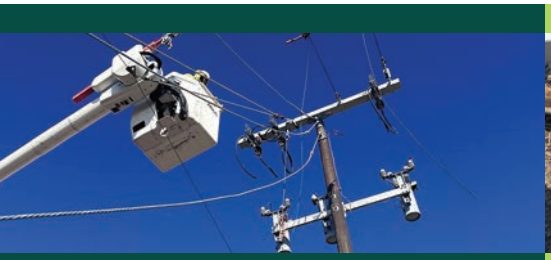
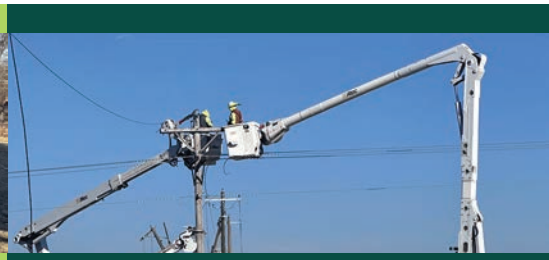
CLARKE
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
Safety Driven • Energy Smart • Community Invested
Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative





Volume 86, No. 3 | March 2026

HEADLINES

SAFETY DRIVEN | ENERGY SMART | COMMUNITY INVESTED

Service Anniversaries

GREG KINDRED
5 Years
Warehouseman

MAX HUNTER
2 Years
Appr. Lineman

NICK GANNON
20 Years
Field Staking Eng.

STEPHANIE MOORE
10 Years
Operations & Engineering Admin. Asst.

NATALIE RYDL
1st Term
Director

ED WHITE
3rd Term
President

LYDDA YOUMANS
4th Term
Treasurer

RANDY BARNARD
3rd Term
Asst. Sec./Treas.

The Clarke Electric office will be closed Friday, April 3

Co-op Scholarship Deadline April 1

DEADLINE: April 1, 2026

WHO: 2026 high school graduates with parents or legal guardians who reside within Clarke Electric's service territory and who receive electric service from the cooperative.

WHAT: The scholarships may be used for college or vocational technical school. Minimum amount is $500.

HOW: Apply online at www.cecnet.net/scholarships

INCLUDE: Applicants must include a copy of their transcript and a short essay on the topic, "Why are electric cooperatives important to you?"

CONTACT: Kim Griffin, (641) 342-2173; kgriffin@cecnet.net

Visit www.cecnet.net/scholarships for application and details.

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

Historical Work

In early February, CEC proudly completed a project that connects our past to our future: the replacement of the very first power line ever built in our co-op's history.

Originally constructed in June of 1941, this historic line runs southeast of Osceola along 270th Street and Highway 34. Stretching approximately 2.5 miles, it represents the foundation upon which our cooperative was built. More than 80 years ago, this line brought reliable electric service to rural members at a time when electricity was transforming farms, homes, and communities.

Over the decades, this line faithfully served generations of members. Built with 1/0 copper conductor, it was state-of-the-art for its time, valued for its conductivity and durability. Copper was the material of choice in the early days of rural electrification, but to no surprise, after more than eight decades of service, age-related wear and evolving system demands made replacement necessary.

CHAD MCINTOSH
Manager of Operations

The decision to rebuild this line was guided by three key priorities: reliability, safety, and long-term stewardship of our members' investment. Aging infrastructure can increase the risk of outages and safety concerns, particularly as materials degrade and system loads grow. By proactively replacing this line, we are strengthening the reliability of service for members in the area and reducing the likelihood of future interruptions.

The new line is constructed using 336 ACSR (Aluminum Conductor Steel Reinforced), a modern conductor that offers significant advantages over the original copper. ACSR reduces stress on poles and hardware due to being lighter than copper.

continued on pg. 4

THE COOPERATIVE DIFFERENCE

Winter Moratorium Ends

If you are behind on your electric bill, contact Clarke Electric before the winter moratorium ends April 1

KIM GRIFFIN
Billing Specialist

The warming daily temperatures is a reminder that the winter moratorium will end April 1. Member-consumers who are behind on their electric payments must bring their accounts up to date in order to avoid penalty.

But don't worry, your cooperative's staff will use all the available tools to assist those members who have fallen behind while ensuring all members are treated fairly, paying for the product they consumed.

If your account is past due, and you have not made payment arrangements by April 3, you will be subject to disconnection of your electric service. To avoid disconnection, you must pay your electric bill in full by April 3 or request a reasonable payment arrangement for your past due account(s). On and after April 1, we are not required to post a 48-hour disconnection notice on your premises. Call our office today to make arrangements or to request information at (641) 342-2173 or (800) 362-2154. Following are several ways we can assist you.

Payment Plans: Member-consumers may be eligible to enter into a reasonable payment agreement with Clarke Electric to pay accumulated debt over time and maintain electric services. If you are past due on your account, contact Kim or Cori to discuss payment plan terms.

Budget Billing: For member-consumers with tight budgets, seasonally high electric bills can cause financial difficulties. Clarke Electric's budget billing payment option makes it easier to budget and anticipate. To enroll, contact Kim or Cori to discuss whether budget billing is right for you.

State of Iowa Resources: We also encourage anyone who has fallen behind on payment to contact the Iowa Department of Health and Human Services at (800) 972-2017 or their local community action agency regarding eligibility for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). LIHEAP is designed to assist low-income families meet the cost of home heating for electric or natural gas service. Eligible applicants may receive a one-time per year payment to assist with heating costs for eligible households. 10-23-20-52

We are happy to work with you to make sure your account is current to avoid any interruption in service. If your account is past due and you have not made a payment arrangement, please call us before April 3 at (641) 342-2173 or (800) 362-2154.

