Combs (Bagley Elementary Art Dept.), Sara Tramm (Clearwater County 4-H Citizenship Washington Focus); (middle) Middle L to R: Marilyn McCollum (Operation Round-Up board member), Liz Damann (Clearwater County 4-H Dog PDC), Willie, Aricka Marsh (Bagley High School SPED Life Skills & Unified PE class), Gladys Luecken (Headwaters Quilt Guild), Laura Dahl (Clearbrook/Gonvick School Renaissance Learning); (back) Kara Waldvogel (Clearwater County 4-H Programs), Lee Furseth (Headwaters Science Center), Andrew Bennett (Bagley Youth Trap Club), Adriana Marsh (ISD 162 Community Education), Tim Mullan (Bagley Baseball Assoc.), Lexie Lofgren (Rhythm & Ride), Amy Kent (Bagley High School Prom), Laurie Pemberton (Operation Round-Up board member). The donations are derived from members of Clearwater-Polk Electric Cooperative who agrees to round up their monthly bill to the next full dollar amount.

— OFFICE HOURS: 7:00 AM-4:30 PM ... MONDAY-FRIDAY —

JULY - AUGUST 2023

Phone 218-694-6241 - or - Toll Free (888) 694-3833




Recipients continued from front

- Clear Waters Life Center Chore Services
- Clear Waters Life Center Youth Connection Program
- Clearbrook/Gonvick After Prom Committee
- Clearbrook/Gonvick School MoreStarFall
- Clearbrook/Gonvick School Renaissance Learning
- Clearwater County 4-H Citizenship Washington Focus
- Clearwater County Dog PDC
- Clearwater County 4-H Programs
- Clearwater County Sheriff's Office K-9
- Clearwater County Veterans Service Office
- Gonvick Fire Department
- Headwaters Science Center
- Headwaters Quilt Guild
- ISD Community Education
- Northern Exposure to Lifelong Learning (NELL)
- Rhythm & Ride
- Shevlin Fire Department

We encourage the recipients to spread the word to other organizations that Operation Round-Up has money to share.

YOU COULD WIN



\$25

To reward our faithful readers, one member's name will be drawn at random each month and placed somewhere in the newsletter. If you should find your name, let us know before the 15th and win \$25 off your next bill.



CHEF'S CORNER

Strawberry/Spinach Salad

Lurae Erickson, Clearbrook, MN

Ingredients:

- 1 c. mayonnaise
- 2 TBSP poppy seed
- ¼ c. white vinegar
- 1 bag fresh spinach leaves
- 2/3 c. white sugar
- 1 pint fresh strawberries

Directions:

Mix dressing ingredients together: mayo, vinegar, sugar, and poppy seed. Toss sliced strawberries with coarsely chopped spinach. Just before serving, mix in dressing.

OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

- Greg Spaulding, *President* Bagley
- Greg Renner, *Vice President*..... Shevlin
- Harlan Highberg, *Treasurer*..... Bagley
- Kim Solberg, *Secretary* Gonvick
- Cheryl Grover Bagley
- Bill Lanners Shevlin
- Dennis Engebretson Clearbrook
- Deanna Lefebvre, General Manager*

TROUBLE CALLS

DURING OFFICE HOURS

7:00 am - 4:30 pm,
Mon. - Fri.

CALL 694-6241 or
1-888-694-3833

AFTER HOURS

OUTAGES CALL

1-877-881-7673

SIGN UP FOR AUTO-PAY AND YOU WILL BE ELIGIBLE TO WIN \$25.00

EACH MONTH WE DRAW TWO MEMBER'S NAMES THAT HAVE CHOSEN TO PAY BY AUTO-PAY. THEY WILL RECEIVE A \$25.00 CREDIT TOWARDS THEIR ELECTRIC BILL.

CURRENT WINNERS

- RON CASKEY
- MARK W. BENSON
- TODD K. YSEN
- SAM S. SMITH

Closed Monday, September 4th for Labor Day



SWAP SHOP

RULES: Ads for Clearwater-Polk Electric members only. Current Events newsletter will only be (Kenneth L. Lathrop) published every other month. Ads must be received by the 10th of the print month. Limit your ads to two items. No commercial ads, please.

REMINDER -

"Free-ForSale-Give Away- or Wanted ads can be posted in our newsletters for our members.

