

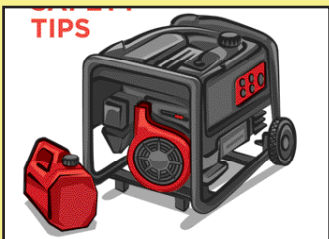
Meeker Cooperative PIONEER

December 2019

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Official publication of



Meeker Co-op is an
Equal Opportunity Provider
and Employer



Qualifications & Election Committee Members (left to right). Willard Wendorff, Kevin Donnay, John (Art) Riehle, Bernard Schulte, (Greg Mathews was not available)

Qualification & Election Committee met December 3 to review Director applications

The Qualifications & Election Committee met on December 3 to review the applications submitted for Director. Five applications were submitted and the Members were verified and placed as the slate of candidates for the 2020 elections. Incumbents Paul Bugbee – District 1, Karen Becker – District 2 and Mark Larson – District 6 were unopposed in their respective Districts. The Committee acted as provided for by the Bylaws and waived the ballot process for these Districts and declared each elected.

The board seat in District 5 is currently filled by board appointment. Two individuals, (Tom Peschl) and (incumbent Stephen Plaisance) filed for nomination. The Committee placed both candidates on the ballot. A mail ballot will be sent to the Members in District 5 prior to the Annual Meeting. Watch for more details on the election and candidate biographies in the March issue of the Meeker Pioneer.

Meeker Co-op will retire \$932,154 in Capital Credits

The Meeker Cooperative Board of Directors approved the general retirement of \$932,154 in capital credits. This includes the amounts paid to estates and former members in 2019 and members who received electricity from the Co-op in 1994, along with power supplier capital credits from 1979-1985. In the past 20 years, Meeker Co-op has retired about \$13.8 million.

As a non-profit cooperative owned by its members, any revenues received from the membership that are in excess of the cost of providing electricity are called margins. These margins allow the Co-op to finance operations such as repairing and maintaining infrastructure. As a cooperative, these margins (often called capital credits) are paid back to the membership as determined by the Board of Directors as the financial condition of the Co-op allows.

If you are a current member and are eligible to for these capital credits, you will see a credit on the electric bill you receive this month. Former members will receive a check for their share of capital credits in December as well. Checks are issued once a member's capital credit amount totals a minimum of \$25. If a former member's capital credits do not reach the minimum amount of \$25, the Co-op retains them until a future year when the minimum is reached and then they are paid out.

Every year we have members who have moved off our lines and left no forwarding address with the Co-op. When it's time to return capital credits to these members, we often have trouble locating them.

Come Enjoy Coffee and Treats on the Co-op!



Coffee On The Co-op Events

Tuesday, Dec. 17

Triple R Grill, Kimball, 9-11 am

Wednesday, Dec. 18

Darwin Community Center, 9-11 am

Keek's in Watkins, 1-3 pm

Thursday, Dec. 19

Meeker Co-op, Litchfield, 9 am - 1 pm



VIBRANT update, Senators' press release and new Work Plan

VIBRANT Update -

With the ground blanketed with snow, construction for the VIBRANT project has pretty much come to an end for this year. As every farmer and construction worker will tell you, the spring, summer and fall of 2019 left a lot to be desired when it came to doing any sort of construction or field work.

With that said, overall I'm happy with how our construction progressed for our VIBRANT Broadband project. Each of the Fixed Wireless poles were able to be installed, although some with a bit more difficulty than we had hoped due to the rain and mud. Construction of fiber to each of them and our 14 substations went on as well. However, the contractors were often working in mud and water in the road ditches. It seemed as though the ditches never dried up this summer. I commend the crews that slogged their way through it all. A job well done.

As many of you may have seen, we have held — and continue to hold — question and answer sessions throughout the area to bring you up to speed on what VIBRANT can deliver for your internet speeds. We began providing internet service in July and with the exception of a small glitch in a piece of equipment here or there, the system has operated amazingly well.

Users of the VIBRANT system tell me how great it is performing for them. We can put up with the rain and mud causing construction headaches an heartaches as long as the VIBRANT system is performing.

