



No cost ways to save this summer

- Close shades and drapes during the hottest parts of the day to keep sunlight from warming your home.
- Weather strip and caulk windows/doors/around pipes and other openings to keep cool air in and warm air out.
- Postpone using the oven and clothes dryer for cooler parts of the day. Better yet, set up a clothesline outdoors and prepare simple outdoor meals!
- Be sure your air conditioner outside unit is clean of debris. Replace indoor filters as needed.
- Set the thermostat to 78 degrees or higher.
- Using fans to circulate air will make you feel cooler. Turn them off, along with lights, in rooms you aren't using.
- Set your dishwasher to run overnight when it is cooler and turn off heat dry – crack the door in the morning to dry.
- Turn off any office equipment/electronics when not using them.
- Unplug chargers when not needed – they continuously draw power.

2020 Annual Meeting of Members canceled

Menard Electric Co-op's Board of Directors has made the difficult decision to cancel the 2020 Annual Meeting of Members due to COVID-19. The event was originally scheduled for June 4, 2020, and in April the announcement was made to postpone the event and seek a fall date.

One of Menard Electric's founding principles is Concern for Community. The safety and well-being of members and employees has been a top priority for the co-op since the pandemic's beginning. The co-op implemented multiple safety measures from the start in order to continue safely providing uninterrupted service to members.

Given these uncertain times, the board recognizes that guidelines issued by state and local health officials cannot be known at this time for a meeting date later this year. The board thoroughly deliberated how to best conduct the Annual Meeting; it is clear that canceling the event is the best course of action at this time to ensure the safety of members, employees and guests.



Considering solar?

Give us a call first – we can provide you with your electric usage data, an idea of what a solar system may produce, and review how our process works.

Also, be aware that this is still an emerging industry with evolving technology and there has been a proliferation of pop-up companies in the market. Be sure you are working with a reputable company. Representatives of rooftop solar companies may have more sales experience than knowledge of the energy industry, and their primary goal could be making a sale and moving on to the next prospect.

We have a different “bottom line” that is not directly tied to the sale of a product or service and can take a more holistic, objective view of how to achieve energy and cost savings for our members.

In this ever-changing environment, it’s important to remember you have a trusted energy advisor – your local



electric cooperative. We are a community-focused organization that works to efficiently deliver affordable, reliable and safe energy to our members.

Give us a call to discuss solar and visit our website at menard.com/distributed-generation to learn more.

WATT'S THE DIFFERENCE?



Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter

Prevents electrical shock by detecting variations in current.

Install in areas where water and electricity are in close proximity.

Test outlets with GFCIs monthly; if they don't work properly, consult your electrician.



Arc Fault Circuit Interrupter

Prevents electrical fires caused by arc flash. Usually installed by an electrician.

An arc is an electrical discharge that can cause intense heat or light.

It interrupts the circuit when it detects an arc or other abnormalities in the flow of electricity.



Tamper Resistant Outlet

Prevents shocks caused by tampering with an outlet.

The protective shutters are designed to move when a plug is correctly inserted.

Became part of the National Electrical Code in 2008; if your home does not have these, install childproof devices.

What can a member do to help us help them?

As an electric cooperative, Menard Electric is led by our consumer-members, and our employees work hard to efficiently deliver affordable, reliable and safe energy to those members. Sometimes, there are easy ways you can help us to do just that. This month, you'll hear from each employee in our Member Services Department about ways you can help us to better serve you. We've talked before with operations and engineering employees. There is a theme among the comments from all of our employees – the more you communicate with us, the better we can serve you! You can reach us at 800-872-1203 or info@menard.com. Don't forget to visit menard.com and Facebook.com/menardelectric to learn more about us.

Trish Michels, Director of Member Services, 17 years



We are here to serve our members but also to protect our members. If you are calling in to make a payment or inquire about an account that you are not listed on, please know we cannot give out information about that account without the members' consent. We will gladly take payment, but you will have to know the balance on the account or have the member call in and give us consent to talk about their account with you.

Cheryl Milstead, Radio Dispatcher, 19 years



When a member calls in for a change-of-service (taking over another electric account), having the meter number available is best – the address is not always reliable. Knowing the name of the person who currently has the service can be an alternative.

When someone calls in to have electric service disconnected at their location, we will need to verify it is the member on the account with the last four digits of their social security number. We will also need a forwarding address and a valid primary phone number.

Michelle McNeal, Communications, 12 years



Members should let us know about life changes that affect their membership, such as the death of or divorce from a spouse if the membership is jointly held, or a legal name change. Keeping this information up to date is important and also ensures that capital credits are allocated and returned to members accurately.

Also, members who receive a bill much larger than they expected should call in. Don't wait until the following month or several months to see if it continues. We can help members not only better understand how changes they have made affect their usage but also to pinpoint problems at their location causing increased electric usage – solving these issues quickly is to the member's benefit.