FOR SALE: MECO 9300 Series electric barbecue grill. Instruction book included, \$125. Connie Riewer 218-694-6326

FOR SALE: Canoe; log cabin shell, sleeps 6-8. 218-533-6029.

FOR SALE: Jazzy electric wheel chair, never used, works great, asking \$1,000 o.b.o. Propane water heater, brand new, asking \$500 o.b.o. Jail doors & toilets both work great. Some large antiques hard to find ask... Call 218-888-2005 Alibi. 10 miles south on 92, Bagley, MN.

PLEASE MOVE OVER FOR ROADSIDE CREWS

If you see police, firefighters, utility crews or other emergency personnel on the side of the road, please slow down and move over when possible.

Together, we can keep our crews safe.

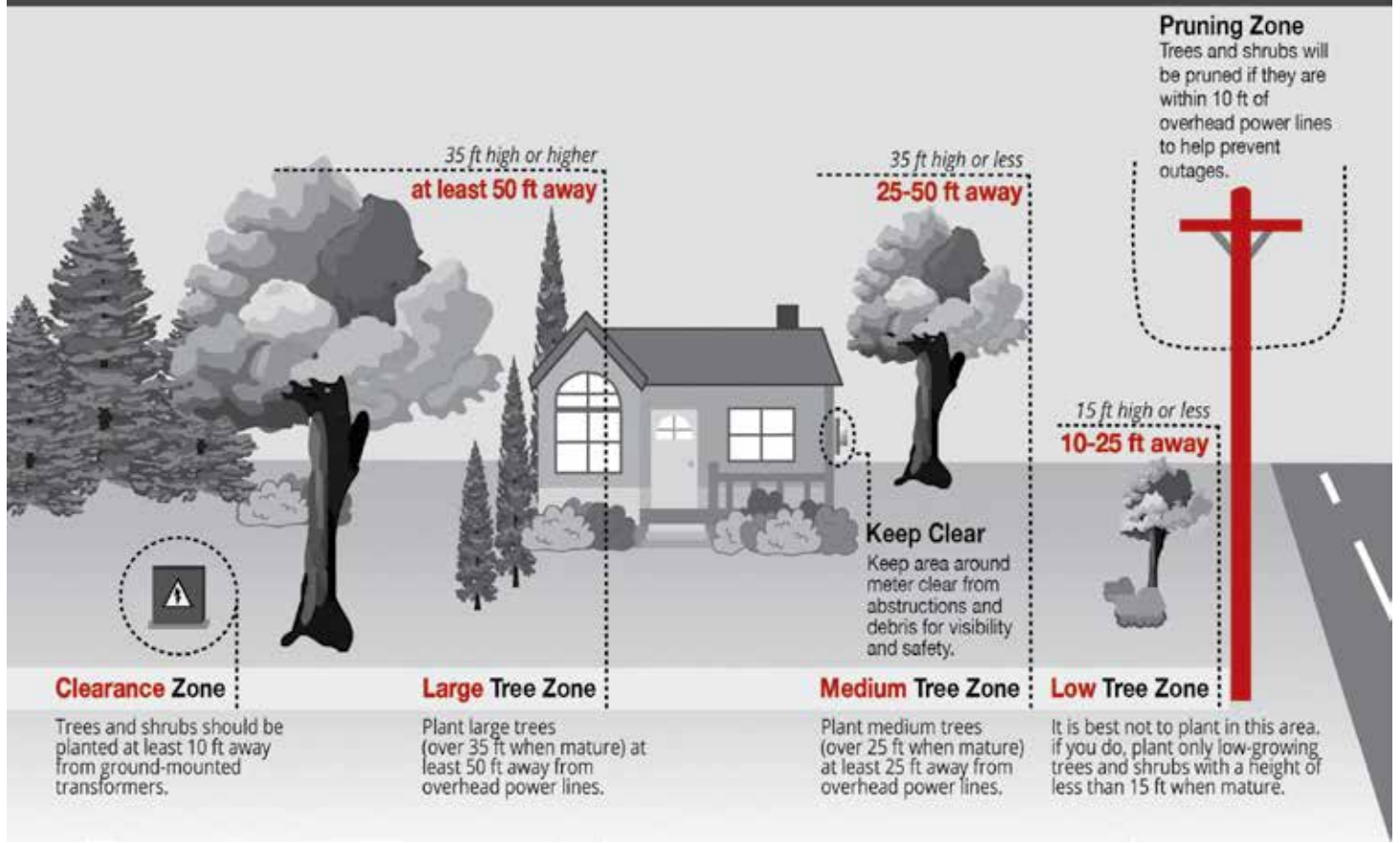


CLEARWATER-POLK ELECTRIC LINEMEN TEACH ELECTRICAL SAFETY TO AREA 6TH GRADERS

There were 198 6th graders in attendance from the Clearbrook-Gonvick, Bagley, Fosston, Faith Hope & Love Academy and Win-E-Mac schools. Local volunteers taught sessions on Animal Safety, ATV Safety, AED/First Aid, Tractor/Grain Bin Safety, Lawnmower/Small Engine Safety, Fire Safety, Chemical Safety, Electrical Safety, Seatbelt Safety, Mental Health and Food Safety. The Clearwater County Extension organizes the event.

RIGHT TREE, RIGHT PLACE!

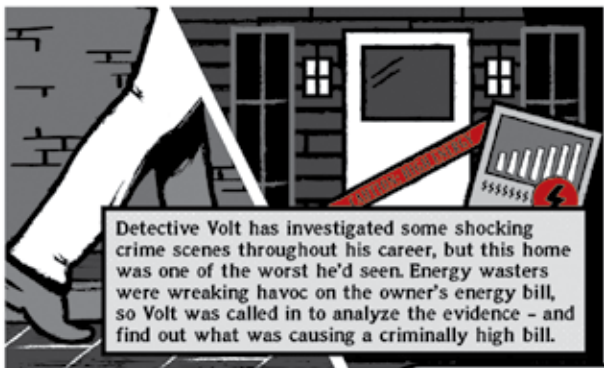
