

# Norris Electric *News*

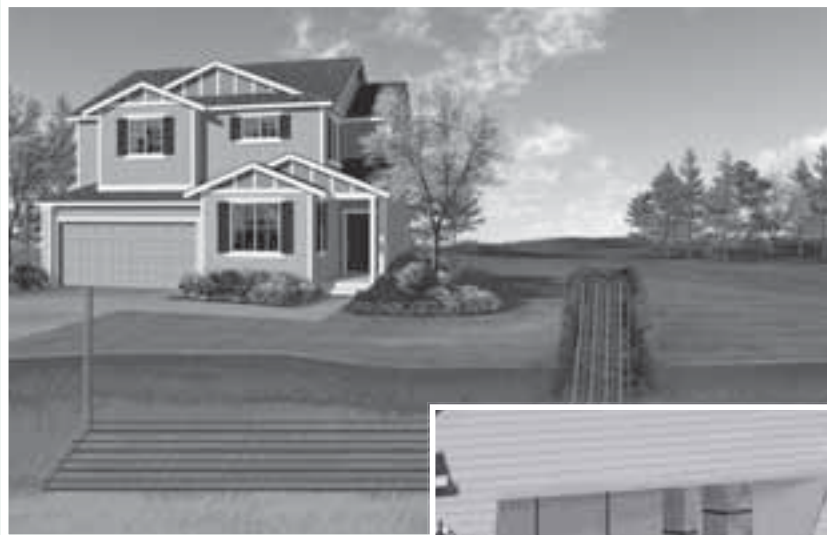
Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

## Geothermal Open House

Most likely by now you have heard about geothermal heating and cooling. What you may not understand is how it works. Norris Electric Co-op is a strong supporter of geothermal heating and cooling and is hosting a Geothermal Open House. After all there is no better way to understand how something works than by seeing it live. Experts from Norris Electric Co-op, R & H Heating, Cooling, Electrical, and Plumbing, and GeoComfort Geothermal Systems will be on location to guide you through a complete working system and explain why the EPA recognizes geothermal as the most efficient heating and cooling source for your home, shop, or business.

The Open House will held Saturday, September 15th at the Dan Roedl family residence (5335 E. 900th Avenue) just south of Altamont from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. The Roedls are in the process of finishing up a new home construction where they used the following participating contractors:

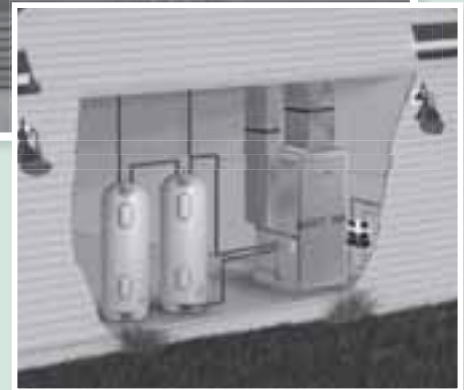
- GeoComfort Geothermal System: R & H Heating, Electrical, Plumbing
- Insulation: Spray Insulation & Contracting, Inc.
- Exterior framing and metal: R C Buildings, Inc.
- Interior: M J Remodeling
- Concrete: Dale Esker Concrete Construction
- Cabinetry: Mette's Cabinet Corner, Inc.



These contractors will all be present for the open house displaying their work from the construction. The Roedls have graciously agreed to make their home available so that other Norris Electric Co-op members can have an up-close look at their new home in action.

The Roedl residence with over 2,600 sq ft will heat and cool at an average monthly cost of \$58.

“Anyone even remotely interested in lowering their utility bill will benefit from attending our Open House,” says Tim Bohnhoff, Member Services Coordinator at Norris Electric Cooperative. “Whether a member is looking to lower their utility bills by retrofitting their existing home, shop, or business’s current heating and cooling system or they are considering building in the near future.”



Norris Electric Co-op has partnered with R & H Plumbing, Heating, Electrical of Altamont, IL on the project. “Dan is building a unique style single level home that is equipped with a GeoComfort four ton, two stage water to air heat pump” said Phil Schultz from R & H. “Of the four loop types we decided to use a horizontal style system. At the Open House we will have pictures of the loop installation process.” Come and see, you will be glad you did.

