

living with energy

IN IOWA



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

JULY 2020

Board approves no in-person events for 2020 Annual Meeting ▶ See Pages 4-5



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Vote for Access Energy Cooperative directors and receive a \$10 bill credit

Iowa companies pivot to address COVID-19 needs

Summer's best burger recipes

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ON THE COVER

Soak up summer!

Flags are common sights during Iowa's summer activities, including the Fourth of July. To celebrate the season, we're giving away a special grilling package. Grilling with family is a perfect way to soak up summer! See Page 3 for details. ⚡



You can outsmart utility scammers this summer

BY ERIN CAMPBELL

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. These con artists claim to be from your local utility and the caller ID on your phone or their email address may even look legitimate.

Consumers in good standing with their utilities are often caught off-guard by the aggressive tone of these impersonators. They will usually speak with a sense of urgency, ensuring consumers do not have time to ask questions or verify their claims.

The best defense against a utility scammer is an educated consumer; follow these tips from UtilitiesUnited.org to protect yourself from a potential scam.

Protect personal information

Never provide or confirm personal information (Social Security number, date of birth) or financial information (banking account information, debit or credit card information) to anyone initiating contact with you and claiming to be from your local electric co-op. Never give out information or provide any payment type to any callers or unexpected individuals appearing at your door claiming to represent your co-op. Your local co-op will already have your relevant personal and account information.

Take your time

Do not be rushed. If you receive a call, text, email or visitor saying you have to pay your bill immediately to avoid disconnection, tell them you would like to verify that they are a legitimate co-op



representative by calling a verified number for the local co-op office. Beware if a representative exhibits impatience, annoyance or anger when you question their authority. While a scammer will discourage you from hanging up and calling the number on your utility bill, a real co-op representative will encourage you to do so for your peace of mind.

Always ask questions

Ask the person contacting you to provide you with your account number, last payment amount, date of payment and their employee identification number. If he or she is a legitimate utility representative, this information will be readily accessible. If not, hang up or shut the door, and call your utility directly to report the suspicious activity.

TIPS TO AVOID SCAMS

Scammers can threaten you with everything from shutting off power to your home to legal action. Don't fall victim to these types of scams.

Contact your electric cooperative directly

If you receive a suspicious call or visit, please contact the local police and your electric co-op immediately. Share details that the scammer told you, which might aid in a possible criminal investigation. ⚡

Erin Campbell is the director of communications for the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives.

EDITOR'S CHOICE CONTEST

Win a \$160 grilling package!



July is National Grilling Month, and we're giving away \$80 in beef and pork certificates (courtesy of the Iowa Beef Council and Iowa Pork Producers Association) along with a Classic Super-Fast® ThermoPen® digital read thermometer. Originally designed for commercial kitchens, labs and manufacturing plants it is often named a top consumer cooking thermometer for home use. The total grilling package value is \$160. ⚡

Visit our website and win!

Enter this month's contest by visiting www.livingwithenergyiniowa.com no later than July 31, 2020. You must be a member of one of Iowa's electric cooperatives to win. There's no obligation associated with entering, we don't share entrant information with anyone and multiple entries from the same account will be disqualified. The winners of the weather radios from the May issue were Dennis Barrick, Franklin REC, and Matt Bakker, North West REC.

UPCOMING EVENTS

July 6 Annual Meeting packets mailed, board election opens for electronic and mailed-in voting only

Aug. 3 Online voting closes at 4:30 p.m.; no longer accepting ballots

Aug. 4 Annual Meeting of Members – in-person portion of the meeting is canceled; only business is election of directors
7 p.m.: Election results announced live on Facebook

Sept. 3-7 Drive-A-Tractor at Midwest Old Threshers Reunion

Sept. 7 Office closed for Labor Day

You can call us at 866-242-4232, 24 hours a day, seven days a week – or use our SmartHub App – for answers to billing and account questions, paying your bill and service interruptions. ⚡



Access Energy Cooperative is dedicated to exceeding members' expectations for safe, reliable and efficient service, while being a good citizen in our communities.

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Payments can be placed in dropbox under flag pole. Visa and MasterCard accepted.

General Manager/CEO: Kevin Wheeler
Editor: Kimberly Davis
Assistant Editor: Cherity Wibben
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David Hollingsworth	District 1	President
Marvin Newton	District 3	Vice President
Robert P. Smith	District 2	Secretary
Fred Hickenbottom	District 1	Treasurer
Marvin Larson	District 1	Director
Jerry Barker	District 2	Director
Larry White	District 2	Director
Robert Chesnut III	District 3	Director
Marvin Holtkamp	District 3	Director

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

LOCAL PERSPECTIVE

2020 Annual Meeting of announcement

BY KEVIN WHEELER

The spring of 2020 has presented us all with unprecedented times, and we must use current information available to make decisions in moving forward.

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic and uncertainty surrounding the ability of large groups to gather in coming months, along with protecting the health and safety of the members and employees, Access Energy Cooperative's Annual Meeting will be different this year. The board of directors voted during its regular meeting on May 13 to modify the format of the 2020 Annual Meeting of Members to eliminate the in-person portion of the meeting and conduct the election of directors by mail and electronic voting. No other business will be conducted, and no activities will be held at McMillan Park. This decision did not come easy for the board; however, Access Energy

Cooperative feels it is the responsible choice to make.



