

CURRENT CONNECTION

March 2017

www.calhounrec.coop

Calhoun County REC

Rockwell City, IA 50579 • (712) 297-7112 • (800) 821-4879

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



Paying for a System that Works Around the Clock

Your electric cooperative has been around for a long time – 80 years to be exact. We’ve witnessed the many ways electricity has transformed the communities we serve and our rural landscape. Before electricity, today’s household tasks were hard work and dangerous. For example, cooking and washing clothes involved a lot of manual labor. Thankfully, practically everything we do – from entertainment to our jobs – is impacted by the ease of electricity.

A lot has changed since electric cooperatives first turned the lights on for rural Iowa. One thing that hasn’t changed is our mission to provide electricity to you. Because we’ve been reliably, efficiently and affordably delivering electricity to homes and businesses for decades, some of our member-owners ask why they still need to pay for a system that should have been paid for by now.

The truth is, most – if not all – of the original system

was paid for many years ago. The original infrastructure, such as poles and wires, which was paid for many years ago has likely been replaced.

When you have a system that operates 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, equipment needs to be replaced at regular intervals. Imagine if you had a car that was 80 years old and it was driven all day, every day. By now, either the car would not be operating, or every part of the car – from the tires to the engine – would have been replaced many times.

The same is true for utility infrastructure.

While poles and wires generally have a life span of 30-40 years, some may not last as long due to a variety of conditions. For example, a major ice storm can cause power lines to snap and poles to break regardless of their age. 11C15AA



CEO
Roxanne
Carisch

Continued on page 2

REMINDER:

Calhoun County REC Scholarship Applications due on or before April 7th

As noted in last month’s newsletter, Calhoun County REC will award up to three \$500 scholarships in the spring of 2017. These scholarships will be disbursed to help with first year college expenses. Eligible students must be graduating high school seniors and a dependent of a Calhoun County REC member. Applicants must be planning to enroll in a full time undergraduate course of study at an accredited two-year or four-year college, university or vocational/technical school in the fall of 2017. The scholarship must be for educational costs, and the student must enter college in the school year for which the scholarship is given. Scholarship awards will be based on the following criteria: complete application, one letter of reference from a teacher or counselor and a 250 word essay question on “How can cooperative members make a difference regarding political decisions that directly affect Calhoun County REC and its members?” Awards will be announced by letter and on the Calhoun County REC’s web site. Application information and forms are available online at www.calhounrec.coop or by calling 712-297-7112 or 800-821-4879. **Completed applications must be received at the REC office on or before Friday, April 7th by 4:30 p.m.**

Paying for a System that Works Around the Clock

Continued from page 1

Paying for an electric cooperative system can be compared to paying for your home. Over many years or decades, the original tract of land and the physical property are paid in full. But infrastructure updates such as a new furnace, air conditioner, windows, and roof are required, not to mention updates to appliances, carpeting, flooring, and paint. Consider how inefficient it would be to heat your home with a 80-year-old furnace. Think of the additional money you'd spend each month due to its inefficiency instead of replacing it with a new model. The same logic applies to your co-op as we need to replace vehicles and equipment over the years to serve you best. Aside from the costs of hard assets at the co-op, there are also the costs of property taxes, insurance, regular maintenance, and staffing that contribute to our overall system costs.

The original co-op infrastructure fulfilled the expectations of that time in terms of reliability and affordability. Over the years, many of those needs have changed. What's in place today is an improved distribution system that allows us to meet increasing demands for kilowatt-hours in an efficient manner. Not only has the need for electricity increased, but

our processes now result in reduced outage times. We also work to extend the life of infrastructure through maintenance at regular intervals. Poles are routinely tested for termites, and we trim vegetation throughout our system on cycles to maintain a high level of reliability. To balance reliability with affordability, we upgrade our system when and where it makes sense to do so. We balance financing upgrades and replacements with debt and equity so that we can keep your rates affordable while providing power that you can count on for your home or business. ***We are here to serve you!***

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



Consider insulating your water heater tank, which could reduce standby heat losses by 25 to 45 percent and save you about 4 to 9 percent in water heating costs. You can find pre-cut jackets or blankets available from around \$20.

Source: energy.gov

Green Pricing Customer Contribution Plan

This program will allow individual customers to voluntarily contribute to the development of alternate energy production facilities in Iowa. Alternate energy production facilities may include wind energy, biomass, solar and other nontraditional generation technologies. All of the money collected from customers participating in the green pricing program will be used to assist in the purchase of alternate or "green" energy in Iowa. 04C24JB

Authorization Form

Yes, I want to be a part of the Green Pricing Program.

_____ I will make a one-time contribution to Green Pricing. My check is enclosed.

_____ I will contribute \$_____ per month to Green Pricing. I understand that this amount will be automatically added to my monthly electric bill.