It would be quite a different story had construction gone flawlessly but the internet system itself was a failure. Thankfully, that is not the case. The construction delays are temporary and can eventually be overcome. A system-wide failure on VIBRANT's part — had it not performed as well as we said — would be devastating to you and us. For you, it would have meant another internet system with poor and slow service which many of you had already been experiencing. For us it would have

meant we failed you, the member-owners of the Co-op. To me, that would have been unacceptable.

I ask you to check out the VIBRANT Broadband system by giving us a call at 320-693-3231.

Senators Press Release -

Back in October Minnesota Senators Klobuchar and Smith released a press release about Meeker Cooperative receiving a \$22 million dollar loan from the Rural Utility Service (RUS). Unfortunately, many people mistakenly thought it was an announcement that the Co-op had received a \$22 million grant. In fact, I was contacted by three different news reporters, all three asking me about the "grant" and what we were going to do with such a large amount and how we obtained it. Our receiving such a "grant" could not be further from the truth.

I had to inform each reporter that it was a loan and not a grant, which was bit disheartening on several fronts. First, we were not informed about RUS approving our loan request. We found out through the Senators' press release at the same time as everyone else. Generally, RUS will inform us that the loan request has been approved before any public statements are made. That did not happen in this case. I'm not sure why the Senators felt the need to send out a press release about it. We have never had that happen before and have been receiving loan funds from RUS for years. Secondly, the reporters didn't take the time to read the press release — or just plain didn't understand — the difference between a loan and a grant.

Of course, a grant it is something that does not need to be repaid provided the criteria for receiving it are kept. A loan, on the other hand, is exactly that, a loan. This loan is no different than any other loans the Co-op has been receiving for operating the Co-op since its inception back in 1935.

How wonderful it would be for the Co-op's members to receive a grant of that size. However, this is a loan, and like all those before it, it needs to be paid back with interest.

2019-2022 Work Plan -

In February, Meeker's engineer from STAR Energy met with the Board to go over the Co-op's 2019-2022 Construction Work Plan. Of course, the staff here at the Co-op has been working with the engineers at STAR to develop this new plan almost since the last Construction Work Plan was approved by the board way back in February of 2015.

Our last Work Plan was developed for the three-year period of 2015-2017. Due to storms we encountered during that timeframe, road construction projects and other needs that typically change when doing construction, we needed to stretch those construction projects out through 2018 to get them finished.

The Work Plan identifies and outlines necessary system improvements, changes in lines to meet proposed new loads or load growth and replacement of failing equipment. With the Co-op now almost 85 years old and the electrical system constantly subjected to the harsh Minnesota environments, replacement, repairs and upgrades of lines and equipment are a constant.

Consider that Meeker Co-op maintains 1,935 miles of line. This equates to over 4,000 miles of wire as each mile of line actually consists of several wires. This is more than enough miles of wire to stretch from here to the Panama Canal. All of these lines have to be maintained and work properly every minute of every day. If even one of those wires fails, a member (or perhaps many more) will experience an outage.

The Work Plan also provides support for our loan application to the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) and our other lenders to finance these proposed construction projects. Basically, it gives them a blueprint of when, and for which projects, we plan to spend the money we will borrow from them.

Some of the items included in the new Work Plan include: \$5.7 million on new line extensions and conversions; 1.3 million on pole replacements; and more than \$600,000 on transformers. Many more

specific items such as security lights, voltage regulators, capacitors, meters, substation equipment and upgrades, communication systems, Smart Grid facilities, and construction costs due to road moves make up the remainder of the 2019-2022 Construction Work Plan budget.

This Work Plan, like the ones that have come before it for the past 84 years, strives to achieve the best in reliability, safety, energy conservation, and service to provide competitively-priced energy to the Co-op's member-owners, while keeping with sound business practices.

Just in Time For Christmas Giving -

Like any Christmas in the past umpteen years, internet games, devices that need high-speed internet connectivity and new streaming services will be on many peoples' gift lists. If you are hoping to get the perfect gift for the person that has everything, consider a gift of VIBRANT Broadband Internet. Regardless of where they are located throughout Meeker's service territory, odds are good they are lacking high-speed internet. This holiday season, believe in high speed internet. Believe in VIBRANT Broadband.

