



James Anderson  
General Manager

## WE'RE EXCITED TO INTRODUCE OUR MEMBERS TO OUR NEW AND IMPROVED WEBSITE!

Ask your kids or grandchildren where they get their information, and they will tell you that they head to their computer and look for it there or on one of the many social media channels available today. The way we get and process our information has changed so much, even in the last few years. The computer has changed our way of life forever, whether you think it's good or bad. Looking online for the answer to your question tends to be what many of us do first and that is why we created this new and improved website—to address the changing needs of our members.



Just click [www.jrec.com](http://www.jrec.com) to find answers to your questions about your electric service, capital credits, and the many programs and services we offer. By visiting [www.jrec.com](http://www.jrec.com), you can also:

- Sign up for Bill4U, our convenient online bill-pay option.
- Find links to energy-saving and electric-safety sources.
- Find out about the scholarship opportunities available to you and your graduating senior.
- Look at what you need to do if you plan on building or changing your electric service.
- Find information on renewable energy and net metering.
- Find out about the latest events, board meetings, and cooperative news.

Don't forget to "like us" on Facebook; you'll find the link on this website too!

**Electric Vehicles, Past and Present** The first known electric car was developed in 1837 in Aberdeen, Scotland. Interest in electric vehicles (EV) blossomed in the late 1890s and early 1900s. As roads improved and became more extensive, demand for greater range emerged. A variety of solutions were put forth, including the first battery exchanges by an electric utility in Connecticut in 1910 and the first hybrid automobile in 1911. It would not be long until America led the world in number of EVs on the roads.

But the rapid expansion of the country and the limitation of electricity to major cities and towns spelled the end of the electric car. The world wanted to be mobile, and EVs simply did not have the range required.

Fast forward to modern times, and EVs are once again dominating the automotive news. The advances in battery

technology are hammering away at the limited range issue. Tom Tate, who writes on cooperative issues for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, states "EVs have a bright future. Prices are dropping, and range is expanding so owners can confidently drive nearly everywhere with a little bit of planning. On top of this, the cars are just plain cool."

Due to all the advances in this industry over recent years, the appeal of EVs continues to gain momentum. In fact, we hear more and more car makers stating that they will be producing more, if not only, electric vehicles soon. As more electric vehicle models become available, you may find yourself researching the purchase of your first electric or plug-in hybrid vehicle.

What may be holding you, and many other people, back from taking the leap is the fact that the EV charging infrastructure is very limited within our service territory. When you drive to the bigger cities, you will see charging stations becoming more prevalent. In fact, Eau Claire has a Tesla Supercharging site behind Noodles & Company near the Oakwood Mall.

**Your Cooperative Is on The EV Grid** JREC joins other cooperatives in helping to grow the EV charging station infrastructure. In late October, a charging station was added to both the Hayward and Ladysmith offices. This station has two Level II charging ports (plugs) and is compatible with all electric vehicles, including Tesla (if owner has adapter). Level II charging adds up to 25 miles of battery range for every hour the vehicle is plugged in. This station can be accessed 24/7-365 and there will be no cost to those who utilize it.



**New Electric Car Charger Incentive Program** Along with adding the charging stations, the JREC board of directors recently approved a new incentive program.

JREC is now offering a free home electric car charger to the first 10 members who sign up for this incentive program. This charger has one Level II charging port (plug) and will add up to 25 miles of range per hour of charging.

To qualify for this incentive, members must provide proof of electric vehicle ownership, sign a three-year contract, and be subject to metering the car charger. Members will also need to maintain an active account during the three-years. If the member leaves the cooperative, they will need to return the charger.

If you are interested in taking advantage of this program, please call our office at 715-532-5524. Again, only the first 10 members will receive the free electric vehicle charger.

# A GIFT FOR ANY OCCASION – UNIQUE BOXES

## Husband-wife duo creates one-of-a-kind gift boxes

**Unique—Charming—Keepsakes...**the three words I'd use to describe the variety of "unique boxes" made by Clarence and Sue Anderson. Their store is located along State Highway 27—you can't miss it and you won't want to either. Jon Farber also turns wood chunks into his interpretation of boxes and sells them alongside his grandparents. Sue recalled that Jon made his first box when he was 10. Their story is truly about an interest that turned into a hobby that turns out popular gift items.

Clarence and Sue didn't always make and sell these unique treasure boxes. When they began their business in 1984, formerly Sacks Wood 'n Craft, they made country-themed items like decorative books, lamps, shelves, games, candles, tooth fairy boxes, and sheep pull toys. At that time, they owned a dairy farm and ran this business on the side as they enjoyed woodworking and making items for craft shows.

They made their first box in around 1988, after Sue saw a one-drawer box that opened from both sides in a woodworking magazine. Clarence recalled that they made three, three-drawer boxes to take to a craft show, and soon after these boxes became the focus of their business. They have fine-tuned their craft over the



The Andersons' talent with wood art has been passed on to their grandson Jon Farber, who also enjoys making these unique boxes. Their boxes have been shipped to most states as well as Germany, China, Japan, Norway, and Sweden. (Photo courtesy of Ladysmith News)

years by adding a back to the boxes and a "secret drawer."

