

COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS



Dokken's Dogs

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Hunt
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Anniversary
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"Plant Trees Under Whose Shade You Do Not Expect to Sit"



Tim McCarthy
General Manager/
Chief Executive
Officer

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com

There is a great quote that speaks volumes on the importance of planning for the future. It is attributed to a man named Nelson Henderson. I don't know anything about Mr. Henderson, but his words perfectly describe the reason we do what we do at Sioux Valley Energy. His quote is: "The true meaning of life is to plant trees under whose shade you do not expect to sit."

Each year Sioux Valley Energy's Board of Directors and Strategic Leadership Team meet during the summer to discuss the future and provide direction on strategic initiatives that our employees will work towards.

During the strategy session, we don't just think about next week or next month or even next year. We think about 5, 10, 20 plus years down the road. What will our members' needs be at that time? How do we stay ahead of the growth and demand for electricity? How do we balance rates, reliability, and member service? How do we best serve our communities, adding value to the lives of our members?

While those questions are not easy to answer, the strategy we build today will provide a frame-

work and roadmap for Sioux Valley Energy's members in the future.

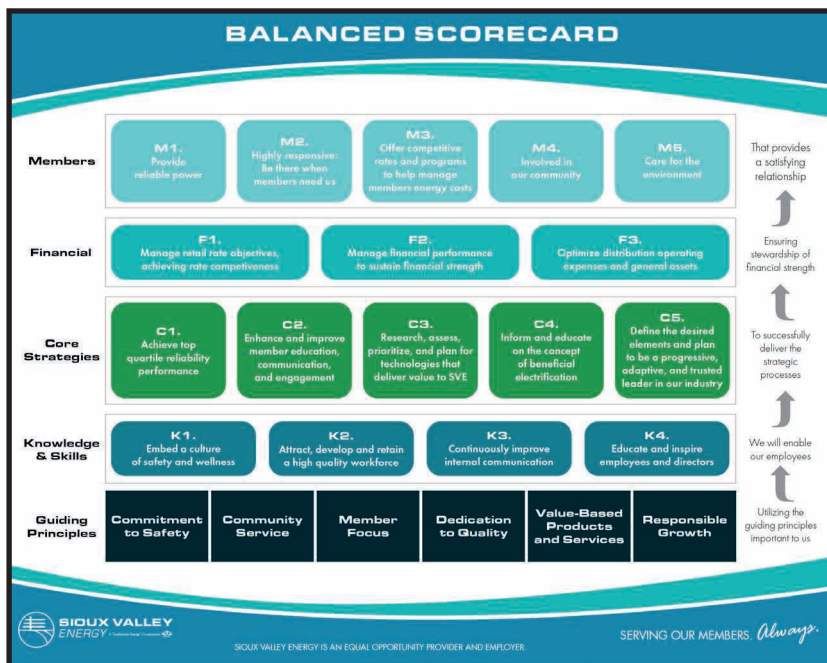
At the most recent strategy session, our Board of Directors made a few adjustments to our guiding principles, highlighted on our Balanced Scorecard (as shown on the lower left).

First, we separated the guiding principles of safety and quality because we believe both principles are worthy of standing alone. We also wanted to make sure that safety is listed first in our building blocks of guiding principles because safety is more than a priority—it is part of our core culture. We also adjusted the wording on our products and services principle highlighting the importance of providing value to any product or service we offer to our members. Finally, we took out the outdated principle of profitable diversification as that is no longer part of our business model.

The Balanced Scorecard is not just words on a page—it helps guide our employees in their everyday work. Each employee understands how their role fits into the overall organizational plan.

This Cooperative will be facing significant changes in the future as we are anticipating our membership to nearly double over the next 25 years. I don't expect to be at Sioux Valley Energy in 25 years but just as Nelson Henderson's quote says, we need to start "planting trees" now for our future members. That means over time we will be expanding our facilities and workforce, and we will be investing more in our electrical infrastructure.

On a closing note, we are transitioning from summer into fall and with that change in weather, we will see a lot of farmers out in the field and moving large equipment around. Please slow down and drive with caution around field equipment on the road. We also implore our agricultural members to always look up and around for overhead power lines as they move their equipment in and out of the field during harvest. Stay safe everyone!



COOPERATIVE CONNECTIONS

SIoux VALLEY ENERGY

(USPS No. 497-440)

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Choose Electric Heating to Save!

Heating and cooling uses the largest chunk of your home energy dollars.

When you choose electric, you know it's clean, reliable, safe – and it can also be very energy efficient. It's tough to beat the efficiency of an electric heat pump that not only cools your home in the summer, but also heats it in the winter.

Heat pumps – geothermal or air-to-air systems including ductless solutions – are designed to be used in any home whether it's new construction, a renovation project, or replacing existing equipment.