Thank you, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year -

As the year and the decade come to a close, I thank you for your membership in your electric cooperative and your trust in us as we work to provide you the service that you, as the owners, deserve. I wish each and every one of you a very blessed Christmas filled with your family and friends and a joyous, prosperous and healthy 2020.

Did You Know -

If you gave all the gifts listed in the Twelve Days of Christmas, it would equal 364 gifts.

Board of Directors

Karen Becker, President — District 2

Eden Lake in Stearns; Harvey, Manannah in Meeker

Kevin Issendorf, Vice President-District 4

Litchfield, Greenleaf in Meeker

Brad Donnay, Secretary — District 3

Luxemburg, Maine Prairie, South Maine Prairie in Stearns; Forest Prairie in Meeker

Karl Lundin, Treasurer — District 9

North Kingston, Kingston, Forest City in Meeker

Paul Bugbee — District 1

Roseville, Irving in Kandiyohi; Paynesville in Stearns; Union Grove in Meeker

Stephen Plaisance — District 5

Fairhaven in Stearns; Cokato, Southside, French Lake in Wright; Dassel in Meeker

Mark Larson — District 6

Harrison, Kandiyohi, Genessee, Fahlun, Lake Elizabeth, E. Lake Lillian in Kandiyohi; Cosmos, Acton, Danielson, Swede Grove in Meeker; Brookfield, Boon Lake in Renville

K. Bruce Krueger — District 7

Collinwood, Cedar Mills in Meeker; Stockholm in Wright; Acoma, Hutchinson in McLeod

Larry Huhn — District 8

Darwin, Ellsworth in Meeker

Chad Felstul — Attorney

Meeker Pioneer

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CEO/General Manager: Tim Mergen
Editor: Becky Sorenson

The Meeker Pioneer is the official member publication of Meeker Cooperative and focuses on our members, programs and events. All member story ideas and comments are welcome. Send to Becky Sorenson at the address above.

Office Hours:

Monday - Friday 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

For 24-hour service call

320-693-3231

Fax: 320-693-2980

Web sites: www.meeker.coop

VIBRANTBB.net

Use the "Contact Us" form on the home page

Meeker Cooperative Mission Statement

"To enhance the quality of life of the Cooperative's Members and Customers by providing safe, reliable, competitively priced energy and other value-added services, while practicing environmental stewardship."

Extreme weather highlights importance of reliable electricity

The 2019 polar vortex demonstrated that members have the right people and power plants ready for extreme weather.

On a normal day, having reliable electricity means you can charge your phone, watch TV and cook dinner. During extreme cold weather, however, reliable electricity means so much more. Electricity is essential for almost any home heating, whether through all-electric heating systems or for powering the components of a furnace.

The importance of electricity was on display a year ago when a polar vortex sent temperatures well below zero and stressed the electric system for several days.

Meeker Cooperative deployed line technicians, trucks and equipment to fix any problems caused by the cold weather. At the same time, one of our wholesale electricity providers, Great River Energy, carefully operated and monitored the electric system to ensure energy continued to reach Meeker Co-op and the 27 other cooperatives it serves.

Extreme weather brings new focus

When winter weather turns dangerous, GRE power line crews suspend normal maintenance in order to closely monitor the grid and fix issues that arise due to cold temperatures, ice and wind.

“When our system is stressed or damaged, our crews work around the clock to keep the grid operating for our member-consumers,”

said Priti Patel, Great River Energy’s vice president and chief transmission officer.

Region-wide collaboration

Great River Energy works with the regional grid operator, known as the Midcontinent Independent System Operator or MISO, and neighboring utilities to prepare for possible scenarios. During events like the polar vortex, MISO can issue cold weather alerts, which direct utilities to prepare all power plants to be dispatched on short notice.

During extreme weather, you need options

Wind energy now represents a hefty portion of the energy on the Midwest electric grid. When temperatures dip below -20 degrees Fahrenheit, however, wind turbines can shut down entirely to protect vital components.

