



CVEC INTRODUCES DRONE TECHNOLOGY TO ENHANCE SERVICE RELIABILITY AND SAFETY

At Chippewa Valley Electric Cooperative (CVEC), providing safe, reliable electric service remains our top priority. As technology continues to evolve, we're using new tools that help us better serve our member-consumers while maintaining the high standards they expect.

One of those tools is unmanned aerial systems (UAS), more commonly known as drones. CVEC recently introduced drone technology to support electric system inspections, maintenance planning, outage response, and storm recovery efforts throughout our service territory.

Drones provide a safe and efficient way to inspect power lines, poles, substations, and vegetation near electric facilities. They also allow crews to assess storm damage and equipment conditions more quickly, especially in areas that may be difficult to access on foot or by vehicle.

"Drone technology helps us improve reliability for our member-consumers while enhancing the safety of our employees and contractors," said Nic Alberson, Operations Manager. "By giving us a better view of our electric system, drones help identify potential issues earlier and support faster response during outages

and storm restoration efforts."

Members may occasionally notice drones operating near utility infrastructure while CVEC conducts:

- Routine system inspections
- Storm damage assessments
- Vegetation management reviews
- Outage restoration activities
- Engineering and construction projects

The information gathered through drone inspections helps CVEC make informed maintenance decisions, prioritize repairs, and identify potential problems before they lead to service interruptions.

All drone operations are conducted by trained CVEC personnel in accordance with Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) regulations and utility industry safety standards.

CVEC respects the privacy of our members. Drone flights are conducted solely for the purpose of inspecting and maintaining electric utility infrastructure. The technology is focused on poles, power lines, substations, and related equipment and is not used to monitor private property or member activities.

As we continue investing in tools and technologies that strengthen our electric system, drone technology is another way



CVEC Journeyman Lineman Kyle Glaus, a certified drone pilot, uses a drone to inspect electric infrastructure throughout the cooperative's service territory.

CVEC is working to deliver safe, reliable service for our members today and in the future.

How Drones Help Our Member-Consumers

Improving Reliability

Drones help us identify equipment issues early, allowing crews to make repairs before they lead to outages.

Supporting Faster Outage Restoration

After storms or other emergency events, drones provide a quick view of damaged areas, helping crews assess conditions and prioritize repairs more efficiently.

Enhancing Employee Safety

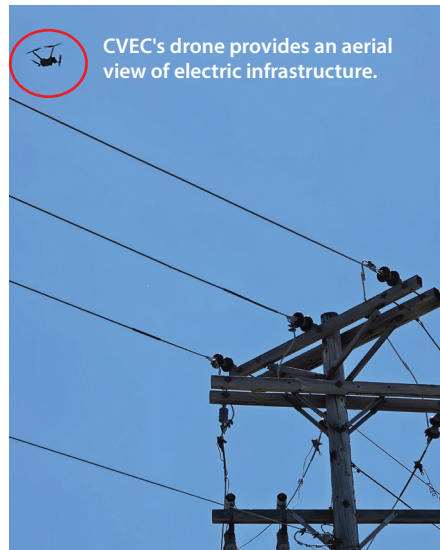
Using drones reduces the need for employees to climb poles or enter potentially hazardous areas during inspections, helping keep our CVEC crews safe.

Improving Operational Efficiency

Drone inspections can often be completed faster than traditional inspection methods, allowing us to cover more ground while maintaining high inspection standards. By utilizing drone technology, we're improving service reliability, enhancing safety, and working more efficiently to serve our member-consumers.



Left: Drone technology provides detailed views of poles and equipment, allowing CVEC to spot a deteriorated pole and make informed maintenance decisions. Right: A CVEC drone inspects electric infrastructure from above.





Congratulations!

TO OUR 2026 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



Dagmar Beckel



Aubrie Bohl



Abigail Bowe



Maura Bright



Karlee Davis



Nicholas Flashinski



Logan Jaedike



Nora Jensen



Sawyer Jones



Sophia Martinson



Addison McCracken

Dagmar Beckel, daughter of Dagmar and Andrew Beckel of Bloomer, graduated from Chetek-Weyerhaeuser High School and will be double majoring in business and computer science at University of Wisconsin–Madison.