Sioux Valley Energy offers rebates and a special electric heat rate to make choosing electric a great value. Learn more at <https://www.siouxvalleyenergy.com/programs-and-rebates> or check out our *Solutions Catalog*.

SIoux VALLEY ENERGY REBATES

Air-to-Air Heat Pump Rebates (2 ton and larger)

With electric back-up furnace: \$1,200

With non-electric back-up furnace: \$600

Geothermal Heat Pump Rebates (2 ton and larger)

Rebate of \$1,200

Ductless Air-Source Heat Pump Rebates

Rebate of \$300 per structure

Electric Heat Rate

Reduced rate of 6.35 cents/kWh

(compared to regular rate of 10.26 cents/kWh)

Available October–April billing cycles (some restrictions apply)

October is Fire Safety Month

Is your workplace or home fireproof? Each year, the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) celebrates National Fire Safety Month in October. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, in 2016, there were 88 occupational fatalities as a result of workplace fires or explosions. This is down from 2015, in which there were 121. While the statistics show that the number of fatalities due to fires or explosions in the workplace is on a downward slope, any number other than 0 is unacceptable and demands the attention from management, safety professionals and employees in every company. Not only do fires present a severe life safety hazard, they also can be detrimental to business success due to the possible destruction of business equipment and facilities. This campaign serves as a reminder to us all of the importance of fire safety awareness in both the workplace and our home lives.

The safety reminders communicated in the workplace can be easily translated to fire safety in the home. Establish a family emergency action plan, discuss escape routes with family members, and locate fire extinguishers in your home. Additionally, conduct a mock fire drill with your family members to ensure you and your loved ones know how to get out safely. During this drill, outline meeting places that are at a safe distance from the home. Designate a neighbor to contact for help in the event of an emergency. Simple exercises such as the aforementioned could mean the difference maker in your family making it out alive in the event of a fire in your home.

Below are key components to ensuring your workplace and home are fireproof:

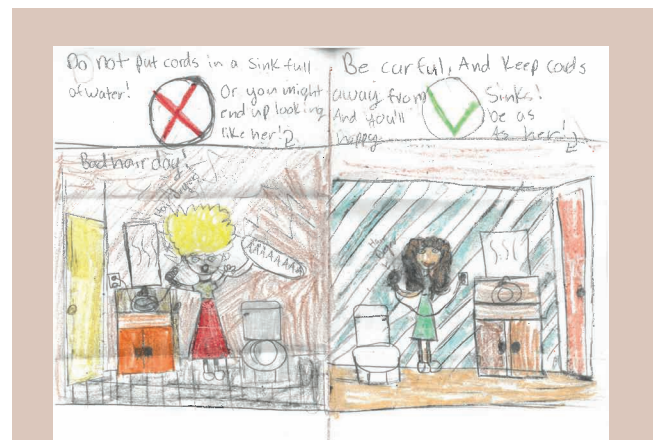
- **Eliminate Clutter** – Exercise good housekeeping. Clutter can easily become a fuel source in the event of a fire, allowing a fire to spread quickly. Furthermore, clutter can restrict access to emergency equipment and exit routes.
- **Fire Extinguishers** – Maintain the appropriate type and number of fire extinguishers. Conduct monthly and annual extinguisher inspections to ensure they are in good, working condition. Provide training for employees on the correct use of fire extinguishers.
- **Chemical Safety** – Use and store chemicals safely. Read hazard warning labels and safety data sheets

to determine flammability and other fire hazards. Ensure your chemical storage areas provide adequate ventilation for the storage of chemical or other hazardous substances.

- **Waste Control and Storage** – Limit the accumulation of flammable or combustible materials and residues as to prevent the risk for such materials contributing to a fire emergency.
- **Exits** – Ensure emergency exit route diagrams are posted and accessible in all areas of the facility for all employees to easily view. Additionally, ensure means of egress are well-lit with regulated exit signs and free from debris or clutter.

Remember it is always better to be proactive rather than reactive and it is best to alleviate hazards or hiccups in times of peace than in times of chaos. Utilize the above tips to reduce the risk for catastrophe or at least minimize the damage.

Source: Safety Resources, Inc.



Keep cords away from water!

Maddy Pannell, Age 12

Maddy Pannell advises people it's not safe to plug in appliances around water. Maddy is the daughter of Scott and Kim Pannell from Sioux Falls, S.D., members of Southeastern Electric Cooperative.

Kids, send your drawing with an electrical safety tip to your local electric cooperative (address found on Page 3). If your poster is published, you'll receive a prize. All entries must include your name, age, mailing address and the names of your parents. Colored drawings are encouraged.

