



CLARKE REC Headlines

The official publication of Clarke Electric Cooperative

SAFETY DRIVEN | ENERGY SMART | COMMUNITY INVESTED Volume No. 78 No. 9 | September 2018

Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month



Cooler temps are right around the corner! Is your home's heating system ready? Remember to replace furnace filters once a month or as recommended. If you heat your home with warm-air registers, baseboard heaters or radiators, remember to clean them regularly to increase efficiency.

Looking Out for You: July Outages

- Maintenance - 1
- Equipment/maintenance failure - 8
- Trees - 3
- Lightning - 4
- Animal/bird - 7
- Customer caused - 6
- Unknown - 8



CLARKE
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
Safety Driven • Energy Smart • Community Invested

Your Touchstone Energy Cooperative

P.O. Box 161 1103 N. Main
Osceola, IA 50213-0161
www.cecnet.net



Community Invested: *Grassroots Efforts*

OWA REPRESENTATIVE

Joel Fry stopped by the Clarke Electric office recently to visit with General Manager Dave Opie. It's important to the cooperative to maintain relationships with our elected officials. We communicate regularly with our elected officials to let them know what we do, who we serve and issues that are important to our members.



Welcome Cori Smith to CEC Staff



Cori grew up on a farm north of Murray and graduated from Interstate 35 Community Schools.

She continued her education, graduating from Kirkwood Community College in Cedar Rapids. While there, Cori lived with her aunt who works for an electric cooperative and became familiar with its operation. When she saw the opening at Clarke Electric, she hoped the opportunity would turn into a good career move.

She enjoys dancing with Tiffany's Star Dancers in New Virginia and spending time with her family. With her ready smile, it's clear she enjoys her job and looks forward to meeting and helping our members.

Stop in and say hello to welcome Cori!

CLARKE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

introduces Cori Smith as the new customer service representative. Cori is the first face members will see when they enter the cooperative office or the first smiling voice they hear when she answers the phone.

Reading pays! We have hidden two of our members' account numbers in this issue. If you find your member location number, call during September to have \$10 deducted from your monthly energy account.

Do Your Part and Vote in Co-op Board Election



DAVE OPIE
General Manager

ACCORDING TO MERRIAM-Webster's dictionary, patriotism is "the love for, or devotion to, one's country." A sense of patriotism swells up within me when I see flags rippling in the wind—red, white and blue decorating porches and store fronts. It makes me proud to live and work in this wonderful country.

Another, perhaps deeper, form of patriotism is active engagement in public and civic life. Involvement in your town promotes a richer community life and ensures that our communities

remain vibrant and inviting places to live, work and play.

Besides being fun, your participation in local events and activities, together with your friends, neighbors and co-workers, makes a difference. Simple things like supporting a bake sale or attending a local high school event shows young people that

you support them, and that the community itself is worth supporting.

In fact, there are civic engagement opportunities through Clarke Electric Cooperative. You may recall that one of our cooperative principles is that of democratic participation. If you pay your bill, you are a member of the co-op with an opportunity to provide input through voting during our annual meeting.

Clarke Electric, like other types of co-ops, originated to serve a need that was not being met by traditional investor-owned or for-profit electric companies.

While providing reliable electricity is our top priority, we continue to explore outside needs that might not be met otherwise for our rural consumer-members. We make decisions based on long-term thinking and how they will benefit the larger community in which we operate. One of the best ways you can engage with your co-op is by casting your

vote when it's time to elect board members. These are people just like you, from our community, who provide guidance to co-op leadership on many issues and decisions both short term and long term.

Everyone has valuable experience that informs their decision-making process. Diverse perspectives benefit the whole community. You may have a different view than your neighbor, but together, those perspectives provide a more balanced view of the community. We seek more members willing to participate in the process, because greater numbers reflect a consensus on the direction of the future and the will of the people.

The next opportunity to vote in the board election is September 10 at our annual meeting. I think that voting, whether in the co-op, local or national elections, is a form of patriotism. It reflects a devotion to one's community and commitment to ensure that it thrives. 10-17-08-00



EVERY YEAR SINCE 1944, THE third week of September has been dedicated to farm safety and health, just before harvest begins.

Promoted by The National Education Center for Agriculture Safety, National Farm Safety and Health Week will be Sept. 16-22. This year's theme, "Cultivating the Seeds of Safety", is meant to remind us that everyone is responsible for safety on America's farms and the rural roadways. Plan on learning more each day of the week: Rural Roadway Safety (Monday), Health/Suicide/Opioids (Tuesday), Child/Youth Health and Safety



(Wednesday), Confined Spaces in Ag (Thursday), and Tractor Safety (Friday).

The private agriculture industry, combined with forestry, fishing and hunting, reported the largest number of fatalities in Iowa in 2016 at 19, up from 16 the previous year. Thirteen of those deaths were transportation related with 53 percent of those fatally injured working in crop production, according the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Questions or Complaints

CLARKE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE strives to provide you with the best service at the lowest possible cost. But sometimes you may have questions regarding your electrical service or billing, or possibly a complaint. If you have a complaint about Clarke Electric's service rather than its rates, you can reach a representative of the cooperative by contacting us during normal business hours: 7:30 a.m. – 4 p.m. Monday through Friday at (641) 342-2173 or (800) 362-2154 or clarke@cecn.net. You can also write to: Member Advocate, Clarke Electric Cooperative, 1103 N Main Street, Osceola, IA 50213.