Aubrie Bohl, daughter of Zachary Bohl of Bloomer, graduated from Bloomer High School and plans to attend Marquette University to pursue a degree in psychology and occupational therapy.

Abigail Bowe, daughter of Jon and Tiffany Bowe of Cadott, graduated from Cadott High School. She plans on attending University of Wisconsin–Madison and majoring in political science.

Maura Bright, daughter of Cullen and Jodi Bright of Jim Falls, graduated from Chippewa Falls Senior High School. Maura will be attending Iowa State University, majoring in genetics.

Karlee Davis, daughter of Marques and Lori Davis of Cadott, graduated from Cadott High School and plans on attending University of Wisconsin–Eau Claire for nursing.

Nicholas Flashinski, son of Mark and Heather Flashinski of Cadott, graduated from McDonell Central Catholic High School. He is attending University of Wisconsin–La Crosse and majoring in finance.

Logan Jaedike, son of Allen and Erica Jaedike of Holcombe, graduated from Lake Holcombe High School. He will attend University of Wisconsin–Madison for

aerospace engineering.

Nora Jensen, daughter of Nikki and Forest Clements of New Auburn, graduated from New Auburn High School and plans on attending St. Olaf College, majoring in political science and economics.

Sawyer Jones, son of Nick and Robin Jones of New Auburn, graduated from New Auburn High School and will be attending University of Wisconsin–Eau Claire for exercise science.

Sophia Martinson, daughter of Brent and Staci Martinson of Bloomer, graduated from New Auburn High School. Sophia will be attending University of Minnesota Duluth majoring in communication sciences and disorders.

Addison McCracken, daughter of Adam and Tina McCracken of Bloomer, graduated from Bloomer High School. She plans to attend University of Wisconsin–River Falls for animal science. She then plans to use her degree to become a veterinarian.

Jackson Mitchell, son of Michael and Elizabeth Mitchell of Bloomer, graduated from Bloomer High School. He is the winner of the Dairyland Power Cooperative Scholarship and is deciding between Cumberland or Loyola University.

Kyra North, daughter of Andrea and William Gribble of New Auburn, graduated from New Auburn High School and will be attending University of Wisconsin–Madison and majoring in psychology.

**Jackson Mitchell****Kyra North****Megan Paff****Brooke Petska****Liv Repka****Maya Ridenour****Seth Rogge****Josie Clare Roth****Elizabeth Schmitt****Kimberly Schweigert****Avery Sieg****Andrea Sternweis****Micah Uttecht****Nataya Wruck****Ashton Zwiefelhofer**

Megan Paff, daughter of Leanna and Nick Paff of Holcombe, graduated from Lake Holcombe High School. She will be attending CVTC for business management.

Brooke Petska, daughter of Richard and Jill Petska of Bloomer, graduated from Bloomer High School and plans to attend CVTC.

Liv Repka, daughter of Joe and Shannon Repka of Holcombe, graduated from Lake Holcombe High School and will be attending University of Wisconsin–Madison School of Business.

Maya Ridenour, daughter of Rob and Amber Ridenour of Eau Claire, graduated from Regis High School. She plans to attend University of Wisconsin–Madison.

Seth Rogge, son of Heather and Adam Rogge of Bloomer, graduated from Bloomer High School and will be attending University of Wisconsin–La Crosse for radiation therapy.

Josie Clare Roth, daughter of Steven and Amy Roth of Cadott, graduated from Cadott High School. She will attend Minnesota State University–Mankato and major in dental hygiene/pre-dentistry.

Elizabeth Schmitt, daughter of Ken and Laura Schmitt of Colfax, graduated from Colfax High School and plans to attend University of Wisconsin–Platteville. She is currently undecided but is likely to go for engineering.

Kimberly Schweigert, daughter of Tim and Sheila Schweigert of Bruce, graduated from Bruce High School. She is going to study accounting at University of Wisconsin–Green Bay.

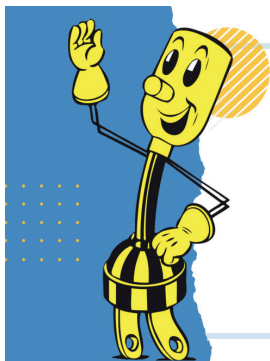
Avery Sieg, daughter of Jeff and Vanessa Sieg of Bloomer, graduated from Bloomer High School and will be studying physical and adaptive education at University of Wisconsin–River Falls.