"We always felt everything had to have a use, which these [boxes] do—storage. Once the boxes took off, there was no going back," said Sue.

She calculates that they have made over 10,000 boxes; the 10,000th box is shown at left. This box was made from wood that came from their Rusk County farm, which brings their art full circle, since their very first box was made from a piece of Chinese Elm that came off a wood pile from the same farm.



I loved looking for the "secret drawer" that can be found within most of the Andersons' unique boxes. What a great place to hide your most precious treasures.

The decorative keepsake treasure boxes are made from a variety of native and exotic woods like cedar, ash, black walnut, butternut, cherry, Chinese elm, mulberry, myrtle wood, plum, red oak, tulip poplar, and white birch. They say black walnut, red oak, and myrtle wood are amongst their favorite woods to work with. Each keepsake box is finished with a few layers of clear varnish, which brings out the wood's natural beauty. One box can easily take up to 25 hours to make.



See the toad hiding inside? This box, along with other treasure boxes, can be found at The Toad House, located in Ladysmith. You can take out the toad and replace it with the drawer (to the right) or use the single drawer by itself.



The Andersons invite you to stop by their store at N384 State Highway 27 to view the variety of items they have for sale. They make anything from one-drawer to 14-drawer boxes. Their larger pieces are what they call the Stump. If this sign is up at the end of their driveway, then they are open. You can also call ahead, (715) 532-6978.

Sue states that Chinese Elm is her favorite to work with as the grain shows her where to put the drawers.

As the name of the business indicates, each box is unique. The wood determines the look of the finished product. "The grain is the pattern," says Clarence. The natural characteristics of the wood, like the knots, barb, scars, wood grain, and fungi, make the box more desirable. Most boxes also hold a surprise with a secret drawer cleverly hidden from view.

Now that they are retired from farming, the Andersons continue to enjoy searching for unique woods and finetuning their art. Oregon and their home state of Pennsylvania are just a few of the states where they have traveled to purchase wood.

"It took us a while to realize that we are considered in the art field," said Sue. The Andersons are part of the Rusk Area Arts Alliance and display their creative art at the Toad House, located in Ladysmith.

Clarence and Sue say their love for what was once a hobby is greater now than when they first started. Each piece has a story, and they'd love to share it with you.—Denise Zimmer 

If you know of a business on Jump River Electric Cooperative's power lines that you would like to see featured, please call Denise at 715-532-5524 or email our office at [jrec@jrec.com](mailto:jrec@jrec.com).

## Hat, Scarf, and Mittens Drive

Drop off your donation at one of our offices:



1102 West 9th St. N  
Ladysmith, WI 54848

13895 W. County Hwy. B  
Hayward, WI 54843

**Accepting donations  
Monday–Friday in December**

Items will be distributed to area schools and day-care centers

For more information contact  
JREC at 715-532-5524.

JREC will be closed Thursday  
and Friday, December 24 and 25.  
Have a safe and happy holiday!

## 81<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL MEETING TO BE HELD IN APRIL

Saturday, April 27, 2019, is the date set for the next annual meeting. Moving the date to the spring will allow the membership to receive more timely information on the cooperative finances and other matters. Director elections for districts 2, 7, and 8 will be held at this time, along with voting on any proposed resolutions that are submitted for consideration by the membership.

### Upcoming deadlines to remember

**January 24** – Deadline to notify Tammy 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 26** – Deadline to submit resolutions that are to be considered at the 81st annual meeting. Director Nomination Petitions are due. Members who reside in districts 2, 7, and 8, and are interested in serving as a director must submit their director petition by this date.

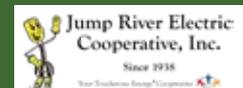


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**Sign up now and we will make a \$25 donation  
to the charity of your choice:**

Salvation Army, Local Food Pantry,  
Federated Youth Foundation Scholarship Fund (local schools benefit)

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 store for more details. Offer may be changed or withdrawn at any time.



## 22<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL CHRISTMAS WISH PROGRAM SPREADS HOLIDAY CHEER

During the holidays, thoughts often turn to those who need their spirits lifted. For the 22nd year, WIGM 1490 AM, WKEB 99.3 FM, Jump River Electric Cooperative, along with Touchstone Energy and other area co-ops, are 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 2017, 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](http://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 15, 2018. For a full list of sponsors, see [www.jrec.com](http://www.jrec.com).

### 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 17, 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

## KEEP SAFE AND WARM THIS WINTER



When the chill of fall and winter set in, be aware of **potential fire hazards that are lurking in your home**. Whether keeping warm with heat from your furnace, space heater, fireplace, or electric blanket, **Safe Electricity offers these tips to prevent a fire:**

Always place your space heater on a **steady surface** and away from curtains, tablecloths or other flapping fabrics. Use a space heater with an automatic shut-off switch.





**Have your furnace inspected** annually.



**Inspect electric blankets** for scorch marks or visible damage regularly.



Be sure your **chimney is clear** before each use, and cover your fireplace with a screen to keep children and pets away from flames.

### James Anderson, General Manager/CEO

1102 W. Ninth St. North, P.O. Box 99, Ladysmith, WI 54848  
715-532-5524 • [www.jrec.com](http://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

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