Vote for directors and receive a \$10 bill credit

We encourage members to take part in the director election. Any member who submits a vote that is received by the 4:30 p.m. deadline on Aug. 3 – either by mail or electronically – will receive a \$10 bill credit. Your voting

materials will be mailed July 6 and will include instructions. If you have a valid email address on your account, you will also receive an email with the voting instructions. Each membership is allowed one vote.

COVID-19 impact

Since COVID-19 began impacting the globe, and in March, when it began affecting our nation, Access Energy Cooperative was forced to change the way operations were conducted

Annual Meeting of Members

August 4, 2020

Power On

service & Welcome Remarks

Reading of 2020 Notice of Meeting

Reading of 2019 Minutes

Nominating Committee Report

Report for Ballots from the Floor

Director's Report

President's Report

Special Award Presentation

General Manager/CEO Report

Door Prizes (Must be present to win)

No activities will be held at McMillan Park

Music by The Boys

Free Meal

Homemade Ice Cream

Register for Door Prizes

Pick up Registration Gift

Pick up Dividend Checks

Pony Rides

Drive-A-Tractor

Inflatable Activities

Giant Lawn Games

Information Booths

Members

to serve our members. The changing health and safety precautions needed for employees and membership became very apparent in the first few days of the virus hitting Iowa.

Although businesses in Iowa and throughout the country were closed for more than six weeks, Access Energy Cooperative maintained full operations. Access Energy Cooperative's board of directors held its April board meeting by teleconference, we separated our employees for business continuity, and virtual meetings and press conferences were conducted locally, statewide and nationally. Our employees have and will continue practicing physical distancing, plus enhanced personal hygiene and sanitization, all of which are part of what is being called a new normal for everyone.

We hope to see you in-person at next year's Annual Meeting on Aug. 3, 2021! ⚡

Kevin Wheeler is the general manager/CEO of Access Energy Cooperative.

ANNUAL MEETING

Save the Date!

Aug. 3, 2021
5 to 8 p.m.

2021 Access Energy Cooperative Annual Meeting of Members

Next year, Access Energy Cooperative's Annual Meeting of Members will be **Aug. 3, 2021**. Expectations are to return to a full agenda and all members will be encouraged to attend.

HOW YOUR CO-OP WORKS

Access Energy Cooperative Notice of Annual Meeting of Members (mail and electronic voting ONLY)

The Annual Meeting of the Members of Access Energy Cooperative on August 4, 2020, to take action upon the following matters:

- The reports of officers, directors, and committees.
- The election of three (3) directors of the Cooperative for a term of three years each.
- All other business which may legally come before the meeting or any adjournment or adjournments thereof.

DUE TO COVID-19 restrictions, and in an effort to protect the health and safety of the members and employees, the Board has decided not to hold an in-person meeting; but rather will complete the election of Directors by mail and electronic voting as permitted by the Bylaws and will provide the reports to the members through alternative means.

In connection with the election of directors scheduled for this meeting, the following members have been nominated for Director by the Committee on Nominations appointed by the Board of Directors of the Cooperative pursuant to the Bylaws.

If you have a candidate running for election in your District, you are urged to cast your ballot for the Director election pursuant to the instructions that will accompany your ballot. ⚡

DATED this 6th day of July, 2020.
Robert Smith, Secretary

Three-year term
(Three to be elected)

District No. I:



David Hollingsworth



Carol Wisecarver

District No. II:



Jerry Barker



Dan J Fullenkamp

District No. III:



Michael Holtkamp



Michael Thimmesch

The 2020 election results will be announced at 7 p.m., Aug. 4, via a livestream post on Access Energy Cooperative's Facebook page.

Managing home energy use

BY PAUL WESSLUND

If you want to make the best use of your efforts to save money on your energy bill, the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) can show you where to start.

Nearly half of the electricity Americans use in their homes – 43% – goes to heating and cooling air and water. Almost a third of our electric use, 31%, goes to running our heating and air conditioning systems. Another 12% powers our water heaters.

In second place for residential electricity use is a grab bag of appliances and lighting. One-fifth of the electricity we use in our homes goes to refrigeration (6%), lighting (5%), clothes drying (4%), and TV and video games (4%).



OF THE ELECTRICITY AMERICANS USE IN THEIR HOMES

43%

GOES TO HEATING AND COOLING AIR AND WATER



31%

GOES TO RUNNING OUR HEATING AND AIR CONDITIONING SYSTEMS

12%

POWERS OUR WATER HEATERS



That means if you want to get the quickest and biggest return on energy savings, focus on how you use your heating and cooling system, and your water heater. That's according to Keith Dennis, vice president of

consumer member engagement for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

“Turning off an LED light bulb may come to mind when you think about saving energy,” he says. “But in the grand scheme of things, looking at EIA’s numbers, it’s adjusting your thermostat that’s going to make the biggest difference.”

Other appliances and devices consume even smaller shares of our total energy use. Eight percent of residential electricity use comes from a combination of computers, freezers, washing machines, dishwashers and cooking appliances. Other home energy users include a range of devices like small appliances, exterior lights, outdoor grills and spa heaters.

