

Maquoketa Valley Electric Cooperative

WATTS *Current*

For Our Customers • February 2005

ALL ELECTRIC HOME OPEN HOUSE



Gerald and Trish Driscoll and Maquoketa Valley Electric Cooperative invite you to tour the Driscoll's new all electric home at 2301 Driscoll Road, Bernard on Saturday, February 26, 2005 from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. The Driscoll home is easy to find just off Highway 151 one-quarter mile south of Sacred Heart Church at Fillmore.

energy efficient construction methods and installing Energy Star® appliances. Learn how a geothermal heating and cooling system works and why it is the most sought-after heating option on the market today.

Contractors, Cooperative staff and the Driscoll's will be present to answer your questions and give you ideas on how you can make your home as energy efficient as possible.

This beautiful new home will demonstrate the value of utilizing

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Attention High School Juniors!

Win a trip to Washington, D.C. or \$300 cash

Turn to Page 2 for details



ATTENTION HIGH SCHOOL JUNIORS

Win an expense paid trip to Washington, D.C. or \$300 Cash

“Why do electric co-ops across the nation send youth to our nation’s capital year after year? The answer lies in three words. It’s commitment to community.

Because the customers who rely on their local co-op for reliable energy are the owners, too, electric cooperatives have become an integral part of rural communities everywhere. And by giving young people the chance to go to the nation’s capital and learn about electric cooperatives, our country and our political system, co-ops help ensure that youth in the future will have the knowledge necessary to continue a program that is interested in people, not profit.”

These are the words of Ben Franta, Elkader, a 2004 Youth Tour participant and the chosen Youth Leadership Council delegate from Iowa. His comments truly reflect Maquoketa Valley Electric Cooperative’s goal as we once again offer our annual Youth Tour contest.

Eligibility

Any student who is a junior in a high school located in Jones, Jackson, Dubuque or Delaware counties is eligible to enter the contest. A student who attends school outside these four counties may enter the contest if their parents or legal guardian is a

member-consumer of Maquoketa Valley Electric Cooperative. Students participating in a similar contest sponsored by another electric cooperative are not eligible to participate in this contest. Children of MVEC directors or employees are not eligible.

How To Enter

Submit a paper of 200 words or less on the exact title “Cooperatives –Why We Should Care”. The essay objective is to research the Cooperative way of doing business and its impact on consumers. For more information, or to request entry materials, call Gary Weber at 800-927-6068 or email him at gweber@mvec.com. All entries must be received by March 15, 2005.

After preliminary judging, five finalists will be asked to come to the Anamosa office on April 5, 2005 for final judging with a team of judges not associated with the Cooperative.

Prizes

Two winners will travel to Washington, D.C. June 18-23, 2005

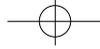
where they will meet approximately 1,000 Youth Tour participants from across the nation. They will learn about electric cooperatives, American history and government, attend educational seminars and visit with their national legislators.

Spending time together as a group of 1,000 they will visit historical sights, learn about cooperation, attend dances and plays together, visit the White House and cruise down the Potomac. Returning home these young people take with them a new appreciation and fondness for their country and electric cooperatives-and for each other.

Three runner-up winners will each receive a \$300 cash honorarium.

