

# WATTS *Current*

May 2014

For Our Members

## Board Allocates Patronage Dividends to Member-Owners

At the March 21, 2014, Board of Director's meeting, board members unanimously approved allocating to cooperative member-owners \$1,757,796 of the 2013 operating margins, which represents 5.684% of electric revenues (your patronage with the Cooperative) for the year ending December 31, 2013.

Your share of the allocated margin, called deferred patronage dividends or capital credits, is based on the total dollar amount of your annual electric bill with Maquoketa Valley Electric Cooperative.

Your cooperative operates as a not-for-profit organization to provide you electric service. Revenue collected that is not needed to cover the cost of providing service is divided among the members and returned as future dividend payments.

A message on your April energy bill identified your 2013 allocation. (This information is only a notice for you and cannot be treated as cash or deducted from your bill.)

Payment of retired patronage dividends will be made to you at a future time as determined by the Board of Directors. For this reason, continue to inform us of your address changes if you discontinue your electric service with the cooperative at any time in the future. We want to make sure you receive your future patronage dividends checks.

If you have any questions about your patronage dividends, please call Jackie at 800-927-6068 or email her at [jwhite@mvec.coop](mailto:jwhite@mvec.coop).

### Car Restoration-Greg's Challenge

"There's a lot of interest in old vehicles, primarily the old 60's and 70's muscle cars."

Greg Kalmes, St. Donatus  
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## Did You Know?

**Hang your clothes outside if weather permits. Solar energy is FREE!**



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### Mark your calendar!



**The Annual Meeting will be held August 21 at the Palace Ballroom in Farley. Watch for more details in the August Watts Current.**



## Reduce Energy Use During Peak Hours

MVEC purchases the power that is distributed to our member's homes, farms and businesses and the cost of that power is higher during times of peak demand in our region. The Cooperative saves money on purchased power costs when members use less electricity during our peak hours of 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. When MVEC saves, our members save! Here's how you can help between the hours and 4 p.m. and 9 p.m.:

- Shift household chores and activities away from peak periods. Wait to run your dishwasher until you go to bed, for instance.
- If you have air conditioning, turn the thermostat up when you are gone and at night. Cool only the rooms that you are using.
- Use the most energy-efficient appliances you have. Your microwave oven, for example, uses considerably less energy than your stove or cooktop.
- If you're buying a new appliance, make sure you get a highly efficient one. Look for "Energy Star" labels when you're evaluating different models.
- Be aware of your energy consumption, and try to get in the habit of using energy efficiently year-round.

Use the energy you need, but use it wisely! You'll help your co-op avoid building expensive new power plants - and that, in turn, will keep your electric rates stable.

## Watts Green

Today's changing energy landscape is bringing more attention to renewable energy resources. Maquoketa Valley Electric Cooperative supports generation that is safe, reliable, cost effective, and environmentally responsible.

Green renewable energy is electricity produced in an environmentally friendly manner. Sources of green energy include the sun, wind, and water, which are pollution free and naturally reoccurring. Renewable electricity technologies are among the cleanest and have the least impact on the environment. Some of the renewable energy that is sold to our members is purchased under contract from wind turbines and solar arrays owned by other members.



Maquoketa Valley Electric Cooperative's Watts Green Renewable Energy Program enables you to support renewable energy by paying a small premium on your bill. The cost is currently 2 cents per kilowatt hour, or \$1.00 for a 50 kilowatt block. Your participation in the Watts Green Renewable Energy Program will help provide incentive for others to produce green power. Call our office today at 800-927-6068 for more information.



**EVERY MEMBER  
HAS A VOICE.  
MAKE SURE  
YOURS IS HEARD.**

As an electric co-op member you have a say in how the co-op is run. Isn't that nice to hear? Learn more about the power of your co-op membership at [TogetherWeSave.com](http://TogetherWeSave.com).



Maquoketa Valley  
Electric Cooperative

® "Your Touchstone Energy" Cooperative

**TOGETHERWESAVE.COM**



## Practical Pointers for National Electrical Safety Month

May is National Electrical Safety Month, and Maquoketa Valley Electric Cooperative is joining with the Electrical Safety Foundation International to raise awareness about potential home electrical hazards and the importance of electrical safety. This year's campaign, "Back to the Basics," challenges consumers to make home electrical safety assessments a priority.

According to the Consumer Electronics Association, the average home today has a minimum of three televisions, two DVD players, at least one digital camera, one desktop computer, and two cell phones.

"Modern homes run on electricity, but if you don't properly maintain your electrical products they can create hazards," warns Gary Weber, Member Advocate at Maquoketa Valley Electric Cooperative. "The good news is that eliminating electrical hazards from your home doesn't have to be difficult or expensive."

Many homes and their electrical systems were built before most modern-day home electronics and appliances were even invented. Today's increased demand for energy can overburden an older home's electrical system.