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 by 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 heating and air conditioning, the weather is

through a summer of social distancing

LOWERING YOUR WATER HEATER TEMPERATURE TO

120° 

IS AN EASY WAY TO SAVE ENERGY

FOR EVERY 10°
REDUCED

SAVE 3% TO 5%
ON

WATER HEATING COSTS

expected to be mild leading EIA to project a 1.3% decline in residential electric sales this year. However, those predictions could be adjusted depending on how quickly businesses reopen and whether they adopt new ways of operating.

With many unknowns in 2020 patterns of energy use, EIA's forecast tried to imagine what's going on inside our homes to make their projections for the year. EIA's 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 the summer months is also likely to increase.

Small adjustments for significant savings

During summer months, setting your thermostat a few degrees higher than normal can make a significant difference in energy use. The Department of Energy recommends setting your thermostat to 78 degrees or higher when possible. Consumers can achieve additional energy savings by investing in a smart or programmable thermostat.

In addition to monitoring your thermostat, Dennis suggests keeping an eye on another significant energy user, your water heater.

According to the Department of Energy, lowering your water heater temperature to 120 degrees is an easy way to save energy. For every 10 degrees reduced, consumers can save 3% to 5% on water heating costs. Dennis also recommends replacing an older, less efficient water heater with a newer, energy-efficient model that could pay for itself in the long run.

For persistently high energy bills,

DURING SUMMER MONTHS, THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY RECOMMENDS SETTING YOUR THERMOSTAT TO 78 DEGREES OR HIGHER WHEN POSSIBLE.

78°



Even though many of us are spending more time at home due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Energy Information Administration projects that 2020 residential energy use will decline by 1.3%. But those projections may change depending on how quickly businesses reopen and Americans get back to work. If you're looking to reduce energy use, monitor how you cool and heat your home, which is where the biggest potential for saving energy lies.

contact your local electric co-op for a thorough evaluation of your home and how you use energy. Consumers can also find a wide range of additional ways to save energy at www.energystar.gov.

Small changes to energy use habits, like turning off lights when you leave a room or unplugging devices when not in use, can help you save. But to make the most significant difference in energy use – even during a global pandemic – pay attention to how you heat and cool your home. That's where the biggest potential for saving energy lies. ⚡

Paul Wesslund writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the national trade association representing more than 900 local electric cooperatives.

SUMMER'S BEST
★ ★ ★
BURGER
RECIPES



Grilled Pineapple Burgers

Source for grilling tips: Kevin Kolman, Weber's "Head Grill Master" and leading barbecue expert in the country. For more tips, visit <https://bit.ly/2B727y4>.

- 2 pounds ground beef
- 3 tablespoons Italian salad dressing
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/8 teaspoon pepper
- 1 15-ounce can unsweetened sliced pineapple
- bacon
- 3/4 cup barbecue sauce
- 1/4 cup packed brown sugar
- 1/4 cup honey
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice

Mix ground beef, dressing, salt and pepper. Shape into patties. Press pineapple into each burger and wrap with bacon. Mix barbecue sauce, brown sugar, honey and lemon juice in a pan and cook until hot. Pour hot mixture over patties. Marinate overnight before grilling. May use some of the sauce on burgers while grilling.

**Becky Pierschbacher • Chariton
Clarke Electric Cooperative, Inc.**

Spinach and Sun-Dried Tomato Burgers

- 1 teaspoon olive oil
- 1/2 cup onion, finely chopped
- 2 tablespoon sun-dried tomatoes, chopped
- 1 cup baby spinach
- 1 teaspoon kosher salt
- 1/2 teaspoon black pepper
- 1 pound ground turkey breast

Heat olive oil in skillet over medium heat. Add onion and sauté for 2-3 minutes. Add tomatoes, spinach, salt and pepper. Cook for an additional 1-2 minutes until spinach is wilted, set aside to cool. Once cooled, combine with turkey and mix to form burgers. Freeze or grill immediately.

**Courtney Walter • Exira
Guthrie County Rural Electric Cooperative Association**

Bacon Onion Burgers

- 1 pound bacon
- 2 pounds beef
- 1 medium onion, diced

Cook bacon and crumble. Combine beef, bacon and onion. Form into patties and cook.

**Rebecca Hancox • Plano
Chariton Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc.**

Krautburgers

- 1 1/2 pounds ground beef
- 2 eggs
- 8 ounces sauerkraut
- 1/2 cup cracker crumbs
- 1/2 cup mushrooms
- 1 tablespoon pimentos
- 1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce
- 2 tablespoons barbecue sauce

Mix all ingredients together. Grill, pan fry or broil.

**Denise Anderson • Ocheyedan
Osceola Electric Cooperative, Inc.**



Search our online recipe archive for thousands of recipes from Iowa's rural kitchens.

www.livingwithenergyiowa.com/recipes

PREHEAT THE GRILL

Preheat your grill with the lid closed for 10 to 15 minutes. With all the coals glowing red, or all the gas burners on high, the temperature under the lid should reach 500 degrees F.

Better Burgers

- 1 can mushrooms
- 2 pounds of ground beef or pork
- ½ cup sauerkraut
- ¼ cup Italian dressing
- salt and pepper
- bacon

Drain and chop mushrooms into small pieces. Mix meat, mushrooms, sauerkraut, dressing, salt and pepper. Form into patties and wrap a strip of bacon around each of the patties. Secure with toothpicks. These are delicious when grilled but can also be broiled or fried.

