

News FOR YOU...

Help Support our Local Businesses

Barron Electric Cooperative is concerned about the communities we serve and supports local businesses. COVID-19 has had an impact on our communities. When you buy local, you're making a personal investment in your community. Money is kept in the community because locally-owned businesses often purchase from other local businesses, farms, and service providers. Looking for a great meal in? Help support the restaurants listed below, who are Barron Electric members:



Your Local Dining Guide

Barron County Restaurants	Phone	Hours, Carryout and/or Curbside Available
R Bar, Cameron	715-859-6556	Friday Fish from 4 pm - 8 pm
Caddy Shack Bar & Grill, Chetek	715-859-6211	Wednesday, Thursday, Sunday 11 am - 8 pm, Friday and Saturday 11 am - 9 pm
Bona Casa, Cumberland	715-822-8294	Wednesday - Saturday 5 pm - 10 pm, Sunday 4 pm - 10 pm
The 5 O'Clock Club, Cumberland	715-822-2924	Thursday - Saturday 5 pm - 7 pm
Washburn County Restaurants	Phone	Hours
Getaway Bar N Grill, Sarona	715-469-3273	Thursday - Saturday 3 pm - 8 pm, Sunday 1 pm - 8 pm
Butternut Hills Golf Course, Sarona	715-635-8563	Wednesday - Thursday 4 pm - 7 pm, Friday - Saturday 11 am - 8 pm, Sunday 11 am - 3 pm
The Roost, Sarona	715-635-8921	Wednesday - Friday 4 pm - 8 pm, Saturday - Sunday 8 am - 1 pm
Pine Brook Farm, Spooner	715-635-4511	Friday - Saturday 3 pm - 8 pm
Tracks, Spooner	715-635-3399	Open daily, except Wednesdays from 11 am - 7 pm
Subway, Spooner	715-635-3351	Open daily from 10 am - 8 pm
Lincolnwood Resort, Birchwood	715-354-3533	Open 11 a.m., closing times may vary
Wolf Point Bar & Grill, Springbrook	715-466-4582	Open 4 pm - 8 pm daily
Prime Bar Family Dining, Trego	715-635-3259	Open daily 9 am - 9 pm
Subway, Trego	715-635-4800	Open daily 10 am - 8 pm

Chris Olsen is Committed to Making the Rural Area a Better Place to Live



Congratulations to our newest Megawatt Community Service Award winner. Chris Olsen was instrumental in developing the Barron County COVID-19 Response & Recovery Fund to help local non-profit food pantries. This is a partnership between the United Way of Rice Lake and Barron County Department of Health & Human Services. Chris currently serves as treasurer of the United Way of Rice Lake's Board of Directors. He was past president of the Barron County Sunrise Rotary Club. Similar to Barron Electric's mission, Barron County Sunrise Rotary works to support causes that help to better the lives of people locally, nationally, and internationally. He has also served as president of the Rice Lake Chamber of Commerce. He was a Cub Scout Master for Boy Scouts of America. He currently serves on the Rice Lake Main Street Association's Board of Directors, which helps to strengthen the downtown. He has also served as a Town Supervisor for the Town of Stanford. In the past, he helped coach youth soccer for the Rice Lake Youth Soccer Association. Chris remarked, "Volunteering in the community broadens my horizons and allows me to meet people I otherwise would have never met. It's a great feeling to give back to the community that gave me so many opportunities while growing up."

Win a \$50 Electric Bill Credit

Barron Electric is led by members like you who understand and listen to the community. Nominate a member for the Megawatt Community Service Award. Each winner will receive a \$50 electric bill credit. Application forms can be found at barronelectric.com in the community area or by contacting the Member Services Department at 800-322-1008.

Cook's Corner

Cindy Broker

Crock Pot Cheeseburger Soup

- 1 lb. ground beef, browned
- ½ cup chopped onion
- ½ cup chopped pepper
- 1 can diced tomatoes (14.5 oz.)
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1 tsp. oregano
- ½ tsp pepper
- 3 cups beef broth
- 4 cups diced potatoes
- ¼ cup flour
- 1 cup milk
- 8 oz. shredded cheddar cheese

Combine the beef, onion, pepper, spices, tomatoes, broth, and potatoes in crock pot. Cover and cook on low for 8 hours. About 30 minutes before serving, combine flour and milk. Whisk until no lumps remain. Stir into soup. Add cheese and stir again. Cover and cook until soup is thickened, about 30 minutes.



Pole Testing Starts This Month

Barron Electric Cooperative has contracted with American Energy Services to test poles in Maple Plain and Lakeland Townships in Barron County, Roosevelt Township in Burnett County, and Barronett Township in Washburn County. Their trucks will have a magnetic sign that displays Barron Electric Cooperative's name. A 4-wheeler may also be used to move efficiently throughout the system.

If you have any questions, please call the Operation's Department at 800-322-1008 between 7:45 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. weekdays or e-mail operations@barronelectric.com.

Make Saving Energy Fun

Make saving energy fun! Take the home adventure at touchstoneenergy.com to learn where you can save money. Here's a list to get you started:

Working from home?

- Electronic devices such as cable boxes, printers and TVs use power even when they are turned off, also called a "phantom" load. Use power strips that can be turned off when there are long periods without use.
- Your computer comes with energy-saving features, but they may not be turned on. Activate the power management controls on your computer to save.
- Take advantage of natural light. Set up for the day in a spot with plenty of natural light. Natural light can boost your mood and productivity.