That’s where Great River Energy’s “peaking” power plants come in. When demand for electricity is high (times of “peak” demand), these plants provide additional energy typically fueled by natural gas. During extreme cold, when natural gas is also needed to heat homes and schools, those same plants can operate dependably with fuel oil.

“The handful of coldest days of winter demonstrate the value of a diverse portfolio of generation resources,” said Great River Energy Vice President and Chief Power Supply Officer Jon Brekke. “It requires a variety of fuels and technologies to ensure members are warm and comfortable in every season and in any weather.”

Holiday Schedule

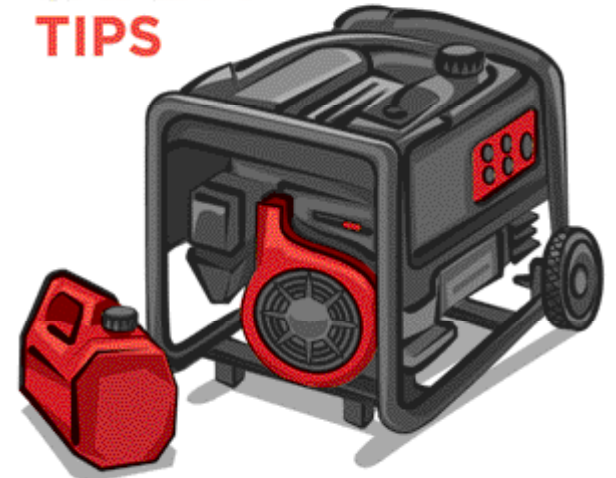
Meeker Cooperative will be closed for business on

**December 24,
December 25 and
January 1**

to celebrate with their families.

If you experience an outage, please call our office at 320-693-3231 and dispatchers will send crews out 24/7 to restore your power.

GENERATOR SAFETY TIPS



Never connect a standby generator into your home’s electrical system. There are only two safe ways to connect a standby generator to your equipment.

A generator can be a life-saver in an extended storm outage. But never connect a generator into your home’s electrical system. There are only two safe ways to connect a standby generator to your equipment.

Stationary Generator:

An approved generator transfer switch, which keeps your house circuits separate from your Co-op, should be installed by a professional.

Portable Generator:

Plug appliances directly into the outlet provided on the generator.

Set up and run your generator in a well-ventilated area outside the home. Make sure it’s out and away from your garage, doors, windows and vents. The carbon monoxide generated is deadly.

Use a heavy-duty extension cord to connect electric appliances to the outlet on the generator.

Start the generator first before connecting your appliances.

Source: SafeElectricity.org

VIBRANT Broadband meets one-year goal and is moving forward

D&J Schwartz-Dassel MN

We are extremely pleased with service and speed. It has surpassed our expectations from start to finish! Mary was great to work with to get us ready to go, Scott, who did the mounting, was timely and helpful, the installer, Dustan, was informative and helpful; he made sure we were getting the speed that was right for us. Finally, Jane kept us updated throughout the process. We have no complaints!

J Welch-South Haven, MN

We are very happy with our internet service from Vibrant. In the past we struggled to use internet service of about 15mb with a different provider; it was impossible. We now have more than enough. We have found that we can enhance the strength of the signal through out the house after we installed the Google Mesh which enables a continuous 50 mb everywhere in our house. Again were so happy you came to our neighborhood. Thank you.

In the fall of 2018 Meeker Cooperative embarked on a journey to connect all of our substations with fiber optic technology to enhance our ability to deliver electricity and provide excellent member service. In addition, we took the challenge to also expand on that fiber backbone and deliver what our area sorely lacked: high-speed broadband internet service to our members and others in our service territory.



Despite bitter cold and deep snow, a late start to the construction season this spring, and seemingly never-ending rain throughout the summer, the crews worked through and the mainline construction has been completed in just over a year.

Response to the fast speeds and the unparalleled customer service have been great! See above for a few testimonials from some of our satisfied subscribers.

