

Maquoketa Valley Electric Cooperative

WATTS *Current*

For Our Members • June 2006

PRICE OF ELECTRICITY STABLE COMPARED TO OTHER FUELS

Throughout the last decade, the price of electricity for residential use has been the most stable when compared to the swings of heating oil, propane and natural gas, according to data compiled in this chart by the NRECA Strategic Analysis Unit. The chart shows that those fuels, vulnerable to shifts in the market and infrastructure, saw surging prices in 2000-2001, followed by steep declines in 2002. For example, the average price of heating oil in 1999 was 87 cents and in a single year soared to \$1.31. The story was similar for propane, which climbed nearly 33 percent between: 1999-2000. It then fell dramatically until 2002 and has been steadily increasing by about 13 percent since then. Meanwhile, electricity prices have remained stable, increasing on average just over one percent per year



Source: NRECA Strategic Analysis

Watts Inside:

- Don't Wait To Make Home Improvements Page 2
- Nominations Sought for Board of Directors Page 2
- Who is Reading Your Meter? Page 3
- Kilburg Welding Works With You-For You Page 4
- Healthy Habits at Home Page 6
- Keep Us Updated Page 6
- Statement of Non-Discrimination Page 7
- Watts the Answer Page 7



DON'T WAIT TO MAKE HOME IMPROVEMENTS

Gasoline is selling at well over \$2 per gallon, home-heating costs with fossil fuels soared and air conditioning season is looming. If you are considering remodeling, Maquoketa Valley Electric Cooperative has incentives and programs to make your home more energy efficient.

Are you replacing old windows with high-efficiency, low E, ENERGY STAR®, windows, improving your ceiling and/or wall insulation to meet ENERGY STAR®, levels, or replacing those appliances 10 years old or older with new ENERGY STAR®, appliances? Maybe you'd like to install a geothermal system, the most efficient heating and cooling system available on the market today. Remember, Maquoketa Valley Electric Cooperative & F & M Bank have teamed up to offer the Energy Efficiency Home Improvement Loan Program. This program can help you make those energy efficient improvements to your existing home. Once approved for your loan, MVEC will buy-down 3% of the interest reducing your interest and payback time on the loan.

This program is being offered until December 31, 2006 or until funds are no longer available. Don't wait, the time couldn't be more right. When energy prices are high, energy efficiency is more important than ever!

NOMINATIONS SOUGHT FOR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Maquoketa Valley Electric Cooperative's Annual Meeting will be held September 7, 2006 at the Palace Ballroom in Farley, Iowa.

The three positions for the Board of Directors listed below are up for election. Each position is for a three-year term. The Board of Directors has appointed a Nominating Committee to review and develop a list of candidates for the available positions.

If you are interested in learning more about the requirements for serving on the Board of Directors, please contact CEO Jim Lauzon, at 800-927-6068. A packet of information will be mailed to you.

If after reviewing the qualifications, you wish to be considered for one of these positions, please submit a brief biography stating your qualifications to: Nomination Committee, c/o Maquoketa Valley Electric Cooperative, PO Box 370, Anamosa, Iowa 52205, prior to June 30, 2006.

The following director positions are up for election:

Jones County
Delaware County
Dubuque County

Bruce A. Reade
Larry A. Swanson
Charles R. McCullough



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WHO IS READING YOUR METER?

The Iowa Utilities Board requires Maquoketa Valley Electric Cooperative to read each individual meter across our entire system on an annual basis. MVEC has contracted with Van Wert, Inc. to read the system throughout the year. If you notice a different vehicle with the Van Wert, Inc. logo on the side, you can be assured they are simply on your property to collect the required meter reading.

It is important that you continue to send us your monthly meter reading by the 28th of each month.



PDF ad
HERE





KILBURG WELDING WORKS WITH YOU - FOR YOU

Grace Zimmerman, Anamosa

When I walked into the 3rd Jackson County Industrial Products Show, I had no idea that I would meet an entrepreneur and homespun philosopher. Those two words do accurately describe Al Kilburg, master welder and owner of Kilburg Welding and Fabricating from Zwingle, Iowa. You might walk into his shop at 10278 Manderscheid Road, just off Highway 61 with the idea of visiting his welding shop and enjoying an interesting conversation, but it wouldn't surprise me if sometime during the visit, you'd say, "By the way, could you make me something like this?" You'd describe your unique idea, Al would get out a piece of paper and soon the two of you would sketch out a new welding project. Soon, you'd be back at the Welding Shop, picking up your one-of-a-kind item.

