



By James Anderson,
General Manager/CEO

KEEPING THE LIGHTS ON

Keeping the lights on in the Jump River Electric Cooperative (JREC) system can be a delicate balancing act. JREC does

everything possible to deliver power through safe, reliable, cost-effective means; however, we cannot guarantee 100 percent reliable power.

JREC realizes that members are interested in information regarding outages. Members would like to receive outage updates during outages as well as outage details, including who was affected, how long they are, and what caused them. We are committed to providing members outage information to keep them informed.

JREC has been working to improve our outage communications and develop a plan to provide better outage information to members. Currently, JREC provides updates during outages and additional details on our website and Facebook page. Soon we will have an interactive map that will show outages in our service area.

We will report estimated time outage information under the following circumstances: district or system-wide outages, or major distribution feeder outages, and planned outages for maintenance. Please note that members should not expect

real-time outage information if an outage does not meet the criteria above.

It is JREC's priority to provide real-time outage information during extended outages so members can prepare their homes, businesses, and families to be without power for lengthy periods of time. Safety for our crews and our members is top priority in any outage—never approach any downed line or drive over downed wires as they may still be energized.

We ask that members recognize that during any outage JREC will first assess the situation and then develop a plan to get the lights back on. The process includes locating the cause of the outage, calling appropriate personnel and help as necessary to repair, and re-energizing distribution lines to restore service to our members.

Depending on weather, time of day, cause and location, these activities can take minutes, hours, or longer. Therefore, this information is not always available immediately. JREC will provide updates as soon as information is available, so if you don't see it initially, please be patient and check back.

Always report your power outage. Never assume that someone else will call it in. Before calling, be sure to check your breakers to ensure it is not on your end, and have your account number handy to help expedite your call. During normal working hours, please contact us

at 715-532-5524 (Ladysmith) or 715-634-4575 (Hayward). FOR AFTER-HOURS EMERGENCY SERVICE please call (866) 273-5111.

All of us at JREC would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



**Jump River Electric
Cooperative, Inc.**

Since 1938

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

82nd Annual Meeting to be held in April

You will want to set aside Saturday, April 25, 2020, so you can attend the 82nd annual meeting. This business meeting will be held at the Ladysmith High School at 10 a.m., with a chicken dinner to follow. Director elections will be held at this time, along with voting on any proposed resolutions that may be submitted for consideration by the membership. More information on times and format will follow in future issues of this magazine.

Upcoming Deadlines

January 23—Deadline to notify JREC at 715-532-5524 of your interest in serving on the Rules & Resolution Committee. This committee reviews the rules of the annual meeting and any submitted resolutions.

February 25—Deadline to submit resolutions that are to be considered at the 82nd annual meeting. Director Nomination Petitions will also be due on this same date. Members who reside in the districts of 3, 4, and 9 who are interested in serving as a director must submit their director petition by this date. To determine which district you live in, please go to jrec.com/board-director-contact-information. You can also find the director duties and director job description on this same page of our website.



Building Update As we entered November, the contractors were finalizing the outside work and getting the inside drywalled and mudded. The headquarters is expected to be opened for business in late March/early April 2020.



LOCAL TOY MAKER OR SANTA IN DISGUISE?

After talking with Mark Tamm of Hayward (right), I was left to believe that he is not only a talented toy maker who lives locally amongst us, but surely a modern-day Santa Claus. The only difference is he doesn't have elves helping him make these beautifully hand-crafted toys out of wood.



more. Now, he makes outdoor benches, indoor benches, cribbage boards, musky cribbage boards, and cedar chests, along with an array of toys from wooden trains, doll cradles, tanker trucks, logging trucks, and construction trucks with a working backhoe, to a rocking moose, rocking horse, or rocking lion. Cherry, walnut, oak, hickory, and pine are among his favorite types of wood to work with. All toys are covered in a clear stain, to showcase the wood grain, and a non-toxic finish.



It's Not Just Toys Many may say toy making is a lost craft, but Mark is determined to keep it alive. Mark began making toys out of his Hayward workshop following a short stay in the hospital. He said that images of toys started coming to him and he started drawing them out, and soon a hobby was formed.

