

WATTS *Current*

October 2019

For Our Members

MVEC Celebrates NATIONAL CO-OP MONTH

When you think of October, pumpkins, Halloween and beautiful fall foliage naturally come to mind. But October is notable for another reason – it’s National Co-op Month! This is the time of year when cooperatives across the country, including MVEC, celebrate who we are and more importantly, celebrate the members we serve.

Cooperatives are different than other types of businesses. When the market declines to offer a product or service, or does so at a very high price, co-ops intervene to fill the need.

Similar to how MVEC was built by members who came together to bring electricity to our community, cooperatives are conveners for the common good. Your electric co-op exists to provide safe, reliable and affordable energy to you, the members of the co-op. Equally important is our mission to enrich the lives of the members we serve. This is exactly why MVEC now provides high speed internet and telephone service.

As a co-op, we are well-suited to meet the needs of the community because we are locally governed. MVEC’s leadership team and employees live right here in the community. Our board of directors, who helps set long-term priorities for the co-op, live locally on co-op lines. These board members have been elected to the position by you and your neighbors.

We know our members (that’s you!) have a valuable perspective. That’s why we are continually seeking your input. Whether through community events, our social media channels or the annual meeting, we want to hear from you.

Fall Fun at Schuster’s Pumpkin Patch & Corn Maze
 7541 Schueller Heights Road
 Dubuque, IA.
 Between Dubuque and St. Donatus look for the big white shed.
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Electric cooperatives are led by the community, for the community.

Our goal is to efficiently deliver affordable, reliable and safe energy. Because we know you’re counting on us.

Reliability. Responsiveness. Convenience.

Co-op lines are shaped by you, the members we serve right here in our local community.

CO-OPS
By the Community For the Community

October is National Co-op Month. Electric co-ops are proud to power more than 20 million American homes, businesses, farms and schools in 48 states.



MVEC Celebrates NATIONAL CO-OP MONTH

continued from front page

Our close connection to the community ensures we get a first-hand perspective on local priorities, enabling us to make more informed decisions on long-term investments, such as high-speed broadband, smart grid upgrades and electric vehicle programs.

Another feature that sets our co-op apart from a traditional utility is one of our core principles, “Concern for Community.” We partner with local organizations like FFA chapters to help with the Washington Leadership Conference, area schools for electric safety education, economic development groups to retain and grow businesses and small communities to help with playgrounds, trails and other amenities.

Ultimately, the larger community benefits from these programs because of you and your neighbors. You empower the co-op through your membership and through your participation in and support of these programs.

We hope you will think of Maquoketa Valley Electric Cooperative as more than your energy and internet provider, but instead as a local business that supports our communities and powers economic development and prosperity for the people.

We will continue to learn from our members about their priorities so that we can better serve you – because your electric co-op was built by the community, for the community.



7 Benefits of Geothermal Heat Pumps

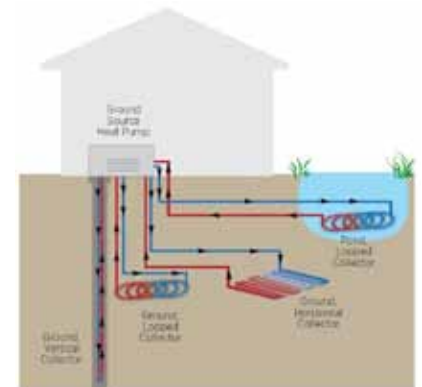
When it comes to energy efficiency, geothermal heat pumps (GHP) are among the most effective heating and cooling systems available. GHP systems heat and cool homes by taking advantage of the constant temperatures found a few feet below the earth’s surface. They’re more than 45 percent more efficient than standard options. Not only that, they produce fewer emissions and less pollution. Home buyers will love these benefits.

7 benefits for homeowners

The many benefits of geothermal heat pumps for homeowners include:

- **Lower electric bills** by 25 to 50 percent less.
- **Improved humidity control** at a near-constant 50 percent.
- **Excellent durability and reliability** with few moving parts located indoors.
- **Long service life** of more than 20 years with underground piping up to 50 years.
- **Quiet operation** because of no noisy outside condensing units.
- **Safe for families** because there are no open flames, flammable fuel, dangerous fuel storage tanks or exposed outdoor equipment.
- **ENERGY STAR-qualified systems** are 45 percent more energy efficient than standard systems.

Although geothermal systems are expensive, the initial investment is recovered in two to 10 years through lower utility bills. If the GHP cost adds \$30 per month to each mortgage payment, the energy-cost savings will easily exceed that over the course of each year.





Iowa LIHEAP 2019-2020 Guidelines

ATTENTION: RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMERS NEED HELP WITH YOUR HEATING BILL?

