

# News FOR YOU...

## Pine Lodge Shop Features Farmhouse and Rustic Decor

Cindee Borton-Parker was a regional manager for several restaurants, where she spent a lot of time on the road and away from family. While traveling past the Pine Lodge, a decor and gift store in Chetek, she noticed a for sale sign and thought that would be a great opportunity. She commented, "I was looking for a simpler life."

The Pine Lodge Shop has allowed Cindee to spend more time with family. Cindee's step-dad is a retired carpenter who helps build and restore furniture, while her mom helps manage the store. When asked which item was the most popular seller, Cindee remarked, "kitchen accessories." From apple jams, candles, furniture, home decor, and table runners, there is a little bit of everything for every season indoors and outdoors. Cindee remarked, "I feel so blessed, we have met so many wonderful people."

### A Little Bit of History

The buildings are filled with character and charm and were once part of the nearby bible camps. The shop was the Hudson boys cabin at the Chetek Baptist Bible Camp and the workshop is from the Luther Park Bible camp.

### Safety First

The shop has taken several precautions with COVID-19 including curbside pickup. A

touchless computer system was purchased to help keep customers safe. Hand sanitizer is available, while masks are required.

### Important Information

Visit the Pine Lodge Shop: from Hwy 53, take Chetek exit 126, head west on County Road I, and turn left on 24 1/8 Street/River Road. Check out their website at [pinelodgeshop.com](http://pinelodgeshop.com), or visit Facebook for weekly events. Store hours through Christmas are: Wednesday-Friday: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Saturday: 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

The Pine Lodge is also host to a Farmers Market on Saturdays during the months of June-August. Vendors offer locally made and home grown products.



Owner Cindee Borton-Parker (middle), her mom and step-dad invite you to visit the Pine Lodge Shop.



Check out the unique decor at the Pine Lodge Shop in Chetek.



## Members Helping Members

The COVID-19 pandemic has affected our members financially. Although there are many forms of assistance available, there are still bills to pay. Members can help family, friends, neighbors, or even strangers stay current on their electric bill.

If you would like to help a member by paying \$50, \$100, \$200 or any amount desired towards their electric bill, please send a check with the member's name, address and phone number. If you have any questions, please contact our billing department at 800-322-1008 or [billing@barronelectric.com](mailto:billing@barronelectric.com) for more details.

## Employee Spotlight Providing Reliable Power



Aaron Holten

Aaron Holten is a Barron native, and he and his wife, Monica, have three children. Prior to starting at Barron Electric as a lineman, Aaron worked at Sterling Bank in Barron for six years as a lender. He has a bachelors degree from UW-Stout in Applied Math and Computer Science. He decided to make a career change and pursued a Technical Degree in Electrical Power Distribution from Chippewa Valley Technical College. He said, "I enjoy working with the line crew to help safely maintain reliable service to all Barron Electric members."

# #POWERON

## Is an Electric Vehicle on Your Christmas Wishlist?

Why wish for an electric vehicle(EV)? There are several reasons to switch to an EV, including superior efficiency, lower energy costs, less maintenance, and better overall performance. Make sure to do your homework, and ask the right questions including:

### 1. Does the car have enough range?

Current EVs offer more than 200 miles of range per charge. Although, some still have much less. The Tesla Model S currently holds the record, with up to an EPA-rated 402 miles per charge. Note, many factors impact a car's range, such as speed, driving habits, the weather, and the car's climate control.

### 2. Can I charge my EV at home?

Yes! Most charging is done at home. Barron Electric offers a free Level 2 electric vehicle charger to members who purchase an EV. The charger works with all J1772 complying cars, as well as Tesla vehicles using Tesla's charging adapter. Some conditions do

apply. Visit our website at [barronelectric.com](http://barronelectric.com) for more details on this rebate.



### 3. How do I find public charging stations?

Visit [plugshare.com](http://plugshare.com) for a map of charging stations. Barron Electric has charging stations at their Barron and Spooner offices.

### 4. Are there incentives for purchasing an EV?

Prior to buying an EV, check with your tax accountant to verify that a credit is available.

### 5. Should I buy a new or used EV?

Many used EVs are cheaper than most used gas cars, depending on the brand. Many EVs depreciate more quickly than traditional cars. Federal EV tax credits would not apply on a leased car. Buying new means your car will have a full warranty, and your battery will be in top-notch condition. Make sure to see if any federal EV tax credits apply.

