

A newsletter from Arrowhead Cooperative

# The High Line

By Line

April 2018, vol. 23



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

## The power behind your power

One Friday afternoon in March our linemen were working on restoring a power outage in the Hovland/Grand Portage area. Around 4pm, callers began asking what would happen after our office closed at its normal time, 4:30pm. What if the power wasn't back yet? The clock doesn't matter, we explained to those members. Even though the linemen's shift ended at 3:30pm, they are not leaving until your power is back on, we informed the callers. They'll have support from our office as needed; they don't punch out until the job is done and right now the job is getting your electric service restored.

In fact, a lineman is always working. Arrowhead Cooperative has a rotating on-call schedule for the power and fiber linemen. That means someone is ready, 24/7, to respond to an outage. Someone is not spending their Saturday afternoon fishing in the Boundary Waters. They have not gone to Duluth to run errands. They are available and ready to repair any part of our system that brings you power or broadband service. It's Friday afternoon and we're all ready to start our weekend, but our line crews are not going home to dinner until you can cook for your family.

When you work at a utility, you begin to think about weather differently. Sitting at home at night, cozy by the fire as the wind and rain roar around, you think about your coworkers who might be dressing to head out into the storm. Being a lineworker might

not be a glamorous profession – but it is critically important work that enables us, our friends, and neighbors to enjoy this area that we call home. At its essence, working on the line is inherently dangerous, requiring our line crews to work near high voltage lines at any time of the day or night, and sometimes in the in the worst of conditions. At Arrowhead Cooperative, we are fortunate to have a team of experienced and dedicated linemen – you won't find a better team anywhere in the industry. Our team takes pride in their work and will not give you, our members, anything less than reliable, safe electricity and broadband.

Every April we pause to celebrate National Lineworkers Day – this year's celebration is on the 18th of April. We are reminded to take this moment and appreciate the work that goes into delivering these services that are so essential to our lives we can easily take them for granted. So during the month of April, if you see one of our lineworkers, please pause to say thank you to the power behind your power. Let them know you appreciate the hard work they do to keep the power on, regardless of the conditions.

*Please feel free to join us at Voyager Brewing in Grand Marais from 5 – 8 PM on April 18th to celebrate National Lineworkers Day. Stop on down and thank your local lineworker – they will appreciate it!*

## Save the Date!

**Arrowhead Cooperative's Annual Meeting**

**Saturday, June 9th**

**Arrowhead Center for the Arts  
Grand Marais, MN**

**Join us for breakfast starting at 8:30am  
Meeting convenes at 10am**



# Celebrate Earth Day with the EPA

Each year we celebrate Earth Day on April 22nd. The first Earth Day, organized by Senator Gaylord Nelson, was in April 1970. Just eight months later, in December 1970, Congress authorized the creation of a new federal agency to tackle environmental issues, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

\*On the first Earth Day in 1970, 22 million Americans celebrated clean air, land, and water.\*

The EPA devotes a section of its website to Earth Day with information on the event's history, school and community resources, and tips for greener living every day. [Epa.gov/earthday](http://Epa.gov/earthday)

The EPA-sponsored SepticSmart promotes proper septic system care and maintenance by homeowners. Residents of Cook County understand the value of septic maintenance both for our homes and for the sake of our watershed. Learn more about how your septic system operates and simple tips to help you avoid costly system repairs or replacement. There's a whole week in September, just for septic stuff! [epa.gov/septic](http://epa.gov/septic)

A handy chart on the EPA website lists ways to recycle electronic devices -letting you know which manufacturers and resellers offer drop-off or mail-in recycling programs. Best Buy and Staples offer recycling for some cell phones and computers. Vizio, Samsung, and Sony have recycling options for televisions. [epa.gov/recycle/electronics-donation-and-recycling](http://epa.gov/recycle/electronics-donation-and-recycling)

We're all familiar with the Energy Star rating for appliances, but less well known is the EPA's WaterSense standard. WaterSense labeled products are backed by independent, third-party certification and meet EPA's specifications for water efficiency and performance. The WaterSense label makes it simple to find water-efficient products and programs that meet EPA's criteria for efficiency and performance. [epa.gov/watersense](http://epa.gov/watersense)

The EPA website is a great starting point for consumers looking to learn more about how the products they use every day impact the place we live every day.



# Plug in and head out!

**E**xciting news, Arrowhead Cooperative members! We are working on extending the electric vehicle fast charging network in Minnesota into Cook County. Across Minnesota – and the Midwest – electric vehicle charging stations are rapidly expanding into rural areas. Plug Into MN, a Great River Energy-led coalition, has built a fast charging corridor along I-35 and Highway 61. Today you can drive from the Twin Cities to the North Shore and charge your electric vehicle (EV) at any number of stops along the way. Visit [plugintomn.com](http://plugintomn.com) to find charging stations on your next road trip.