If you are unsatisfied with current internet speeds, buffering or service, make 2020 at VIBRANT year! For more information or to sign up, please visit VIBRANTBB.net or call our VIBRANT team members at 320-693-3231.

A VIBRANT Broadband “Year Book”



Day One of interduct installation, beginning at the Meeker Cooperative headquarters.



Once the orange interduct is installed, crews are able to “blow” fiber right into the protective sheath underground.



An exceptionally snowy winter necessitated clearing snow away from many locations before installing poles.



VIBRANT installer Scott Ernst installing one of the first fixed wireless services this summer.



Stacking a total of 49 monopoles across the entire Co-op service territory provides fixed wireless service to members.



Governor Tim Walz and former RUS Administrator Ken Johnson attended the VIBRANT dedication and lit up a VIBRANT LED sign.

Capital Credits

Continued from Page 1

To check for names you may know, go to www.meeker.coop. Click on the "About Us" tab at the top, and then click the link "Capital Credits." There you will find the link "Unclaimed Capital Credits." Click on that link to download a PDF of the list.

We continue to try to locate these members for seven years, after which the law allows us to donate their capital credits to the Operation Round Up® program to provide scholarships for educational purposes.

If you receive a payout for the power supplier funds of 1979-1985 or 1994 general retirement,

or because you are no longer a member in 2019, you also have the option to donate these funds to Operation Round Up if you wish to do so.

If you recognize any of the names on the "Unclaimed Capital Credits" list and can provide us with a current address, or if you would like to donate all or a portion of your capital credit payout to Operation Round Up, please contact Alicia at 320-693-3231.

Receiving capital credits is one of the many advantages of being a rural electric cooperative member/owner.



Holiday Tree Safety Tips

Ensure a merry and bright holiday season by safely maintaining your tree with the following tips.

- Keep away from heat:** Make sure your tree is at least three feet away from any heat source, like an air duct, fireplace or space heater.
- Examine cords:** Examine extension cords and lights for signs of damage. Frayed electric cords should be discarded.
- Inspect lights:** Carefully inspect all electrical decorations before you use them. Cracked or damaged sockets and/or loose or exposed wires can cause serious shock or start a fire.
- Trim the stump:** Trim the tree's stump by at least two inches on freshly cut trees. Allow it to absorb water for 24 hours before bringing it inside.
- Keep it watered:** Fill the water reservoir daily and check the condition of the trunk bark and branches for moisture. Shedding or dry needles could mean the tree is drying out, increasing overall fire risks.

Source: National Fire Protection Association

Industry News

Researchers are developing a study on how to recycle wind turbines in North Dakota

The turbines are built of mostly recyclable products, however the blades are made of fiberglass materials, making it hard to find a new purpose.

Allete Clean Energy is partnering with institutes in Minnesota and North Dakota to explore options that will keep blades out of a landfill.

The blades in the sky, won't be able to spin in the sky forever.

"It's a tricky problem because the blades have minerals and materials in them, like epoxy, and fiberglass, and balsawood and paint," said Al Rudeck, president of Allete Clean Energy. The turbines themselves have a 40-year life, but the blades require replacement every 15 to 20 years.

"We want to find a solution for that, that doesn't just landfill the blades," Rudeck said.

A study, that is still in premature stages, is looking for alternative options to recycle the blades.

"Grinding them up and using them for road bed material, we've talked about running them through a chemical reaction called paralysis, where you can extract the fibers from the fiberglass to be re-used," Rudeck said.

-KFYR

Preparation pays off for Great River Energy

Originally constructed in 1978, Great River Energy's high-voltage direct-current system is one of a few of its kind in the world and one of the electric generation and transmission cooperative's most valuable assets. The co-op's high-voltage direct-current (HVDC) system consists of a 436-mile (702-km) HVDC transmission line and two converter stations, one at each end of the line, that convert electricity from alternating-current (AC) power to direct-current (DC) power and vice versa. Nearly all the power is delivered from Coal Creek Station — the co-op's largest power plant — in Underwood, North Dakota, U.S., to Minnesota, where the utility's 28 member co-ops are located.