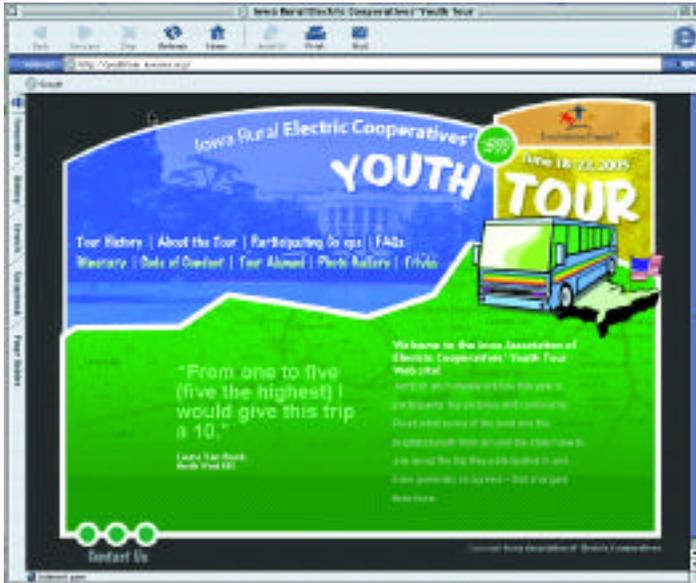


Jessica Heacock (left) and Grace Brehm (right), MVEC 2004 winners pose at the FDR Memorial.



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Visit this brand new website, <http://youthtour.iowarec.org> for photos, quotes and the itinerary of the 2004 Youth Tour.

MVEC PROVIDES EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

Maquoketa Valley Electric Cooperative is an equal opportunity affirmative action employer. It shall be the policy of the Cooperative that all applicants for employment shall be considered and hired on the basis of merit, without regard to race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, or mental or physical disability.

The employment practices shall insure equal treatment of all employees without discrimination in rate of pay or other opportunities for advancement because of the employee's race, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, or mental or physical disability.

THIRD PARTY NOTIFICATION

The third party notification is a plan which allows our customers to designate a third party to receive copies of any notices that might be received for discontinuing the electric service.

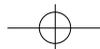
The purpose of this program is to limit the risk of a customer having the electric service discontinued because of a breakdown in communication. This may happen because a customer missed receiving the notice or received it but didn't understand the implications.

Copies of the notifications may be sent to any third party; a relative, friend, clergyman, physician, landlord, agent or agency, etc. This does not, however, place any obligation on this party to pay the electric

bills, nor will it defer or prevent discontinuing the electric service if payment is not made. The third party does serve as an additional communication link with the customer.

Although we will make every effort to provide third party notification, the person making this request agrees that Maquoketa Valley Electric Cooperative incurs no liability whatsoever for failure to do so for any reason.

If you are interested in the third party notification, contact our Member Support department at 800-927-6068 or email billing@mvec.com and they will send you the necessary form.





RAPID BRUSHES AND BROOM BUSINESS

Grace Zimmerman, Anamesa

I never know what I'll discover when the guys working at REC provide me with a lead about a unique business. That's what happened when I ventured out to 29225 216th Street, rural Bellevue, Iowa. There, on a small acreage, is the home of Mary and Bob Beckley, who moved there in 1959. Having always lived in this area, they are the parents of 12 children. The hard working couple celebrated their golden wedding anniversary last September with a polka mass and with the entire family present, spent a weekend at Whispering Pines. Presiding was Bob's brother, who had served as a missionary in the Philippines for 22 years. He now has a parish in Chicago.

Bob had just returned from a Mission Trip to Mississippi, with a group of 4 adults and 16 kids where they were joined by another mission group. Their mission consisted of repairing two private homes, with a new roof, bathroom overhauls, painting both houses, improving the kitchens with new cupboards and counter tops as well as replacing windows. Bob told me, "The poverty was like in the 1930's".

Of course, my obvious question was as to how he got started in the Rapid Brush Co., manufacturers of all kinds of brooms and brushes. Bob replied, "That's quite a story.

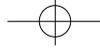
In 1975, while my brother was at work, he met Ben Woolridge of Marion, who was in his 90's, and was very interested in selling his brush business because he wanted to keep it running but had no family interested in the business. My brother spoke to me and we decided to build a 14' X 16' building in which to start the business retaining the same name as Woolridge desired. All the brushes and brooms were made by hand. We couldn't keep up with the demand so we built a much larger building in 1979. Even the children were involved. There was an office and enough room for machines. Two years later we purchased a machine for the business. In 1989, we bought another large machine and two smaller ones. REC has been very helpful as we needed more

electricity as we added machines. We sell brooms in Iowa and in surrounding states of Illinois, Minnesota, Colorado, and Missouri. Traveling salesman, Hank Ehrlich of Dyersville, is responsible for sales."