Some Arrowhead Cooperative members already offer Level 2 or Level 3 charging stations (see descriptions below). We are targeting adding three public, fast charging stations (Level 1) in Cook County – one in Lutsen, one in Grand Marais (in partnership with the City of Grand Marais), and one on the east end of the county.

## Different Types of Charging Stations

- Level 3 is a wall outlet at 120v, charge time is in the 4-10 hour range
  - o Good for home charging or long stay overs
- Level 2 is a 240v charger that will charge in the 2-8 hours
- Level 1 is a DC fast charger that can charge some models in about a half an hour or to full capacity in about an hour

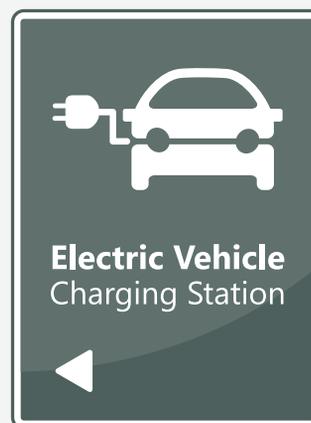
So why is this important to the Arrowhead service area? Electric vehicles are increasingly popular with drivers. As they become less expensive to build and even more efficient to drive, you can expect to start seeing electric vehicles regularly on the road. Part of keeping our community connected is providing convenient charging stations to make trips around the north shore easier.

## Here are a few fun facts about electric vehicles and charging:

- 1) EV's are part of an important trend related to electricity usage and low emission transportation – this is part of beneficial electrification
- 2) EV's are quiet, comfortable, and full of high tech amenities
- 3) EV's are low maintenance – vehicle service starts at 100K miles
- 4) EV's get very high eMPG ratings – the equivalent energy input from a gasoline or diesel source
- 5) EV's have no tail-pipe emissions
- 6) EV's get cleaner over time as electric utilities across the country continue to add more and more renewable energy to their supply → Arrowhead currently receives about 25% of it's energy from renewable energy sources
- 7) Fast charging capable vehicles can charge up to near full in an hour or less

If you have an interest in learning more about our electric vehicle and charging station initiative please contact Yusef Orest at 218-663-9001.

Remember, Arrowhead Cooperative, in partnership with Great River Energy, has programs and tools available to help you find the right electric vehicle solution for you!



## Dates to Remember

April 13  
April 18  
April 20  
April 22  
April 26

Operation Round Up Applications Due  
Thank a lineman!  
Broadband & Electric bills due  
Earth Day  
Board of Directors Meeting



## Cold Weather Rule Ends April 15th

The Minnesota Cold Weather Rule, a policy to help homeowners and renters stay connected or reconnect their heat during the winter months, ends on April 15. If your Arrowhead Cooperative electric account is currently past due please contact our office immediately to make a payment and avoid disconnection.

Arrowhead Cooperative  
Billing: 800-864-3744



## Rural Electric Youth Tour Delegates

Each year the Arrowhead Cooperative Board of Directors selects two Cook County High School Juniors to represent the cooperative at the Rural Electric Youth Tour. This year, Lynden Blomberg and Laden Kivircik will be going to Washington, D.C. in June to participate in leadership training and to get an inside look at our federal government. We are all very excited to have these impressive young people as representatives of both the cooperative and Cook County as a whole. We look forward to hearing all about their experiences when they return.



## Right-Of-Way

Rights-of-way clearing pauses during the winter months. We will resume as soon weather permits. Keep in mind, clearing and hazard tree removal can happen at any time, in any area as needed.

### What can you do to help?

- Please be sure the right of way is clear of personal items to ensure the mowers and equipment can pass through with ease.
- Brushing and/or mowing your private right-of-way from the meter to your home, following your electric or fiber line, would be extremely helpful. The suggested width is 10 feet for both overhead and underground services.

Please mark survey pins, septic systems, well heads, wire or fencing with a five foot permanent reflective marker post within the right-of-way, and remove any personal items that may be damaged by flying debris. Arrowhead Cooperative will not accept liability for damage of these items if not notified. If you do not live at your service address, please call the office to inform us of known obstacles in your right-of-way.

Arrowhead Cooperative encourages members to contact the office with any questions or concerns regarding Right-of-Way clearing.

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General Manager: Joe Pandy  
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Newsletter Editor: Yusef Orest & Sara McManus  
Cooperative Board Meeting last Thursday of each month @ 9:00 a.m. with the exception of November and December due to the holidays.