What started as a hobby making hand-crafted wood toys developed into much

“This is a God-given gift and I've been doing it for years and love making children happy. It is a very special therapeutic gift and very rewarding,” Mark said.

God-given gift, craft, or work of art—all describe the various toys Mark makes. As far as making children happy, I can attest to that. The picture above right shows a rocking moose that Mark

donated as part of our stocking full of toys give-a-way a few years ago; I've seen children's faces light up when they're told the rocking moose is theirs to take home. Mark also donates these same rocking moose toys to the Moose Lake Festival every year.

Hobby Turned Business Mark's hobby turned into a small business around the same time he became a member of the cooperative in 1998. Word of mouth has been the biggest contributor to the growth in his business. Now he spends most of his summers building the variety of toys and benches but hopes to be able to spend more time this winter in his workshop in order to help keep up with the demand.

The rocking moose is probably the most requested toy. It's made from all types of hardwoods, and it currently sells for \$40. Mark takes requests, and if you would like him to make any one of the items listed above, you can reach him at 715-462-4883. It appears there is no limit to his talent, and Marks says, “Each item is made with love.” — *Submitted by Denise Zimmer*



In addition to toys, Mark Tamm builds items including birdhouses and outdoor benches.

KIDS AGES 2 TO 10:

Enter to win a stocking full of toys!



All children ages 2 to 10 are eligible to win a giant (and we're not exaggerating) stocking stuffed full of toys for both boys and girls. Enter to win one of the three stockings by completing the drawing ticket below and either deliver or mail it to one of the following locations. **HURRY**—the drawings will be held Monday, December 16, 2019.

- Previous winners and their families, directors' and employees' immediate families are not eligible.
- Winners will be notified. Parents must pick up stockings at JREC in Ladysmith or Hayward. A picture will be taken of each winner.
- Parent(s)/guardian(s) of child must be an active member of the cooperative.

My name is: _____

My age is: _____

My parents are: _____

My telephone number is: _____

I live in the following township: _____

If your parents don't have a telephone, please list a number where a message can be left: _____

Drop or mail to:	Jump River Electric Cooperative
Hayward members:	13895 W CTH B, Hayward, WI 54843
All other members:	P.O. Box 99, Ladysmith, WI 54848



During the holidays, thoughts often turn to those who need their spirits lifted. For the 23rd year, WIGM 1490 AM, WKEB 99.3 FM, Jump River Electric Cooperative, along with Touchstone Energy and other area co-ops, is sponsoring the Christmas Wish Program. In following with the cooperative principle "Concern for Community," contributors to Christmas Wish have undertaken a mission to spread some holiday cheer.

In 2018, we granted wishes that helped bring a little joy to children who were battling serious illnesses, friends and neighbors who had lost loved ones over the previous year, and community members with disabilities who needed a little help meeting their needs. Nearly 150 families were touched by the Christmas Wish program!

Requests for wishes may be directed to WIGM/WKEB Radio, P.O. Box 59, Medford, WI 54451; (715) 748-2752 by fax or www.K99WIGM.com. Please include your name, address and phone number of the individual you are making a wish for, and the wish you would like granted. Requests are being taken until December 13, 2019. For a full list of sponsors, see www.jrec.com.

BUNDLE UP – IT'S COLD OUT THERE!

Before you know it, we will be telling our little ones to do just that. A recent Wisconsin census showed that almost 15 percent of families living in Rusk County live below the poverty line. That, unfortunately, means that many families struggle to not only supply their children with food, but the much-needed winter supplies like a pair of mittens or a hat and scarf.

We all know how cold these Wisconsin winters are, so that is why JREC will be hosting our third annual Hat, Scarf, and Mittens Drive. Items donated will be given to local schools and day-care centers to help fill this simple need for many of our young ones.

Please drop off hats, scarves, and mittens at either of our offices Monday–Friday during the month December. For more information contact JREC at 715-532-5524.



TIPS FOR SAFE HOLIDAY ONLINE SHOPPING

Remember these tips when holiday shopping online.

