

living with energy

IN IOWA



JUNE 2016

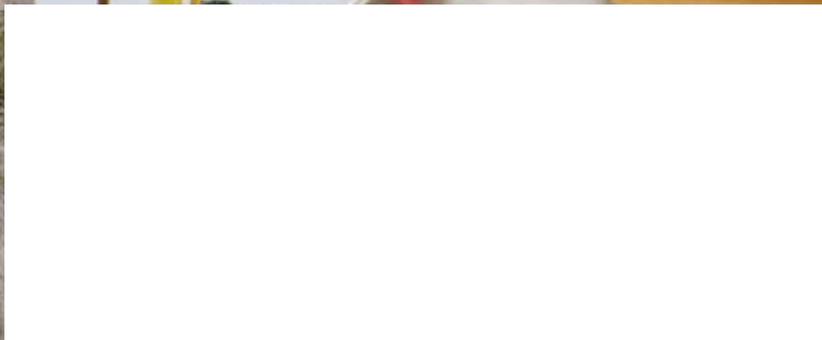
What's an
office worker
doing in the
bucket?

Win a pair of
two-way radios
with headsets!
See page 5

Ask these
questions
before hiring a
solar contractor

It's time to
**plan a
family
picnic**

Caulk
energy-wasting
air leaks in
your home



Upcoming Events

OFFICE CLOSED
July 4th

For after hours emergencies
call 1.800.452.7819
or 1.319.385.1580

AUG 2 5 PM Access Energy Cooperative
Annual Meeting of Members

WIN \$750

Bill Credit - Must be present to win



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-Friday, 7:30 a.m.-4 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.

General Manager/CEO: Kevin Wheeler

Editor: Kimberly Davis

Assistant Editor: Cherity Wibben

Officers and Directors:

Jerry Barker	District 2	President
Fred Hickenbottom	District 1	Vice President
Joseph Heckethorn	District 1	Secretary
Marvin Newton	District 3	Treasurer
David Hollingsworth	District 1	Director
Larry White	District 2	Director
Ronald Campbell	District 2	Director
Marvin Holtkamp	District 3	Director
Victor Pierrot	District 3	Director

Safety Matters

Items on utility poles are a safety hazard – and illegal

Although it may seem like a good idea, putting satellite dishes, deer stands, basketball nets, birdhouses or other items on utility poles creates serious safety hazards. Staples, nails and tacks used to hang things – as well as the items themselves – pose dangers to Access Energy Cooperative line workers who must climb the poles to restore power or to perform routine maintenance. The nails, tacks and screws left behind can snag utility workers' boots or puncture safety clothing, making line workers vulnerable to slipping or even electrocution.

In addition to being hazardous, tampering with utility poles can be costly. Posting signs or attaching other objects to utility poles is in violation of Access Energy Cooperative's electric tariff, section 19. Individuals are subject to disconnection and possible legal action.

Access Energy Cooperative encourages members to contact local zoning officers to inquire about where signage can be posted legally. ⚡



In the News

Co-op participates in statewide safety session



Kevin Wheeler, general manager/CEO of Access Energy Cooperative, was one of the presenters at a recent overhead line safety seminar for line workers from across the state. Access Energy Cooperative line workers Colton Stephens and Cole Hetzler also attended the workshop, which was sponsored by the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives.

It's a good time for saving energy

BY KEVIN WHEELER

Life can be very hectic, and we can overlook things. Your home is just like your vehicles but a bigger investment. We do routine maintenance on our vehicles every 3,000 miles, so why don't we do some routine maintenance on our homes every quarter?

As we finish spring and begin summer, it always brings back the familiar sounds we all enjoy. We hear the children outside playing, the lawn mowers cutting the grass and the crack of bats (well, we should say "ting") at the ballparks.

As we make our way to summer, it's a good time to fix the things we put off while it was cold – and make sure everything is in good working order.

Now's the best time to do some outside chores – before it gets too hot. The change in seasons is the perfect time to change or clean your furnace filter. Marking the beginning of each



season on your calendar is the best reminder to change the filter. The optimal time frame for changing the filter is once a month, but it definitely will need your attention at least every quarter. Also, take time to check your outside central air-conditioning unit to make sure the unit is uncovered and all debris is removed. If you have a window unit, uncover it and clean the filter.