Allyson Bailey • Hamilton
Chariton Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Country Kitchen Burgers

- 2 pounds ground hamburger
- 1 cup raw potatoes, grated
- 1 cup raw carrots, grated
- 1 small onion, chopped
- 2 eggs
- ⅔ cup tomato sauce
- 1 cup breadcrumbs
- salt and pepper

Mix hamburger, potatoes, carrots and onion (can use chicken, turkey or veal in place of hamburger). Add eggs, tomato sauce, breadcrumbs, salt and pepper, or other spices to taste. Make patties. Grill, cook in a skillet or put mixture in a large pan and cover with ketchup to make meatloaf (bake at 350 degrees F for 1 hour).

Patti Carson • Osceola
Clarke Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Tangy Pork Patties

- 2 pounds ground pork
- 1½ teaspoon seasoned salt
- 1 teaspoon garlic salt
- 1 green pepper, chopped
- ¼ cup brown sugar
- ⅓ cup vinegar
- 2 tablespoons soy sauce
- 1 can sliced pineapple, drained
- 8 to 10 bacon slices

Mix the first seven ingredients well. Shape into 8 to 10 patties and top with pineapple rings. Wrap bacon slice around each patty and secure with wooden toothpick. Grill pineapple side down first, 10 minutes per side.

Sue Warner • Rock Rapids
Lyon Rural Electric Cooperative

Pimento Cheese Bacon Burgers

- 1 pound ground sirloin
- 1 pound ground chuck
- 1 teaspoon salt
- ½ teaspoon ground pepper
- ¼ cup mixed chopped herbs of choice (basil or oregano)
- optional toppings: pimento cheese, crisp cooked bacon slices, sliced tomato, lettuce, hamburger buns

Preheat grill to 350 degrees F. Combine first four ingredients. Stir herbs into the mixture, then shape into 6 patties. Grill with the lid on for 4-5 minutes on each side so burger is no longer pink in center. Place burger on bun and add toppings.

Dave Duit • Nevada • Consumers Energy

DIRECT VS. INDIRECT HEAT

Direct heat (when the fire is directly below the food) is best for relatively small, tender pieces of food that cook in 20 minutes or less. Indirect heat (when the fire is on either side of the food) is best for larger, tougher cuts of meat that require more than 20 minutes of cooking.

GRILLING TIPS

TAME THE FLAME

Too many flare-ups can burn your food. Keep the lid on as much as possible. This limits the amount of oxygen inside the grill, which will help extinguish any flare-ups.

GRILLING TIPS

Wanted: Thanksgiving Pie Recipes! The Reward: \$25 for every one we publish!



A Thanksgiving feast isn't complete without pie! Whether the recipe has been handed down for generations or it's a new one, share your favorites! If we run your recipe in the magazine, we'll send a \$25 credit for your electric co-op to apply to your power bill. Recipes submitted also may be archived on our website at www.livingwithenergyiowa.com.

The deadline is July 31, 2020. Please include your name, address, telephone number, co-op name and the recipe category on all submissions.

EMAIL:
recipes@livingwithenergyiowa.com
(Attach your recipe as a Word document or PDF to your email message.)

MAIL:
Recipes
Living with Energy in Iowa
8525 Douglas Ave., Suite 48
Des Moines, IA 50322-2992

KEEP YOUR GRILL CLEAN

When bits of food have stuck to your cooking grate, and the grate is hot, clean it with a stainless steel brush. This step is not only for cleanliness, it also prevents your food from sticking.

GRILLING TIPS

Iowa companies pivot to address COVID-19 needs

BY KAY SNYDER

The COVID-19 pandemic has created many challenges and also some unforeseen opportunities for Iowa businesses and industries. Many Iowa companies have adjusted, innovated and stepped up to fill needs in the form of personal protective equipment, sanitizer and testing components. Iowa's electric cooperatives serve a number of these companies.

For nearly 35 years, the Iowa Area Development Group and its electric utility partners have presented Iowa Venture Awards. In total, 272 organizations have been recognized for their significant contributions to Iowa's economy through entrepreneurial leadership, innovation and job creation. In this article, we spotlight companies who, during the pandemic and in the course of typical business operations, continue to demonstrate the qualities they were recognized for as Iowa Venture Award recipients.

Iowa's ethanol producers

As travel and the demand for fuel plummeted as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the ethanol industry experienced a significant downturn. With an available product and the desire to help in a time of need, many plants have sold or donated ethanol and glycerin to produce hand sanitizer.

Members of the Iowa Renewable Fuels Association (IRFA) donated products to Iowa Prison Industries to make hand sanitizer. To date, these donations helped to create more than 25,000 gallons of hand sanitizer, which is equivalent to 46 million single uses. The hand sanitizer is provided free of charge and distributed through the State of Iowa emergency center. Recipients include major state agencies, hospitals, daycares, jails and more.

"It's incredible to watch this project

grow as Iowa ethanol producers continue to step up to fight the spread of COVID-19," says IRFA Executive Director Monte Shaw. "We applaud Gov. Reynolds and Iowa Prison Industries for working to make this manufacture of hand sanitizer possible."