### 6. Should I buy or lease an EV?

Buying a car if the interest rate is low is usually a good financial move. Car leasing allows consumers to have a monthly payment that is typically less than if the car was purchased. You can also replace your car every few years and take advantage of new technology.

### 7. What about the number of passengers?

Most EVs on the market are compact or sedans with 5-capacity seating.

Source: Steven Loveday, U.S. News & World Report





## Save Energy in the Kitchen - *Just in Time for Holiday Cooking*

With the holidays just around the corner, here are four ways you can save energy in the kitchen with minimal effort.

When possible, cook with smaller appliances. Using slow cookers, toaster ovens, and convection ovens is more energy efficient than using your large stove or oven. According to the Department of Energy, a toaster or convection oven uses one-third to one-half as much energy as a full-sized oven.

Unplug appliances that draw phantom energy load. Halloween may be over, but it's possible you have energy vampires in your kitchen - these are the appliances that draw energy even when they're not in use, like coffee makers, microwaves and toaster ovens. The Department of Energy has estimated that one home's energy vampires left plugged in year-round can add up to \$100-\$200 in wasted energy costs. Unplug them when they're not in use, or use a power strip for convenient control.

Help large appliances work less. There are small ways you can help

your larger kitchen appliances run more efficiently. For example, keep range-top burners clean from spills and fallen foods so they'll reflect heat better. When it's time to put leftovers in the refrigerator, make sure the food is covered and allow it to cool down first. That way, the fridge doesn't have to work harder to cool warm food.

Use your dishwasher efficiently. Only run full loads, and avoid using the "rinse hold" function on your machine for just a few dirty dishes; it uses 3-7 gallons of hot water each use. You can also save energy by letting your dishes air dry. If your dishwasher doesn't have an automatic air-dry switch, simply turn it off after the final



**Use smaller kitchen appliances, like slow cookers, toaster ovens and convection ovens, when possible. These smaller appliances use less energy than a full-size oven.**

rinse, and prop the door open so the dishes will dry faster.

By slightly adjusting a few of your habits in the kitchen, you'll be well on your way to energy savings. Visit our website at [barronelectric.com](http://barronelectric.com) to see more ways to save energy.



# Photo Contest



E-mail your winter photos for our photo contest. The winning photo will be used on the cover of the *News for You*, and the winner 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](mailto:memberservices@barronelectric.com) by November 9, 2020. 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 a variety of publications and on our website.

## 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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Barron Electric is an equal  
opportunity provider.



Scott Warwick serves as Secretary on Barron Electric's Board of Directors representing District 4, which includes the following townships: Roosevelt, Maple Plain, Lakeland, and Cumberland.



## \*Condensed Board Minutes August 26, 2020

- Director Kessler gave the treasurer's report. A report of vouchers for the month was presented as part of the board packet as follows: #97904 thru #97981 of CCF Bank was in the amount of \$233,519 and capital credit estate checks in the amount of \$11,200. Director Kessler reported on activity of total receipts in the office - \$2,397,567; total receipts by wire and ACH - \$274,733 disbursements by ACH, EFT, wire - \$2,477,351; transfer of funds was made for payroll - \$233,224 and power bill paid 08/26/2020 in the amount of \$2,418,700.
- A membership list of 82 was presented and approved without objection by the board.
- Director Baker reported on the DPC Board Meeting he attended on August 20, 2020. The directors reviewed the monthly safety report from Denise Fox, Compliance Safety and Training Officer.
- Form 219 summarizing construction activity for the month of July in the amount of \$200,357.71 was presented for approval, and included new services - \$25,892.23; change jobs - \$11,693.44; miscellaneous - \$162,772.04 and 5 retirements. The Form 219 stood approved as presented.
- Outages through the month of July stand at 68,560 consumer hours off, which is 83.24% below 2019 hours of 409,181. Overtime year-to-date is 2,418.75 hours, which is 43.40% below 2019 hours of 4,273.50.

\* *View full board minutes on SmartHub.*



**Happy Thanksgiving! Our office will be closed on  
Thursday, November 26 and Friday, November 27.  
Have a safe and healthy holiday.**