After eight years of planning and preparation, Great River Energy recently upgraded the unique HVDC system, successfully completing one of the most significant transmission projects in its history. The utility and ABB — the manufacturer of its HVDC system — completed the upgrade from March 7, 2019, to May 17, 2019, during a power plant outage that was planned for regular maintenance. As part of the upgrade, all the equipment in the converter stations was replaced with today's technology. All the work either took place inside or directly supporting the converter stations, not on the transmission line itself.

-T&D World

\$1,000 College Scholarship Available For Dependents of Co-op Members

Meeker Cooperative is pleased to make available a \$1,000 college scholarship funded by Basin Electric Power Cooperative, one Meeker's power suppliers.

To be eligible a student must:

- be a dependent child (including adopted or step-children) of a Meeker Cooperative member;
- be enrolled or planning to enroll in a full-time undergraduate course of study at an accredited, two-year or four-year college, university or vocational/technical school;
- enter college in the fall of the same year the scholarship is given;
- not have previously received this award;
- be a US citizen; and
- complete and submit all required materials and the scholarship

application form by the application deadline.

Completed applications must reach Meeker Cooperative by close of business on Wednesday, January 29, 2020.

The application is available on Meeker's website at www.meeker.coop. Select Download Forms from the Member Services tab.

The form may be completed on-line, but must be printed to submit with the supporting materials.

Applications are also available at Meeker's office or by calling Mary Alice Holm at 320-693-3231.

All decisions by the scholarship selection committee will be final.

\$1,000 Operation Round Up Non-Traditional Student Scholarship

A \$1,000 scholarship is being offered to a student five or more years beyond high school graduation who is working toward a degree, certificate or licensure in some area of expertise. The eligible candidate must have an educational plan and must have been enrolled for at least one quarter or semester in the chosen program.

The candidate must be a member of Meeker Cooperative or be an employee of the Cooperative. Scholarship applications are available at the Cooperative or by calling 320-693-3231 or can be downloaded from Meeker's website at meeker.coop, Member Services, Download Forms. The application deadline is close of business on February 6, 2020. The scholarship is made available by the Meeker Cooperative Electric Trust.

Members of the Cooperative may choose to have their bills rounded up to the nearest dollar and employees of the Cooperative are given the opportunity to have their paychecks rounded down to contribute to this fund. This extra change is accumulated in the Operation Round Up® Trust Fund and is awarded as grants to non-profit and charitable organizations. High school scholarships are also awarded to qualifying area students.

All members of Meeker Cooperative are eligible to participate in Operation Round Up. Please call Meeker Co-op at 320-693-3231 if you do not currently participate and would be willing to contribute your extra change each month to local non-profit organizations in your community.

ATTENTION SNOWBIRDS

Planning to leave for sunnier shores this winter?

Do you have a plan to stay current on your electric bill when you're gone?



Meeker Co-op has a number of ways to pay your bill when you're away:

1. Pay it online with SmartHub. And while you're there, check out your readings, daily, monthly and historic power use or manage your account. If you wish, there is an App available for iOS and Android users for added convenience anywhere. It's easy to sign up. Just go to www.meeker.coop, click on the SmartHub icon and follow the prompts.
2. Auto Pay (ACH) from your checking or savings account. You can sign up for this through your SmartHub account as well. Having your monthly bill automatically paid from your bank always insures against late payments.
3. Credit card payments may be set up through SmartHub as well. Or call our payment center at 844-834-4462 to pay once or keep your credit card information on file to use monthly.

Thank you for planning ahead and have a wonderful time soaking up the sun!



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Laundry Tip: Dry towels and heavier cottons separately from lighter clothing. You'll spend less time drying the lighter-weight items.

Source: energy.gov



Potato Casserole

Dave Callicott of South Haven submitted this month's winning recipe for **Favorite recipe using Potatoes**. He will have \$10 credited to his account. Congratulations!

Potato Casserole

4 cups cooked potatoes
1 cup cottage cheese
1 cup sour cream

2 tsp. grated onion
Parmesan cheese

Mash the potatoes with butter or margarine, not milk. Add cottage cheese, sour cream and onion. Put into a greased casserole dish and sprinkle generously with Parmesan cheese.