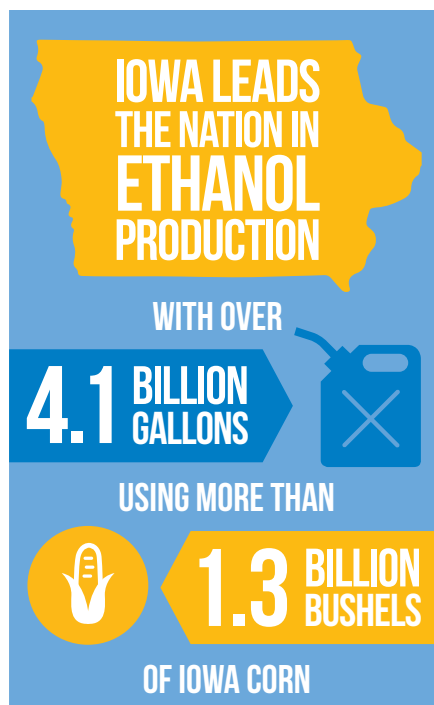


including weekend shifts, to produce up to 30,000 face shields per day. Brownmed also produces protective gloves and shoe coverings to support frontline medical workers.

Brownmed has adopted the motto "find a way" and lives that mantra every day. In anticipation of increased demand for personal protection, the company began producing cloth masks for the general public. This effort was even before the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommended that everyone wear cloth masks in public places. Brownmed established a satellite production site in Spencer by partnering with Community Insurance Group to use its facility. Enthusiastic students from Spencer and Lake Park have also joined Brownmed's efforts at the production facilities.

Brownmed continues to give priority to Iowa hospitals and other in-state facilities. As its production capabilities have expanded, the company has been able to grow to nationwide distribution.

"Every person on staff in our Iowa locations is a hero," says Brownmed President Kyla Garver. "They exemplify the hard work and determination Iowans are known for, and I hope they know they are saving lives."



Iowa's electric cooperatives have honored 11 ethanol plants with an Iowa Venture Award.

Brownmed, Inc.

In early March, as the COVID-19 pandemic spread to Iowa, Spirit Lake manufacturer Brownmed quickly identified ways it could help provide necessary personal protective equipment to local medical facilities. The company, which manufactures innovative orthopedic products like cast and bandage protectors, arm slings, cold therapy wraps and kinetic sleeves, added additional products to its company offerings. The staff is working extended hours,

Brownmed is a 2013 Iowa Venture Award recipient, nominated by Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative.






Hy-Capacity

Humboldt’s Hy-Capacity is another Iowa manufacturer that felt an immediate desire to help the medical community safe as they work amid the coronavirus. Molly Varangkounh, president of Hy-Capacity, says Humboldt County Memorial Hospital (HCMH) needed masks and asked if the company could help.

Hy-Capacity, a manufacturer and supplier of heavy-duty tractor parts, also has a sewing department that makes tractor seats that could accommodate the request for masks. Workers made a couple of prototypes, then reached out to Jensen Trailers, who produced aluminum nose pieces that could be sewn into the mask to provide the necessary fit. Hy-Capacity is also sewing hospital gowns at the request of HCMH.

“It is important for us to support our community,” Varangkounh says. “Many Hy-Capacity employees and their family members have helped with making hundreds of cloth masks.”



Hy-Capacity is a 1998 Iowa Venture Award recipient nominated by Midland Power Cooperative. 

Integrated DNA Technologies

Coralville company Integrated DNA Technologies (IDT) was the first company in the nation to have its primer and probe kits approved by the CDC for use as a key component of the testing protocol for the diagnosis and detection of COVID-19. IDT quickly achieved large-scale manufacturing. As of early June, it had produced primer and probe kits sufficient to enable more than 34 million tests to be conducted in the U.S. pursuant to the CDC Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) testing protocol.

In early June, IDT and Sherlock Biosciences announced the companies’ strategic collaboration to enable large-scale manufacturing of the Sherlock™ CRISPR SARS-CoV-2 kit to detect the novel coronavirus that causes COVID-19. This new test is the first CRISPR-based diagnostic test to receive EUA use for the detection of SARS-CoV-2. It does not require specialized instruments to complete the test and uses standard laboratory equipment, providing a turnaround time of approximately one hour, significantly faster than other testing methods. IDT supports the manufacturing of the kit by supplying several key components on which the test is based. IDT’s product quality, speed and ability to scale are key factors in bringing the Sherlock kit to market.

“Sherlock has developed a unique methodology for quick and specific detection of SARS-CoV-2, and IDT is proud to leverage our high-quality products to support this groundbreaking testing method,” says Trey Martin, president of IDT.

In addition to its manufacturing headquarters in Coralville, IDT has manufacturing sites in California, North Carolina, Belgium and Singapore.



Integrated DNA Technologies is a 2001 Iowa Venture Award recipient nominated by Linn County REC. 

Stories of people, companies, and communities stepping up to support efforts to address the challenges created by the COVID-19 pandemic are many. Iowa’s electric cooperatives thank our members and others who have donated time, talents, resources and care to navigate these turbulent times. ⚡

Kay Snyder is the director of marketing and communications for the Iowa Area Development Group.

OFFICE UPDATES

Lobby updated with safety measures

During the last couple of months, some changes have been made at Access Energy Cooperative's headquarters facilities to offer a safer atmosphere for members and employees. A glass barrier was added to the front counter, allowing us to re-open the office lobby for members and the public. ⚡



SAFETY MATTERS

Move Over Slow Down

Access Energy Cooperative line workers operate dangerous equipment, keeping your power on. The last thing they need to worry about is being hit by an oncoming vehicle.

