

# The Communicator

News from your local coop to keep you connected.

November 2022

## Spring Grove is a Smart Rural Community!

The Community and Economic Development Associates (CEDA) team celebrated with Spring Grove Communications on October 11th to recognize Spring Grove as a Smart Rural Community! This is a big achievement for the city of Spring Grove. Smart Rural Community is a group of providers who are committed to driving growth and creating opportunities for our community. Smart Rural Community providers enable fast, reliable and sustainable connectivity needed to thrive in an online world. Spring Grove Communications has met Smart Rural Community requirements, set by the Rural Broadband Association, to be a member provider that works tirelessly to keep small-town America connected. You will notice a sign of this recognition added to the Spring Grove signs when coming into town!



From L to R:  
SGC Board President Dave Morken, CEDA member Courtney Bergey-Swanson, SGC Director of Business & Community Affairs Jacqui VanMinsel, SGC Board Member Bruce Hegge, SG City Administrator Jana Elton and SGC Board Member Ford Brevig.

## Take a Byte Out of Hunger Food Drive

We are excited to be hosting a Food Drive from November 1st to November 18th! Bring in 3 non-perishable food items to our office and receive an entry into the Take A Byte Out Of Hunger Drawing for a chance to win one of three \$75 Red's Hometown Market gift cards, just in time for Thanksgiving!



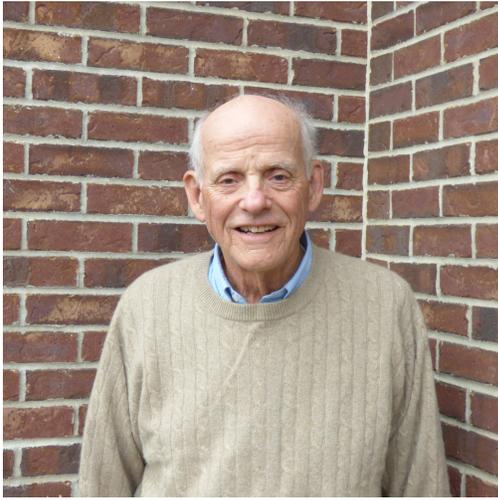
## Coop Month Event

Thank you to all who joined us for Coffee & Cookies to celebrate National Coop Month! We are grateful for all of our members and appreciate the continued support.

## Office Closed

Our office will be closed Thursday, November 24th and Friday, November 25th for Thanksgiving. If you have any service affecting troubles, please call our on-call technician at 498-4357.

# Meet our Board of Directors!



## Leonard Myrah

When I was first elected to the Spring Grove Telephone board in 1999, I was the youngest member. For the last dozen or so years I have been the oldest member. I have decided to pass that mantle on to someone else, so I will not be seeking reelection to the board when my term ends in March of 2023.

As you Cooperative members know, there have been many changes in the past quarter-century in telecommunication. When I was first on the board, cell phones were in their infancy and reception was sporadic at best. Computer technology was advancing at such a

rate they were obsolete within 6 months. The rapid increase and capabilities of how we communicate and do our daily tasks presented many challenges to our company. In 2006 our co-op made a decision to invest 6-7 million dollars to plow fiber optic cable to all our members to give you the best capability using the internet. Some of you remember accessing the internet with “dial-up”, UffDa!

We are currently expanding our footprint through grants and our own financial investments, to help surrounding communities to have access to high speed quality internet. These decisions have been carefully studied and analyzed by our staff, with help from engineering consultants, to minimize financial risk to our co-op. One thing that your Board of Directors always considers when decisions are being made: Is it good for and will it enhance our community?

I offer my thanks to you members for the opportunity to serve you the past 23 years during this time of rapid growth in communication technology and to the great staff of our co-op for all the help they have given me.

I’ve had the opportunity to work with three generations on this board. All had one thing in mind: what is best for the Community of Spring Grove. These last few years have been extremely challenging for our co-op. We are fortunate to have a very knowledgeable, hard working GM and board that are forward-looking without losing sight of providing the best for our cooperative community.

## Thank you Lenny for your 23 years of service!