When I asked about the steps in making a broom, Bob made it sound real easy. "First, we make the steel brackets, then fill the broom block, assemble and do the trimming." (It sounded like foreign language to me) I was astounded by the huge machines as well as the conglomeration of materials and machines. The biggest machine was titled Minster # 7, which I would more aptly refer to as Monster # 7, which I estimated to be about 9 foot tall and was used for processing steel. "We get the steel from Maquoketa, the bristles



Bob standing next to Unifill machine.



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Bob and Mary with brush machine.

from Burlington, Vermont. The brush blocks from Ohio and the handles from Arola, Illinois. Other machines were the broom machine which made 18" and 24" brooms, a heavy duty street broom machine, a planing machine used to plane the lumber used in making the brushes and a Unifill which makes all

Cardboard stacked high for making the cartons for packing and shipping comes from Monticello, Iowa.

I'll be the first to admit the business of making brooms and brushes, using all those machines, was way

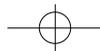
different kinds of brushes which uses brass wire. Of course, there were welders, too. But that's only some of the equipment. Materials stacked in the building were: steel, wooden blocks, the handles, etc.

too complicated for me. I do understand that the brooms made with the 14 gauge steel brackets and the broomhead made of hard maple and the handles made of 1 1/8 inch hardwood, are much better and stronger and will last longer than the brooms which I had the pleasure of using on the farm years ago.

The Rapid Brush Co. is truly a family business as it's very evident that Mary is Bob's helpmate. A son-in-law was there helping when I arrived. You can call 563-773-2240 to learn more about this amazing accomplishment of the Beckley's, who with their ingenuity and determination, illustrate how a chance meeting can change the lives of many.



Place PDF ad here!!





WATTS HEALTHY

Susan Uthoff, ISU Extension Nutrition & Health Specialist

Regular Routines Important for Families

We are creatures of habit. We develop routine ways of living our lives, and we stick to them for many years. Many of us have unhealthy routines but establishing healthy routines is actually easier than you might think. Regular routines, for eating and activity, are especially important for young children. Kids thrive on a healthy routine of meals, snacks, and active play. Establishing early, healthy patterns is a simple way to prevent eating and weight problems later in life.

Healthy routines can also help with parenting problems, like fighting over food at dinnertime. Small children do need to eat more frequently than adults. However, unstructured grazing on snack foods means that kids will not be hungry, or interested, when mealtime rolls around. A healthy routine, like a nourishing mid-afternoon snack, helps kids come to the table with a healthy appetite and attitude.

Healthy routines help kids and their parents maintain a healthy weight. The world is full of appealing, high-calorie foods, everywhere from convenience stores to the mall. Without an alternative, it's easy to eat and drink things just because they are there. Make it routine to carry some healthy snacks, like string

cheese or trail mix to help you resist temptation.

Developing healthy routines isn't difficult. In fact, there are many simple steps that families can take to establish healthy habits. As a parent you can decide what types of food are offered at meals and for snacks. You can also decide when meals and snacks will happen. Don't offer large servings to your child. Studies have shown that some children will eat as much as 60 to 80 percent more when servings are super-sized. Serve food in serving bowls and allow your child to serve himself. Children who serve themselves tend to not overeat. Let your child ask for seconds if he wants to eat more. There will be days when his body will be growing fast and he will be hungry.

Families who eat together tend to be healthier and happier. They share stories about what is happening in their lives. They become more connected to each other. Family meals help children feel more secure in today's world. Start family meals when the children are young. It will become a habit for them. Family meals will make those teenage years easier. Your teenager will be used to eating together. Make family meals a priority in your home. Take time to eat with your family.