Before planting new trees to improve the look of your yard, you will need to keep a few things in mind.



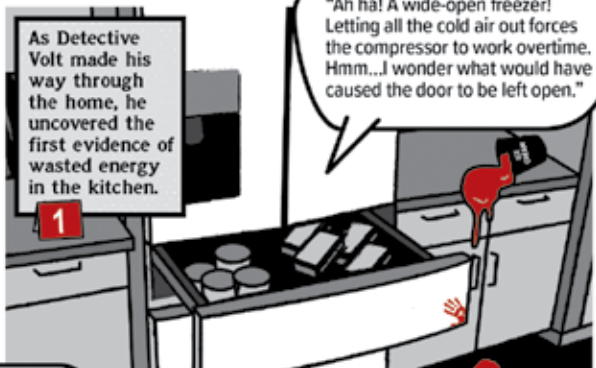


DETECTING ENERGY WASTERS

For years, **Clearwater-Polk Electric Cooperative** has worked to keep energy costs low and reliability high. We've been investigating and uncovering energy wasters that contribute to higher electric bills and add strain to our region's energy grid. With temperatures rising, it's time to seek out energy wasters and lock them up for good.



Detective Volt has investigated some shocking crime scenes throughout his career, but this home was one of the worst he'd seen. Energy wasters were wreaking havoc on the owner's energy bill, so Volt was called in to analyze the evidence - and find out what was causing a criminally high bill.



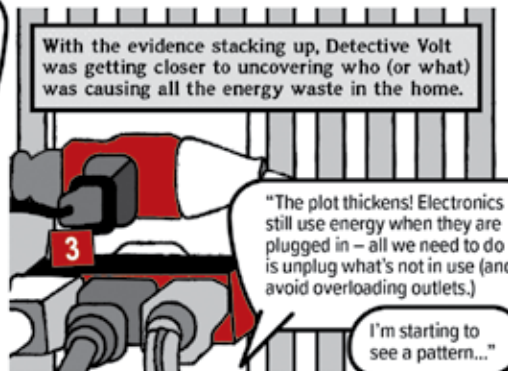
As Detective Volt made his way through the home, he uncovered the first evidence of wasted energy in the kitchen.

"Ah ha! A wide-open freezer! Letting all the cold air out forces the compressor to work overtime. Hmm...I wonder what would have caused the door to be left open."



"Interesting...very interesting. I've found this common energy waster in many of my cases. Leaving lights on when people aren't in a room can really add up on an energy bill. This seems utterly negligent."