PASTA PERFECT

ITALIAN SPAGHETTI

Ingredients:

- 1 8 oz. can tomato sauce
- 1 6 oz. can tomato paste
- 1 1/2 paste cans water
- 1 small onion, chopped
- 2 tsp. Worcestershire sauce
- 1 tsp. garlic salt
- 1/2 tsp. chili powder
- 3 shakes cayenne pepper
- 1/8 tsp. black pepper
- 1 tsp. basil
- 1 tsp. oregano
- 1/2 to 1 lb. ground beef

METHOD

Combine all ingredients except ground beef. Cover and simmer 30 minutes, stirring occasionally. Brown beef and add to sauce. Serve over cooked noodles. May add green peppers or mushrooms.

Gail Keating
Flandreau, S.D.

GARDEN HARVEST PASTA SHELLS

Ingredients:

- 2 tbsps. vegetable oil
- 2 medium zucchini, shredded
- 1/2 cup finely shredded carrots
- 2 cups chopped fresh broccoli
- 1 small onion, chopped
- Salt and pepper
- 1 lb part skim ricotta cheese
- 2 cups shredded mozzarella
- 1 egg, lightly beaten
- 1/4 cup grated parmesan
- 1 tbsp. dried basil
- 27.5 oz. jar pasta sauce
- 12 oz. pkg jumbo pasta shells, cooked and drained

METHOD

Heat oven to 350. In a large skillet heat oil, then saute broccoli, zucchini, carrots, and onions until tender. Season with salt and pepper. Set aside. In a large bowl, thoroughly combine ricotta, mozzarella, egg, parmesan, and basil. Add vegetables and stir to combine. Spread 1 cup of the pasta sauce evenly in a 9" x 13' baking dish. Fill pasta shells with the vegetable and cheese mixture and arrange in the baking dish. Spoon the remaining sauce over the shells. Cover and bake for 45 minutes. Uncover and bake another 10 minutes or until bubbly.

Faye Chambliss
Murdo, S.D.

CREAMY CHICKEN AND BACON PASTA

Ingredients:

- 8 oz. spaghetti
- 1 1/2 lbs. boneless skinless chicken breasts, cut into 3/4 inch chunks
- 2 tbsps. flour
- 4 slices bacon
- 1 cup milk
- 4 oz. (1/2 package) cream cheese, at room temperature
- 1 1/2 tbsps. basil leaves
- 1 1/2 tbsps. garlic powder
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1/4 tsp. coarse ground black pepper

METHOD

Cook spaghetti as directed on package. Drain well. Meanwhile, toss chicken with flour. Set aside. Cook bacon in large skillet on medium heat until crisp. Drain on paper towels. Set aside. Remove all but 1 tbsp drippings from skillet. Add chicken; cook and stir 4 minutes or until golden brown. Stir in milk, cream cheese and seasonings until well blended. Reduce heat to low; simmer 5 minutes, stirring occasionally. Cut bacon into bite-size pieces. Add to skillet. Place spaghetti in serving bowl. Add chicken mixture; toss well. Serve immediately.

mccormick.com

Please send your favorite recipes to your local electric cooperative (address found on Page 3). Each recipe printed will be entered into a drawing for a prize in December 2023. All entries must include your name, mailing address, phone number and cooperative name.

Seal Up the Savings



Sheila Gross
Energy Services
Specialist

Contact Sheila Gross at sheila.gross@siouxvalleyenergy.com to learn more. Check out our rebates and incentives here:



Is your home cold in the winter and hot in the summer? Do you feel drafts around light switches and outlets?

Heating and cooling needs vary by season, but the same tactics apply. A tightly sealed home keeps the air you heat or cool inside, and the outdoor air outside. Sealing and insulating your home can reduce your heating and cooling bills as much as 30 percent according to the US Department of Energy. Sealing and insulating offer improved comfort, better humidity control, and reduced outside noise, along with less pollen, dust, and insects.

- Inspect windows and doors. Make sure all your windows are shut and in locked position. Seal openings between window frames and siding and around door frames with caulk and weather-stripping materials. The best time to apply caulk outside is during dry weather conditions with outdoor temperatures at least 45 degrees. Install shrink film insulation indoor window kits or storm windows to windows with significant air leaks. If you can see a sliver of daylight between a door and its frame or if you shut the door and you can pull a piece of paper out without tearing it, add some weather-stripping material to seal it up.
- Inspect around plumbing vents, wiring holes, and recessed lights. Seal gaps around hidden spaces with caulk,

expandable spray foam, or other appropriate materials.

- Inspect around open soffit, kneewalls, furnace flue, duct chaseways, attic hatch, basement rim joist, and foundation. Seal with caulk and add insulation or other appropriate materials to prevent air leaks, reduce noise, and keep out pollen, dust, and insects.
- Check for drafty switch and outlet covers. Remove the cover plate and insert a foam sealer to stop air leaks.

