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

Volume 86, No. 9 | September 2026

HEADLINES

SAFETY DRIVEN | ENERGY SMART | COMMUNITY INVESTED

Staff News

PROMOTION

Journeyman Lineman Eric Page has been promoted to Maintenance Foremen of Clarke Electric. Eric's journey with Clarke Electric has been marked by hard work, dedication, and growth. He began his career with us in 2008 as an intern. After completing lineman school and working for a contractor, Eric joined CEC full time in 2014 as an apprentice lineman.

ERIC PAGE
Maintenance Foreman

Eric's proven leadership makes him perfect for his new position. Please join us in congratulating Eric!

NEW EMPLOYEE

Hunter Reese has joined the cooperative as an apprentice lineman and we are thrilled to have him on board as he begins his career in the line trade.

HUNTER REESE
Apprentice Lineman

As a local from the Osceola area, Hunter brings a strong connection to the communities we proudly serve. Like the rest of our linemen, he is committed to keeping the lights on for our members.

We look forward to watching him grow and succeed in his career here at CEC.

Welcome, Hunter!

Pictured, front row: Natalie, Kipton and Mason Mendenhall; Lundy and Holt Clark. Back row: Jason Gibbs, Alexa Mendenhall, Kathy Smith, Jorie Clark, Taylor Clark and Kristi Minnick.

Operation Round-Up Boosts Park Project

A recreation area all-inclusive playground near Leon has received a little help from Clarke Electric to help build a new restroom facility. 14-34-03-54

In August, Clarke Electric presented representatives from Little River Lookout CommUNITY PLAYground with a $3,500

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

Pole Testing for Safety, Reliability

Over the next few months, crews from SBS Inspections, Inc. will be working throughout the White Oak Substation service area to inspect and test distribution poles. While many poles may appear to be in good condition from the outside, factors such as age, severe weather, insects, decay, and woodpecker damage can weaken them over time.

Regular testing allows us to identify potential problems before they lead to outages or create safety hazards.

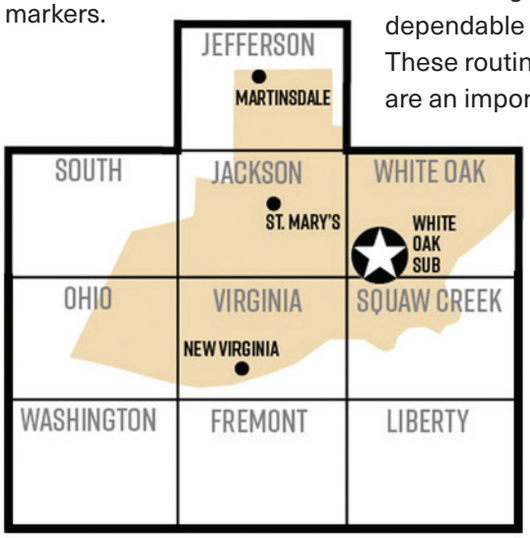
During the inspection process, crews perform a variety of tests to evaluate each pole's structural condition. This work may include digging around the base of a pole, sounding (tapping) the pole with a hammer, drilling small test holes to inspect the wood, and performing other inspections needed to assess the pole's strength and integrity. In some cases, crews may also repair ground wires or install down guy markers.

Because electric poles are often located along roadways, easements, and on private property, crews may need to access road ditches, residential yards, and other areas to complete their work. All vehicles will be clearly marked with Clarke Electric signage.

The information gathered during these inspections helps us make informed decisions about maintenance and pole replacement. By replacing poles before they fail, we improve the reliability of our electric system, reduce the risk of unexpected outages, and help keep our employees, members, and communities safe.

If you see our crews working in your area, please slow down and use extra caution, especially along roadways. Your patience and cooperation help ensure everyone returns home safely at the end of the day.

Thank you for your continued support as we invest in maintaining a strong, dependable electric system. These routine inspections are an important part of delivering the reliable service our member-owners have come to expect from Clarke Electric Cooperative.



THE COOPERATIVE DIFFERENCE

Show You Care: RECare

This winter, some Clarke Electric Cooperative members may find it difficult to keep up with their heating costs.

As a member-owned electric cooperative, Clarke Electric is committed to helping our communities remain strong and healthy. That includes supporting members who may be facing financial challenges during the colder months.

RECare is a nationwide program offered through rural electric cooperatives that gives member-consumers an opportunity to help their neighbors. Through a one-time gift or a recurring monthly donation, you can provide assistance to fellow member-consumers who are struggling with their winter heating expenses. Donations may also help fund home weatherization projects that improve energy efficiency and reduce future electricity costs.

Your generosity stays close to home. Donations are provided to a local community action agency, which distributes the funds to qualifying low-income households within your community.