Andrea Sternweis, daughter of Amy and Adam Sternweis of Cornell, graduated from Cornell High School and plans to attend CVTC.

Micah Uttecht, son of Chris and Jaci Uttecht of Chippewa Falls, graduated from Chippewa Falls Senior High School. He plans to attend Belmont University and pursue a bachelor's degree in music, with an emphasis in composition and arranging.

Nataya Wruck, daughter of Mary Jo Wruck of Jim Falls, graduated from Cadott High School and will attend University of Wisconsin–Stout for a bachelor's degree in psychology with a minor in health sciences and a social work certificate. She will use that to further her education and become a social worker.

Ashton Zwiefelhofer, son of Jason and Kelsie Zwiefelhofer of Chippewa Falls, graduated from Chippewa Falls Senior High School. He will be attending University of Minnesota Duluth for financial planning.



Your Cooperative Powering Your Future



Sparks

CO-OP NEWS

CELEBRATING OUR CO-OP COMMUNITY!

250
ANNIVERSARY

INDEPENDENCE DAY OF AMERICA

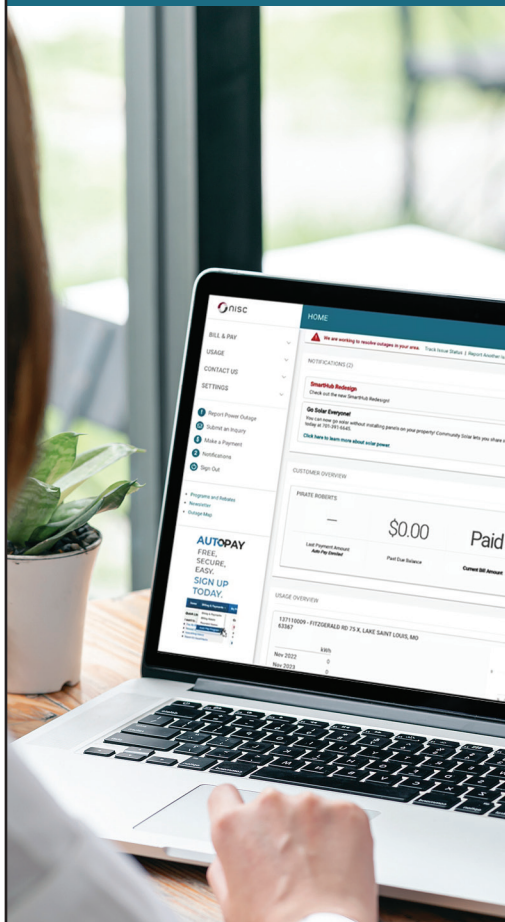
Office Closed
Friday, July 3,
for Independence
Day



Land of the free.
HOME OF THE BRAVE.



**An easy way to
manage your
electric bill**



SmartHub means you have options when it comes to managing your electric bill with Chippewa Valley Electric Cooperative.

Have you ever wondered when your lowest or highest electric usage took place? Have you wondered why your bill is what it is? SmartHub helps you determine those answers. If you have not signed up, you're missing out on a lot of smart benefits including:

- Pay your bill online
- Set up your bill for automatic payments
- View your billing history
- View and manage electric usage

It's easy to sign up for SmartHub. Just go to www.cvcoop.com and click on the SmartHub icon in the upper right-hand corner. All you need is your account number, last name, and an email address. Or, you can download the SmartHub app onto your smartphone or tablet.



Chippewa Valley Electric Cooperative

317 S. 8th St., P.O. Box 575

Cornell, WI 54732

715.239.6800 • 1.800.300.6800

www.cvcoop.com • email: cvcc@cve.coop

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Board of Directors

District 1 – Sue Frei

District 2 – Dr. Eugene Buchner

District 3 – Frank Draxler

District 4 – Kevin Meistad

District 5 – Joe Melville

District 6 – Steve Wall

District 7 – John Petska

Russ Falkenberg, President/CEO

Powering Your Future

- Safe Way
- Right Way
- Every Day

Chippewa Valley Electric Cooperative

Follow us on Facebook

Monday — Thursday: 7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Friday: 7:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Rebecca Pehlke, Editor