



CLARKE REC Headlines

The official publication of Clarke Electric Cooperative



SAFETY DRIVEN | ENERGY SMART | COMMUNITY INVESTED **Volume No. 80 No. 7 | July 2020**

Energy Efficiency



Tip of the Month

Spending more time at home? Try an online energy audit to assess the overall efficiency of your home. Visit www.energystar.gov, then enter "home energy yardstick" in the search box to get started.

July is National Grilling Month

When the weather outside is hot and humid, the last thing we want to do is turn on the oven or stand over a hot stove to make dinner. Bringing the cooking outside



is the perfect solution, and it saves you energy! Celebrate National Grilling Month with your favorites over an open flame. Easy, quick and healthy – grilling is a great cooking alternative on hot summer days.

Looking Out for You: May Outages

- Equipment/Maintenance failure: 12
- Lightning: 9
- Unknown: 4
- Power supply: 2
- Maintenance: 1
- Other: 1
- Trees: 1



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

Expect Different Format for 2020 Annual Meeting

THE CLARKE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE Annual Meeting scheduled for Monday, Sept. 14 will be held virtually due to ongoing concerns surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic. The meeting and abbreviated reports will be recorded on video, then posted to our Web site, cecnet.net for members to view. The Board of Directors made the difficult decision to change the format out of an abundance of caution for the health and safety of our members, employees and the communities we serve.

Cooperative member-consumers will be able to vote by mail or drop off their ballots

at the cooperative headquarters as in the past years. Reports and director candidate information will be published in the August Clarke REC Headlines newsletter as well as the official notice sent to all CEC members in August.

We apologize that our friends and members will not get the opportunity to gather and share time together this year. We sincerely thank you for your understanding and hope we will be able to meet in person for the 2021 annual meeting. Please understand that we are committed to keep everyone safe!

The Cooperative Difference: Nominating Committee

THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE met June 23 to select candidates to be added to the ballot and voted on at the Annual Meeting Sept. 14. Committee members are:

- District 1 – Ted Hall and Bradley Hobbs**
- District 3 – Billie Jo Henrichs and Terrinda McIntire**
- District 7 – Gary Alley and Burton Prunty**



The committee will review the potential candidates from each district to find a candidate that is interested and willing to serve on the board. The committee follows the guidelines set forth in the cooperative's by-laws to select at least one candidate to

run against the incumbent when possible. If the district seat is open, two candidates will be selected when possible.

If you have an interest in serving as a board member or learning more about the duties of board members, please contact the cooperative.

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

Your Cooperative is *Virtually* The Same!

IT HAS QUICKLY BECOME A NEW virtual world. So many community events have been cancelled or modified because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The restrictions and changes to our daily lives sometimes seem over the top. In the last month, we have seen Iowa's number of positive COVID-19 cases trending downward. The governor has eased her restrictions on businesses, allowing them to reopen in phases but with the utmost care.

We are saddened that we will not see our member-consumers face-to-face this year at the Annual Meeting. But in the interest of your safety and the safety of our employees, the Board of Directors could not, in good conscience, put anyone's health at risk. At Clarke Electric Cooperative, we enjoy seeing your friendly faces and chatting with you each year at our Annual Meeting. But, this year we will have to rely on memories, newsletters and social media to keep in touch. 32-05-01-53

Governance, democratic elections and transparency are still extremely important to our Cooperative. So, this year we will have to do business a little differently.

Our Cooperative has been entrusted by you, our members, to run an effective organization, protect the cooperative's assets and provide excellent service to you. We feel we have been able to continue our responsibilities during these unique times, because we have great employees. Employees that have endured hardships continue to provide great service because they care about our member-consumers and our cooperative.

Electricity is essential to quality of life so for Clarke Electric Cooperative, our responsibility is to ensure we do not stumble in our service. Our Cooperative has to take the proper actions to take care of and protect our employees. They are the ones who make sure your lights are on. And

when the lights go out, they are the ones who can get them back on quickly.

