

News FOR YOU...

Barron Electric Cooperative
December 2025
Captured by the lens of
Jeannine Warnke

Relax, Recharge, Retreat at Stonehaven Cottages

Ted and Lori Romportl look forward to your stay at Stonehaven Cottages. Served by Barron Electric Cooperative and this month's featured business, Stonehaven Cottages are located on Tuscobia Lake, just north of Rice Lake. Ted's skills as a stonemason have helped to create stunning fireplaces and landscaping for guests to enjoy. Lori ensures their customers receive excellent service throughout their stay. Her distinctive eye for interior design and decoration is showcased throughout the cottages.

The Gatekeeper Cottage

This cottage offers guests a charming and rustic atmosphere, reminiscent of the past. Adorned with treasures from both yesterday and today, the Gatekeeper features a spacious wrap-around porch, perfect for relaxation as you take in nature all around.



Enjoy a relaxing stay at the Gatekeeper Cottage.

The Turtle

This delightful one-level lakeside cottage provides a tranquil place with a view. Relocated from Turtle Lake, this cottage accommodates up to four guests.

Birchview Upper and Lower

Birchview Upper is a duplex with an open-concept. A large picture window gives guests a spectacular view of Tuscobia Lake. Birchview Lower features unique interior birch log walls and a beautiful patio area with no stairs.

Leisure Activities

Stonehaven offers several hiking/skiing trails that meander throughout the 40 acres. Winter activities include a sledding hill with sleds provided, snowshoeing, and groomed cross country skiing trails. Summer activities include hiking, bird watching, yard games and boating. Pontoon boats can be reserved in advance. Rowboats, canoes, and kayaks are complimentary.

Stonehaven Cottages are located at 2357 County Highway SS, just north of Rice Lake. Visit them on the

web at stonehavencottages.com or call 715-234-2789 or e-mail stay@stonehavencottages.com.



Top photo: Book your stay at the Birchview Cottage and take in some spectacular views of Tuscobia Lake. Bottom photo: Birchview Lower boasts a gorgeous fieldstone fireplace.

On a Quest for Cooperative History

Do you have a historical piece relating to Barron Electric Cooperative that you would be willing to donate? We would like to display items at the cooperative's 90th annual meeting on Thursday, April 9. Items can be dropped off or mailed to Barron Electric's office located at 1434 State Highway 25 North, PO Box 40, Barron, WI 54812, Attn: Member Services



Holiday LIGHTING Safety

Use only holiday lights that have been safety tested and have the **UL** label.



Before using, **check each strand** for broken sockets, frayed cords, or faulty plugs.



Don't string together more than **three** standard-sized incandescent sets of lights or you could **overload the circuit**.



Don't throw lights over tree branches that are **near power lines** and service connections.



Always **unplug lights** before leaving your home or going to bed; a timer can help with this.



Learn more at [SafeElectricity.org](https://www.SafeElectricity.org)



DISASTERS DON'T WAIT FEMA AID SHOULDN'T EITHER



SCAN ME



Barron Electric Cooperative has joined forces with the National Rural Electric Cooperative's Voices for Cooperative Power to support the Fixing Emergency Management for Americans Act of 2025 (H.R. 4669), a critical bill to strengthen disaster response and recovery. Electric cooperatives operate in some of the most disaster-prone areas of the country. FEMA plays a vital role in helping cooperatives restore power and rebuild infrastructure after storms, wildfires, and other disasters. The FEMA Act of 2025 would streamline reimbursements, improve access to mitigation funds, and ensure faster, smarter recovery efforts, and we need your voice to make sure it passes. More than 50,000 letters nationwide have been sent to Congress. The bill now has 32-co-sponsors, but Congress has yet to vote. Scan the QR code above to visit Voices for Cooperative Power FEMA Reform today and urge your member of Congress to keep this bill moving forward.

GMS Collects Equipment Data

Global Mapping Solutions (GMS), contracted by Barron Electric, is actively gathering data on our system. This work may take place during weekends and any daylight hours. GMS representatives may be present on your property, traveling on foot, ATV, or UTV. They will be taking photographs of Barron Electric equipment, posting signs, or locating cables.

GMS employees will carry a badge, a letter of contract with Barron Electric's letterhead, and their equipment will include a sign indicating they are contracted by Barron Electric Cooperative.

If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to the Operations Department at operations@barronelectric.com.

Making the Season “Spudtacular”



Barron Electric employees delivered potatoes to the Cameron Food Pantry, in time for Thanksgiving. Pictured are Deidra Meyer-Barron Electric, Gary Gransee-Director of the Cameron Food Pantry, and Barron Electric representatives Danae Becker and Carrie Baribeau.

Barron Electric employees and Nuto Farms, a member of Barron Electric, teamed up to make this season a little brighter by donating over 3,000 pounds of potatoes to twelve local food pantries. Aaron Torud, Barron Electric Cooperative’s General Manager, commented, “Concern for Community is at the foundation of cooperatives. I am proud of our employees and the positive ways they support their communities.” Gary Gransee, Director of the Cameron Food Pantry, remarked, “This helps out a ton.”



Dairyland Power acquired the Elgin Energy Center along with the Rocky Road facility, both located in Illinois. Photo source: Getty Images

Dairyland Power Acquires Natural Gas Plants

Dairyland Power Cooperative announced the acquisition of two Illinois natural gas plants, which include the 480-MW Elgin Energy Center and the 330-MW Rocky Road facility in East Dundee. Brent Ridge, Dairyland Power President and CEO said, “As we continue to develop a balanced, diversified energy portfolio to support increased demand across our service territory, these facilities will play a critical role in providing the flexible, dependable energy our members rely on every day.”

Dairyland has retired nearly 600 MW of coal generation since 2014, and is adding more clean energy to its portfolio with the help of a \$595 million New Empowering Rural America federal award by securing power purchase agreements for approximately 1,000 MW of wind and solar projects in the Midwest, while investing in critical transmission upgrades that support grid reliability and resiliency.

Every Student Deserves a Bright Future!

WE'VE GOT SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES FOR:

- 2026 GRADS
- STUDENTS GOING INTO THE ELECTRIC FIELD
- ADULTS





E-mail Your Winter Photos

E-mail your winter photo to memberservices@barronelectric.com for a chance to win a \$50 credit on your electric bill. Criteria includes:

- Photos must have a horizontal orientation (landscape) and be high resolution, 300 dpi or higher.
- Member must own rights to the photo.
- E-mail your digital image to memberservices@barronelectric.com by December 15, 2025. Include your Barron Electric account number, address, and phone number.
- By submitting your photo, you are granting Barron Electric permission to use your photo in publications and on our website.

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If you have any comments regarding the newsletter, please e-mail cbaribeau@barronelectric.com

Barron Electric is an equal opportunity provider.



*Condensed Board Minutes September 23, 2025



Mike Baker, Vice President of Barron Electric's Board of Directors and Dairyland Power Cooperative Board Director, represents District 3, which includes the following townships: Crystal, Stone Lake, Sand Lake, Beaverbrook, Madge, Birchwood, Sarona, and Cedar Lake.

- A report of vouchers for the month was presented as part of the board packet as follows: #104672 through #104763 from CCF Bank in the amount of \$1,333,384. Total receipts in the office \$3,059,648; total receipts by wire and ACH \$2,317,450; disbursements by ACH, EFT, wire \$4,114,634; transfer of funds was made for payroll \$217,995 and the power bill was paid on 09/24/2025 in the amount of \$2,641,283.
- The board reviewed the DPC Cooperative Contributions Program which allows Dairyland Power Cooperative members to request a \$1,000 contribution in our cooperative's service area. Director Baker moved, Director Kessler seconded, to donate \$1,000 from the DPC Cooperative Contributions Program to the Rice Lake Marshfield Hospice Center. Motion carried.
- The CoBank Sharing Success Program allows up to 4 requests with a total of \$15,000 matching funds to organizations that meet the CoBank Sharing Success criteria. Currently, there is \$4,000 remaining that can be matched for 2025.
- Director Blaskowski moved to table the CoBank Sharing Success Program until the October board meeting, seconded by Director Baker. Motion carried. A list of donation requests that were not approved by the board in 2025 will be emailed for review prior to the board meeting.
- The board reviewed the Dairyland Power Cooperative Scholarship Program in which one \$500 scholarship will be issued annually to each DPC member per the cooperative's eligibility requirements. Since the announcement of the scholarship program, DPC has increased the amount to \$1,000 annually. Director Warwick moved, Director Effertz seconded, to utilize the DPC Scholarship Program. Motion carried.
- A membership list of 42 was presented and approved without objection.

** View full board minutes on SmartHub at barronelectric.com.*

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

Have a safe holiday season. Our offices will be closed on Thursday, December 25 and Thursday, January 1.