The 2019-2020 Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) has been established to help qualifying low-income Iowa homeowners and renters pay for a portion of their primary heating costs for the winter heating season. The assistance is based on household income, household size, type of fuel, and type of housing. To apply for assistance, please see the local community action agencies listed below.

WHEN TO APPLY:

- Elderly (60 & over) and/or disabled
October 1, 2019 to April 30, 2020
- All other households
November 1, 2019 to April 30, 2020

WHAT TO TAKE:

- Proof of income for all household members age 19 and older. (Check stubs from the previous 30 days, award letter from Social Security, or 2018 tax return.)
- Social Security numbers for **all** household members (documentation required)
- Recent heat bill
- Recent electric bill

WAGE EARNERS:

Please bring copies of your check stubs for the 30-day period preceding the date of application, or a copy of your federal income tax return.

FIXED INCOME:

This income may include: Social Security Benefits, Supplemental Security Income, Family Investment Program, Veteran's Assistance, Unemployment Insurance, and pensions. Please bring copies of your check stubs from the previous 30 days.

SELF-EMPLOYED/FARMERS:

Please bring a copy of your most recent federal income tax return.

FIP RECIPIENTS:

Please bring your current DHS Notice of Decision or contact your local office for acceptance document information.

If you receive alimony or child support, it will also need to be verified.

INCOME MAXIMUMS

Size of Household	Annual Gross Income
1	\$21,858
2	\$29,593
3	\$37,328
4	\$45,063
5	\$52,798
6	\$60,533
7	\$68,268
8	\$76,003

For households with more than eight members, add \$7,735 annually for each additional member.

COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCIES

Hawkeye Area Community Action Corporation

Jones County: Anamosa 319-462-4343
Linn County: Hiawatha 319-393-7811

Iowa East Central T.R.A.I.N.

Cedar County: Tipton 563-886-3191
Clinton County: Clinton 563-243-5220
DeWitt 563-659-8492

Northeast Iowa Community Action Corporation

Clayton County: Elkader 563-245-2452

Operation New View

Dubuque County: Dubuque 563-556-5130
Delaware County: Manchester 563-927-4629
Jackson County: Maquoketa 563-652-5197

Operation Threshold

Buchanan County: Independence 319-334-6081



Watts Current by Email

If you would prefer to have the Watts Current emailed to you, please sign up by emailing efletcher@mvec.coop



Fall Fun at Schuster's Pumpkin Patch

Patty Manuel, MVEC Director of Public Relations

October is Co-op Month, but it could also be recognized as pumpkin month with Anamosa's Pumpkinfest and the world pumpkin weigh-off, and then a family trip to an area pumpkin patch.

A beautiful drive along Hwy 52 and a stop at Schuster's Pumpkin Patch and Corn Maze, 7541 Schueller Heights Road, Dubuque, makes a great fall day. Just watch for their sign between Dubuque and St. Donatus and look for the big white shed.

There is so much to do at Schuster's! Kids of all ages can get lost in corn mazes with a special, smaller maze for young children as well as a large maze for those wanting more of a challenge. For 20 years the corn mazes have offered fun family entertainment as Pam Schuster enjoys surprising visitors with a new maze design each year.

A 1948 Farmall orange tractor (yes, orange for pumpkins of course) and a John Deere tractor pull wagons of visitors out to the pumpkin patch. Driven by owner Ron Schuster or one of the many family and friends that help out during the busy season, the wagons are safe and comfortable with benches for seating. With over four acres of pumpkins to choose from, everyone is sure to go home with the best pumpkin ever!

Kids can take their turn with the pumpkin blaster, a cannon that will shoot a pumpkin at a target, or have fun at the paintball wagon, corn box, bounce house or any of the other activities available.

Mom's will enjoy sorting through mini pumpkins, gourds and Indian corn to add to their home's fall décor. Pam Schuster tells us the pumpkin crop is coming along well this year, and they have an excellent crop of Indian corn.

Schuster's Pumpkin Patch & Corn Maze is open 10am to 5pm on Saturdays and Sundays only beginning September 21 thru October 27 this year. Free parking, free admittance and food options simply add to the attraction. If you want to learn more, check them out on Facebook, visit their website at www.schusterspumpkinpatch.com, or give them a call at 563-556-2879.



Lots of pumpkins to choose from, pumpkins priced by size.



MVEC is a proud sponsor of the Dubuque Parade of Homes Tour

Check out some of our members beautiful homes at this years parade of homes tour

www.dubuquehomebuilders.com/parade-of-homes-tour/

October 12 & 13, 2019 • October 19 & 20, 2019 • 12:00-5:00 daily

WE PAY YOU TO PULL THE PLUG

Recycle your old appliances through the Pull the Plug program.