When you give to RECare, you can be confident that your contribution is making a difference for friends and neighbors who need a helping hand. It's a simple way to show you care and help keep our community warm this winter.

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.

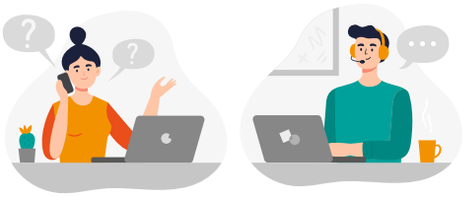
_____ I would like to make a monthly donation of $_____.

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

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



Do You Have Questions or a Complaint?

Clarke Electric Cooperative strives to provide you with the best service at the lowest possible cost. But sometimes you may have questions regarding your electrical service or billing, or possibly a complaint.

If you have a complaint about Clarke Electric's service rather than its rates, you can reach a representative of the cooperative by contacting us during normal business hours: 7:30 a.m. – 4 p.m. Monday through Friday at (641) 342-2173 or (800) 362-2154, or by email at clarke@cecnet.net. You can also write to: Member Advocate, Clarke Electric Cooperative, 1103 N. Main Street, Osceola, IA 50213.

If your complaint is not resolved, you may ask for help from the Iowa Utilities Commission, Customer Service, 1375 E. Court Ave., Room 69, Des Moines, IA 50319-0069; (877) 565-4450 or customer@iuc.iowa.gov.

Park...from pg. 1

grant from the Operation Round-up program. Designed for children ages 2-12, the playground features equipment that allows children with disabilities to play alongside their peers.

The fundraising effort for new, accessible bathrooms is a community-driven initiative organized by the Leon Community Playground Committee to address the lack of nearby facilities. The restrooms are the last phase of recent park enhancements that include a shade umbrella, on-site picnic shelter, and butterfly climbing structure.

The project is just one example of how Operation Round-Up makes a meaningful difference in the communities we serve. By simply rounding up their monthly electric bill, participating members help fund local projects that improve our neighborhoods and enhance quality of life. Thank you to everyone who participates in Operation Round-Up. Your generosity continues to make a positive impact across our service area!

Looking Out for You:

July Outages

Trees – 11	Lightning – 4
Undetermined - 7	Vehicle - 2
Animal/Bird – 5	Customer Caused – 1
Equipment Failure – 4	Wind – 1

ENERGY SMART

ENERGY EFFICIENCY
TIP OF THE MONTH

September is a "shoulder month," when temps are mild and you can give your heating/cooling system a break. Open windows, use fans and enjoy the fresh air when temperatures allow. It's also the perfect time to schedule annual HVAC maintenance before colder weather arrives, and service professionals have greater availability.

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

Put Safety First This Harvest

Harvest season is just around the corner, bringing long days working with heavy equipment and plenty of activity both in the fields and around the farm.

Clarke Electric reminds farmers, farm families and anyone operating agricultural equipment to make electrical safety a priority during harvest—and throughout the year. Staying safe requires being alert, focused and aware of hazards.

Keep Your Distance from Power Lines

Overhead power lines can be easy to overlook when you're focused on moving equipment, grain or crops. A single moment of inattention can have life-threatening consequences.

Keep these important electrical safety tips in mind:

- Use a spotter when operating large machinery near overhead power lines.
- Keep all equipment at least 10 feet away from power lines at all times and in every direction.
- Look up before moving equipment. Take extra care when extending augers, raising grain truck beds or moving tall machinery near power lines.
- Know the height of your equipment. Before moving or raising machinery, make sure you have adequate clearance from overhead electrical lines.
- Lower extensions and equipment to their lowest possible position before moving loads. Grain augers should always be positioned horizontally before they are moved.
- Never attempt to move, raise or otherwise adjust a power line to create additional clearance.
- If you notice a sagging, low or damaged power line, stay away and contact Clarke Electric so it can be safely addressed.

If Equipment Contacts a Power Line

- If you're driving machinery that comes in contact with an overhead power line, stay on board. Do not attempt to climb down.
- Warn others to stay away and call 911. Anyone on the ground could be at risk of electrical shock simply by getting too close.
- Stay on the equipment until the utility crew tells you it is safe to exit.
- The only exception is if the equipment catches fire. If you must escape because of a fire, jump clear of the equipment with both feet together, making sure you do not touch the equipment and the ground at the same time. Once clear, keep your feet together and hop away to a safe distance.

Take a Moment. Look Up. Stay Safe.

Harvest is a busy time of year, but taking a few extra seconds to identify overhead power lines and plan your movements can prevent a serious accident. 16-12-05-53

Clarke Electric encourages everyone working around farm equipment this harvest season to slow down, look up and put safety first. A safe harvest is a successful harvest.

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cecnet.net

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

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

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Zach Robinson
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This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.