



CLARKE REC Headlines

The official publication of Clarke Electric Cooperative



SAFETY DRIVEN | ENERGY SMART | COMMUNITY INVESTED Volume No. 81 No. 12 | December 2021

Office Holiday Closings

Clarke Electric offices will be closed Friday, Dec. 24 and Monday, Dec. 27 for Christmas; and Friday, Dec. 31 for New Year's. We wish all our members a safe, happy and healthy holiday season!

Energy Efficiency



Tip of the Month

Heading out of town for the holiday season? Remember to unplug electronics that draw a phantom energy load.

Some gadgets like TVs, phone chargers, gaming consoles and toothbrush chargers use energy when plugged into an outlet – even when they're not in use.

Looking Out for You: October Outages

- Lightning - 10
- Equipment failure – 3
- Customer caused – 2
- Maintenance - 2
- Animal/bird - 1
- Trees – 1
- Unknown - 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

2021 Service Awards



CONGRATULATIONS TO THESE EMPLOYEES AND BOARD DIRECTORS FOR their years of service! Each year, Clarke Electric recognizes employees with service milestones who have made the co-op their home. We appreciate each and every employee and director who spends their time serving our cooperative and member-consumers.



15 YEARS
ADAM MCCUDDIN
Journeyman Lineman



10 YEARS
DAVE OPIE
General Manager



2 YEARS
DOMINIC CRESTA
Apprentice Lineman



2 YEARS
ZACHARY STEWART
Apprentice Lineman



9 YEARS | 3rd Term
RANDY ROUSE
Board Member



6 YEARS | 2nd Term
LARRY KELLER
Board Member



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

Moving In and Moving On: 2021 Was a Year of Challenge and Change

IT IS UPLIFTING TO HEAD INTO THE

holiday season, as it is a time that provides us with happy events and experiences. It is a wonderful time to reconnect with family, friends and our community. Thanksgiving, Christmas and the New Year's holidays, are times of renewal and reflection with gratitude. With 2021 drawing to a close, it makes me contemplate the past year and look forward to what the future might hold for us.

During 2020, all of us thought 2021 would surely be a more "normal" year. However, that was not the case. This year had many of the same challenges as 2020 and many new challenges.

As much as we are all tired of hearing about the pandemic, it continues to affect us all in so many aspects of our life.

Clarke Electric takes being your electric provider seriously and your cooperative took extra effort to find ways not to let the pandemic affect our service to you. This created some hardships for our employees, but they are a resilient group of dedicated

individuals. We hope that you felt the service we provided was not compromised.

In addition to our normal line construction and maintenance, we completed our Facility Improvement Plan in 2021. We moved back into our offices and warehouses. It has taken awhile to get the details completed.

Even though we are in our original office building, we have integrated a lot of technology into our complex. We are still learning the nuances of our new technology.

Clarke Electric Cooperative continues to expect stable rates for you, our member-consumers, and at the same time we continue to invest in our lines, substations, equipment, meters and buildings. We are also preparing for more solar generation and electric vehicles to go onto our system. 14-25-06-00

As your electric needs change, your cooperative needs to change. This evolution process has occurred over the 80 years of our existence. We continue to strive to be

relevant to you, as your electric service requirements develop.

Hopefully 2022 will be a year with everyone moving toward a new normalcy. We, at Clarke Electric Cooperative, hope that your 2021 ends on a positive note and that your 2022 will be a positive year. Our service territory covers a large portion of south central Iowa and it is filled with some of the most caring and hardworking people in the USA. Our differences are minimal, compared to how much we are the same and how much southern Iowans care about our neighbors. These are tough and frustrating times, but we are still compassionate toward each other.

Thank you for allowing us to serve you with safe, affordable and reliable power and thank you for your understanding and support during these ever-changing times.



DAVE OPIE
General Manager

Energy Smart: *Holiday Savings*

Save energy by setting a timer for outdoor lighting and decorations.

Considering Solar?

IF YOU ARE A CEC MEMBER-CONSUMER who is considering installing solar at your home or farm, please contact the cooperative before signing any contracts. We want to be sure you understand how a solar interconnection with our system can impact your current account and billing rate.



Patronage Dividends A Benefit of Your Cooperative Membership

THE CLARKE ELECTRIC BOARD of Directors has authorized the distribution of \$350,000 in capital credits to current and former members of the cooperative.