Call CLEARresult at 855-838-7817 to schedule your pickup. Please have your account number handy as you will be asked to provide it.

Appliances in working condition (runs and cools) will qualify for the following rewards:

Refrigerators: \$35 Freezers: \$25

Window Air Conditioners: \$25

Limited to three appliances per year.





Buried Service Cable is Your Responsibility to Maintain

We want to remind each of our members that the buried secondary service cable going to your home or business is your responsibility to maintain or replace when it fails. This cable typically runs from the meter or meter pedestal at the base of the utility pole to your home. If your meter is located on your house, this cable runs from the transformer to the meter socket.

Often members assume the Cooperative will repair or replace this underground cable if it fails. This cable is the responsibility of the member and you will need to hire an electrician to repair this cable when it fails.

The Cooperative strongly suggests you avoid planting vegetation over the route taken by the service cable and also NOT construct any additions, patios, or other structures over the cable as well. We encourage you to place new cables in conduit to facilitate future replacement when it fails or exceeds its useful life. If you have any questions on this topic, please contact us at 800-927-6068.

2019-2020 Heat Plus

The 2019-2020 Heat Plus rate with Power Cost Adjustment is \$0.049 per kilowatt-hour for electricity used during the winter months. The bill you receive in November will reflect your first months usage for this heating season. MVEC strives to keep this rate as low as possible to encourage the installation of highly efficient heat pump systems. If you are planning a building or remodeling project, contact us at 800-927-6068 for energy efficient ideas.

SAVE UP TO 50% ON FILTERS

When's The Last Time You Changed Your Air Filter?
Breathe easy & lower your energy bill.
New filters to your door fast and easy.

Go to mvec.coop or FilterChange.coop and Order Filters Now

FilterChange.coop FREE SHIPPING

RECare

RECare is a voluntary energy assistance program established to help low income families weatherize and heat their homes.

Funds collected are distributed by local community action agencies. The money stays in the area; it is a program of members helping members!

One Time Pledge \$ _____

Make check payable to:

Maquoketa Valley Electric Cooperative

Monthly Pledge:

\$1.00 ___ \$2.00 ___ \$3.00 ___

\$5.00 ___ Other \$ ___

I hereby authorize MVEC to add this monthly pledge to my electric bill. I understand I can cancel my monthly pledge at any time by notifying MVEC in writing.

Account # _____

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____



Maquoketa Valley Electric Cooperative

® Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

109 N. Huber Street, Anamosa, IA 52205

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



The Fiber Download

Automatically finding the best Wi-Fi signal wherever you are in your home.

When it comes to home Wi-Fi, the most important thing is that it works - so you never have to think about it. Unfortunately, with many home Wi-Fi networks this is not always the case. Poor connectivity, slow speeds and dropped connections are all too common. There are some steps you can take to improve Wi-Fi performance in your home, however, such as moving your router to a different location, making sure its settings are optimized, or even upgrading to a newer model. But when these actions don't result in any noticeable improvement, it may be time to consider a different type of Wi-Fi solution.

Enjoy A Superior Experience With Mesh Wi-Fi

Fortunately, there is an exciting new alternative to conventional home Wi-Fi networks. Called a Mesh Wi-Fi network, this new technology combines a Wi-Fi router with one or more satellites, which are small wireless devices you place in different rooms in your home. These satellites communicate with the router and provide you with a strong Wi-Fi signal everywhere, whether it's your bedroom, your home office, or even your backyard.

Consumer-Grade Mesh Wi-Fi: Convenient But Expensive

Once you've decided a Mesh Wi-Fi system is for you, there are two options for making the jump. The first is to pay a visit to the nearest consumer electronics store and purchase your own Mesh Wi-Fi system. These systems typically consist of a router and one, or sometimes two, satellites. While this may seem like the simplest option, there are a couple of major drawbacks. The biggest one is price. Consumer Mesh Wi-Fi systems are expensive. While you can purchase some starter systems for around \$300, others can cost upwards of \$500, depending on the number of additional satellites you need to extend coverage throughout your home. Along with the high price tag, you are responsible for installing the system and managing it on an ongoing basis.

Carrier-Class Mesh Wi-Fi: Worry-Free And Cost-Effective

The second option is to purchase your Mesh Wi-Fi as a service from your service provider. Instead of paying several hundred dollars up front for a consumer grade system you have to install and manage by yourself, you can instead pay a \$4.95 monthly fee. Purchase a \$90 mesh unit, and get the best Wi-Fi system available with superior performance and coverage and rely on your service provider to take care of any technical issues that may come up. With a managed solution like this, MVEC can see all of your connected devices to remotely and quickly identify and resolve any issues you may have. Carrier-class Wi-Fi also provides more flexibility than consumer systems, which require you to buy satellite units in groups of two or three. With carrier-class Mesh Wi-Fi, you can order up to four satellites along with your Wi-Fi router. If you only need one to provide coverage throughout your home, then there's no need to pay for more.

