

living with energy

IN IOWA



OCTOBER 2016

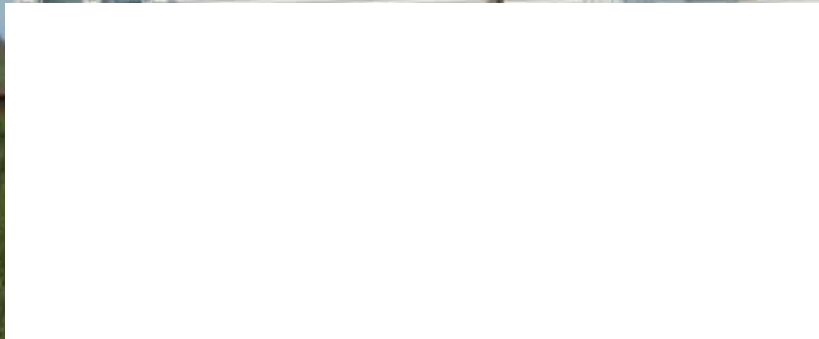
THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION FOR MEMBER-OWNERS OF ACCESS ENERGY COOPERATIVE

October is
**National
Co-op
Month!**

Electric co-op
careers offer a
**paycheck and
a purpose**

Treasure Chest
List inside –
**Do you know
these people?**

Balance
technology and
common sense
**for maximum
energy
savings**





OCTOBER ENERGY SAVER

An average household dedicates about 5 percent of its energy budget to lighting. Switching to energy-efficient lighting is one of the fastest ways to cut your energy bills. By replacing your home's five most frequently used light fixtures or bulbs with models that have earned the ENERGY STAR® rating, you can save \$75 each year.

Source: energy.gov

Office Closing

The Access Energy Cooperative office will be closed Nov. 24-25 for Thanksgiving.



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

Office: Access Energy Cooperative
1800 W. Washington St., P.O. Box 440
Mount Pleasant, Iowa 52641

Phone: 319-385-1577 or 866-242-4232

Fax: 319-385-6873

Call Before You Dig (Iowa One Call): 800-292-8989

Website: www.accessenergycoop.com

Facebook: facebook.com/AccessEnergyCoop

Twitter: twitter.com/AccessEnergyC

E-mail: contactus@accessenergycoop.com

Office Hours: Monday-Thursday, 7 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Friday, 7 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Closed Saturday, Sunday and holidays

After Hours and Report Outages: 319-385-1580 or 800-452-7819

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

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Robert Smith	District 2	Director
Marvin Holtkamp	District 3	Director
Victor Pierrot	District 3	Director

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Local Perspective

Here's why we celebrate cooperatives

BY KEVIN WHEELER

Every October, cooperatives from all sectors of the country celebrate National Cooperative Month. The purpose of this annual celebration is to recognize the cooperative difference and remind you, the members of the co-op, about Access Energy Cooperative's purpose.

I must admit that occasionally, I too have been somewhat cynical of the many different "days" and "months" that are celebrated, but National Cooperative Month isn't one of them. This month, we take the opportunity to inform others about our unique business model, which is based on Seven Cooperative Principles:

- Voluntary and Open Membership
- Democratic Member Control
- Members' Economic Participation
- Autonomy and Independence
- Education, Training and Information
- Cooperation Among Cooperatives
- Concern for Community

For co-op employees and members who are familiar with the principles, the month of October is a great opportunity to renew our connection to each other and the purpose of our

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

Across the U.S., there are more than 29,000 co-ops serving every single industry, and these co-ops join together during the month of October to educate members in the community about cooperatives. Co-

ops are even well-represented on the shelves at our local grocery stores; you'll probably recognize names like Land O'Lakes, Welch's, Organic Valley, Cabot Cheese, Sunkist, Ocean Spray – and there are many more.

According to the latest data, more than 130 million people in the U.S. belong to a co-op, and co-ops employ more than two million Americans. This speaks to the heart of why we must take every opportunity to celebrate and teach others about the cooperative business model. So, plan your own co-op celebration by purchasing co-op products, look to do business with co-ops right here in our local community and be an active member of Access Energy Cooperative. ⚡

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



First 250 receive a FREE blanket
at the Mount Pleasant - Fairfield football game in Mt. Pleasant
October 14 @ 7pm
Mt. Pleasant vs. Fairfield

Do you know these people?