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### Geothermal Benefits:

- **Burns No Fossil Fuels**

Safer, better for you and the environment

- **Lower Operational Costs**

Up to 500% efficient

- **Positive Environmental Impact**

Burns no fossil fuels and uses limited electricity

- **Unmatched Comfort**

Provides consistent temperature all year long

- **Bonus Hot Water**

Reduces water heating costs up to 50%

- **Longer Life Cycle**

System life expectancy of 20 to 40 years

- **Application & Installation Flexibility**

Ideal for warm & cool climates, large & small homes, new construction or existing structures

For more information on geothermal systems or the Geothermal Open House, please call Tim Bohnhoff, Member Services Coordinator, (618) 783-8765.

## Let the light shine in: Safe lighting in the workplace

Proper light in the workplace is more than a matter of standing on a chair and shouting, "Let there be light!" Too little light, or too much, or the wrong kind, can be a safety hazard for your workforce, causing eyestrain, headaches, and physical injury (if people can't see obstacles clearly, for example). Take an illuminating look at these good lighting guidelines:

- **Look around.** Check your workplace often for light bulbs that need replacing and any areas that need increased visibility.
- **Keep it clean.** Dust off your lighting fixtures so their illumination doesn't get blocked.
- **Lighten up surrounding areas.** Walls should be painted or papered in light tones that reflect light easily but don't produce glare.
- **Mix it up.** Provide a combination of natural light that's healthy and easy on the eyes, and artificial light that can be easily controlled by employees for their needs.
- **Shade employees' eyes.** Outfit windows with shades and blinds so

employees can adjust the amount of natural light that falls across their workspaces.

- **Shift as necessary.** Employees shouldn't face a light source or window directly (where glare can be distracting and damaging) or sit with their backs to the light (casting shadows across their work). Position computers, desks, and people at right angles to light sources for safety and quality.
- **Suit the light to the task.** Task lighting can provide the illumination needed for detail work. Give employees lamps and other options so they can get the light they need.



## Planting a Tree?

While trees clean our air, provide shade and beauty, and make our yards and homes more comfortable, planting them is complicated and must be thoughtfully planned out.

Where you plant your tree is very important. When planting your tree, you may be tempted to plant where the tree would look the best or provide the most shade, but that could be a mistake. Not only could you damage an underground utility line when you plant it, but as your tree matures its roots may grow into your utility lines and disrupt your service, requiring you to remove what you've planted. Or, a tree planted too close to your home

could damage your foundation. Smart digging is no accident: always call 811 before you dig.

Know the growth habits of the tree you are planting, and how its roots will grow when mature. For instance, the root systems of willow trees are particularly aggressive and should be planted well away from any underground impediment. Think above you too...make sure your new tree will not grow tall enough to interfere with overhead lines either.

All states require those who plan on digging to call ahead to get their utility lines marked before digging, and while your desired spot might

make a great location for a swing, it may be directly above an underground utility line. By calling 811 a few days before you dig, you'll make sure your tree will provide all the benefits you want while still protecting your property and family. One easy phone call to 811 gets your underground utility lines marked for free.

Remember, know what's below. Always call before you dig.





## Co-op Connections Card Featured Local Business

**M**iller Feed & Tack is a family owned business under the ownership of Annice and Barbara Miller. They offer a full line of western clothing including Carhartt, Wrangler, Cruel Girl, Stetson-Resistol hats, Rockies jeans, and Montana Silversmith buckles.

Their boot selection includes Red Wing, Tony Lama, Lucchese, Justin,

Ariat, Durango, Double-H, Rockies, and Muck boots. The store also offers a great selection of tack for the horse enthusiasts including names such as Western Shoppe and Weaver Leather.

There is also a large selection of feed products for your farm and home including ADM, Diamond Pet Foods, and Nutrena products.

Store hours are 9:00am – 6:00pm Monday-Saturday and 1:00pm – 5:00pm on Sunday. Stop by at 2876 N 1150th St in Flat Rock, IL or give us a call at (618) 584-3254.