If you're ready to enjoy the superior online experience and other benefits that come with Carrier-Class Wi-Fi, call us today! We will help with everything you need to upgrade your current Wi-Fi network to a high-performance Mesh Wi-Fi system, and provide you the support you need so you can enjoy worry-free Wi-Fi, affordably.

Experience Extended Wi-Fi Coverage

With our GigaCenter and mesh satellites, now you can experience whole-home coverage in every corner of your home - and beyond.



Sites to See

Watch this section for new or popular internet sites you may want to explore.

- wired.com/story/how-wi-fi-almost-didnt-happen/
What if Wi-Fi hadn't happened? It almost didn't, at least not in the way we recognize it today
- thewirecutter.com
Wirecutter is a list of the best gear and gadgets for people who want to save the time and stress of figuring out what to buy.
- kids.nationalgeographic.com
Games, videos, animals and explore.

Connection Speeds Glossary of Terms

Wi-Fi: An acronym for Wireless Fidelity, usually allows the user to be connected to a network without any physical connection

Mesh Unit: In a wireless mesh network, only one node needs to be physically wired to a network connection like a DSL Internet modem. That one wired node then shares its Internet connection wirelessly with all other nodes in its vicinity.

GigaCenter: Service delivery platform uses an Ethernet link at the subscriber's premises to provide carrier-class Wi-Fi and Gigabit Ethernet interfaces for customer multi-media devices.



Dear Member,

Crop drying season is just around the corner. If you have made improvements to your farm, or are anticipating them, please give us a call as soon as possible at 800-927-6068.

Thank you for helping us ensure your electricity is not interrupted during your busy harvest season.

Annual Meeting Recap and Cash Prize Winners

Over 400 members and guests were in attendance at the Annual Meeting on August 22, 2019. The board members re-elected were Billie Zumbach (representing Delaware, Clayton, and Buchanan Counties), Tom Stewart (representing Jackson, and Clinton Counties), and Ron Thielen (representing Dubuque County).

Following the meeting, a cash prize drawing was held. The winners were:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Leo Junk, Dubuque | Roger Ritt, Holy Cross |
| Betty Werner, Manchester | Marilyn Rutz, Farley |
| John Pape, Edgewood | Tricia Wagner, Dubuque |
| Loras Lawrence, Monticello | Cheryl Heinrich, Maquoketa |
| Philip Hogan, New Vienna | John Denlinger, Sherrill |
| Pauline Antons, Center Junction | David Hunt, Bernard |
| Don Von Behren, Anamosa | John Grant, Peosta |
| John Albright, Dundee | Sue Callahan, Worthington |
| Joann Heber, Dubuque | Phyllis Errthum, Holy Cross |
| Ailene Dondlinger, Bellevue | James Nicks, Dubuque |
| Marlene Bishop, Manchester | Lou Langenberg, Lisbon |
| Steve Sefzik, Peosta | Sue Lang, Bellevue |
| Carol Gillmore, Monticello | Laverne Freiburger, Holy Cross |
| Larry Feldmann, Manchester | Ethel Vorwald, Epworth |
| Dan White, Cascade | |



Watts The Answer?

1. Another feature that sets our co-op apart from a traditional utility is one of our core principles, _____.

2. Lower electric bills by _____ to _____ percent less.

3. Fortunately, there is an exciting new alternative to conventional _____ networks.

Mail your answers in with your energy bill, or email them to efletcher@mvec.coop.

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

Please complete the following:

Name

Address

August winners:

Mary Kay Frick, Zwingle

James Olberding, Dyersville



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

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PHONE SERVICE FROM MVLINK

You already enjoy the gold standard in internet—why not enjoy phone service as well? With a home phone line, you'll enjoy the reliability of a phone that's not subject to cellular signals. Also, a home phone line gives you one number for your entire family, all at a low price of \$34.95 for unlimited local and long distance.



CONTACT US TODAY!

MVLINK.COOP | 800-927-6068
OR EMAIL FIBER@MVEC.COOP



*Some restrictions apply. Phone services limited to lower 48 states or Continental US.

Understanding Your Electric Bill

On-Peak hours are 4 p.m. - 9 p.m.

Off-Peak hours are Midnight - 4 p.m. and 9 p.m. - Midnight

These times are in effect every day.

Watts Current

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Mailing Address:

109 North Huber Street • Anamosa, IA 52205
319-462-3542 or 800-927-6068

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www.mvec.coop

www.mvlink.coop

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Fiber Questions

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