So, this year, when you mail in your ballot, it will mean just as much as it has in the past. It will allow us to keep moving forward, while being governed by our membership.

Maybe the way we interact has changed this year, but one thing has not changed: we are here to serve you, especially during problematic times.

Take care and be safe!



DAVE OPIE
General Manager

Community Invested: Show Your Care with RECare

THIS YEAR WAS PARTICULARLY difficult for many Clarke Electric members who struggled to pay their bills during the pandemic. With businesses shuttered and school closed, many families were spending more time at home while losing their steady income stream.

These expenses can't always be predicted, which is why Clarke Electric encourages its members to help their neighbors and community by participating in RECare.

A one-time or monthly contribution through the RECare program can help offset high bills for those who need it. RECare funds can also be used to weatherize the recipient's home and help make electricity usage more efficient. Your donation is directed to local community action agencies for distribution to low-income families near you.

Consider contributing to RECare and help

your neighbors and your community with high heating expenses. It's an easy way to show your care.

Member Authorization Form

Yes, I want to be a part of members helping members through the RECare program.

Enclosed is a check with a one-time donation.

I would like to make a monthly donation of \$_____.

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Mail to: RECare, c/o Clarke Electric Cooperative,
P.O. Box 161, Osceola, Iowa 50213

GO **PAPERLESS!**

Save time & effort by enrolling in paperless billing. Manage your payments online for secure access to your statements 24/7.

- No checks to write!
- No stamps to buy!
- No bills to mail, file, shred or clutter your mailbox!

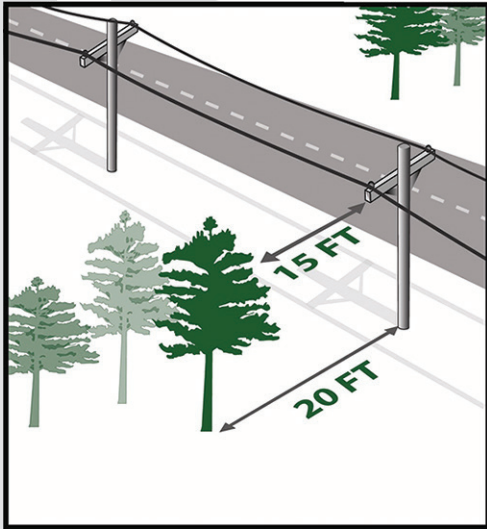
Enroll today through your SmartHub account at cecnet.net. Once logged in, go to "My Profile" to change your bill delivery options.



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



ROW Promotes Reliability & Safety



CLARKE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE has contracted with Midwest Spray Team to spray trees and underbrush in the Hopeville substation area starting mid-July and the Grand River substation area in September.

The cooperative continues to keep the right of way cleared in order to provide you with a reliable and safe power source.

+ Safety Driven: *Protect Yourself from Utility Scams*

WITH ALL THE CONFUSION AND uncertainty in our world today, scammers are taking advantage of these circumstances to target consumers by phone, email and text.

If you receive a suspicious phone call or email threatening immediate disconnection, please contact the cooperative office directly at (800) 362-2154. We will never disconnect your service until we've discussed it with you.



Looking for Outdoor Fun This Summer?

IF YOU LOVE THE OUTDOORS AND camping, plan now to make a visit to East Lake Park. Located on the eastern edge of Osceola, this 160-acre park features a 15-acre lake that is great for fishing, canoeing and kayaking.

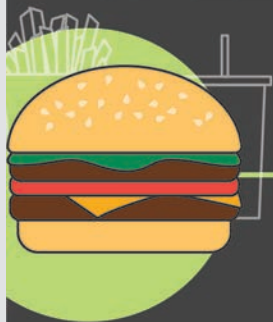
Clarke Electric Cooperative, through the Operation Round-Up program, recently contributed \$1,500 toward the cost of a new shower house in the campground.



Multiple shelter houses make it an ideal place for family reunions, a family picnic, or a get together with your friends.