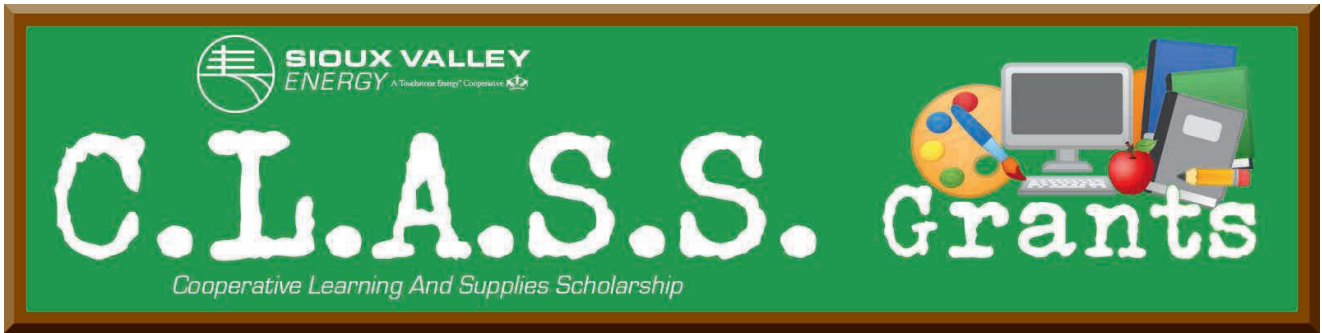
If you need assistance in discovering how to make your home more efficient and comfortable, Sioux Valley Energy offers a third-party weatherization energy audit for \$100. The walk-through audit includes inspection of insulation, doors, and windows along with infrared imaging and blower door testing.

Contact the Energy Services Department at 800-234-1960 to learn more or to schedule an energy audit. Members who utilize SVE's energy audit program can also be eligible for low interest weatherization loans upon approved credit up to \$15,000, 5 percent interest with a 7-year term.

Federal tax incentives may be available for weatherization incentives as well, visit https://www.energystar.gov/about/federal_tax_credits/non_business_energy_property_tax_credits for more information.

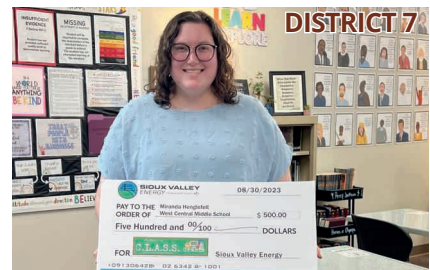
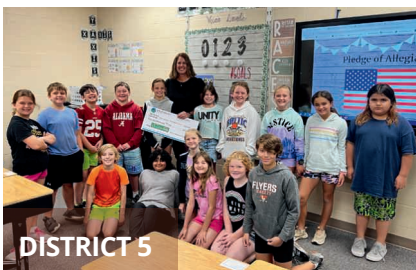
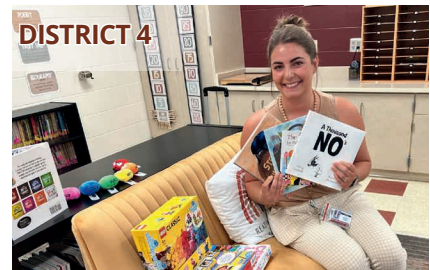
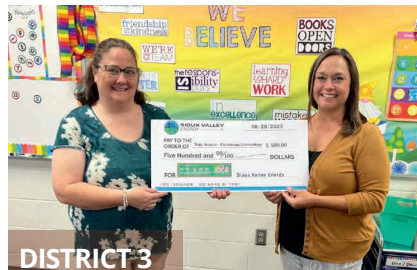
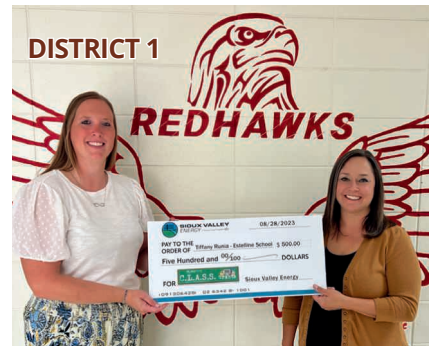


Photo Credit: Rare Form Properties



Sioux Valley Energy awarded 10 area teachers a \$500 grant to purchase supplies for their classroom. Nearly 400 teachers applied for the 10 grants, with one teacher from each of the Cooperative's 10 districts selected to receive a grant. Winners were selected via a drawing held on Facebook Live at noon August 14, 2023.

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| District 1 – Tiffany Runia ,
Estelline School | Madison Elementary | District 8 – Angie Janiszkeski ,
Luverne Public |
| District 2 – Cindy Merritt ,
Gracepoint Preschool | District 5 – Tricia Ochsner ,
Baltic Elementary | District 9 – Monica Sullivan ,
Pipestone Area High |
| District 3 – Traci Nissen ,
Flandreau Elementary | District 6 – Carla Tibbetts ,
Abiding Savior Academy | District 10 – Dean Wieck ,
Edgerton Public
Elementary |
| District 4 – Sylvia Johnson , | District 7 – Miranda
Henglefeld , West Central | |





FOR THE LOVE OF HUNTING DOGS

Source: Travel South Dakota

A Successful Hunt May Depend on Your Dog

Shannon Marvel

shannon.marvel@sdrea.coop

With numerous television appearances and A-list clients under his belt, Day County resident and Lake Region Electric Cooperative member Tom Dokken has become one of the premiere hunting dog trainers of our time.