Name _____

Address _____

City/State _____ Zip _____ Account # _____

*Clip and mail to: Calhoun County REC * Green Pricing Program
PO Box 312 * Rockwell City IA 50579*

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

TOMATO ALFREDO LINGUINE SKILLET

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 can (14 oz each) reduced-sodium chicken broth
- 1/2 cup water
- 8 ounces dry pot-sized linguine, uncooked
- 1 jar (16 oz each) alfredo pasta sauce
- 1/4 cup chopped fresh basil
- 1/4 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1/8 teaspoon ground black pepper
- 1 can (14.5 oz each) diced tomatoes with basil, garlic and oregano, drained



DIRECTIONS:

Heat broth and water in large skillet over medium-high heat until simmering. Add linguine. Cover, reduce heat and simmer 10 minutes or until linguine is tender, stirring occasionally. Stir in alfredo sauce, basil, garlic powder and pepper. Gently stir in drained tomatoes. Cook 2 minutes more or until hot.

Winter moratorium ends April 3rd

Please take note that the winter moratorium ends April 3, 2017. If your account(s) is past due and you have not made payment arrangements by March 31st, you will be subject to disconnection of your electric service.

To avoid disconnection, you must pay your electric bill in full by April 3rd or request a reasonable payment agreement for your past due account(s).

Call our office at 712-297-7112 or 800-821-4879.

Happy St. Patrick's Day



March 17th

Daylight Saving Time Begins

Time to
spring forward
one hour
March 12th



Auto Pay
Available

Bill Payment Options Available
for Member-Owners

Utitil-e Online™



Online account access...Pay your account from you laptop, computer, smart phone and or tablet by going to www.calhounrec.coop and selecting online bill pay to register your account and pay each month from your bank account or credit/debit card



In-person...Stop by the office to drop off your payment in person or use the drop box just west the front door



Mail...Send payment in using return envelope included in your statement

Call 712-297-7112 or go to www.calhounrec.coop

SPOT YOUR NUMBER

Brice Blair, Paul Johnson and Keith Sexton spotted their location number and will receive a \$10 credit on their electric bill.

Don't forget to read the newsletter and check for your location number. If your

location number is spotted, call Calhoun County REC by the 15th of the month and receive a **\$10** credit on your next electric bill.

* Location numbers are located on billing statements. *

Contractors and Electricians gather for 2017 Momentum is Building

Iowa's Touchstone Energy Cooperatives celebrated the 25th annual "Momentum Is Building" conference Feb. 8-9 at the Sheraton West Des Moines hotel.

Since the conference began in 1993, its mission has been to provide a forum for energy efficiency and electric technology education. The conference seeks to build relationships with trade professionals who influence electric co-op members' decision-making about home building/remodeling, heating, cooling, water heating and energy efficiency. 16C23LA

Momentum Is Building continues to offer up-to-date building science information, practical hands-on details and new technology displays for building trades professionals - including homebuilders, electricians, and heating-plumbing contractors. Rural electric cooperative personnel

from across Iowa join their local contractors at the conference.

Attending from Calhoun County REC was Member Service Representative Keaton Hildreth. "For 25 years, Momentum Is Building has allowed building trades professionals from our area to find out what's new in the industry - techniques as well as products. Attendees also obtain continuing education credits they need to stay current in their professions," says Keaton.

Nationally recognized speakers shared their knowledge on topics including the future of home building (energy efficiency, installation techniques and building products), electric and mechanical/plumbing code updates, energy modeling and safety. Momentum Is Building



Member Service Representative Keaton Hildreth (r) observing a demonstration

also includes a trade show where participants visit with companies to learn about new products.

Support for the conference comes from Iowa's rural electric cooperatives, along with sponsorship by the Iowa Energy Center.

New Website for Calhoun County REC

We are pleased to announce that we have launched a new website. The site is a responsive design that will work on smart phones and tablets. Members will still use their current login information to access online bill pay. Visit the new site and discover all the programs and services Calhoun County REC offers it's members.

www.calhounrec.coop

Youth Tour Opportunity - Apply by March 10th!

Calhoun County REC will be offering high school sophomores and juniors an opportunity to be selected for a trip to Washington D.C. in June 2017. Students must submit an application including 250-500 word essay explaining their interest in the political process and why it is important for our local Co-op to stay involved in the political process. The top three applicants will also participate in a personal interview process. The first place winner will represent Calhoun County REC in the 2017 Iowa Youth Tour and be awarded a \$500 scholarship. Second and third place winners will each receive a \$250 scholarship. This contest is available to students in the local area school districts. For more information contact Keaton Hildreth, khildreth@calhounrec.coop or at the office 712-297-7112.



Calhoun County REC
A Touchstone Energy Cooperative 



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-- Office Hours --

Monday - Friday
8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Telephone: 712-297-7112 or
Toll Free: 800-821-4879
Fax: 712-297-7211
e-mail: info@calhounrec.coop
www.calhounrec.coop
After 4:30 p.m. call 800-821-4879
or 712-297-7112
for outages and emergencies only.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.