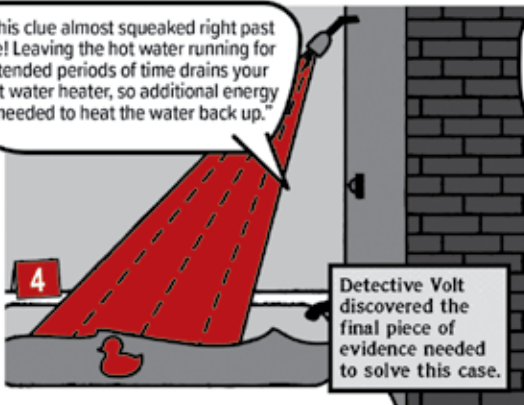
With further investigation, Detective Volt discovered another energy waster located in a bedroom down the hall.



With the evidence stacking up, Detective Volt was getting closer to uncovering who (or what) was causing all the energy waste in the home.

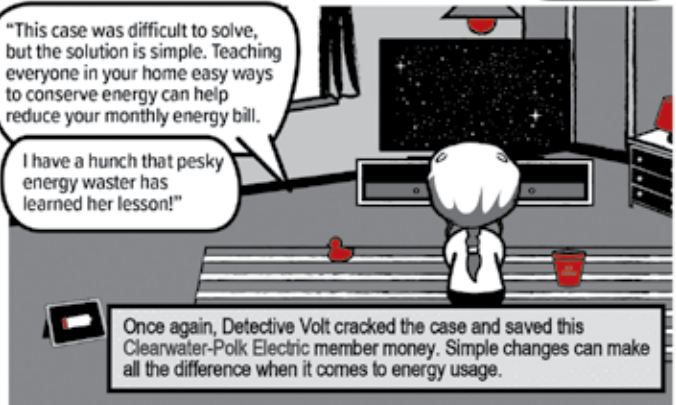
"The plot thickens! Electronics still use energy when they are plugged in - all we need to do is unplug what's not in use (and avoid overloading outlets.)"

"I'm starting to see a pattern..."



"This clue almost squeaked right past me! Leaving the hot water running for extended periods of time drains your hot water heater, so additional energy is needed to heat the water back up."

Detective Volt discovered the final piece of evidence needed to solve this case.



"This case was difficult to solve, but the solution is simple. Teaching everyone in your home easy ways to conserve energy can help reduce your monthly energy bill."

"I have a hunch that pesky energy waster has learned her lesson!"

Once again, Detective Volt cracked the case and saved this Clearwater-Polk Electric member money. Simple changes can make all the difference when it comes to energy usage.

- 1 Wide-open freezer
- 2 Lights left on
- 3 Leaving electronics plugged in
- 4 Extra-long showers

PROJECTS IN THE WORKS

Managers Message



Deanna Lefebvre
General Manager

Summer is finally in full swing and I for one am excited! I don't have to tell any of you that winters get long around here, and the rest of the seasons are way too short, and like you, we try to make the most of the nice weather.

In my annual report to members I printed in the last issue, I talked about the three key priorities. Safety is one and it goes without saying that it comes into play in every aspect of our business. Reliability is another, and it is the drive behind putting together the cooperative's construction work plan. There are many factors that are taken into consideration to determine what gets done and when.

This construction season, our construction work plan includes two major projects. One project is converting six miles of single-phase overhead to three-phase underground south of Bagley along 310th street then down Lower Rice Lake Road.

The other major project is converting single-phase overhead to single-phase underground around Lake Alice. The west side is in the cooperative's work plan for this season. The east side is in the work plan for 2024. Lake Alice is located at the far southeast end of Clearwater-Polk Electric's service area. It is a beautiful area and thick with trees. Restoring outages in this area are always a challenge. This conversion will not only improve reliability, but it will also greatly reduce the hazardous conditions that crews would experience during overhead outages.

Along with construction projects, there are also maintenance projects that are

done by both Clearwater-Polk crews and contractors when needed. Each summer, Clearwater-Polk contracts with EIR Testing & Maintenance Co. to test breakers at one of the cooperative's five substations. This summer the breakers are being tested at the Bagley substation. The Bagley substation is Clearwater-Polk's largest substation and has approximately 70 breakers that are being tested.