But you won't hear the modest pro brag about himself. Instead, Dokken gives credit to the hard work and the innate capabilities of the dogs themselves.

The 70-year-old Minnesota native has been professionally working with dogs over the last 50 years at his training facility, Dokken Oak Ridge Kennels, Inc. in Northfield, Minnesota.

It's one of the largest gun dog training kennels in the region.

His love for hunting alongside a canine

companion harkens back to his teenage years when he'd tag along to go hunting throughout the country with his friend and his friend's Labrador Retriever, Charlie.

"We were probably 16 years old when we started hunting together. He had a lab and I didn't have one. We hunted with that dog just about every weekend."

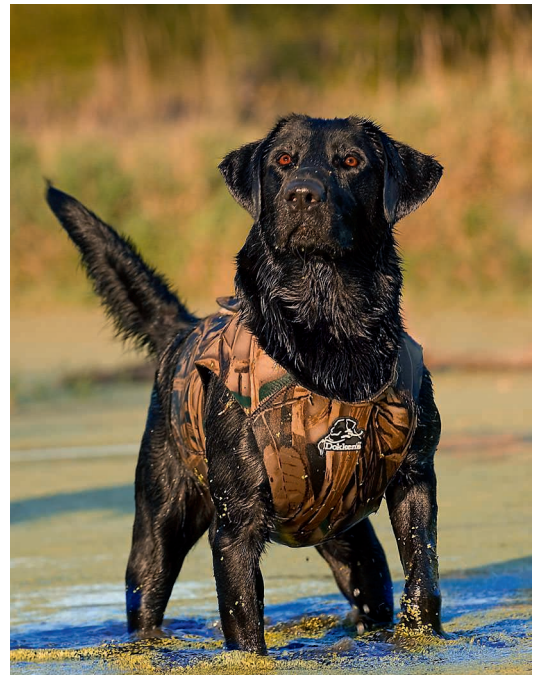
After a few years, Dokken decided it was time to get his own dog.

And to that dog goes all the credit, in Dokken's eyes.

"I started training her then I started running field trials. I did really well, not because of me, but I had a good dog who did

really well on a national level," he recalled.

After that, Dokken was hooked and knew training dogs was what he wanted to do for a living. He's since established



An adult black lab out hunting

himself as one of the top hunting dog trainers in the world, even bolstering a line of dog training products – Dokken Dog Supply – which is carried in sporting good stores across the country.

“That’s just as a result developing products we wanted for training themselves,” Dokken said of his supply company.

Some of the dogs Dokken has trained have hunted under some big names, including President George W. Bush and country music legend Hank Williams, Jr., along with many major professional athletes.

But it takes some prying to get that kind of info out of the humble Dokken, and he’s quick to emphasize that everyone that he does business with is treated the same, no matter what.

“Every customer is important. One person doesn’t get treated different than the other,” Dokken said.

His facility employs four full-time trainers, as well as office staff.

When Dokken isn’t training one of the 350 hunting dogs that come to his Minnesota training facility each year, he’s at home with his wife, Tina, in Day County.

“My wife and I live north of Webster. That’s our connection with the area. I’ve hunted down in the Lily area for years. We’ve had our place here 18 years or better,” Dokken explained.

“My mom’s family homestead is down in the Selby area, so as kids we’d be back on the farm for a good portion of the summer,” he added.

Dokken said his business trains pretty much any of the sporting, pointing and flushing breeds. But in the Upper Midwest, the more popular breed tends to be the Labrador Retriever.

Dokken has a special place in his heart for labs, which he described as a hardy breed able to withstand the punishing winter conditions known to challenge hunters in South Dakota during pheasant season.

And in South Dakota, pheasants are

king, according to Dokken.

“As far as population of pheasant – up in our area the weather sometimes knocks them back a little bit. Last year we had rain in December, which is a little bit of a factor when it comes to pheasant numbers,” Dokken said.

“The further south and west you get, the population changes too. Regardless, South Dakota numbers will always be top in the U.S.”

Hunters who have a dog in their arsenal have a much greater advantage over those who do not. For one, they can flush birds out of thick cover and, unlike the average human, have an absolute blast doing so.

“Without a dog – if you’re a pheasant hunter – you’re not going to have the ability to get the birds up and get them out of higher and denser cover. Finding birds that you’ve shot is going to be a real challenge as well. A dog is a great conservation tool as well,” Dokken said.