- **CONDUCT RESEARCH:** When using a new website for purchases, read reviews and see if other consumers have had a positive or negative experience with it.
- **WHEN IN DOUBT, THROW IT OUT:** Links in emails, posts, and texts are often the ways cybercriminals try to steal your information or infect your devices.
- **PROTECT PERSONAL INFORMATION:** When making a purchase online, be alert to the kinds of information being collected to complete the transaction. Remember, you only need to fill out required fields at checkout.
- **USE SAFE PAYMENT METHODS:** Credit cards are generally the safest option because they allow buyers to seek a credit from the issuer if the product isn't delivered or isn't what's ordered.
- **PROTECT YOUR \$\$:** When shopping, be sure the site is security enabled. Web addresses with <https://> indicate extra security measures.

Source: stopthinkconnect.org



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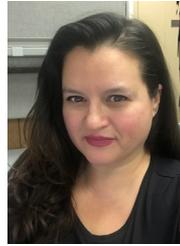
*\$59.99 value for both new and existing members. Existing members need to sign a 12-month contract extension to qualify for this special.

After you use the following amount of data, we may prioritize your data behind other customers during network congestion: Bronze 12 (40 GB), Silver 25 (60 GB), and Gold 30 (100 GB). Free standard installation fee available only to new customers. Minimum 24-month service term. Taxes apply. Speeds are "up to," are not guaranteed, and will vary. See jrec.com for more details. Offer may be changed or withdrawn at any time.



EMPLOYEE RECIPE CORNER

Jennifer Belk is the newest Jump River Electric Cooperative employee. She started working at the end of October as the executive assistant/human resources/office supervisor. Jennifer was born and raised in Shreveport, Louisiana, and recently moved to Ladysmith.



Jennifer is the mother of five sons — Nick, Caleb, Jackson, Aaron, and Brandon — and a new step-mother to Lizzy and Abby. She loves to swim and ski (both water and snow) and is an avid reader of historical fiction and humor books. Her fiancé, Eric Opelt, is a native Wisconsinite from Greenwood.

Jennifer's background is in casino, with the last several years in marketing. She earned a degree in business administration from Bossier Parish Community College in Louisiana.

"I love the Saints but am growing quite fond of the Packers. I am enjoying Wisconsin and the overwhelming hospitality and friendliness of the people," says Jennifer.

In her short time at the cooperative, she has found the members to be very welcoming and is enjoying getting to know more about Wisconsin and the members we serve.

When you think of Louisiana cuisine, gumbo is probably one of the dishes that comes to mind. Luckily, one of Jennifer's favorite recipes happens to be gumbo. She tells us there are many ways to make gumbo, but the following is her favorite recipe for this dish.

Louisiana Seafood, Sausage & Chicken Gumbo

- 1/2 teaspoon ground cayenne pepper
- 1/2 teaspoon Tony Chachere's
- 1/2 teaspoon ground black pepper
- 1 1/2 teaspoons paprika
- 1/2 teaspoon dried thyme
- 1/2 teaspoon dried oregano
- 1 bay leaf, crushed
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 3/4 cup vegetable oil
- 2 cups chopped onions
- 1 teaspoon minced garlic
- 1 1/2 cups tomato sauce
- 6 cups chicken broth
- 1 Tube of Andouille sausage
- 1 cup crabmeat or chicken
- 1 pound small shrimp – peeled and deveined



Combine the cayenne and black peppers, Tony's, paprika, thyme, oregano, bay leaf, and salt; set aside. In a heavy pot, 5 quart or larger, heat oil over medium heat, warming the pot first. Stirring frequently, add onions and garlic and the pepper-herb mixture. Turn heat to high. Cook for 5 minutes, stirring constantly. Add tomato sauce and stir as it reduces over high heat. Add chicken stock and bring to a boil. Reduce heat, and simmer for 1 hour, stirring occasionally. When ready to serve, add shrimp, sausage, chicken and/or crabmeat. Cover, and wait 5 minutes. Turn off heat and let stand for 10 minutes. Serve over rice.

*Recipe can also be done in a slow cooker by combining all ingredients and cooking on low for 6–7 hours.



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www.smarthubapp.com



Happy Holidays

from JREC

Our offices will be closed:
Tuesday, December 24
Wednesday, December 25
Wednesday, January 1

James Anderson, General Manager/CEO

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715-532-5524 • www.jrec.com

After-hour emergency service, call 866-273-5111

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JREC is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Denise Zimmer, Editor



Jump River Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Since 1938

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative