

Since 1940

WISCONSIN ENERGY *Cooperative* September 2026 NEWS



Jump River Electric
Cooperative, Inc.

Since 1938

Your Touchstone Energy Cooperative 

CELEBRATING FIBER ARTS

FROM LIGHT SWITCHES
TO LIFELONG HABITS

2026 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

COMMUNITY CENTS
AWARDEES & SURVEY



LOCAL SOLAR, LOCAL BENEFITS

By Kurt Harris, General Manager/CEO

In the July issue of this magazine, we announced that OneEnergy Renewables of Madison was beginning construction of a new 3.75-megawatt (MW) solar garden located southwest of Gilman. As we shared then, this is the second solar project Jump River Electric Cooperative has participated in over the past two years. The first, a 2.5 MW solar garden located in the Hannibal area, was completed in October 2025 and is now fully operational.

Representatives from OneEnergy Renewables and our Cooperative celebrated the completion of the Hannibal solar array with a ribbon-cutting ceremony. Following the event, OneEnergy provided solar safety training for the Gilman and Jump River fire departments, along with Taylor County Emergency Management.

Safety is our highest priority—not only for our employees, but also for the communities we serve. We appreciate OneEnergy Renewables for providing this specialized training to our local emergency responders. Their preparedness and partnership help ensure a safe response should an emergency ever occur at the solar site. OneEnergy also plans to offer additional training opportunities to local students in the future.

The Gilman and Hannibal solar projects are just two of the many utility-scale solar arrays being developed across Wisconsin by OneEnergy Renewables. Both projects are owned and operated by OneEnergy and are located on land leased from local property owners. The solar panels use single-axis tracking technology that follows the sun throughout the day to maximize energy production.

The Cooperative purchases electricity from the Hannibal array at a fixed long-term rate, providing greater price stability for our members. Built on 13 acres, the Hannibal project is expected to generate enough electricity to power about 630 homes.



Specialized safety training for local EMS personnel was provided by OneEnergy.



Left to right: Gilman School District Administrator Walter Liepard, JREC Board Member Jane Reich, JREC General Manager/CEO Kurt Harris, JREC Board Members Joe Lorence and Christine Beadles, and JREC Operations Manager Ben Modl.



I've said this before, but I'll say it again. Cooperatives are stronger when we work together. By partnering with other cooperatives and aligning our project timelines, we secured more competitive pricing, maximizing the value for our members. Investing in local solar not only adds clean energy to the grid but it also provides long-term financial and operational benefits for our members.

In addition to generating renewable energy, both solar sites will support local ecosystems. The land beneath and around the panels has been planted with a low-growing perennial pollinator mix, creating pollinator habitat while helping prevent soil erosion through healthy root systems. A fence surrounds the project area, similar to what you might find surrounding an orchard.

Jump River Electric Cooperative is a local, not-for-profit organization and we are committed to serving our members and strengthening the communities we call home. Projects like these demonstrate how thoughtful partnerships can provide reliable, affordable electricity while allowing us to continue to invest in the future of the communities we proudly serve.

Fun Facts:

- The solar panels are the size of a household door.
- Panels are rated to be able to handle golf ball-sized hail and 90 mph winds.
- The panels track the sun and rotate about 1-2 degrees every 15 minutes with a maximum incline of 52 degrees east/west.
- There are four motors that assist with the rotation, with each motor rotating about 30 panels.
- The panels have glass back sheeting. This helps the panels stay free of snow and ice, as the back of the panel receives the reflection and warms the panel. If there is snow/ice buildup, it will normally fall off in 1-2 days on its own.
- The steel piles are driven into the ground about 16 feet with 4-4.5 feet above the ground for the solar panels to be affixed to.
- When the project is decommissioned, all infrastructure will be removed, and the site restored to pre-development conditions for continued agricultural use with rested and restored soil.



2026 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Congratulations to the following college-bound students who received a \$1,000 scholarship to help fund their education this coming year. As a cooperative, we are committed to the communities we serve, and providing scholarships is one way we demonstrate that commitment by investing in the future of local students.

Scholarship opportunities are available to

graduating high school seniors, as well as members or dependents of members who earned their GED or high school diploma at least one year prior to applying. These scholarships are made possible through the Federated Youth Foundation, which is funded by unclaimed capital credits.

Dairyland Power Cooperative, our wholesale power provider, also provided

a \$1,000 scholarship opportunity to our members this year.

Please join us in congratulating these students as they continue their educational journeys and build their tomorrows.

There were no applicants from Chetek-Weyerhaeuser, LCO, or Winter high schools.



Caleb Johnson
Bruce High School



Connor Ptacek
Bruce High School



Addison Groothousen
Flambeau High School



Dominic Kopacz
Flambeau High School



Chanse Ludescher
Flambeau High School



Reese Roehl
Flambeau High School



Allison Olynick
Gilman High School
Dairyland Power
Scholarship



Kyra Rabuck
Gilman High School



Mylie Stephens
Gilman High School



Shane Hagen
Hayward High School



Danielle Mattson
Hayward High School



Cade Schlapper
Hayward High School



Egan Young
Hayward High School



Marika Gago
Ladysmith High School



Mya Gago
Ladysmith High School



Gabe Gerber
Ladysmith High School
Lineworker Scholarship



Willow Peterson
Ladysmith High School



Hailey Wilmot
Ladysmith High School



Abby Tirrel
Lake Holcombe High School



Isabelle Gumz
Rib Lake High School



Kira Lato
Stanley-Boyd High School

NON-TRADITIONAL SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



Kaylee Butterfield



Emma Grunseth



Jade Hengst



Alison Krizan



Brooke Lechleitner



Emma Lechleitner



Jacob Wathke



THE POWER BEHIND COMMUNITY CENTS

Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Community Cents is a member-driven program that allows members to round up their monthly electric bill to the nearest dollar. By donating their spare change each month, participating members help provide financial support to local nonprofit organizations. Together, these small contributions make a big difference in our communities—for an average of just \$6 per member each year.

One hundred percent of every Community Cents donation stays local. As more members participate, the program's impact continues to grow, helping even more organizations and neighbors in need. Every contribution, no matter how small, helps strengthen the communities we serve.

Members may choose to make a one-time contribution or enroll in monthly bill round-up donations. To participate, visit jrec.com/community-cents or complete the sign-up form on the back of your electric bill.

"A big thank you to all our members who participate in the Community Cents program! Your generosity has made it possible to support four additional community organizations that we may not have been able to help otherwise," said General Manager/CEO Kurt Harris.

Each of the four local nonprofit organizations who were awarded a Community Cents grant received \$500. The 2026 recipients are as follows:

Landmark Conservancy

Landmark Conservancy is a nationally accredited nonprofit conservation organization serving 20 counties in northwest Wisconsin. The donation will be used to help them with their continued care for natural land and habitat, including more than 3,000 acres that are open to the public for hiking, biking, cross-country skiing, hunting, and more.



Left: JREC Line Superintendent Kraig Gay (center) presented Landmark Conservancy Advancement Director Kristin Thompson and Executive Director Rick Remington with the \$500 Community Cents donation. Right: Landmark Conservancy's Chippewa Glacial Lakes Preserve is primarily forested land with several small lakes and wetlands. It features a spur trail that connects to the Ice Age Trail on adjacent DNR land. Learn more at <https://landmarkwi.org/get-outside/>.



Wisconsin Women's Business Initiative Corporation (WWBIC)

For over 38 years, WWBIC has assisted current and potential small business owners throughout Wisconsin. They provide Wisconsin residents who are interested in starting, strengthening, or expanding a business with access to critical resources, including financial capital and quality business and personal financial training. This grant will help provide training and technical assistance to entrepreneurs in Barron, Chippewa, Price, Rusk, Sawyer, and Taylor counties.



Left: Regional Director Jaci Sulley of WWBIC accepts the \$500 check from Gay. Right: WWBIC's Hayward office ribbon-cutting ceremonies that took place last year.

Rusk County Farmers Market

The Rusk County Farmers Market has grown into much more than a place to buy fresh, local produce. Open every Wednesday and Saturday, it brings together local vendors, growers, educators, and community members while offering features like the Taste It Tent with food samples, recipes, and nutrition information.



Market Manager Kathy Halbur (left) accepts the \$500 check from JREC Executive Assistant Virginia Jacobs.

This grant will help further the market's mission of connecting growers, educators, and customers through a shared commitment to healthy eating and supporting the local community. No matter the season, the Rusk County Farmers Market offers something for everyone. If you haven't visited in a while, stop by and discover what's new.

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The Salvation Army of Rusk County

The Salvation Army is funded primarily by their annual Red Kettle Campaign and through donations like this. They provide financial assistance to low-income families and individuals in Rusk County, helping people avoid evictions, utility disconnects, transportation issues, and other financial crises.



Jacobs presents the \$500 donation to Tom Bremer, Grants & Administration for The Salvation Army of Rusk County.

Help Shape the Future of Community Cents

Community Cents has grown over the years, providing valuable support to local organizations and community initiatives. Currently, just over three percent of our members participate. We are asking all members to take a brief survey to help us evaluate the program and determine the best path forward. Your input will help shape the future of Community Cents.

Scan the QR code below to take the short survey.



Willie's PowerUP Pick



SMARTHUB PROVIDES SMART PAYMENT OPTIONS

As Labor Day reminds us to celebrate the hard work that keeps our communities moving, it's also a great time to make life a little easier. Life moves fast, and your electric account should keep up without extra work on your part.

With SmartHub, you can manage your account anytime, anywhere, and enrolling in Auto Pay means one less task on your to-do list. Enjoy the convenience of having your monthly electric bill paid automatically, so you can spend less time worrying about due dates and more time focusing on what matters most.

AUTO PAY

Flexible options. Saves Time. No Stress. Saves Money.

Benefits include:

- A secure online payment option
- Set up bill reminders or notifications when your card expires
- View current and past billing statements at the click of a button
- No more paying for checks and stamps to mail your payment
- Store payment methods safely and securely

Receive a one-time \$15 energy credit when you sign up for automatic payment through your checking or savings account.

HOW TO ENROLL IN SMARTHUB: Getting started is easy.

Option 1: Visit jrec.com and click the Create SmartHub Account link or scan the QR code at right.

Option 2: Download the SmartHub app from the App Store or Google Play.

Option 3: Call our office and we'll walk you through the setup.



CONSTRUCTION CORNER

Are you looking to install a new electrical service or upgrade an existing one this fall? Believe it or not, the construction season is quickly coming to an end. We are not able to guarantee installation of service if paperwork and payment on underground installations are received after October 15.

If you have construction plans that we don't know about, please email us at operations@jrec.com. Be sure to include details about your project, its location, a copy of the legal description for this property, and your contact information.

We will do everything possible to meet your construction needs and complete your electrical service installation. However, once the ground freezes, all underground cable construction comes to a halt until the spring thaw.



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Pay by Phone: 844-967-2320

Find us on Facebook, X, and Instagram



Denise Zimmer, Editor

Jump River Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Since 1938
Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



JREC is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Offices will be closed on September 7 in observance of Labor Day. Have a safe holiday.