More Energy Saving Ideas

- Do you turn off your TV entirely when not in use? When you are not using the TV, turn it off completely. Many TVs continue to use energy even after they are turned off. Remember to check for energy-saving settings on flat-panel TVs like automatic brightness control and power-saving sleep mode.
- Use lids for your pots and pans to retain more heat and cook food faster plus save energy.



- Enable auto power-down features on gaming consoles to help save energy.
- Limit your shower length to 5-7 minutes to save gallons of water and reduce the amount of energy used to heat it, lowering your water and electric bills each month.
- Turn off bathroom and kitchen exhaust fans 15 minutes after the job is complete or install 15 minute timers on bathroom ventilator fans.
- Use cold water when rinsing dishes before putting them into the dishwasher to avoid wasting hot water and energy.
- Run the dishwasher only when it is a full load. Save energy by using your dishwasher's air-dry cycle instead of the heat-dry cycle to dry your dishes .
- Using a refrigerator's anti-sweat heater uses more energy. Use the feature only when necessary. Always switch your refrigerator's power-saver to "on" if available to save energy and money. Clean refrigerator coils at least once annually to ensure your fridge is working properly and efficiently.
- A faucet leaking even just one drop a second can amount to over a thousand gallons of wasted water in a year.



Need Assistance with Your Energy Bills?

In response to the COVID-19 crisis, the Department of Administration has adjusted the eligibility requirements for residents who are seeking heating and electric assistance through the Wisconsin Home Energy Assistance Program (WHEAP). Eligibility will now be based on the household's previous month of income, rather than the former requirement of the previous three months of income. This will allow those who are recently affected by the COVID-19 to receive assistance quickly. Energy Assistance will be open through September 30 for the heating season 2019-2020, with the 2020-2021 season beginning October 1.

Contact your local agency:

Barron	715-537-5691
Burnett	715-349-7600
Chippewa	866-794-7788
Dunn	715-232-1116
Polk.....	715-485-8400
Rusk.....	715-532-2299
Sawyer	715-635-8270
Washburn.....	715-468-4747

Winning Photo Receives a \$50 Bill Credit

E-mail your summer photos for our photo contest. Winning photos will be used on the cover of the *News for You*, and winners will receive a \$50 credit on their electric bill. Criteria for the photos include:

- Photos must have a horizontal orientation (landscape).
- Photos must be high resolution, at least 300 dpi.
- Member must own rights to the photo.
- E-mail your digital image to memberservices@barronelectric.com by May 5, 2020. Include your Barron Electric account number, address, and phone number.
- By submitting your photo, you are granting Barron Electric Cooperative permission to use your photo in a variety of publications and on our website.

*Condensed Board Minutes February 26, 2020

Randy Cook is President of Barron Electric's Board of Directors and represents District 7, which includes the following townships: Stanley, Sumner, Strickland, Stubbs, Rusk, and Big Bend.



- The minutes of the regular board meeting from January 30, 2020 were approved as presented.
- Director Helm gave the treasurer's report, with comments by Manager Sloan. A report of vouchers for the month was presented as part of the board packet as follows: #97302 thru #97426 of CCF Bank was in the amount of \$394,583 and capital credit estate checks in the amount of \$14,935. Director Helm reported on activity of total receipts in the office - \$2,268,106; total receipts by wire and ACH - \$1,277,619; disbursements by ACH, EFT, wire - \$2,538,407; transfer of funds was made for payroll - \$183,156 and power bill paid 02/26/2020 in the amount of \$2,557,328.
- A membership list of 29 was presented and approved without objection by the board.
- Form 219 summarizing construction activity for the past month in the amount of \$61,855.87 was presented for approval, and included new services - \$0; change jobs - \$8,385.17; miscellaneous - \$53,470.70 and 2 retirements. The Form 219 stood approved as presented.

* View full board minutes on SmartHub.

Local Food Pantries in Need of Monetary Donations

No one should go hungry during the COVID-19 pandemic. Many people in our local area are turning to food pantries for support. Here is a list of food pantries in our local area that could use your help. They would greatly appreciate your donation.

Food Pantry	Address	City
Barron Cupboard & Closet	PO Box 386	Barron WI 54812
Benjamin House	1107 Heart Island Parkway	Rice Lake WI 54868
Birchwood Food Pantry	PO Box 201	Birchwood WI 54817
Cameron Food Pantry	300 N. First Street	Cameron WI 54822
Chetek Food Shelf	PO Box 524	Chetek WI 54728
Cumberland Food Pantry	PO Box 741	Cumberland WI 54829
Indianhead Community Action Agency	110 N. Industrial Drive	Shell Lake WI 54871
Paul's Pantry	40 S. Main Street	Rice Lake WI 54868
Prairie Farm/Ridgeland Food Pantry	E1875 1410 Avenue	Prairie Farm WI 54762
Rice Lake - We Share	PO Box 54	Rice Lake WI 54868
Hayward Community Food Shelf	PO Box 779	Hayward WI 54843
Turtle Lake Food Pantry	PO Box 471	Turtle Lake WI 54889
Washburn County Food Pantry	PO Box 517	Spooner WI 54801

News FOR YOU...

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Published for the members of Barron Electric.
If you have any comments regarding the
newsletter, please e-mail
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