Maquoketa Valley Electric Cooperative offers the following tips to help identify and eliminate electrical hazards to protect yourself, your family, and your home:

- Make sure entertainment centers and computer equipment have plenty of space around them for ventilation.
- Use extension cords as a temporary solution, and never as a permanent power supply.
- Do not place extension cords in high traffic areas, under carpets, or across walkways, where they pose a potential tripping hazard.
- Use a surge protector to protect your computer and other electronic equipment from damage caused by voltage changes.
- Heavy reliance on power strips is an indication that you have too few outlets to address your needs. Have additional outlets installed by a qualified, licensed electrician.
- Keep liquids, including drinks, away from electrical items such as televisions and computers.

Electrical Safety awareness and education among members, families, employees, and communities will prevent electrical fires, injuries, and fatalities.

*The Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI) sponsors National Electrical Safety Month each May to increase public awareness of the electrical hazards around us at home, work, school, and play. ESFI is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization dedicated exclusively to promoting electrical safety. For more information about ESFI and electrical safety, visit [www.electrical-safety.org](http://www.electrical-safety.org).*

## Member Appreciation Nights Held

Over 600 people attended the Member Appreciation Nights held in Maquoketa on April 7 and Peosta on April 15. Children enjoyed the airbrush face/body painting, balloon sculptures, bucket rides, coloring, and pin the tires on the truck. Twenty lucky members won carbon monoxide detectors. Everyone in attendance enjoyed a delicious pulled pork sandwich. Management and Directors were available to answer questions posed by members, but in general, it was a fun opportunity to meet with our membership.

Thanks to everyone who joined us!





# Car Restoration-Greg's Challenge

Grace Zimmerman, Anamosa, Iowa

I certainly didn't expect the unexpected upon seeing the sign *St. Donatus Body & Paint* at 105 South Main Street, in the well known Hwy. 52 village. I was cheerily greeted by owner, Greg Kalmes, and his two friendly, tail wagging companions, Shelby and Max.



A 1969 Ford Mustang Mach 1 being restored in Greg's shop.

As I entered the shop, high pitched sounds met my ears, a car with only the undersides exposed, a shiny restored car, what appeared to be a wrecked vehicle, and an array of vehicles of various hues in all stages of restoration is what beheld my wide open eyes.

Greg escorted me back to his office to escape the noise so that he could try his best to explain to a novice like me, the process of restoration of these vehicles. First, I had to discover what motivation led to his choice of occupation, to which he responded, "I've been doing this for 35 years. Back in high school, I always liked cars; figured that I wanted to work on cars, but not mechanical. I



Greg Kalmes

wanted it to be visual so it didn't take me long to realize that I wanted to restore old cars. I've lived here my whole life. I guess I really got started because our dermatologist neighbor was an avid car collector. He had everything you could imagine. He was well known nationally for his car collection, such as having a Ferrari and even a 1956 Hudson Hornet."



1948 Buick Custom

This led to my next inquiry as to what were the basics involved in restoration.



1969 Ford Mustang Mach 1

"Every car is different, said Greg. "There's always removing the rust and painting. It's not always a 'nuts and bolts' restoration. Some we reassemble

from the bottom to restore. My specialty is invisible repair. Looking at the end result, you can never see that the car was ever worked on—repaired or restored, even when you look underneath."

Greg stated, "There's a lot of interest in old vehicles, primarily the old 60's and 70's muscle cars." It really was an eye opener to see his photo of a finished 1965 Rolls Royce, just like you see in the movies.

"The owner was originally from the Quad Cities, said Greg. "The car was completely disassembled, all packed in boxes after being in his mother's garage for



1965 Rolls Royce Silver Cloud III

30 years! He lives in Florida and after his mother passed away, he really didn't want to take it back with him. So, hearing by word of mouth about my business, he brought it all to my shop. It took about three years, mostly because of waiting for people involved in other parts of the restoration. For example, the woodwork was restored by a guy in Moline. I have other connections for doing other parts of the restoration. We do the body and paint work."

"Right now, I'm doing a 1966 Mustang 2+2 for myself," continues Greg. "It has only 25% of the original sheet metal left. I'm turning it into a Shelby replica. Shelby's are very expensive and the hottest sports car now. Everybody likes the looks of replicas."

"I do a lot of my business by email," says Greg. "I'm working on a car now for a customer from



Switzerland. All communication has been by email because he doesn't speak English."