Bake at 350 degrees for 30 minutes.

**For January, submit your Favorite Soup/Stew Recipe
by December 27 to:**

Meeker Cooperative, ATTN: Becky Sorenson, 1725 US Hwy 12, Suite 100, Litchfield, MN 55355

Cogeneration and small power production governed by Minnesota Rules

Meeker Cooperative is obligated by Minnesota Rules pts. 7835 to interconnect with and purchase electricity from any cogenerators and/or small power producers. We also are required to provide information free of charge to any and all members who may be interested in entering into an interconnection agreement with the Co-op.

In compliance with Minnesota adopted rules relating to cogeneration and small power production, all interconnections require an application and approval to become a qualifying facility.

Make "staying in" a lot more fun this winter with VIBRANT Broadband

Your super-busy family needs **super-fast internet speeds**

VIBRANT Broadband
Powered by Meeker Cooperative

The advertisement features a collage of images: a young boy playing video games, a woman smiling while working on a laptop, and a family watching sports on a large TV. The VIBRANT Broadband logo is prominently displayed in the center.

Who wants to wait for files to download or videos to buffer?

Not your busy family! VIBRANT Broadband's fiber supported system delivers speeds you've only dreamed about — up to 100 Mbps — so your home's internet will be fast enough for simultaneous use by multiple people, devices and applications:

- Smartphones
- Tablets
- Snapchat
- Pandora
- FaceTime
- Streaming

Sign up TODAY and your family will be all smiles Christmas morning!

Visit www.VIBRANTBB.net, call 320-693-3231 or use the sign-up sheet on the front of this *Pioneer*!

APPLIANCE REBATES ARE ONLY FOR ENERGY STAR RATED APPLIANCES

Meeker Cooperative offers rebates of \$25 for every Energy Star rated refrigerator, freezer, clothes washer, dishwasher and dehumidifier. However, these rebates CANNOT be applied to every appliance.



If the appliance you are shopping for is Energy Star rated, it will have the Energy Star logo on the appliance and will have the designation on the lower left corner of the appliance Energy Guide. If in doubt, please go online to Energy Star (www.energystar.gov) and check to see if your appliance is listed.

Once you purchase an appliance that has an Energy Star designation, you may send your receipt along with a rebate application (found in our office or online at www.meeker.coop/downloadable-forms to our office at 1725 US Hwy. 12 E., Litchfield, MN 55355. Please call our office at 320-693-3231 if you have any questions.

FIREPLACE SAFETY TIPS

Every year, nearly 20,000 residential fires are linked to fireplaces. The Consumer Product Safety Commission offers these tips to help you keep your family safe:



1. Consider scheduling a fireplace inspection and cleaning by a certified professional.
2. Install a carbon monoxide detector on every floor of your home. These devices offer low-cost protection and provide early warnings of potential problems.
3. Keep flues, dampers, firestops, flashing and chimney caps in good condition.
4. If you have small children and/or pets, consider a secondary screen. A glass screen can reach temperatures of 500 degrees Fahrenheit, so an extra barrier can protect them from serious burns.



The Power to Protect Your Best Friend.

Our interactive security systems protect your loved ones and pets from intruders, carbon monoxide, fire and more. Watch live video, arm or disarm your system and control your lights and thermostat from web and mobile devices.

888.264.6380 | heartlandss.com



Pioneer Ads — Free want ad service for members. Please limit your ad to nine words, one word per line. One phone number please. Use the coupon below or pick one up in our office. Ads will be printed for one month only. Submit again for addtl. months. Three ads per member per month limit. Include your name and address, which will be used for identification purposes only. Ads received by **Dec. 27** will be included in the January issue.

Please run this ad in the next Pioneer

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone number: _____

Please check ad category

- For Sale, Misc.
- Agricultural
- Automotive
- Wanted
- Giveaway
- Service
- For Rent

Remember to limit your ad to nine words!