From a training standpoint, Dokken advises dog owners to start teaching their hunting partners good habits when they’re really young.

The earlier the training begins, the more success you’re setting the dog up for down the line.



Dokken with two adult labs

“Try to buy the best bloodlines that you can because if you do, in most cases your success rate just gets higher.”

Dokken says it boils down to three things: teaching, repetition and reinforcement. For the human, practicing patience is crucial.

“A majority the time the dog is not in the wrong, it’s that the dog can’t understand what you want,” he said.

The entire job is a dream for Dokken and his team, and one he hopes to continue for decades more to come.

“It’s what we do,” he said. “It’s a labor of love.”



Source: Travel South Dakota



As fellow board members look on, Sioux Valley Energy Board President Gary Fish makes comments after the unveiling of an architect's rendering of the Brandon Service Center remodel.

SVE EXPANSION COMMEMORATED

Sioux Valley Energy directors and employees celebrated its Brandon Service Center expansion project with community leaders on August 22.

“This facility expansion signals the future,” said Tim McCarthy, Sioux Valley Energy CEO and General Manager. “One of the core principles of this Cooperative is commitment to community. We are committed to enhancing the quality of life and economic health of this entire region and plan to continue investments that will provide safe, reliable, and robust power to the area. Sioux Valley Energy’s facility expansion in Brandon is one step in preparing the Cooperative to serve its members well into the future.”

Work began on the 32,500-square foot facility expansion in June 2023 and is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2024.

“The expansion is part of the Cooperative’s long-range plan that may eventually include additional Co-op-owned facilities in western Minnehaha County,” McCarthy continued. “Over the next 25 years, the Co-op expects to add an additional 22,000-plus members and between 50 and 60 megawatts of electric load on its system just in Minnehaha County.”

To meet that growing need, Sioux Valley Energy and its power supplier, East River Electric, will be investing an estimated \$55 million dollars in electric infrastructure in Minnehaha County over the next five years.

RML Architects and Hegg Construction are working on the design and construction of the facility which will add offices, truck and wash bays, additional space for the warehouse, and a training facility for employees.

KICKING OFF FALL SPORTS

This fall, Sioux Valley Energy once again hosted a series of tailgate meals prior to area high school football games. Co-op employees and directors serve the meals and any donations received go to an organization affiliated with the host school, typically the school's booster club. Upcoming tailgates are set for Friday, September 29, when the Tri-Valley Mustangs play the West Central Trojans in Hartford and Friday, October 6, when the Hills-Beaver Creek Patriots take on the Edgerton Flying Dutchmen in Edgerton.



Top: Sioux Valley Energy employees served the meal for the Flandreau Fliers Fall Sports Kickoff night in August.

Middle: Sioux Valley Energy employees and directors raised \$1,225 for the Deubrook Booster Club when they served the tailgate meal ahead of the Deubrook Dolphins vs. Colman-Egan Hawks game Aug. 25 in White.

Bottom: SVE employees and directors provided the meal before the Sept. 2 Pigskin Classic game between the Brandon Valley Lynx and the Harrisburg Tigers.

ALL TRUSSED UP

Hartford Startup Black Tie Components Receives REED Funding

Sioux Valley Energy provided a loan to Black Tie Components and Black Tie Holdings, LLC, through its Rural Electric Economic Development (REED) loan fund to finance construction of a manufacturing facility in Hartford, SD.

Black Tie Components on the northwest edge of Hartford has begun operations manufacturing trusses, wall panels, and whole building packages for construction use in a five-state area.

“Production starts for us when somebody sends us plans and requests a bid. Our in-house designer would run through it and put together an engineered plan set,” said Robbie Veurink, Black Tie partner. Veurink added that the process is custom for each project.

“The beautiful part of a plant like ours is that we can build trusses continually every couple minutes,” said Veurink.

The company has an emphasis on structural engineering and automation in its truss manufacturing process to pick up, sort, and cut lumber to specifications, and deliver it through conveyors to be fabricated.



Through the REED fund, Sioux Valley Energy and other electric cooperatives are able to provide business and community project financing in partnership with commercial and other economic development lenders to leverage private investment and make a difference in the region it serves. Established in 1996 and governed by 25 electric cooperatives, REED assists projects that promote growth and contribute to job, business and wealth creation, as well as improve the infrastructure, community facilities/services and economic base of rural areas in South Dakota and Minnesota.



Top: Black Tie Component’s 60,000-square-foot facility is on the northwest corner of Hartford, S.D.

Above: Local and state business and economic development leaders toured the Black Tie Corporation production facility.

Left: Former Small Business Administration administrator Linda McMahon talks with Black Tie Components partners Robbie, Eric, and Paul Veurink.



Touchstone Energy Celebrates 25 Years with Commercial Debut

Frank Turner

frank.turner@sdrea.coop

Touchstone Energy Cooperatives is encouraging member electric cooperatives and their member-owners to pop some popcorn, settle in, and join them in celebrating the organization's 25th anniversary on Nov. 29, when they'll debut their

newest line of 2024 commercials.