We're searching for these members whose dividend checks didn't reach them. If you know the whereabouts of any of

these people, please contact our accounting department at finance@accessenergycoop.com or call 866-242-4232. ⚡

Adair, Steve E
 Anderson, Patricia A/Robert L
 Arenz, James L
 Askew, Gary L/Sharon
 Bell, Franklin S/Nancy
 Benz, Randy/Becky
 Biggs, Bryan/Maria S
 Binns, John W/Linda K
 Bishop, Arleta J Estate
 Blankenship, Paul D
 Blow, Scott L
 Boatman, Michael/Brittain,
 Twilia Jo
 Bowen & Grote Farms
 Brodka, Randall
 Brown, Gary E
 Brown, Mathew W
 Brown, Terry A/Evelyn
 Burmeister, Kurt L
 Busse, Robert L/Margaret
 Butler, Bob W/Kathy
 Calhoun, Joe
 Coleman, Gary H
 Conrad, Randy/Kerry
 Contel Cellular Inc
 Coop, Russell R/Phyllis
 Crile, Keith A
 Crosby, Lynn
 Crouse, Bryan
 CSI LTD
 Danaher, Chris/Laura
 Davis, Brent/Darcie
 Delashmutt, Patrick J/Cynthia
 Dhaliwal, Mike
 Dillman, David E
 Dilmore, Terry A/Sharon M
 Eklund, Mark/Rhonda R
 Enright, Ernest/Margaret
 Evans, Everett E/Janet
 Everett, James C
 Farrier, Donnie Jr

Featherston, Susan
 Fluoro-Seal International LP
 Fohey Family Farms Inc
 Fox, Donald W Estate
 Franks, Nancy
 Garles, Gary/Geraldine
 Garretson Equipment Co
 Gibbons, John
 Giberson, Russell/Toni
 Gouveia, Rena V
 Greek, Leland/Candy
 Gregory, Winn H
 GTE Mobil Net
 GTE Telephone Operations
 Hallman, William
 Hawkins, William/Diana
 Hayward, Frank E/Janet
 Health Software Inc
 Helmick, Charles
 Hill, Robert L
 Hodson, Patrick L
 Hollander, Jim/Sally
 Hollander, Robert W/Rhonda
 Hopkins, Doris
 Howell, David W
 Hughes, Ron
 Hungerford, Mark/Annetta
 IES Utilities
 Iowa Beef Producers
 Irwin, Andrew
 Johnson, Diana
 Johnson, James/Deborah
 Jones, James D/Maureen D
 Kelly, Grant D
 Kelly, John/Linda M
 Knutson, Theodore M Estate
 Konhaus, John C/Sara
 Kreiss, Troy L/Michelle
 Krueger, Larry
 Kurrle, Wanda Y
 Lake, Charles/Paula

Lanferman, Margaret A
 Langford, Michael
 Lay, Roy Estate
 Lerud, David A
 Levin (Spano), Diana A
 Lewis, Thomas D/Deborah
 Lohman, Donna K
 Lopez, Jessie J Jr/Rebecca
 Lowell Church
 M & M Enterprises
 Marlin, William C/Sala
 Martin, Gerald A
 Masters, Jerry/Lucille
 McBride, Chester
 McConnell, Lawrence W
 McCurdy, David L/Judith
 McDonald, Michael/Daniels,
 Jeffrey
 McGaffick, Mathew
 Meyer, Karry D
 Miller, Rodney W/Tami
 Miller (Elliott), Vickie L
 Mills, Michael J
 Moeller, Ray/Kathy
 Moothart, Douglas D Estate
 Morrissey, Colleen R
 Moser, James E
 Moser, William/Sandra L
 Mount, Robert
 Murray, Raymond B/Diana
 Nelson, Delbert
 Newpath Communications
 Niggemeyer, Sharron K
 North, Susan
 Northwestern Bell
 Otto, Jan P/Kathy
 Parriott, Lyle
 Pendry, Larry/Catherine
 Perez, Ruben/Iraida S
 Phillips, John/Deborah
 Pohren, Jack L/Donna