Al tells me, "I enjoy my work which turned from a job to a hobby. Thirty-two years ago, I started welding in La Motte and in 1980, I moved to Zwingle. There would be better exposure on Highway 61, which would be a 4-lane highway. We sell items all over. We sold 6 buffalo feeders to a customer down by Davenport and gates in front of a dumpster in Sioux City. Wherever people come from, we try to satisfy their needs. It's a lot of hours but it's a rewarding business."



This was very evident when many of Al's customers stopped by his exhibits. One customer related to me about an item, "I've had it for 30 some years and it's still as good as new". Another stopped by about making a new product whereby Al replied, "When you're ready to have your project done, call and come down and we'll discuss it." Which leads Al Kilburg to inform me, "I enjoy engineering and designing people's thoughts and brainstorming, putting the lines down and then we know what each of us is thinking. We've done the railings for the Flap Jack Restaurant in Maquoketa and the Jackson County Regional Health Center steps and ramps. We made the grill for the Diamond Jo, which holds at least 80 hamburgers. We virtually make whatever you want. La Motte had a problem with their park picnic tables. People would

borrow them and not return them. So, our solution was 16-foot picnic tables. We make lots of varieties and also barbecue spits."

"We've related items to people's hobbies, such as a golfer as a flag holder. We've taken ideas such as a polka dancer's silhouette. I always carry a tape measure. I sold a triangle noise maker out on the dance floor, pulled out my tape measure right then and there to make sure we were both talking about the same size." (By the way, there's a clue there that for recreation, Al and his wife Mary are avid polka dancers.) With that tinge of pride still in his voice he tells me, Mary, his helpmate, does some bookkeeping and helps with the painting. His equipment shows her handiwork, in colors of black, green, red, etc.

Making landings by mobile homes is another of Al's specialties. Here, Al states, "When in doubt, go with stout." Or, "The cheapest way is not always the cheapest way to go.





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The most expensive way is cheapest, cuz'it lasts longest”.

“We have proof of that because we’ve learned that a 30 year old bale feeder which is still as good as new because we started putting the month and year on items we construct,” Al continues with pride in his voice.



When I asked him about his workers, he states he’s always had a competent staff and then relates this story, “Agal walked into my shop last fall and said she wanted me to teach her welding. I jokingly asked how much she would pay me, to which she replied that she thought she’d get training pay. I told her to start the next morning. By night, she had welded 11 bars on bale feeders and did a good job.”

Then he philosophizes, “You have to learn from the mistakes of others, cause you won’t live long enough to make them all yourself.”

It would be difficult to list all items constructed, such as calf gates, again built to suit the customer’s needs; lowering and altering steps on machinery to make it easier to get in and out of equipment, bale throwers, flat beds for pick-ups and trucks, A-frame to undock semi-tractors, deer grill guard in front of a mail carrier’s vehicle, bale forks, skid loader buckets, ornamental gates for entries of driveways, inside homes stairway railings, yard signs with names, etc.

“We do portable work on field equipment. I belong to the State and National Blacksmith and Welders Association. It’s a good place to call someone for answers and we have meetings because we all enjoy a common goal. There’s no end to what we can do.”

As I looked over a brochure, displayed on the Kilburg display table, Al tells me, “Yes, we sell outdoor wood burning stoves, ‘The Woodmaster’, made in America. We heat our home and shop with it.”

You’ll enjoy a visit to Kilburg Welding and Fabricating Shop, south of Dubuque, or north of Maquoketa on Highway 61, one mile north of Zwingle. He can be reached by phone at 563-773-8894. As Al told me, “It was difficult to bring 30 years of welding and fabricating to the Jackson County exhibit.” Besides the shop, you’ll enjoy the conversation. I found out why many Jackson County people advised me to meet and interview Al. I philosophize that “Al Kilburg’s Welding and Fabrication will live up to your expectations and you’ll feel you’ve made the right move to plan your project with him.”



DID YOU KNOW?

Geothermal is 350% - 500% efficient!





WATTS HEALTHY

Susan Uthoff, ISU Extension Nutrition & Health Specialist

HEALTHY HABITS AT HOME

Home is the place where healthy habits, like eating well and being active, are centered for Iowa families. The time investment is quite small and the benefits for your weight, your health, and your energy level can be really big. There are three simple steps to healthy food at home: planning, shopping, and making nutrition easy.