Making physical activity routine is important too. Children naturally love to move their bodies. Reduce screen time (both TV and computer). Take a few minutes every day to play with your kids or grandkids. If the weather is nice, take a walk outside.

Here is a quick and simple dish that children love:

Pasta Pancakes

Makes 4 pancakes

4 cups cooked angel hair pasta
3 eggs
1/2 cup fat free milk
1 cup diced ham
1/2 cup frozen peas
1/2 cup shredded carrots
2 tablespoons parmesan cheese
4 tablespoons vegetable oil

Beat eggs and milk together in large bowl. Add cooked pasta, ham, peas, carrots and parmesan cheese and mix. Heat 1 tablespoon vegetable oil in skillet. Place 1/4 of the mixture (about 1 cup) into hot skillet. Flatten into an even pancake. Cook for 1 minute and turn pasta pancake over. Cook for additional 3 minutes. Turn and cook for 3 more minutes or until lightly browned. Repeat with remaining mixture until you have made 4 pasta pancakes. Top with spaghetti sauce if desired.



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UNCASHED CHECKS

Our patronage dividend bank statement shows a large number of uncashed dividend checks. These checks were mailed last October and become automatically void on February 20, 2005. If you are still holding on to your check, please cash it soon, or call the office and make arrangements to have the check amount applied to your energy bill. If you no longer have the check or perhaps never received it, please call Cleo at 800-927-6068 or email her at crogers@mvec.com.

OUTSTANDING PATRONAGE DIVIDEND CHECKS

Maquoketa Valley Electric Cooperative, 109 N. Huber Street, Anamosa, Iowa 52205 has abandoned property that results from patronage dividend checks issued in 2002 for the following individuals. If this property is not claimed within six months from the date of this newsletter, it will be forfeited to Maquoketa Valley Electric Cooperative according to Iowa law.

- Carrothers, Bruce A., Rowley, IA
- Chipps, James H., Cincinnati, OH
- Cooke, Kenneth O., Greeley, IA
- Corey, Carol, Dubuque, IA
- Fannon, Joseph M., Edgewood, IA
- Harkin, Thomas, West Grove, PA
- Hasenbank, Dennis, Maquoketa, IA(For Producers Mkt Serv)
- Leggett, Kathleen, Auburn, IN
- O'Neill, John, Crystal Lake, IL
- Stevens, D.E., Bennett, IA
- Walton, Robert F., York, PA
- Weber, Steven C., East Dubuque, IL

WATTS THE ANSWER?

- 1) What Iowa town provides the steel for brooms manufactured by Rapid Brushes? _____
- 2) Children who serve themselves tend not to _____.
- 3) In what month will our Youth Tour winners travel to Washington, D.C.? _____

Mail your answers in with your energy bill or email them to dreyhons@mvec.com

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

Name: _____

Address: _____

November Winners

Ronald Heinrich, Maquoketa
Ambrose Pins, Farley





Maquoketa Valley Electric Cooperative will be closed on February 21, 2005 in honor of President's Day.



Visit our Web Site

at www.mvec.coop or
Email direct to the following departments:

- Billing questions: billing@mvec.com
- Product or service questions: memberservice@mvec.com
- Maintenance issues: maintenance@mvec.com



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Watts Current...

...is published monthly for the members of Maquoketa Valley Electric Cooperative.
109 North Huber Street
Anamosa, Iowa 52205
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7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

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e-mail: mvec@mvec.com

After Hours Call Center
800-582-8998

After hours you may also call the service person in your area to report outages or trouble on the line.

- Anamosa, Dallas Paustian.....319-462-4848
- Cascade, Pete Boffeli563-852-3180
- Dubuque, Rick Olsem.....563-582-3668
- Farley, Jim Lehman.....563-744-3005
- LaMotte, Brett Cox.....563-773-8614
- Manchester, Dan Petersen.....563-927-6491
- Maquoketa, Jerry Streeper.....563-652-5014

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