Poss, Ronald/Tammy
 Prayer, Barry
 Quinn, Sandy/Penrod, Anthony
 Ravey, Tom/Diane
 Remick, Judith
 Roberts, Larry J/Garcia, Barbara
 Rockin M Ranch
 Roland, Gary/Paula
 Rusk, Edward T
 Sanders, William H
 Savage, Darrell G/Swan, Penny
 Schafer, Sharon
 Schewe, Karen S
 Schillie, Lula
 Schmidt, Chris/Linda
 Shirley, William C
 Shull, Delores S
 Side Line Truck Shop
 Sinclair, Joseph S
 Smith, Fern
 Sp Grove Mobile Homes
 Stakland, Steven K
 Stanford, Tom
 Stensland, Kelvin
 Stortz, Willard R
 Underwood, Virginia F
 Upton, Steve
 Wagler, E Jean
 Wagner, Marcus G
 Walrod, Bob E
 Watkins, Wendell E
 Weber, Geraldine A
 Williams, Larry W/Maranna
 Wilson, Gerald A JR/Martha
 Wolfer, Mike
 Woodside, Robert/Winfred
 Woodsmall, Anna/Richard Craig
 Worsh, Jill H
 Wright, Max W/Catherine
 Wymer, Carol

Editor's Choice Contest

Win \$100 in products to winterize your home!



Here's a little incentive to finish the energy-saving outdoor projects you've been putting off: a \$100 *Living with Energy in Iowa* Energy-Saving Gift Card you can use to buy things such as caulking, weather stripping or even an airtight dryer vent from your favorite local hardware or building supply store. To enter this month's contest, go to the *Living with Energy in Iowa* website at www.livingwithenergyiniowa.com and submit the entry form by Oct. 31, 2016. ⚡

In the Community

Help others by contributing to RECare

RECare is a program where members help other members in need. You may make a one-time contribution to the RECare program, or you may enclose an amount each month with your monthly electric bill.

Just one dollar a month will help others. The Iowa Community Action Program administers this effort, and recipients must meet their guidelines. ⚡



RECare
Because You Care
Help others with just \$1 per month!

Authorization Form

I am sending a check to make a onetime contribution of \$_____.

I would like to make a monthly contribution of \$_____.
(I understand this will be added to my bill every month until I notify you to stop.)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

ZIP Code _____

Phone # _____

E-mail _____

Account # (if known) _____

Send this form to:
Access Energy Cooperative
Attn: RECare
P.O. Box 440
Mt. Pleasant, IA 52641

Action Alert

Be aware of scams!

Please be advised of potential scams regarding your utility bill. There are scammers making phone calls to area businesses posing as Access Energy Cooperative.

Police have responded to scams that involved people calling customers posing as Access Energy Cooperative customer service representatives, saying the customers are delinquent on their bill and their service will be disconnected if not paid immediately.

Access Energy Cooperative will *never* call you and ask you for personal information over the phone. We're happy to take your payment if you call us

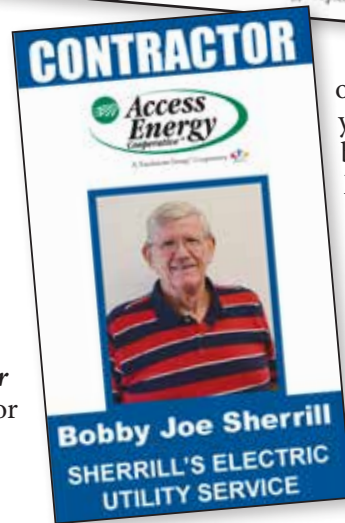
to pay your bill, but we won't call you asking for payment.

Also, Access Energy Cooperative employees and contractors carry a proper ID issued by Access Energy

Cooperative. You should ask for proper identification that looks like the examples here. In addition, you can verify questions about service work, a bill payment

or an appointment at your home or business by calling Access Energy Cooperative's customer service line at 866-242-4232.