Walk around your home and look at the exterior, checking for anything that's not normal. Do a careful inspection of the windows and doors to see if they need a little paint or caulking. A tube of caulking is one of the cheapest energy efficiency tools we can use. ⚡

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

Win a pair of extended-range two-way radios

These Midland GXT1000VP4 Family Radio Service radios have a maximum range up to 36 miles when there are no obstructions, so you can stay connected at work or play. The radios are waterproof, include NOAA weather alert channels and have 285 privacy codes for up to 6,270 channel options. The kit includes two radios with rechargeable batteries, a desktop charger, AC and DC adapters, and a pair of boom-style microphone headsets.



Retail price is about \$90, and you can find more information or order here: www.midlandusa.com.

Visit our website, and win!

To enter this month's contest to win a pair of extended-range two-way radios, just fill out the entry form at the *Living with Energy in Iowa* website at www.livingwithenergyiniowa.com by June 30, 2016.

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 winner of the 16 solar-powered walkway lights in the April issue was Josh Gropper, a member of Grundy County REC.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

All payments will now be processed at our office.

All payment options are still available as in the past. The only thing affected by this change is if you mail a check to our office. If you do Bill Pay through your bank and your bank pays us with a check, our address needs to be updated at your bank. Please send all payments to:

**Access Energy Cooperative
P.O. Box 440
Mt. Pleasant, IA 52641-0440**

2016 Photo Contest Winners

December 2016 Kalayna Durr <i>Dusty Evening</i>	January 2017 Dave Schneider <i>Late Evening</i>	February 2017 Tina Starnes <i>Morning Light</i>	March 2017 Cody Lee <i>The Dark in the Light</i>
April 2017 Lindi Harryman <i>Evening Sun Over the Hills</i>	May 2017 Lindi Harryman <i>Fog on the Foxtail</i>	June 2017 Dave Schneider <i>Evening Sky After the Storm</i>	July 2017 Lindi Harryman <i>Last Snack of the Day</i>
August 2017 Photographs from the 2015 Annual Meeting of Members by Jennie Borgomainerio, Donna Woldridge and Bea McDowell			
September 2017 Donna Woldridge <i>Golden Leaves</i>	October 2017 Tina Starnes <i>Daybreak</i>	November 2017 Kalayna Durr <i>Fire in the Sky</i>	December 2017 Tina Starnes <i>I See You</i>

How Your Co-op Works

Do you have a question, comment or complaint?

As a member-owner of Access Energy Cooperative, assistance is available to you in resolving questions, comments or complaints about your electric service. The cooperative has trained representatives available to answer your questions and address any concerns you may have.

Here's how to contact our office:

Mail Access Energy Cooperative
P.O. Box 440
Mt. Pleasant, IA 52641

Phone 866-242-4232

If your question is related to our service, rather than rates, and the concern is not resolved, you may request assistance from the Iowa Utilities Board:

Mail Customer Service
Iowa Utilities Board
Dept. of Commerce
1375 E. Court Avenue,
Room 69
Des Moines, IA 50319-0069

Phone 515-725-7321 or
877-565-4450

E-mail customer@iub.iowa.gov



During warm weather, a fan can produce a "wind chill" effect and make people

feel cooler than the actual temperature. So, flip the fan-rotation switch to make the blades operate in a counterclockwise direction and create a cooling breeze. Then, you can turn up your air conditioner's thermostat 3 to 5 degrees without any reduction in comfort. And don't forget to turn off the fan when the room is unoccupied; fans cool people, not rooms.

Operations Update

Is your power out?

When storms move across Iowa, you can go online to check the status of outages at Access Energy Cooperative and other Iowa electric cooperatives by going to www.accessenergycoop.com. On the website, click on the image of Iowa labeled Iowa Outage Map.