1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____

4 _____ 5 _____ 6 _____

7 _____ 8 _____ 9 _____

Clip and Send to: Meeker Cooperative, 1725 US Hwy. 12, Suite 100, Litchfield, MN 55355 Attn: Becky Sorenson or email rsorenson@meeker.coop

For Sale - Miscellaneous

- Jiffy Lectric Stealth ice auger 8", exc. cond. \$150. 320-583-0829.
- 2011 Polaris 1QLXT 550, reverse elec. start, exc. cond. \$4,500. 320-693-6176.
- FL-8 Vexilar fish locator, \$160; Strike Master 8" elec. Ice auger, \$50. 320-398-8271.
- Oat straw small square bales, \$5.50/ea. Cash. 320-221-0341.

- Elec. wheelchair, new batt., but needs repair. \$175. 320-275-4893.
- Never used 1962 Farmall M child's pedal tractor. \$299. 952-239-9945.
- Black glass TV stand w/shelves to hold 39-55" TV. Lk. new. \$75. 320-275-9898.
- Free standing forced air circulating wood fireplace. \$400. 952-938-8269.
- Upright freezer, 5.5 cu.ft. 320-380-4884.

- Antique fireplace wood holder. Best offer. 952-938-8269.
- Breville 4-slice toaster, new, 220V. Best offer. 952-938-8269.
- 2005 Arctic Cat 500 4x4 ATV w/poly plow. \$1,800. 320-693-8136.
- Brass color ceiling fan, 5 blades, 3 lights, lk. new. 320-693-8464.
- Vintage firetruck pedal car, steel frame. \$250. 952-239-9945.
- Cocker Spaniel pups. \$900. 320-224-6988

- Six dining room chairs, lk. new. \$220. 320-693-6590.
- Clam fish house, fits 2, \$150. Mr. Heater, \$30. 320-398-2025.
- 8'x12' shed, steel ext., 5' door, on skids. 320-857-2506.
- 5' wood feeder or raised garden, weathered. \$25. 320-857-2506.
- 6' wood feeder or raised garden, exc. shape. \$75. 320-857-2506.
- Rabbit hutches and Rex-Lionhead rabbits. 952-393-9231.
- Child-sized 1950s school desk, steel & wood. \$125. 952-239-9945.
- Toro lawn mower, 6.5hp, 22" self-propelled, recycle w/bagger. \$85.
- 1972 Arctic Cat Panther 340. \$500/obo. 320-587-6841.
- New T-shirts: XXL \$4; flannels: XXL \$10; vests \$15. 320-693-4246.
- Girls' dresses, size 8-9, w/tags. \$25/ea. 320-234-2583.
- New Amish built 4'x8' dark house, plywood ends, canvas top. 320-221-0337.

- Gas fireplaces; one w/mantle; one insert. \$250/ea. 320-552-1359
- Wood bunk beds twin/full, many drawers. Grt. Cond. 320-693-2970.

For Sale - Automotive

- '95 Dodge Dakota V6, 191,000 mi. \$500. 952-212-1844.
- Auto AWD 2002 Chrysler. Best offer. 612-816-6117.

For Sale - Agricultural

- 1949 8N Ford w/loader, back hoe, forks. \$5,000. 320-980-7831.
- One used tractor tire 11x36, Goodyear. \$100. 320-275-3602.
- 24-ft. free standing cattle panels \$260/ea. Watkins. 320-333-6540.

- 1936 Twin City MM tractor, restored. Strong runner. \$2,350. 320-276-8575.

Wanted

- Taxidermy mounts for fish, animals, heads, rugs, antlers. 320-693-2504.
- Fishing spears, old or new. 651-323-8337.

Services

- Heating, plumbing issues? Repair today. Call Paul at Mastercraft now. 320-292-9483
- For rent: Cabin, Rice Lk., Paynesville, 3BR, 2BA, sleeps 9, furn. Short/long term. 513-827-2942.

Find your location number

Four location numbers have been hidden within this **Pioneer**. If you find your number and claim it by calling Meeker Cooperative by December 27, you will have \$10 credited to your account! If you find your number and your information is correct in our system, you'll receive a bill credit equal to one month's output from a Member Solar panel. In November, Marilee Callan of Dassel found her number. Good luck!