Operation Round-Up Aids Family After Fire

Neighbors helping neighbors.

It's not just a thought or a saying. This is the very heart of Clarke Electric Cooperative's Operation Round-Up™ Program. By allowing co-op members to round up their monthly bills to the next whole dollar, the co-op can accumulate funds to assist other co-op members experiencing an unplanned or unforeseeable event. For individuals or families experiencing a financial hardship, a $500 grant can make all the difference.

And it's not as much as you might think. In fact, the max amount any person will contribute to the program in a single year is $11.88. The average person pays only $6 per year, or less than the cost of two gallons of milk.

When the home of Brady Riney and Wendy Gossett of rural Osceola burned down Jan. 18, they lost everything. The early Sunday morning house fire drew emergency response from Osceola, Woodburn and Lucas counties to extinguish the fire. Unfortunately, it was too late and everything in the home was ruined.

Brady and Wendy now know first-hand the importance of participating in Clarke Electric's Operation Round-Up program. The co-op used ORU funds to provide them a $500 grant to help them start rebuilding.

Stories like Brady's and Wendy's are why Operation Round-Up exists. If you do not currently participate in the program, but would like to opt in, please call us at (641) 342-2173 or send an email to Clarke@cecnet.net.

Brady Riner and Wendy Gossett stand in front of their home after it burned Jan. 18.

Show You Care with RECare

There are so many things to worry about nowadays, but paying for heat during Iowa's coldest months shouldn't be one of them.

As an electric cooperative, Clarke Electric is invested in helping our communities thrive, and that means supporting our low-income member-consumers, too.

RECare is a nationwide program exclusive to rural electric cooperatives that encourages fellow member-consumers to make a one-time or monthly donation that can help alleviate the stress for other member-consumers straining to pay their winter heating bills. Funds may also be used to weatherize the recipient's home to make electricity use more efficient.

And don't worry; your donation is directed to a local community action agency for distribution to low-income families in your community.

You can feel good that the dollars you donate are helping your friends and neighbors. It's an easy way to show you 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 _____

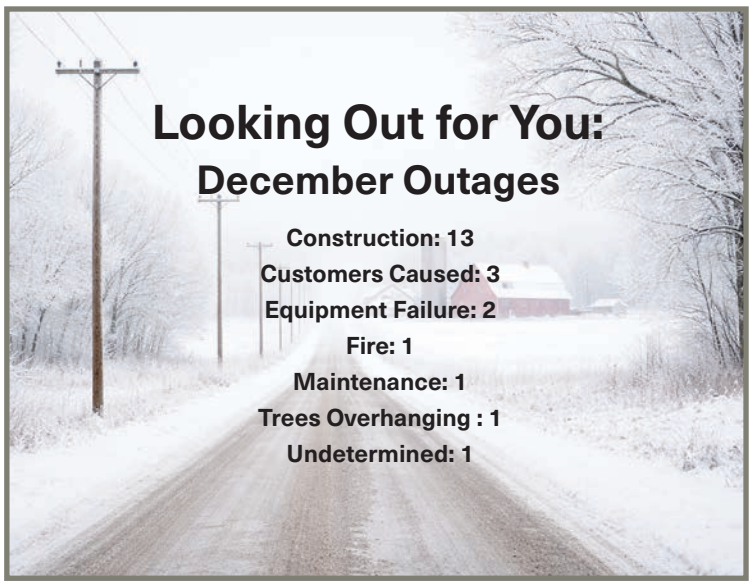
Mail to: RECare, c/o Clarke Electric Cooperative
P.O. Box 161 Osceola, Iowa 50213

ENERGY EFFICIENCY
TIP OF THE MONTH

As spring arrives, take advantage of milder temperatures to save energy at home. Open windows on pleasant days to bring in fresh air instead of running your HVAC system. It's also a great time to replace dirty air filters, which helps your system run more efficiently and improves indoor air quality.

WHAT CAN WE DO FOR YOU? @ cecnet.net

- Statewide outage map
- Leased Light Program
- SmartHUB
- Rebates & Online Forms
- Operation Round-UP
- Call Before You Dig
- Email newsletters
- RECare



Historical Work...from pg. 2

It is also more cost-effective, helping us responsibly manage construction expenses while maintaining high performance standards. Despite being lighter and more affordable, 336 ACSR provides excellent strength and capacity, ensuring dependable service for years to come.

Completing this project during the first week of February was no small task, especially considering winter conditions. Regardless, our crews worked diligently and safely to build the new line and remove the existing line with minimal disruption to members. 43-23-11-0

While this project marks the end of an era, it also symbolizes our ongoing commitment to progress. The same cooperative spirit that drove the construction of that first line in 1941 continues to guide us today. We honor the legacy of those early builders by maintaining and improving the system they began—ensuring that CEC remains strong, reliable, and prepared to serve future generations.

From our first 2.5 miles of line to the 1,900 miles we maintain today, our mission remains the same: providing safe, reliable, and affordable electric service to our members. This historic rebuild is a reminder of where we started—and how far we've come.

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P.O. Box 161 | 1103 N. Main | Osceola, IA 50213-0161
(641) 342-2173 | (800) 362-2154
cecnet.net

OFFICE HOURS
Mon.-Fri.: 7:30 AM - 4 PM | Outside depository available 24/7

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Ed White
Vice President: Randy Rouse
Secretary: Cody Miller
Treasurer: Lydda Youmans
Asst. Sec./Treasurer: Randy Barnard

Directors
Liz Beck
Larry Keller
Zach Robinson
Natalie Rydl

GENERAL MANAGER
David Opie

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.