The first and most important step is planning. Taking just half an hour to plan your family's food for a week can save you time and money. If you're concerned about your health, make sure that your shopping list includes low-fat dairy products. People who consume milk, cheese, and yogurt and get plenty of physical activity are more likely to enjoy a healthy weight, lower body fat, and normal blood pressure.

Once you have made a plan and a list, the next step is shopping. The best tips for smart shopping have been around for a while, but they are tried and true. Never go grocery shopping when you are hungry. Make most of your purchases from the outer perimeter of the store. Your best nutrition buys are always the whole foods in the produce, dairy, meat, and bread departments.

The third step to eating well at home is to make it as easy as possible. A whole melon may go uneaten, but a cantaloupe cut into bite-size pieces will disappear

quickly. Having a bag of grated cheese in the fridge makes it easy to sprinkle some in a salad or to make a microwave pita pizza.



Jack's Pita Pizza

Makes 2 servings, 230 calories per serving

- 1 (6-inch) whole-wheat pita bread
- 1/2 cup shredded reduced-fat Monterey Jack or Mozzarella cheese
- 2 (1/8 inch thick) slices cooked deli chicken (1 ounce each), cut into strips
- 1/2 cup canned pineapple tidbits in their own juice, drained
- 1 Tablespoon pizza or pasta sauce
- 1 finely chopped green onion

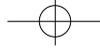
Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Split pita into 2 rounds by placing pita flat on work surface and carefully cutting around the edge. Separate the 2 rounds and place, cut side up, on a cookie sheet. Spread each pita round with 1 and one-half teaspoons of pizza sauce. Top each pita with half of the cheese, chicken, pineapple and onion. Bake for 8-10 minutes or until cheese is melted and edges are browned.



KEEP US UPDATED

April showers may bring May flowers, but June can bring storms.

If you should happen to place an outage reporting call at a time when all operators are busy with other calls, you may be transferred to an automated outage reporting system. The automated system links to Maquoketa Valley Electric Cooperative files through your telephone number. It is very important we have your telephone number on file. If you have recently changed numbers or are a new member who has not yet experienced a power outage, we would appreciate receiving your phone number for our records. Please record it on your next bill or email it to billing@mvec.com.



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STATEMENT OF NON-DISCRIMINATION

Maquoketa Valley Electric Cooperative is the recipient of Federal financial assistance from the Rural Utilities Service, an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and is subject to the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended, and the rules and regulations of the U.S. Department of Agriculture which provide that no person in the United States on the basis of race, color, national origin, age or physical disability shall be excluded from participation in, admission or access to, denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under any of this organization's programs or activities.

The person responsible for coordinating this organization's nondiscrimination compliance efforts is James M. Lauzon, CEO. Any individual, or specific class of individuals, who feel this organization has subjected them to discrimination may obtain further information about the statutes and regulations listed above from and/or file a written complaint with this organization; or the Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250; or the Rural Utilities Service, Washington, D.C. 20250. Complaints must be filed within 180 days after the alleged discrimination. Confidentiality will be maintained to the extent possible.

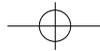


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WATTS THE ANSWER?

The Energy Efficiency Home Improvement Loan Program is being offered until _____ or until funds are no longer available.

People who consume milk, cheese, and yogurt and get plenty of physical activity are more likely to enjoy a healthy weight, lower body fat, and normal _____.

Maquoketa Valley Electric Cooperative's Annual Meeting will be held _____, at the Palace Ballroom in Farley, Iowa.

Mail your answers in with your energy bill or email them to dreyhons@mvec.com

Two winners will each receive a \$10.00 credit on their energy bill.

Name: _____

Address: _____

May winners:

Scott & Amy Westermeyer,
Dubuque
Kenneth Hannan, Holy Cross

NOTICE



Maquoketa Valley Electric Cooperative will be closed on Tuesday, July 4th.

Visit our Web Site

at www.mvec.coop or
Email direct to the following departments:

Billing Questions	billing@mvec.com
Product or Service Questions	memberservice@mvec.com
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Dividend Questions	patronage@mvec.com
New Service Questions	engineering@mvec.com
Management	management@mvec.com



Maquoketa Valley
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OFFICE HOURS
Monday thru Friday
7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Web Site: www.mvec.coop

After Hours Call Center 800-582-8998

After hours you may also call the service person
in your area to report outages or trouble on the
line.

Anamosa, Dallas Paustian.....	319-462-4848
Cascade, Pete Boffeli	563-852-3180
Dubuque, Rick Olsem.....	563-582-3668
Farley, Jim Lehman.....	563-744-3005
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