As things open back up and people are out and about again, please remember that if you see line workers on the side of the road, move over to the other lane and slow down. You may not hear them – but they are thanking you!



PRIVACY POLICY

Information we collect

Access Energy Cooperative will receive and retain information about member-consumers through applications or other forms; transactions with us, our affiliates, or others; from a consumer-reporting agency; and advanced metering infrastructure.

Access Energy Cooperative will limit the use and collection of nonpublic personal information to that which is necessary to maintain and administer financial services, beneficial in designing, operating and maintaining the cooperative's electric system to offer affordable and reliable electric service.

This information will not be shared with third parties unless: the information is provided to help complete a member-consumer/customer initiated transaction; the member-consumer/customer has requested it; the disclosure is required by law, warrant, or court order; or the disclosure is required by banking regulation.

"Third Party" is defined as any person or entity other than: employees of the cooperative; the cooperative's designated legal counsel; or any entity contractually bound to the cooperative to provide billing or collection services

for electric cooperative accounts. When member-consumer/customer information is provided to any third parties, that third party must be bound by appropriate confidentiality and non-disclosure obligations.

Access Energy Cooperative limits employee access to member-consumer/customer information to those with a business reason for knowing such information. All employees are educated on the importance of confidentiality and member-consumer/customer privacy. Any employee that violates the privacy of our member-consumers/customers will be subject to appropriate disciplinary measures and possible termination.

Appropriate physical, electronic, and managerial procedures to safeguard and secure information are put in place to prevent unauthorized access, maintain data accuracy, and to ensure the correct use of information.

Right to be informed

Information regarding operational aspects of the cooperative's advanced metering infrastructure (AMI) and related programs will be made available to members as requested.

Member-consumers will be better

informed about their electricity consumption.

Member-consumers will have access to information that helps explain available billing rate structures and options, outage information, peak demand, and the impact of energy consumption habits with the AMI.

The purpose of the collection, use, retention, and sharing of energy consumption data shall be made known to the member-consumers in a clear and transparent manner.

Member-consumers will be informed of the available choices and consent options regarding the collection, use, and disclosure of energy consumption data.

Requests to correct inaccurate information will be responded to in a timely manner.

Member-consumers who wish to file a privacy violation complaint have the right to submit the same to the cooperative for resolution. If not satisfied with the resolution proposed by the cooperative staff, the same may be submitted to the cooperative's board of directors for a resolution. If the issue is still not resolved to the member-consumer's satisfaction, the member-consumer may pursue alternative remedies. ⚡

Access Energy Cooperative announces early retirement of dividends to members

In recognition of financial strain members may be experiencing because of COVID-19, Access Energy Cooperative's board of directors voted to return patronage dividends early to members this year. All dividend checks were sent via U.S. mail to members between mid-June and July 1.

After reviewing the operating revenues for 2019, your board of directors approved a dividend retirement of \$1,182,565 for this year, which includes a pass-through amount of \$348,237 from Northeast Missouri Electric Power Cooperative. The cooperative will pay off 100% of

any remaining dividends for 1998; as well as 41% of 1999, 54% of 2005, 7% of 2006 and 10% of 2019. Returning a portion of a deferred year(s) patronage and a portion of the current year's patronage allocation allows both long-time and new cooperative members to receive benefits of cooperative membership.

Checks are distributed to members based on the amount of dividends in their account for the years being paid. Accounts with payment of less than \$5 will continue to accumulate and will be paid in the year they reach or exceed \$5.

Normally, patronage dividend



checks are distributed in conjunction with the Annual Meeting of Members in August. This year, due to the COVID-19 pandemic the Annual Meeting format has changed. Please see Pages 4-5 for details on this year's Annual Meeting. ⚡

FINANCIAL MATTERS

Iowa Utilities Board lifts disconnection moratorium

Effective May 28, 2020, the Iowa Utilities Board lifted the disconnection moratorium for Iowa electric cooperatives and municipal utilities. In response, effective June 1, 2020, Access Energy Cooperative resumed normal disconnection procedures as specified in the cooperative tariff.

Access Energy Cooperative is a locally owned, not-for-profit cooperative. The cost-based rate structure of a cooperative limits the resources available to a cooperative for handling increased rates of nonpayment. We have taken steps to help those who have been financially impacted by the pandemic, which included waiving late payment fees and canceling disconnections for nonpayment in March, April and May.

Member-consumers who are experiencing financial hardships are encouraged to proactively contact Access Energy Cooperative to discuss payment options to avoid potential disconnection of service. Please



contact the billing department at 319-385-1577 or 866-242-4232.

As more time is spent at home during the pandemic, you may experience increases in your home energy use, which will also affect utility bill amounts. To find ways to help lower energy usage, visit www.accessenergycoop.com, follow us on Facebook @AccessEnergyCoop, or contact our member services department. ⚡

FREE FOR MEMBERS

2021 calendars available Aug. 1



With the changes to the 2020 Annual Meeting of Members, we will be unable to distribute the 2021 Access Energy Cooperative calendars in person at the meeting. Beginning Aug. 1, members can pick up the free calendar at our office located at 1800 West Washington Street, Mount Pleasant, during our office hours of Monday through Thursday 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and Friday 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Congratulations to the artists who submitted the winning photos featured in the calendar and received \$50.