**Use your Co-op Connections card from Norris Electric and receive 10% off all clothing and boots.**

## 2013 Rate Adjustment

**N**orris Electric is committed to delivering quality, reliable power at the lowest possible cost. To maintain the quality, reliability and integrity of the services we provide it is necessary for us to adjust our pricing structure. In January 2013, the second of a three year rate increase will take effect to maintain financial stability of your electric cooperative.

Norris Electric's rates remain very

competitive with other utilities on an average basis, generally lower than those of other utilities serving Illinois residents. This increase is based on numerous factors, the largest of which is purchased power.

While rate adjustments are never easy, we must ask you as members of the Co-op to share in these costs. Maintaining dependable service at the most affordable price possible

remains the cornerstone of our business. To accomplish the goal, we must also protect the integrity and financial stability of the cooperative.

Look for more details in the coming months. If you have any questions or concerns regarding the implementation of this rate adjustment, we encourage you to call our office at 877-783-8765.



# Unless you have too much money, beware these mistakes

Unless you're incredibly rich, you probably worry about money. That's natural, but you don't have to let your worries ruin your life. You'll feel better about your financial situation if you avoid these basic money mistakes:

- **Not tracking your spending.**

Pay attention to where your money goes. Your credit card statement will help you do this, but don't forget all the incidentals you pay cash for. With this data, you'll find it easier to stick to your budget. And speaking of budgets . . .

- **Not setting up a budget (and sticking to it).**

This advice may seem elementary, but many smart people don't take it seri-

ously. Determine how much money you realistically need to pay bills and buy needed supplies for a week or month, and don't go over it.

- **No emergency fund.**

Set aside some money for emergencies, and don't touch it for any other reason. Ten or 20 dollars a month can add up, especially if it's drawing interest.

- **Not shopping around.**

Take the time to look for the best prices, and avoid buying on impulse. Stock up on essentials on sale, and always look for opportunities to negotiate a better deal.

- **Borrowing too much money.**

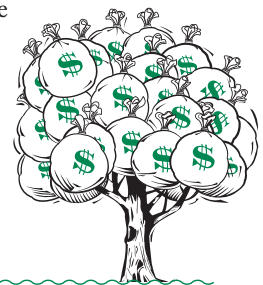
Don't put more on your credit card than you can pay off at the end of the

month. Resist the urge to buy more house than you can afford, and don't be seduced by reward programs that entice you to buy extravagances in order to get bonus points.

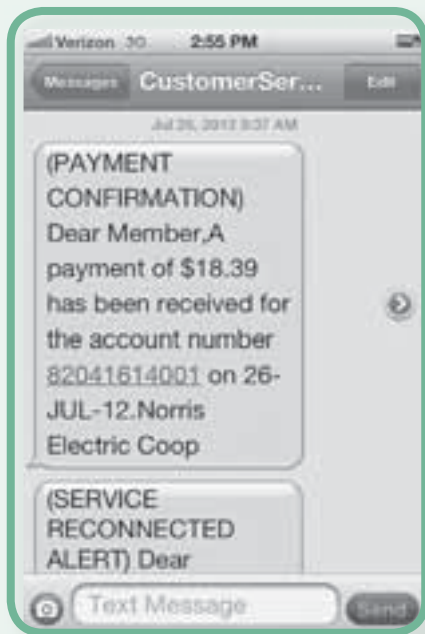
- **Not watching your credit rating.**

You should be aware of your overall credit score to avoid problems when you really need to borrow money.

Make sure all the information is correct, and watch out for signs that your identity has been lifted by con artists.



## Managing your account online



### Alerts & Reminders Option

Alerts and Reminders can be used to help monitor your account activity. Whether receiving a text on your cell phone or having an email sent, you have a choice of how you would like us to inform you of changes to your account. To enable Alerts and Reminders for your account(s), visit our website anytime at [www.norriselectric.com](http://www.norriselectric.com) or call 877-783-8765 Monday through Thursday 7:00 am to 5:00 pm.



**Office Closing  
Monday, Sept. 3  
for Labor Day**



by ViaSat

Call us about our **high speed** satellite internet.  
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Norris Electric Cooperative • 8543 N. State Highway 130 • Newton, Illinois 62448 • 618-783-8765  
Office hours: Monday — Thursday  
7:00 a.m. — 5:00 p.m