The historic milestone will commemorate a quarter-century of Touchstone Energy's drive to establish a universal brand – seen on t-shirts, logos, and even soaring hot air balloons – for co-ops nationwide. Select commercials from the lineup, which will feature on the Touchstone Energy website, will highlight the local South

Dakota prairie landscape and local co-op employees with Sioux Valley Energy.

Touchstone Energy Board of Directors President and Sioux Valley CEO Tim McCarthy said he is glad to see South Dakota being represented on a national scope. "We are excited to be celebrating this historic milestone," said McCarthy. "Touchstone Energy continues to be an invaluable resource for co-ops in South Dakota and throughout our nationwide network."

Touchstone Energy's journey began 25 years ago when a group of movers and shakers recognized the need for an outward-facing organization that would connect the image of

co-ops across the nation. Although individually small, cooperatives from all around the nation believed a unified brand would broaden and strengthen their presence. Together, these co-ops owned and operated more distribution lines than any other sector in the electric utility industry and served more than half of the American landmass. On Nov. 26, 1998, 17 founding co-ops established Touchstone Energy, powering through a time of regulatory uncertainty.

“In the late ‘90s, there were some revolutionary things happening in the energy industry,” said Jana Adams, executive director of Touchstone Energy. “The cooperatives really wisely said: as individual entities we are small, but if we come together and create a recognizable brand, we will have a better opportunity to compete in this evolving energy landscape.”

From the start, Touchstone Energy was set on making an impression. By purchasing six iconic Touchstone Energy branded hot air balloons and sponsoring notable events such as the famous NASCAR Talladega 300 race, Touchstone Energy quickly transformed into a nationally recognizable brand.

To date, Touchstone Energy’s membership has grown to nearly 700 co-ops, which now reaches more than 30 million member-owners across 46 states. Along with this remarkable growth, Touchstone Energy has enhanced its services, including advertising, social media management, and web development, among others. Over time, Touchstone Energy’s wide range of services, said Adams, have become a crucial communication resource for their membership.

“Our first national ad was in the early 2000s, and to this day, we run advertisements in every single zip code served by a Touchstone Energy cooperative,” said Adams. “We are

constantly innovating and giving our cooperative members the opportunity to highlight the great work they do and the achievements they have.”

Looking back on the last quarter century, Adams said Touchstone Energy is thrilled to connect to its original roots and celebrate its longstanding service to co-ops across the country.



Touchstone Energy celebrates 25 years while producing new commercials in South Dakota.



“We encourage everybody to join us on Nov. 29 for our 2024 national ad premier and to celebrate the 25 years behind us, but more importantly the many years ahead of us where we continue to work together,” she said.





CONTRACTOR

RELATIONS

Team Connects Contractors with Cooperative's Needs

Throughout the year, Sioux Valley Energy secures the services of outside contractors to assist the Cooperative with a variety of tasks from building new line, boring in underground, trimming trees, testing poles, and underground locates to addressing buildings and grounds issues such as heating, ventilation, and cooling systems.

Working to coordinate these crews is the Cooperative's Contractor Relations Department.

Tim Fey, the Manager of Contractor Relations monitors the daily field activities of contractors to ensure that work is completed safely, in compliance with design specifications, and on schedule. During the summer, several contractor crews can be working throughout the Cooperative's seven-county area.

"We build line year-round. We have a bit more underground in the summer, but we're busy year-round," said Fey.

The overhead contractor crews typically have 12 to 15 guys on a crew while the tree trimming contractor typically runs two three-person crews at a time, but can ramp up to

five or more crews when needed.

One of the roles that Fey has is monitoring the contractor crews and ensuring they are following the Cooperative's safety protocols.

The additional contractor crews have helped with the Cooperative's efforts of upgrading its system to improve and maintain reliability.

"We're upgrading some of our original lines that were put in in the '30s and '40s," Fey said.

He works with the Cooperative's operations and engineering team to coordinate the contractors' work with work being done by the Co-op's own crews.

Working with Fey is Bruce Barrick who maintains the Cooperative's buildings and grounds. The Cooperative has four offices plus three outpost/warehouses across its territory.

"Anything with buildings and grounds falls under our department," Fey said, noting that new fencing is going up on the Colman campus plus the Brandon facility is being expanded.



Left: Legacy Powerline Inc., of Wadena, Minnesota, is one of several overhead power line construction contractors used by Sioux Valley Energy in recent years. **Top:** Friest Tree Experts is one contractor the Cooperative uses. The Harrisburg, S.D., company specializes in trimming trees around power lines. **Above:** Bruce Barrick and Tim Fey comprise SVE's Contractor Relations Department.

