



HOMEPAGE

www.enerstar.com | A monthly newsletter for co-op members of EnerStar Electric Cooperative

Twin Lakes All Ability Playground Receives \$10,000 Sharing Success Grant

\$5,000 Donation from EnerStar matched dollar for dollar by CoBank



L to R: Cathy Gallagher, Renee Blumthal, Scott Barrett, Becky Kraemer, Steve Gallagher, Enerstar CEO Mike Clark

The fundraising efforts of the Twin Lakes All-Abilities Playground made another giant step toward the final goal, thanks in part to a \$10,000 grant from EnerStar Electric Cooperative.

The All-Abilities project is an effort to build a playground designed for children with special needs, but it is not just for such children. Proponents say regular playground equipment leaves special needs children isolated during family outings, whereas an All Abilities park provides a safe area for children with physical limitations, or perhaps autism, to play equally with siblings and other children.

EnerStar CEO Mike Clark presented the citizens committee with a \$5,000 donation. CoBank, one of EnerStar's business associates, is making a \$5,000 match.

"This is a great example of the way cooperatives work together to support communities, and we are proud to support such a worthwhile organization," said Clark. He further explained that EnerStar is guided by seven cooperative principles, which include "Cooperation Among Cooperatives" and "Concern for Community."

CoBank, headquartered in Colorado, is a cooperative bank serving rural America with loans

and other financial services to both agribusiness and rural electricity, and water and communication providers in all 50 states. The matching donation is through CoBank's Sharing Success program that has made almost \$14 million in charitable donations since 2012.

"Sharing Success has become one of the cornerstones of CoBank's multifaceted corporate giving program," said Robert B. Engel, CoBank's chief executive officer. "It leverages the passion, expertise and local knowledge of our customers to identify and support the causes and programs that best

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COOPERATIVE HEADQUARTERS
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OFFICE HOURS
Monday through Friday
7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

*Serving the Illinois
counties of Edgar,
Clark, Vermilion,
Douglas and Coles.*

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address the unique needs of rural communities. We're delighted our board has generously re-authorized this program and proud to partner with EnerStar on this important initiative." CoBank is a member of the Farm Credit System.

Angela Griffin, EnerStar's Manager of Marketing and Member Services, stated that while the playground is located in Paris, she felt this type of playground will attract families from a large radius. The All-Abilities Playground will be situated inside Twin Lakes Park, located north of Route 1 in Paris, next to the Tiger Falls Splash Pad.

"We are proud to be a part of it. The park is a busy place on summer days and now all will be able to enjoy it."

Past Sharing Success Grant Recipients

2015 – Human Resources Center of Edgar and Clark Counties

Donation to the HRC's capital campaign to expand its comprehensive behavioral healthcare in east central Illinois

2014 – University of Illinois Extension Service in Edgar and Clark counties

Purchase of Apple iPads to further educational programming for both youth and adults. Also purchased cooking school kits and new copiers at both the Clark County and the Edgar County offices. The Extension service was able to match the Sharing Success funds with another grant from the state of Illinois to receive an additional \$7,500.

2013 – Marshall Food Distribution Center & Martinsville Food Pantry

Sharing Success grant used by two food pantries in Clark County to upgrade their facilities. The Marshall Food Distribution Center received \$7,500 and the Martinsville Food Pantry \$2,500. The amounts were determined by the number of families served by each organization.

2012 – Paris High School

When Paris High school was being constructed in the EnerStar service territory, a Sharing Success grant was used to furnish a science and a math classroom. On a side note, that same year, EnerStar also secured a \$75,000 Power Moves grant that was used for energy efficiency initiatives including a geothermal heating unit, LED lights and motion sensors for the high school.



LABOR DAY

The cooperative Office will be closed
on Monday, September 5, 2016
for Labor Day.



Find us on Facebook!

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twitter.com/enerstar

Coffee on the Co-op

EnerStar will be hosting another round of “Coffee on the Coop” events in October and November. EnerStar CEO Mike Clark, along with co-op employees, will visit locations throughout the service area and invite members to stop by for a cup of coffee and talk a bit of the co-op. Watch for more information in upcoming magazines!