Outages are listed by county and by cooperative, and you can view outages within county or co-op boundaries. The map automatically refreshes every 15 minutes, and you also can add a layer showing weather radar. ⚡



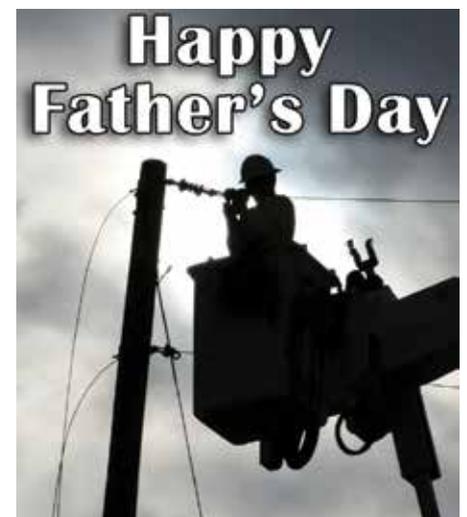
Co-op VIPs

Happy Father's Day to our linemen with families

Working at an electric cooperative is challenging, but very rewarding. Although millions of people depend on power every day, few actually consider how electricity gets to their homes. Before you switch on the lights, linemen already have put up the poles, connected miles of wire and flipped more than a few switches of their own.

Linemen are unsung heroes who labor without regard to their own comfort to ensure our members have electricity. These men are committed to helping members weather any storm; even during rain, sleet, snow and wind, it's still the human element that's the most powerful.

As a tribute to our linemen who literally put their lives on the line



every day, let's show our thanks to these unsung heroes and wish them all a very happy Father's Day. ⚡

Do your part to reduce energy usage during summer peak alerts

The hot days of summer place a lot of stress on America's utility network. For many electric utilities, the hottest days create greater **peak loads** than at any other time of the year. These times of greatest demand could potentially lead to limited power supply disruptions; on rare occasions, an outage or blackout may occur. A utility's peak load also affects its electricity cost, and this cost is ultimately passed along to its customers.

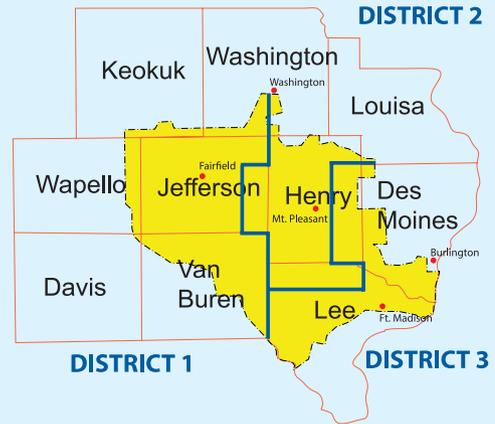


The greatest peak loads often occur in the late afternoon on summer days, when the air-conditioning systems in most buildings are running, and when families first arrive home and start using household appliances. During these times, we'll announce a peak alert on radio stations in our service area.

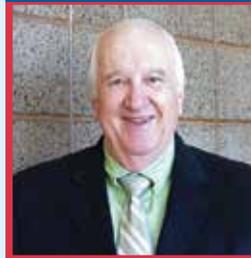
You can help reduce summer peak loads by adjusting your daily routine in a few small ways:

- Avoid doing laundry in the afternoon; choose the morning or late evening instead. If you must wash clothes during these times, use cold water instead of hot. If you must dry your clothes during this time, use a clothesline or indoor drying rack.
- Also don't run your dishwasher during a peak alert. All appliances that use hot water tend to heat up your home, so you'll be more comfortable if you don't run them during the day.
- Close your windows and draw the shades during the day to keep the sun from overheating your home. Better yet, install exterior window shades, sun screens or awnings to block summer sun before it enters your home.
- If you have central air-conditioning, hire a serviceman to perform periodic service. This should include changing the filter, checking the refrigerant charge, cleaning the coils, and sealing leaky ducts. (You can change the filter yourself once you learn where it's located.) If you have window air conditioners, remove them periodically and gently clean their coils with hot soapy water and a stiff brush. ⚡

Here are the 2016 candidates for the board of directors



DISTRICT 1



**Fred
Hickenbottom**



**Michael
Ledger**

DISTRICT 2

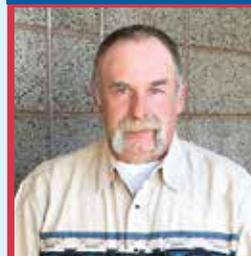


**Ronald
Campbell**

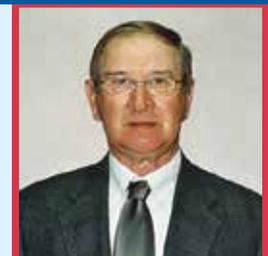


**Robert Paul
Smith**

DISTRICT 3



**Bradley
Lake**



**Marvin
Newton**