When I asked about an explanation about the noises emanating from the shop, Greg explained that the two employees, Ron, who has been with him for eight years and Dylan, for eight months, were



*This is a 1966 Ford Mustang 2+2 that will be made into a Shelby GT350 replica.*

sanding down bumpers and cutting out old quarter panels, getting ready to install the restored panels. "Those two are very competent employees; a real asset to my business for

having learned their skills well," Greg said. When I looked around the office, I couldn't help but notice a wide array of all sizes and types of trophies exhibited all around the walls and sitting on the floor. Greg explained, "Customers take their cars to shows. Two of these won best paint awards at the Sacramento Autorama. Some customers give them back to me to exhibit. I get the most publicity when I restore my own cars and get trophy awards. It does more for a good reputation than doing someone else's cars."

Greg says, "A major component of restoration is doing rust repair. The hobby is so big now that you can get reproduction parts. It used to be that you



*1952 Chevrolet 3600*

had to fabricate the parts yourself."

"I do want to give lots of credit to my wife, my help mate, doing lots of the

book work and occasionally she checks in at the shop," said Greg. "My son was not that interested in following in my footsteps. He attended Northeast Iowa Community College in Peosta for a couple of years and then joined the Army. He's serving in Japan now and is a federal investigator for the Army. He got his bachelor's degree while in the service." The pride in Greg's voice of his family was much in evidence, as was his expression of

enjoyment doing restoration. Showing off the finished product brought out a bright gleam in his eyes.

As I prepared to leave, Greg, in his inimitable friendly fashion, extends an invitation for all to join them at his

appreciation open house on Saturday, May 10, 2014, at 2:00 p.m. I have to add that I think even the people having little knowledge or experience in restoration will

enjoy stopping by to see some of the restored cars and trophies. I know it was an enjoyable experience for me.



*1966 Ford Mustang Shelby GT350 replica*

Greg can be contacted at the shop: St. Donatus Body & Paint, 105 South Main Street, PO Box 41, St. Donatus, IA 52071. The phone and fax number is 563-773-8825. You may also send an email to [OldRedEd@aol.com](mailto:OldRedEd@aol.com) and visit their website at [www.saintdonatusbodyandpaint.com](http://www.saintdonatusbodyandpaint.com).

*NOTE: The question many readers may ask was answered by Greg. He said Windy and Helen Kalmes are his aunt and uncle, who own and operate Kalmes Restaurant. When I stopped by for lunch, Windy informed me that the entire family clan was involved in the restaurant business in several different locales.*

## Appliance Recycling

Do you have old appliances no longer in use and taking up space? We can help you recycle them! The Pull the Plug program pays you for saving energy responsibly. Appliances in working condition will qualify for the following rewards:

Refrigerator: \$35

Freezer: \$25

Window air conditioner: \$25

Sign up today by calling MVEC at 800-927-6068. Our program contractor, Environmental Services of Iowa, will call you to schedule a collection time for your appliance to be recycled. (Limited to three appliances per year.)





# Make Your Yard Work for You

By B. Denise Hawkins

Location, location, location is the mantra in real estate, but it also applies to your yard this time of year when the search is on to lower energy bills and create curb appeal. Positioning the right combination of plants and trees can yield shade, beautify, and unearth energy savings. Such smart or energy-efficient landscaping, claims the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), can on average, provide enough energy savings to see a return on your initial investment in less than eight years.



*U.S. Department of Agriculture researchers are developing hearty plants, shrubs, grasses, and vegetation that are being used as windbreaks in residential landscaping. Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture.*

energy savings to see a return on your initial investment in less than eight years.

Again, think location. Carefully positioned trees can reduce a household's energy consumption for heating and

cooling by up to 25 percent. Using computer models, the DOE determined that proper placement of only three trees on your property can save an average household between \$100 and \$250 in yearly energy costs. This spring, make your yard work for you. Just a few simple landscaping considerations can make a big difference in your home's comfort and in the efficiency of your heating and cooling systems:

- Use trees and plants to shade a window air conditioner. Having shade can increase its efficiency by as much as 10 percent. For good airflow and access, position plants more than three feet from the air conditioner.
- Shrubs and trees can form windbreaks or protective walls that keep wind chill away from a home. That's important because wind speed lowers outside air temperatures, and ultimately saves on higher heating costs. Common turf grass and other low-growing plants are ideal barriers. So are evergreens, especially when combined with a wall or fence to deflect or even lift wind over a home. For best protection, plan on leaving between two to five times the mature height of the trees or shrubs between the windbreak and the protected home.

## Made in the Shade

Indoors, you may be protected from the sun's rays, but your energy bill can rise as your air conditioner works

harder to keep your house cool and comfortable. Planting shade trees can add to your comfort at home by dropping the surrounding air temperature by as much as nine degrees Fahrenheit. But choosing just the right tree may require a compass and patience while they grow to work for you:

- When selecting shade trees, keep in mind the mature height of the tree and the shape of its shade canopy in relation to the height of your home. These factors are important because they should influence how far from the house you decide to plant a tree. Always avoid planting near overhead or underground utility lines.
- Shading takes time—a 6-foot to 8-foot deciduous tree planted near a house will begin shading windows in a year. Depending on the species and the home, the tree will shade the roof in five to 10 years.
- Make planting shade trees due west of west-facing windows your first priority.
- Select a tree that can be planted within 20 feet of the window and that will grow at least 10 feet taller than that window. If you have the space, use as many trees as needed to create a continuous row along all major west-and east-facing windows.
- Contrary to intuition, the least energy efficient place for a tree is to the south of a house.