Start collecting your photos to send in for next year's calendar! ⚡

E-transportation zips along

BY MARIA KANEVSKY

Ten years ago, electric vehicles were a rare sight, but today, you see them on roadways across Iowa. Advancements in battery technology have led to smaller, even more efficient batteries, which has opened the door to new forms of electric transportation, or e-transportation.

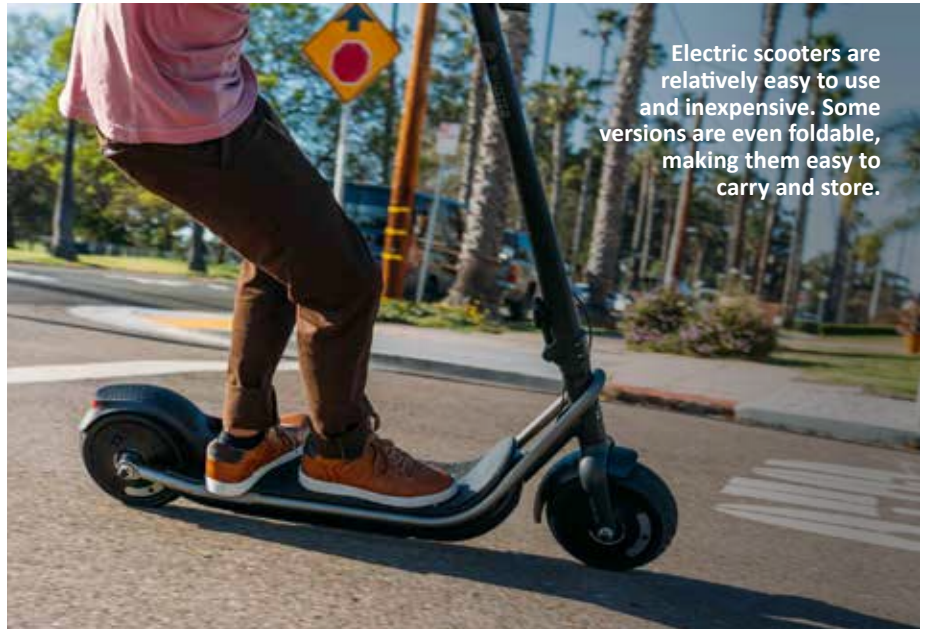
Electric scooters

One of the newer forms of electric transportation is the electric scooter. They're relatively easy to use and inexpensive. Some versions are even foldable, making them easy to carry and store. Several electric scooter rental companies offer their services in many major cities, making it especially easy to find a nearby scooter to use for a limited time. Electric scooters' small wheels are only meant to be ridden on paved surfaces like sidewalks, and their limited range and speed also make them unsuitable for long-distance travel.

Electric bicycles, skateboards, unicycles and motorcycles

Another newer form of electric transportation is the electric bicycle. These modern versions of the familiar bicycle offer the same ease of use while requiring much less physical exertion. Travelers can ride longer distances without being as fatigued, and they can be parked easily at bike racks.

Some of these electric forms of



Electric scooters are relatively easy to use and inexpensive. Some versions are even foldable, making them easy to carry and store.

Photo Source: Boosted

transportation can be used for recreation in addition to everyday use. For example, the electric skateboard has additional power that a typical skateboard does not have, and the user can still perform tricks while riding it. Electric roller skates are another example, which are just as entertaining as regular roller skates, and users can maintain fast speeds without the effort. While these electric modes of transportation are fun, their faster speeds can also make them more dangerous, which makes it especially important to wear helmets and knee pads.

For those looking for more exciting forms of e-transportation, there are many innovative options being developed. One of these is the electric unicycle, which is a self-balancing device. You can speed up and slow down the device by simply leaning forward or backward. The electric unicycle is easy to store or carry

around, and its large wheel can drive on a variety of terrains like grass, gravel, curbs and potholes. The major drawback is that it's relatively difficult to learn how to ride the electric unicycle, so be prepared to spend a few hours learning how it works.

For even faster speeds, there is the electric motorcycle. This mode of transportation has many benefits compared to gas-powered motorcycles, such as increased performance, less maintenance and lower fuel costs.

Since these technologies are relatively new and more complex, price tags for all these modes of transportation will be higher than their conventional counterparts. Each mode includes a variety of features, so it's essential to consider all options. Before purchasing any of these newer forms of e-transportation, make sure you do research to find the mode of transportation that best matches your needs. ⚡



For those with the need for speed, electric motorcycles offer many benefits when compared to their gas-powered counterparts.

Photo Source: Zero Motorcycles

Maria Kanevsky is a program analyst for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the national trade association representing more than 900 local electric cooperatives.