Kim Kyes, Billing Operator, 9 years



We give a lot of good information on the bills sent out each month. Often members call in with questions that are answerable by carefully reading the bill; having the bill handy lets us walk you through it so you'll know how to find the information.

We mail your bill at the same time each month and cannot control mail delays. Members can sign up through our online bill pay site to receive an email notification as soon as their bill is ready to view. They can also view past bills, account balances and more.

Alycia Clifton, Receptionist, 7 months



When calling in a downed power line, be ready to give me information as if you were giving me directions how to get there, like the name of the streets or directions from a highway. We want to get our linemen to the area as quickly as possible.

Peggy Ogden, Receptionist, 7 months



When calling the office, please have your account number available. It can be found on the top right corner of your bill. It is easier and quicker for us to look up and verify an account so we can serve you faster.



Employee Favorite

RECIPES



Easiest Strawberry Trifle Ever

Cheryl Milstead, Radio Dispatcher

- 1 angel food cake
- 1 large carton of strawberries
- Splenda
- 1 large or 2 small boxes of cheese-cake pudding, prepared
- 1 large container of Cool Whip

Purchase a prepared angel food cake, or make your own, and tear into pieces. Slice strawberries and sprinkle with Splenda. Layer everything in a trifle bowl starting with the angel food cake on the bottom. Add a layer of pudding, followed by a layer of strawberries and a layer of Cool Whip. Repeat layering until ingredients are gone. Cover and refrigerate at least a couple hours before serving.

Cheryl says, "This trifle is delish! It is simple to make and everyone loves it."

Board highlights

For full minutes visit menard.com
or contact the office.

April 28, 2020

- Held via Zoom Call due to Covid-19.
- Present were Directors D. Jay Frye, Warren Goetsch, Gary Holloway, Gary Martin, Donald McMillan, Michael Patrick, Dennis Ryan, Jodine Tate & Steven Worner, Manager Alisha Anker, Engineering Manager Brady Smith & Attorney Charles Smith.
- Smith: Reviewed 2020-2023 Work Plan.
- Anker: Reviewed operating statement, balance sheet & budget, member services report, operations & reliability report, irrigation report, Connect newsletter, 2020 scholarship recipients & capital credit estates report.
- Appointed Martin Delegate & Worner Alternate to PPI Ann. Mtg.; Appointed as Directors Martin & Anker, Worner as Alternate.
- Anker: Gave March financial report. Year to date margins were \$721,485 compared to \$155,822 last year. End of March equity 40.74%. Net utility plant \$51,661,669 compared to \$49,457,704 last year. Co-op meets requirements of RUS, FFB, NRUCFC & CoBank.
- Goetsch: Gave ByLaw Policy Committee report. Motion carried to adopt revisions as proposed to policies regarding billing & terms of payments, security deposit, continuity & disconnection of service, vacation, attendance monitoring.
- Martin: Gave Finance Committee report and recommendation to utilize 50/50 last in first out/first in first out retirement model for 2020 retirement. Motion carried to adopt Resolution utilizing recommendation.
- Goetsch: Gave AIEC report.
- Martin: Gave Prairie Power, Inc. report.
- Board entered into executive session, reconvened; motion carried to adopt & approve actions taken.
- Next Board Meeting 5/26/2020 at 6:00 p.m.

BudgetWise

Choose the option best for you!

Budget Billing

Pay the same amount each month. Once a year you will “settle up” with a credit if you used less than the estimated amount of electricity, or a balance due if you used more. We’ll periodically evaluate the account and apply a one-time adjustment if needed to keep you from having a large settlement amount.



Now is a
great time
to start!

Average Billing

This uses a 12-month rolling average to even out monthly fluctuations. We will bill a dynamic average amount that will fluctuate monthly. This option does not have a settlement month.

Email info@menard.com or call 800-872-1203 with your account number and the option you are interested in. We’ll let you know all the details and what your payment would be.

Pay automatically, choose your date

Sign up for Automatic Payment to process your payment through your checking or savings account on the 10th, 17th or 24th of each month. You’ll still receive a bill each month to know how much to deduct.

Sign up on the back of your payment stub this month and never worry about forgetting to pay, possible mail delays, or other payment snafus again!

Paperless billing

It is fast and reliable to receive notification of your bill by email. You’ll receive notification as soon as your bill is ready to view. Then you can pay online, call to pay, mail your check or log the amount for automatic payment. Log onto your account through our MyMEC app or our website portal at menard.com and select Account Management/Paperless Options/check mark email and paperless.





On America's birthday, remember that these are not just words we say; they are a promise to honor our flag, our nation and all those, past and present, who have risked all for our freedom.



Office closed Friday, July 3rd