If you receive suspicious calls or there is a suspicious person in your neighborhood, contact the local police. And if you receive a suspicious phone call, please call our office to verify the reason for the call. ⚡

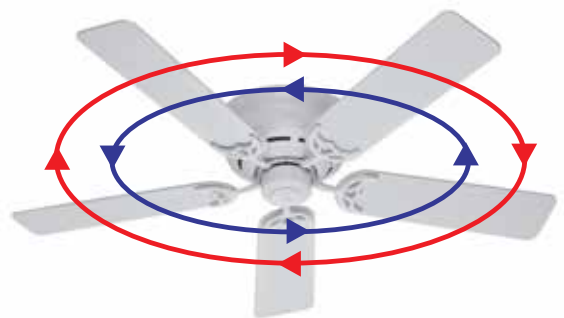


Saving Energy

Reverse the spin and save

Ceiling fans can cut your electric bills year-round, but before you run out and buy one for every room, it's important to know how fans can help you save energy. Fans cool people, not rooms, so if you install a ceiling fan and don't adjust your thermostat settings accordingly, you may be more comfortable – but you also could be increasing your monthly electric bills.

During winter, flip the small switch on the side of the ceiling fan housing to reverse the blade rotation to clockwise. Run the fan on low speed so it creates



a gentle upward breeze away from people in the room. This will push the warm air at the ceiling back down into the room, where it's needed. Because you'll feel warmer, you can set your furnace a few degrees lower to save energy (and a few dollars). ⚡

Low-interest revolving loan funds distributed locally

Access Energy Cooperative has awarded Fairfield Economic Development Association (FEDA) a \$65,000 no-interest loan to help fund the installation of a sewer main at FEDA's new Business Park along 227th St. The loan is part of Access Energy's existing revolving loan fund, which was developed using a matching grant program from USDA, and is designed to support business growth in southeast Iowa. Drish Construction is expecting to start work on the sewer line Sept. 1 and complete the project by the end of the month.

"Access Energy Cooperative has been a vital partner in the new business park's development, particularly with their assistance on the sewer expansion, as well as their plans to bring three-phase electrical service to the park later this year," noted FEDA director Adam Plagge.

Additional activity in the coopera-



...tive's Revolving Loan Fund program this month included a loan closing with Elements Family Therapy, LLC, for a \$93,400 loan for a new business startup in Mt. Pleasant. The cooperative also closed on a \$316,612 loan to MPC of Mt. Pleasant for an expansion project.

Access Energy Cooperative plays an active role in the economic development of rural Iowa. To reflect its com-

mitment, the cooperative created the Community/Economic Development Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) to improve the quality of life in rural southeast Iowa by contributing to long-term improvements in the local economy. The RLF is a local funding source with a goal of providing low-interest loans to assist with local economic and community development projects.

The cooperative's priorities include job creation and retention, diversification of the economy, improving the education and skills of the rural workforce, and upgrading the public infrastructure to improve the health, safety, and/or medical care of rural residents. This fund is administered, operated and maintained by the Access Energy Cooperative Board of Directors.

You can learn more about the loan program on our website at www.accessenergycoop.com. ⚡

Just for Kids

Help students learn about safety around electricity

It's important to Access Energy Cooperative and all of our employees to help kids learn how dangerous electricity can be if it's not respected. We offer a hands-on learning session to help students understand why it's important to take precautions around electricity. Presenters and kids have a lot of fun interacting and exchanging questions and answers.

The safety demonstration is available to kids of all ages in schools located in counties served by Access Energy Cooperative. Visit our website for a map at www.accessenergycoop.com.

What will students learn?

- Historical electricity facts
- Safely using electricity

- Safety precautions around electricity
- Safety around electrical poles, downed power lines and utility substations
- The importance of staying away from power lines during outdoor activities such as kite-flying or climbing trees

Why is the safety demonstration so much fun?

A highlight of the presentation is dressing up a volunteer student (or teacher!) in the safety equipment that allows line workers to safely work on energized power lines. Each student also receives a special gift from Access Energy Cooperative.



Here's how to schedule a session

Contact the marketing department at Access Energy Cooperative headquarters in Mt. Pleasant by calling 319-385-1577 or sending an e-mail to mktg@accessenergycoop.com. ⚡