A letter to summer

BY VALERIE VAN KOOTEN

Dear Summer,

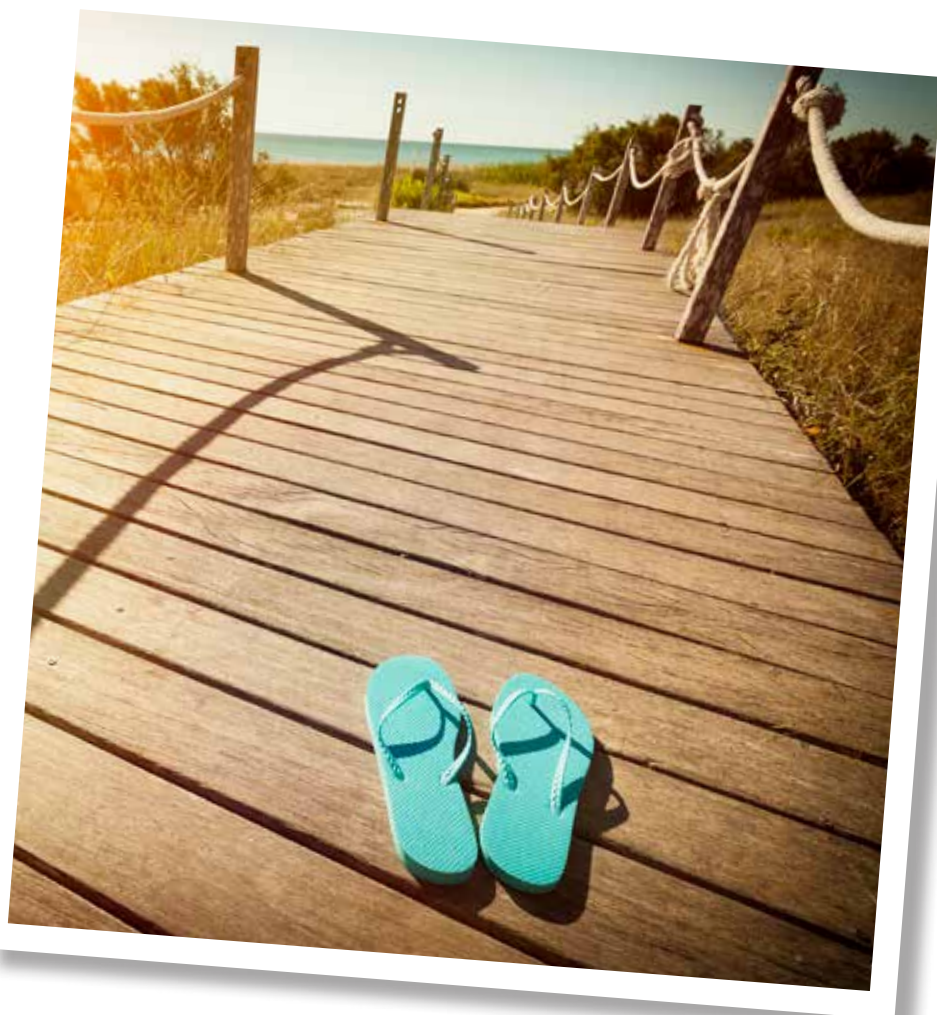
As you appear to be making your annual debut, I'd like to request a few things for your consideration. We go back a long way, you and me, and I feel secure enough in our relationship to broach this subject.

First, could we cut the number of outdoor picnics that involve schlepping food to a filthy, bug-encrusted picnic table in a shelter house somewhere? I'm all for eating al fresco, but my prepared food barely makes it from the oven to the table, let alone from my kitchen to the wilderness. The heat makes the gelatin melt, and the meatballs usually slop sauce into my backseat. In case you are not amenable to this request, I will invest in some foil pans that can be dumped when I don't claim said item. Who brought that pink glop? Not I.

And then, can we nix flip-flops unless we're at the beach or getting a pedicure? The plasticky squelch-squelch that they make when walking drives me nuts. You have to proceed strangely while wearing them so that the front doesn't get caught and curl underneath. And I won't even start on why they're called "flip-flops" now, and they were called "thongs" when I was a girl. You don't have time.

Of course, you knew I was going to mention humidity, and you're right, it stinks, but not for the reasons most people hate it. Friends say their hair gets all crazy and kinky. However, for those of us with fine, limp hair, ours goes even flatter. Could I have a bunch of crazy instead this year?

Let's talk about summer air conditioning. It may be 95 degrees with 90 percent humidity outdoors, but I guarantee you that once I walk into a movie theater or my office,



I will freeze. As in, the-heater-is-going-under-my-desk frozen. It's crazy to walk into a movie and see the patrons there all bundled up in sweaters and scarves ... in July. What gives?

Can we set a schedule and stick to it? Once September rolls around, can you gracefully bow out? I hope this doesn't hurt your feelings, but fall is really my favorite. Summer is a steppingstone to fall. Have your fun over Labor Day weekend, and then skedaddle. I get testy when it's the end of September and I can't light my pumpkin-spice candle. You've had your season; then it's time to bid adieu.

I don't have time here to discuss tornadoes, mosquitoes, inappropriate swimwear or the misery of camping. No time to expound on sand in everything, the way my dog smells or gas prices that spike in the summer. But I'm sure you've heard all those things before.

Thanks for listening, Summer. We can get along okay together with a few concessions. At least, we can until after Labor Day. ⚡

Valerie Van Kooten is a writer from Pella who loves living in the country and telling its stories. She and her husband Kent have three married sons and two incredibly adorable grandsons.



Touchstone Energy®
Cooperatives

DRIVE ELECTRIC

The average electric vehicle can save a driver who drives 15,000 miles in a year about \$850 annually on fuel. All-electric vehicles start to pay for themselves a long time before they reach the end of their expected lifespans, leading to significant savings over time.

-Fleet Carma

CONTACT YOUR LOCAL CO-OP FOR MORE INFORMATION.

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