Visit www.mycountyparks.com to make a reservation.

THE VALUE OF ELECTRICITY



\$5.30

average cost of a Big Mac® value meal

\$3.87

average daily cost of power



Electricity is expressed on a daily basis using EIA 2018 Average U.S. Monthly Residential Bill of \$117. Big Mac® is a registered trademark of McDonald's Corporation. McDonald's Corporation does not endorse or sponsor this material.

Sources: Economist.com and EIA, 2018 data.

In June, the park opened its new campgrounds, with more spots for up to 25 campers. Each site has water and electricity and plenty of space for a tent. Modern bathroom facilities with showers make this a great place to stay. Rates are \$25/night. Since its start in 1920, the park has made numerous fun improvements. Hiking paths, basketball courts, a look-out tower, multiple playgrounds, two sand volleyball courts and a horseshoe pit are all located on site.

Operations Update

RECENTLY THE COOPERATIVE HAS been researching the application, value and cost of replacing some of the wooden utility poles across the service territory with ductile iron poles.

Ductile iron poles are durable, eco-friendly and low maintenance. They are strong yet lightweight and resistant to rot, insects, and freezing weather. While wooden poles have an average life span of 30 years, ductile iron poles can last 75 years or more. Due to a higher rate of replacement, wood poles are much more expensive to maintain and replace.

Crews placed five ductile iron poles on the cooperative's property to sample and observe their use. While iron poles like these are not feasible for all applications, the cooperative is actively looking at using alternative poles where practical to replace wooden poles. 55-31-01-03

Clarke Electric looks for newer, better, stronger and cost-effective materials as we continue to replace older worn out materials. Although the technology is not new, it is new to our service territory. We will evaluate the poles' performance and consider replacing older, failed wooden poles with the iron poles as the situation permits.

This is just one more way, we are committed to making power available to our members in a reliable, safe, environmentally friendly and cost-effective way.



CHAD MCINTOSH



Pictured, left to right, is Adam McCuddin, Rob McCoy and Dylan Bragg.

How COVID-19 is Impacting Energy Use

EVEN WITH THE RECENT disruptions to daily life during the COVID-19 pandemic, the advice to focus on heating and cooling to save energy holds up. EIA has started revising its energy use predictions for 2020, and because of business closures and social distancing, they project that electricity sales to commercial and industrial customers will decline 6.5%. With more people staying home, you might expect residential sales to increase, and they will, but not enough to overcome the weather. Even with more people staying home and using more air conditioning, the weather is expected to be mild enough that EIA projects a 1.3% decline in residential electric sales this year. However, those predictions could well be adjusted depending on how quickly businesses reopen, and whether they adopt new ways of operating.

With so many unknowns in 2020 patterns of energy use, EIA's forecast tried to imagine what's going on inside our homes in order to make their projections for the year. Their May 2020 Short Term Energy Outlook says that as a result of the actions to control the spread of COVID-19, use of household electronic equipment will increase, and other uses of electricity, such as cooking or water heating, may also increase. Residential air conditioning use during summer months is also likely to increase.



Cool your home efficiently.

An electric heat pump is the most energy-efficient home cooling and heating option available today – and can reduce your energy consumption and utility bills during even the warmest months of the year. Visit our website to learn more about going electric – and find rebates on new equipment.



800-362-2154
cecn.net



CLARKE
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

PO Box 161, 1103 N Main, Osceola, IA 50213-0161

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

David Opie, General Manager
Office Hours: Mon - Fri 7:30 am - 4 pm
Outside Depository Available 24 Hours
641.342.2173 | 800.362.2154

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

www.cecn.net

Board of Directors

Randy Barnard, New Virginia
Larry Jackson, Clio
Larry Keller, Osceola
Kyle Kelso, Weldon
Cody Miller, Thayer
Randy Rouse, Corydon
Ed White, Osceola
Bill Willis, New Virginia
Lydda Youmans, Indianola