Different trees can serve a variety of purposes. To block summer heat while letting sun filter through in the winter months, use deciduous trees or those that lose their leaves seasonally. Evergreens and shrubs, on the other hand, are ideal for providing continuous shade and blocking heavy winds. Also, keep in mind that not all shade plants are tall. Shrubs and sturdy groundcover plants also provide good shade by reducing heat radiation and cooling air before it reaches your home's walls and windows.

Start planting savings and let your yard do all the work—a well-placed tree, shrub, or vine can deliver effective shade, act as a windbreak, and reduce your energy bills.

*B. Denise Hawkins writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Arlington, Va.-based service arm of the nation's 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives.*

*Sources: U.S. Department of Energy, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and Energy.gov*



## Building a New House in 2014?

On March 12, 2014, the State of Iowa adopted the 2012 International Energy Conservation Code, effective June 1, 2014. The energy codes are the rules governing the types of construction processes related to reducing energy use in a home. The codes are updated every three years. The 2012 code is roughly 15% more efficient than the 2009 code is. The key changes to the energy code are listed below.

- Air Infiltration/Blower Door Testing
- Duct Testing
- Window U-factor and Solar Heat Gain Coefficient
- Wall/Ceiling Insulation
- Efficient Lighting
- Whole House Mechanical Ventilation
- Piping Insulation
- Minor Changes

Some of the minor changes include Programmable Thermostats, Eave Baffles, Clarification of Steel Frame Wall Requirements, Sunroom Insulation, Framing Cavities cannot be used as ducts or plenums, Certificates must include results of testing, and some requirements on pools and in ground permanently installed spas.

## Save With Your Co-op Connections Card

Use your Co-op Connections Card at these local participating businesses. Go to [www.mvec.coop](http://www.mvec.coop) and click on the Co-op Connections Card link to discover national discounts, as well as information on the Healthy Savings discounts on prescriptions, vision and dental care, and more. If you have misplaced your card or have questions about all the benefits of the program, call Erica at 800-927-6068.



A free Co-op Connections Card app is available for the iPhone, iPad, iPod Touch, as well as Droid and Blackberry phones. Even if you forget your card, you'll be able to save with the app.

<p><b>Maquoketa Inn &amp; Suites</b> Maquoketa 563-652-6888 15% off regular room rate of the day</p>	<p><b>Pizza Ranch</b> Monticello 319-465-6000 5% off meal purchase</p>	<p><b>Anytime Fitness</b> Dubuque 563-556-0056 1st month free with a new 12 month agreement</p>	<p><b>Fabulous Fridays</b> Manchester 563-927-2197 Buy one accessory and get one for 1/2 off (equal or lesser value)</p>
<p><b>Grounds &amp; Goodies</b> Anamosa 319-462-2868 Free drink with purchase of deli item</p>	<p><b>Al's Clean Machine</b> Bellevue 563-542-3655 10% off all services</p>	<p><b>Fairfield Inn</b> Dubuque 888-651-7666 Room rate discount</p>	<p><b>Massage Wellness LLC</b> Dubuque 563-599-6369 \$5 off 1 hour massage</p>
<p><b>Trenkamp Electric</b> Miles 563-682-7944 10% off labor charges</p>	<p><b>Anamosa Floral</b> Anamosa 319-462-3000 Free votive candle with purchase of any fresh arrangement</p>	<p><b>Comfort Inn</b> Dubuque 888-651-7666 Room rate discount</p>	<p><b>Comfort Inn</b> Dyersville 563-875-7700 5% off regular room rate</p>

## Watts The Answer?

1. The Annual Meeting will be held August \_\_\_\_.
2. Use extension \_\_\_\_\_ as a temporary solution, and never as a permanent power supply.
3. Planting shade trees can add to your comfort at home by dropping the surrounding air temperature by as much as \_\_\_\_\_ degrees Fahrenheit.

Mail your answers in with your energy bill or email them to [erobertson@mvec.coop](mailto:erobertson@mvec.coop).

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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

March winners:

Mike Burke, Bernard Paul Heinrich, Maquoketa



Maquoketa Valley  
Electric Cooperative  
109 North Huber Street  
Anamosa, Iowa 52205

PRSRT STD  
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*Maquoketa Valley  
Electric Cooperative  
will be closed  
May 26th  
in observance of  
Memorial Day*

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