If your complaint is not resolved, you may ask for help from the Iowa Utilities Board, Customer Service, 1375 E. Court Ave., Room 69, Des Moines, IA 50319-0069; (877) 565-4450 or customer@iub.iowa.gov.

+ Safety Driven: Staff Demonstrates Safety First



CHAD MCINTOSH

RECENTLY, EMPLOYEES OF CLARKE Electric took their safety message on the road to the Wayne County Fair.

A newly-built safety trailer made its debut while capturing the audience's attention with impressive safety messages.

Lineman Adam McCuddin demonstrated

the hazards of trees, ladders and human contact with an energized power line, while Jason Gibbs, manager of Member Services, narrated.

"Look Up and Live" is key when working on or around power lines. If you come in contact with downed power lines, always

treat them as "hot" (energized); never assume they're dead.

If you would like to have a live electric safety demonstration contact Jason at (641) 342-2173 or by email at jjgibbs@cecnet.net.



+ The Cooperative Difference: Need Help with Your Heating Bills?

THE 2018-2019 LOW-INCOME HOME Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) helps qualifying low-income Iowa homeowners and renters pay for a portion of their primary heating costs for the winter heating season. The assistance is based on household income, household size, type of fuel, and type of housing.

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WHEN TO APPLY:

- Elderly (60+) and/or disabled: Oct. 1, 2018 to April 30, 2019
- All other households: Nov. 1, 2018 to April 30, 2019

WHAT TO TAKE:

- Proof of Income (for all household members age 19+)
- Check stubs from the previous 30 days, award letter from Social Security or 2017 tax return
- Social Security numbers for all household members (documentation required)
- Recent heat bill
- Recent electric bill
- If you receive alimony or child support, it will also need to be verified.

PROOF OF INCOME:

- **Wage Earners:** Please bring copies of your check stubs for the 30-day period preceding the date of application, or a copy of your federal income tax return.
- **Fixed Income:** This income may include: Social Security Benefits, Supplemental Security Income, Family Investment Program, Veteran's Assistance, Unemployment Insurance, and pensions. Please bring copies of your check stubs from the previous 30 days.
- **Self-Employed/Farmers:** Please bring a copy of your most recent federal income tax return.
- **FIP Recipients:** Please bring your current DHS Notice of Decision or contact your local office for acceptable document information.

If you are not sure where to apply, please write to:

LIHEAP
Iowa Department of Human Rights - Bureau of Energy Assistance
Lucas State Office Building

Income Maximums	
Household Size	Annual Gross Income
1	\$21,545
2	\$28,805
3	\$36,365
4	\$43,925
5	\$51,485
6	\$59,045
7	\$66,605
8	\$74,165

For households with more than eight members, add \$7,560 for each additional member.

321 E. 12th St., 2nd Floor
Des Moines, IA 50319
<https://humanrights.iowa.gov>

You can also contact South Central Iowa Community Action Program, 116 Fillmore, Osceola, IA 50213; (641) 342-2101; clarke@iowatelecom.net, www.scicap.org



CLARKE ELECTRIC LINE CREWS HAVE BEEN WORKING HARD TO STRING NEW THREE-PHASE OVERHEAD LINE TO accommodate the new load for Iowa Select hog confinement. More than three miles of new line has been replaced to increase the electric service reliability to members in the Derby area. Pictured, top left: Lineman Tim Lupkes and summer intern Hunter McIntosh pull wire off the reel. At bottom left, Lineman Eric Page prepares to place new wire in the blocks. At top right, new wire sags across the poles waiting to be drawn tight and fastened in place.



MEMBERS WILL receive a postcard from Clarke Electric about the opportunity for

you to round-up your electric bill to the nearest dollar, helping to build a charitable fund available to our members. If you wish to participate, you do not have to do anything; however, if you do **NOT** wish to participate, you must **OPT OUT** by one of four ways: 35-04-01-01

- Call us at (800) 362-2154
- Email us at clarke@cecnet.net
- Return the postage paid card checking the "No" box (mailed to you)
- Fill out the form on-line at www.cecnet.net/content/operation-round-up.

Harvest Safety

WITH HARVEST SEASON RIGHT around the corner, Clarke Electric Cooperative wants all our members to be safe, alert and focused on potential hazards. Remember to follow these important safety steps when working around power lines:

- Use a spotter when operating large machinery near power lines.
- Keep equipment at least 10 feet from power lines—at all times, in all directions.
- Look up and use care when moving any equipment, extending augers or raising the bed of grain trucks around power lines.
- Inspect the height of farm equipment to determine clearance from electric lines.

- Always set extensions to the lowest setting when moving loads to prevent contact with overhead power lines. Grain augers should always be positioned horizontally before being moved.
- Never attempt to move a power line out of the way or raise it for clearance.
- If a power line is sagging or low, contact Clarke Electric.

If contact is made with a power line, stay on the equipment. Make sure to warn others to stay away and call 911. Do not leave until the utility crew says it is safe to do so. The only reason to exit is if the equipment is on fire. If this is the case, jump off the equipment with your feet together, without touching the ground and vehicle at the same time. Then, still keeping your feet together, hop to safety as you leave the area.

Board of Directors

Randy Barnard, New Virginia
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 Larry Keller, Osceola
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David Opie, General Manager
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 Outside Depository Available 24 Hours
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This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

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