If you were a member of CEC in 2003 and 2004 you should receive one of the following forms of patronage dividends. Active (current) members will receive a credit to their primary electric account in December for the amount of their capital credit. This method results in significant savings of postage and labor costs for

CEC and its members. Also, by applying capital credits to the December bill, the cooperative hopes to help offset the higher light bills that many members see at this time of year. 49-18-10-01

Checks are mailed in December to inactive (former) members due a patronage dividend whose distribution amount is above the \$5 minimum. Inactive account distributions of less than \$5 will roll over to future years and a check will be issued when the minimum amount of \$5 is reached.



Meet Jarad Taylor

JARAD TAYLOR RECENTLY JOINED Clarke Electric Cooperative as an apprentice lineman. Jarad graduated from I-35 High School and currently resides in New Virginia. He received training as a journeyman electrician from ABC of Iowa directly out of high school, though he was more interested in becoming a lineman.

In his spare time, Jarad enjoys deer hunting, target shooting with rifles and tractor rides with his grandfather and the Clarke County Old Iron club. He also works with his father on restoring old pickup trucks and cars.

HOLIDAY SAFETY WORD SEARCH

Remember to keep electrical safety in mind this holiday season!

Read the safety tips below, then find and circle the bolded words in the puzzle.



D	T	T	X	M	L	N	L	W	V	B	H	G	P	M
P	E	Y	E	N	H	S	A	G	E	T	Q	W	C	O
D	C	R	A	K	P	T	C	K	J	X	N	C	J	Q
E	X	R	E	I	O	J	I	T	B	S	L	E	Y	I
M	P	W	W	T	W	F	R	V	V	Z	U	U	V	J
X	R	K	Z	Z	A	T	T	L	X	W	L	M	X	Y
D	T	Z	G	P	N	W	C	C	N	L	Z	A	H	Z
I	N	S	P	E	C	T	E	D	P	F	R	R	Z	T
D	P	G	V	B	E	E	L	L	Q	P	H	V	W	F
A	J	K	F	L	B	A	E	S	K	H	I	Z	W	M
N	M	V	D	T	W	V	X	R	I	R	B	H	U	C
C	O	N	B	B	R	W	O	H	O	W	Q	N	Q	P
X	A	W	X	S	N	O	I	T	A	R	O	C	E	D
C	K	L	B	T	K	R	A	J	B	C	M	D	Y	P
X	C	M	A	Y	S	K	B	O	Y	Q	M	Q	K	Q

- Do not overload electrical outlets with too many **decorations** or appliances.
- Make sure your Christmas tree is **watered** daily.
- Turn off all **electrical** decorations before leaving home or going to sleep.
- Never leave a **candle** burning if you're not in the room.
- Extension cords used for holiday decorations should always be **inspected** for damage or exposed wires.



NEED HELP WITH HEATING BILLS?

The LIHEAP application period is now open for all households in Clarke Electric Cooperative's service territory.

Visit <https://humanrights.iowa.gov/dcaa/liheap> for details.

+ Safety Driven: Winter Outages

STAYING SAFE

DURING A WINTER OUTAGE

We work hard to provide the most reliable electric service possible. Rest assured, if the power is out, so are we!

The length of time it takes to restore your power depends on several factors, including the:



Extent of the storm's destruction



Severity of utility equipment damage



Number and extent of outages



Accessibility to damaged equipment

STAY SAFE UNTIL POWER IS RESTORED

- Stay far away and keep others away from downed power lines, which could be live and deadly.
- If you come across a downed line, immediately call 9-1-1 to report it.
- Use a safe heating source such as wood, propane space heater or generator. Remember to properly vent heating sources.
- Call the cooperative to let us know you are out of power: 800-362-2154



Prepare for a storm by gathering these items:



Bottles of water



Non-perishable food



Portable phone charger



Prescriptions

Battery-operated radio

Flashlights



Extra batteries

Pet supplies



Blankets



Warm clothing

Hand sanitizer



First-aid kit

THANK YOU for your patience during outages. When the lights go off, we are working safely and efficiently to restore power. The safety of our employees, as well as those we serve, is our **TOP** priority.



Apprentice Lineman Zach Stewart works on upgrading electric service.

Upgrading A Service

CLARKE ELECTRIC CONTINUES TO meet the needs of its member-consumers with service upgrades.

If you are thinking about building or upgrading a service, call Nick Gannon at Clarke Electric. Before you call, make sure you know where the property is located, including the address, township, range and section number. Other things CEC will ask:

- Is the new facility staked out on the property?
- Is the driveway also staked or laid out?
- What type of heating and appliances will be used?
- What kW size is the unit of the heating unit? Gas or wood heat?
- Will there be any other outbuildings constructed in the future?

You may need to upgrade your electric service if you are:

- Planning an addition to your home.
- Building a new outbuilding or shop.
- Adding a grain bin or larger motor load; or
- Updating the panel size in your home.



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.cecnet.net

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