Tuesday, October 11	7-8:30 a.m.	Steve & Shirley’s Diner, Oakland, IL
Friday, October 14	7-8:30 a.m.	Lincoln Trail Restaurant, Marshall, IL
Wednesday, November 9	7-8:30 a.m.	Main Street Cafe, Paris, IL
Thursday, November 10	7-8:30 a.m.	Mill Creek Restaurant, Marshall, IL

EnerStar Signs Agreement with USIC

Call JULIE Before You Dig

Under Illinois law, prior to digging, homeowners and contractors must contact JULIE at 811 to have underground utilities located. JULIE stands for the Joint Utility Locating Information for Excavators.

JULIE neither owns nor marks any underground lines. They route requests to the utility companies after documentation and verification. Calls cannot be made directly to the utility.

It takes a lot of manpower to handle all the JULIE requests. Therefore, EnerStar has signed an agreement with USIC to handle all of the co-op’s requests for locating underground facilities.

USIC is one of the most trusted names in underground utility damage prevention, performing over 60 million locates annually, with over 6 million throughout Illinois.

“It makes sense to partner with USIC. They already provide locating services for utilities such as natural gas, electricity, water, cable and fiber. They were already present at most of our locations so it takes them just a little extra time to locate EnerStar’s services when they are already there,” said CEO Mike Clark. He

added that members most likely have seen USIC’s employees and vehicles in the area.

Clark added that USIC also provides emergency and after-hour locates, meaning the co-op does not need to dispatch EnerStar crews.

So remember, if you are going to dig, first call JULIE at 811!



**Know what's below.
Call before you dig.**



Grain bins: harvesting safely

As rewarding as it may be, farming is an extremely difficult job—and it ranks among the top 10 most dangerous professions in the United States. At EnerStar Electric Cooperative, we understand that, and safety for all, for both our employees and our members, is our top priority.

Our farmers work hard to get the job done, and sometimes it's easy to forget all the necessary steps to take when practicing safe operations, especially around grain bins. So whether you're purchasing new grain bins or remodeling areas that contain existing ones, proximity to overhead power lines must be a considered factor.

Safe clearance. The National Electrical Safety Code requires an 18-foot minimum vertical clearance from the highest point of the filling port of the grain bin to nearby high-voltage wires and a 55-foot minimum distance from the power line to the grain bin wall. See the chart at right for further guidelines. Changes to landscaping and drainage work can affect clearance heights of power lines, so remember to check these measurements regularly.

Filling grain bins. High-voltage power lines are not insulated, so it's important to remember to maintain an adequate high-wire clearance when using a portable auger, conveyor or elevator to fill your grain bin.

Moving equipment near grain bins. When moving equipment, such as a hopper or a scaffold, be aware of nearby power lines. Remember to maintain a 10-foot clearance to ensure safety.

Accidents can happen in a split-second, which is why EnerStar reminds you to always use caution when working near power lines. If

you are considering a plan for a new grain bin or reconstruction of an existing bin's site, please contact Tim Haddix, EnerStar's System Engineer at 800-635-4145, extension 117 or via email thaddix@enerstar.com and he will assist you in maintaining a safe environment for you and your family.

GRAIN BIN SAFETY

DANGER: HIGH VOLTAGE!
FOLLOW FARM SAFETY RULES AROUND POWER LINES

Height of grain storage structure	D=Minimum distance from line to bin wall*
15 ft.	55 ft.
20 ft.	68 ft.
25 ft.	80 ft.
30 ft.	93 ft.
35 ft.	104 ft.
40 ft.	118 ft.
50 ft.	143 ft.
60 ft.	168 ft.
70 ft.	193 ft.
80 ft.	218 ft.

*Based on a typical power line having a vertical clearance of 18.5 feet above the ground and a supply line phase to ground voltage of more than 0V to 22KV; National Electrical Safety Code Rule 232.

NRECA

A National Electrical Cooperative