

## Director Dennis St. Aubin Remembered

Chippewa Valley Electric's Director Dennis St. Aubin passed away on December 14th. Dennis was elected to our board in February of 2001. He would have attained 15 years of service



to the membership of Chippewa Valley at the 2016 Annual Meeting. Dennis represented the members of District 4 which includes the towns of Birch Creek, Cleveland, and Estella. He was always ready to contribute to board decisions and we never had any doubt on where he would stand on an issue. We know he took his board responsibilities seriously and was always looking out for the members' best interests.

Chippewa Valley Electric will certainly miss Dennis' pleasant personality, quick wit, and dedication to serving the cooperative members.

## Phone Scam to Chippewa Valley Electric Cooperative Customers

On December 7 at approximately 4:15 p.m. a party representing themselves as Chippewa Valley Electric Cooperative (CVEC) contacted one of our members demanding payment via MoneyGram for a "delinquent bill," threatening immediate disconnection if not paid.

The caller knew the member's name, address, and account number.

Chippewa Valley Electric Cooperative will not make collection calls outside of normal business hours (7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.), and will always work with our Members to make payment arrangements.

If a CVEC member receives a collection call from a number other than 715.239.6800, and/or has any questions regarding a "collections call," we are urging them to call the Chippewa Valley Electric Cooperative office during normal business hours to confirm the legitimacy of the call.



## Save the Date! May 25 CVEC Member Appreciation Picnic and Open House

Please join us on May 25 for our Member Appreciation Picnic and Open House. Come and enjoy lunch with your fellow members and see our new headquarters.

# Remember to Replace Your Thermostat Batteries

You don't want to be without heat on cold, winter days. Thermostats with dead batteries will not allow your heating unit to operate.

*If you are wondering if your thermostat even has batteries here is some information that you will find helpful:*

## Round Honeywell Thermostats

Round Honeywell thermostats (Model T87) do not require batteries whether they are the older gold models or the newer white models. The old models worked by turning the dial which causes mercury in a tube to make a connection between the two wires and activate the burner. Simple system with no extra frills that require no additional electricity. You will see a picture of this type of thermostat here.



## Digital Honeywell Thermostats

The newer Honeywell thermostats are now digital and require additional electricity but they get it from the control on the burner and not from batteries. (It is not possible to use this type of thermostat with all oil burner controls because some of them do not have a transformer for sending voltage back to the thermostat.) See the picture of a digital Honeywell T87 thermostat.



## Digital Thermostats with Batteries

Thermostats that do require battery power such as the one shown here are usually rectangular and digital. You can see that there would be room for usually two AA batteries within. It is a simple matter to check for batteries by prying the cover off from the base. Many digital thermostats will have a reading that shows what the life of the battery is on the screen. If you don't know how to access this information read the paperwork provided with the thermostat. If you do



not have this paperwork, go to the manufacturer's website and they will have it there for the model of your thermostat.

## Save the Cost of a Service Call!

We recommend that you pass along this information to friends and family and save them from having to pay for a service call. Sometimes if you have no heat the solution can be as simple as replacing the batteries in your thermostat. So please help your family, friends, and neighbors stay warm by reminding them of the simple act of checking and/or changing the batteries in their thermostats.

## Rate Increase Set for January 1, 2016

Chippewa Valley is committed to providing dependable and reliable electric power to its members. Unfortunately, it has become necessary for us to raise our rates. Our wholesale rate will increase in 2016 contributing financial stress for your cooperative.

In completing the 2016 budget in addition to projecting sales and expenses, it was determined approximately a 5% rate adjustment would be needed to keep your cooperative within the financial parameters required by our lenders. Another factor that is contributing for a needed rate adjustment is declining sales. We have seen almost an 8% decrease in sales from 2014 due to the milder weather and do not see where sales will be coming back anytime soon. The low cost of fossil fuels has also taken away from some of our dual fuel sales.

At press time, the final breakdown on how the rate adjustment would be implemented had not yet been determined and will be set by the Board at their late December meeting. We felt it was necessary to at least get this notice out to you, our members, so you are aware that beginning January 1, 2016 there will be a slight increase in your electricity cost.

### Chippewa Valley Electric Cooperative

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