To capitalize on the areas where crews have done significant right-of-way clearing, spraying is on the to-do list for those areas to help keep the regrowth of the brush down. In late summer the spraying will be concentrated in the Shevlin, Moose Creek and Bear Creek township areas. If you live in one of these townships and do not want spraying done on your property, you need to have those areas clearly posted with no spraying signs. Clearwater-Polk uses a contractor for the spraying and if they do not see a no spraying sign with the property owners name, contact information (Kevin Mathison) and signature, they will move forward with their spraying.

Also scheduled in the Shevlin, Moose Creek and Bear Creek township areas is our annual pole testing that will be done in the fall. The pole testing has been set up on a 10-year rotation schedule. Through the first 10 years Clearwater-Polk had an average failure rate of about 1.5 percent. Last fall was the eleventh year of this rotation schedule, and the first year that the area tested was a repeated area. The failure rate was down from the average 1.5 percent to 0.3 percent, testing over 1900 poles with only 6 poles rejected.

With all the construction, rebuilds, conversions and maintenance projects to keep everyone busy, this summer is going to go by quick. A little extra prayer or two for good weather and no major storms is always helpful too. If you have any projects that require getting Clearwater-Polk Electric involved, please contact our office as early into your planning as possible.

It is definitely going to be busy like every summer is. However, there is some fun planned as well. The employees have

heard me say on more than one occasion that everything in life needs balance.

It is a treat when we're able to get out and be among the communities we serve. This summer we will again have a booth at the fair in the beginning of August. There are also plans for us to attend Pumpkin Days in Gonvick again. Last year Clearwater-Polk participated in Bagley's Big Wheel event and hope to again this year. If there is a community event that you feel would be a good fit for Clearwater-Polk to participate in, please give us a call.

I am also looking forward to our annual employee family picnic in July. Anyone who knows me, knows how important family is to me. Our employee family picnic is the day where our home families and work family come together just simply to visit and enjoy each other's company. It's great watching the kids play together, and to listen to the adults telling stories and laughing. My husband, Scott, and I put the meal together. He is a great cook and I make the desserts. I also tend to go maybe a bit overboard on the prizes for the kids, but that's ok because seeing them get so excited makes for some great memories. It is truly one of my favorite days of the summer...my Christmas in July!

I hope you all have a great summer and don't let it get away from you before taking the time to stop and smell the roses as they say. If you see Clearwater-Polk out and about in the communities this summer, please stop by to say hi.


And, as always, stay safe, happy and healthy!

Deanna

SCHEDULED BOARD MEETING


Held at the
Clearwater-Polk Electric
board room at 8:00 a.m.
on the last Wednesday
of each month.

The average home in our area can be powered for about **\$5 a day** – the price of a bottle of sunscreen.



VALUING EVERYTHING THAT POWERS YOUR DAY.

THAT'S THE VALUE OF ELECTRICITY.



ALWAYS ASSUME ALL DOWNED LINES ARE LIVE

Downed power lines can be *deadly*. Always assume a downed power line is *live* and avoid approaching them or anything near them.

Use Precaution

- Downed power lines can energize the ground up to **35 feet** away. Even more in wet conditions.
- Never drive over** downed power lines or anything in contact with them.
- If you see a downed power line, **call 911**.
- Never try to move** a downed power line.

If a vehicle contacts a **power line** or **utility pole**...

STAY AWAY AND CALL 911

- Consider **all lines** to be live and dangerous.
- Stay in place or inside your vehicle unless you see **fire** or **smoke**.
- Warn others to stay at least **35 feet** away.
- Tell others** not to approach vehicle, downed lines, or anything that may be in contact with downed lines.
- Call **911**.

In the Event of Fire or Smoke

- Do not touch** the ground and vehicle at the same time.
- Jump from the vehicle with your **feet together**.
- Shuffle away**, avoid lifting your feet.

Please share this free content to save lives

ESF www.facebook.com/ESF.org www.twitter.com/ESFidatorg www.youtube.com/ESFidatorg

Clearwater-Polk Electric hopes to see you at the 2023 Clearwater County Fair

August 3rd through August 5th
Each day from: 1pm - 8pm

*****REGISTER TO WIN*****
Drawing for adults and kids!






Clearwater-Polk
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

(218) 694-6241 • (888) 694-3833