NATIONAL CO-OP MONTH

October is National Co-op Month, and Sioux Valley Energy is joining cooperatives across the U.S. to celebrate. Co-ops come in all shapes and sizes, but they each have a common goal: to provide goods or services for the members of the co-op.

Electric co-ops, including Sioux Valley Energy, exist to serve their members. Our priority is to provide affordable, reliable energy to our local communities. Because we are led by you, the members we serve, we can evolve to meet your needs.

This October, as we celebrate Co-op Month, we're focusing on the ways "Co-ops Grow" for their members.

CO-OPS GROW COMMUNITIES: Co-ops help communities grow by promoting economic empowerment, fostering community engagement and supporting the unique needs of co-op members. "Concern for Community" is one of our core principles – and being community-focused is essential to everything we do.

CO-OPS GROW TOGETHER: Co-ops are all about cooperation, not competition. That's why electric co-ops work together to share lessons learned, successful strategies and better ways to serve our members. We're better when we grow together!

CO-OPS GROW TOMORROW'S LEADERS: Electric co-ops serve as fertile ground for growing tomorrow's leaders through a variety of youth engagement programs. Whether through school demonstrations, EmPOWER Youth Leadership, community events or the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour program, we're committed to providing opportunities for local youth to learn and thrive in our community and beyond.

CO-OPS GROW FOR YOU: At Sioux Valley Energy, your satisfaction is our number one goal. It's why we were formed many years ago to fulfill a uniquely local purpose. We've come a long way since then, and your needs continue to evolve. That's why we'll never stop growing for you!



CO-OPS GROW COMMUNITIES

Electric cooperatives are joining co-ops across the U.S. to celebrate National Co-op Month. As your local electric co-op, our services are shaped to meet your specific needs. We love growing with you, the members we are proud to serve.

RE-ENERGIZING SAFETY

CUT CORN NOT CORNERS

Time is a precious commodity, especially during harvest. However, cutting safety corners while harvesting around power lines can be deadly. Taking a moment to be prepared can help prevent catastrophic accidents. Knowing what to do if an accident does occur can be the difference between life and death.

Contact your local Touchstone Energy® Cooperative or visit YourCoopPower.com to find safety tips and make a plan.





Oct. 7-8
Fort Pierre Horse Races
 Stanley County Fairground
 605-223-2178

To have your event listed on this page, send complete information, including date, event, place and contact to your local electric cooperative. Include your name, address and daytime telephone number. Information must be submitted at least eight weeks prior to your event. Please call ahead to confirm date, time and location of event.

SEPT 22-23
Holiday Arts & Crafts Fair
 9 a.m.
 Davison County Fairgrounds
 Activity Center
 Mitchell SD
 605-359-2049

SEPT 22-24
Coal Springs Threshing Bee
 Meadow, SD
 605-788-2229

SEPT 23
Harvest Supper
 West Nidaros Lutheran
 Church
 Crooks, SD

SEPT 23
Springfield Dakota Senior Meals Fall Festival
 9 a.m.
 Springfield Community
 Building
 Springfield, SD

SEPT 24
Annual Bazaar & Fall Fest
 4-7 p.m.
 St. John the Baptist Catholic
 Church
 Wagner, SD

SEPT 28
Hartford Farmers Market
 5 p.m.
 Hartford, SD

SEPT 29-30
Junkin' Market Days
 Ramkota Exhibit Hall
 Sioux Falls, SD
 605-941-4958

SEPT 30
Mission Quilt and Bake Sale
 Zoar Lutheran Church
 Revillo, SD

OCT 7
Pumpkin Train
 Historic Prairie Village
 Madison, SD

OCT 7
Spirit of Dakota Award
 Huron Event Center
 Huron, SD
 605-352-6073

OCT 12-19
"In Flanders Fields" Art Exhibition & Silent Auction
 Vermillion Public Library
 Vermillion, SD

OCT 14-15
Sioux Falls Quilt Gild Bi-Annual Quilt Show
 9 a.m.
 Sioux Falls Convention Center
 Sioux Falls, SD
 605-951-2034

OCT 19-21
Fall Fundraising Rummage Sale
 Spearfish Senior Center
 Spearfish, SD
 605-642-2827

OCT 28
Mortimer's Monstrous Halloween
 3 p.m.
 Oakwood Lakes State Park
 Bruce, SD

OCT. 28
Trick-or-Treat Trails
 Big Sioux Recreation Area
 Brandon, SD

OCT 28
Hartford Women of Today Craft Fair
 9 a.m.
 West Central High School
 Becker Center
 Hartford, SD
 605-359-2049

NOV 12
Lutfisk, Lefse & Meatball
 4-7 p.m.
 Trinity Lutheran Church
 Chamberlain, SD
 605-730-0553

NOV 24
Parade of Lights
 7 p.m.
 Dakota Avenue
 Huron, SD
 605-788-2229

Note: Please make sure to call ahead to verify the event is still being held.