



HI-LINES

A NEWSLETTER FOR JO-CARROLL ENERGY MEMBERS

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Elizabeth, Illinois



800-858-5522



www.jocarroll.com



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With this issue we're unveiling a new design for Hi-Lines, the first major redesign in more than a decade.

The new look features a new design on the front, updated fonts and colors. We've worked with the Energized Graphics team at the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives for the redesign effort.

Value is key

2019 will mark your cooperative's 80th anniversary. Since 1939, Jo-Carroll Energy and now Sand Prairie Internet continue to pursue new services that will add value and make a positive difference in your life and the communities in which we live.

Jo-Carroll first brought electricity to rural areas of the counties we live in, when other for-profit entities would not. Now, through Sand Prairie, we are bringing high-speed internet to areas where others have chosen not to. Every day we pursue opportunities to bring high-speed internet to your area through partnerships or grants. We continuously seek creative ways to expand more quickly. We are here to serve you and bring as much value as possible, filling voids and gaps where others cannot or will not.

We are your LOCAL cooperative. We have a strong interest in your success and staying power. A strong local economy translates to



CEO'S REPORT by Mike Casper

strong members. We continue to work closely with our local economic development groups, chambers and other community organizations to ensure that our communities are receiving the needed services that will continue to strengthen our area.

From powering your homes and businesses to energizing entire communities, electricity and natural gas are there when you need it. While the cost to purchase and distribute it to you has been on the rise due to inflation and added regulation, the contribution of energy in our lives remains one of the best values your dollar can buy. When you consider how reliable energy is and how much we rely on it for almost everything, the value goes up even more. It is an undeniable bargain and one of life's great conveniences.

Increase the value of your energy dollar

You may have seen the billboards raising awareness of available energy efficiency incentives.

Small changes make big impacts when it comes to energy use. Find out how little changes add up by taking the free online home tour today at TogetherWeSave.com.

Have you tightened up your home? Have you ever heard of an energy audit? Please call and talk

to the experts at Jo-Carroll Energy for energy saving ideas. We are here to answer your questions and recommend money saving, energy efficiency improvement plans.

We are looking out for you by working together to keep energy bills affordable, controlling costs through innovation and putting you, our members, first.

Saving energy saves you money.

For your information

Your Board of Directors:

David Senn
Chairman
District 7

Russell Holesinger
Vice Chairman
District 8

Marcia Stanger
Secretary
District 3

Martin Werner
District 1

Joseph Mattingley
District 2

Dan Tindell
District 4

Patricia Smith
District 5

Thomas Lundy
District 6

Larry Carroll
District 9

Robert Kuhns
Treasurer
District 10

Office Hours: Monday-Friday

Elizabeth
793 U.S. Route 20 West
8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Savanna
103 Chicago Ave.
8 a.m. to 1 p.m.
1:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Geneseo
1004 S. Chicago St.
7:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
1:30 to 4 p.m.

Services and Billing Questions:

(800) 858-5522
www.jocarroll.com

For emergencies and outages call:

(800) 858-5522

Things to consider about space heaters

by Jo-Carroll Energy lineman Keith Hayes

It is common to turn up the heat when the outside temperatures drop. While heating costs have been rising, many are looking for a more cost-effective way to heat the house. You may have considered purchasing a “magic” space heater that will slash your electric bill or that you can heat your home for pennies a day. What is not said is how many pennies it will take.

People need to be cautious of such claims and investigate before purchasing a potentially costly space heater. These “magic” space heater advertisements claim you must turn the temperature in your house down to between 50 and 60 degrees and move the heater with you from room to room. This is not only a potential safety hazard, you also sacrifice convenience and comfort in the rest of your home. It does not matter what space heater you purchase, they are all equally inefficient. A space heater rated at 1,500 will produce the same amount of heat regardless of the make or price. The money that you would spend on a space heater could be used to make weatherization improvements to your home, such as insulating or applying caulk in cracks. If you should decide to use a space heater, please follow the instructions of the manufacturer. A few additional tips would include:

- Keep it at least 3 feet away from flammable items.
- Choose one that has a guard around the heating element and is certified by a nationally recognized testing institution.
- Keep children and pets away from heater.
- Make sure it has an automatic shut-off switch if it were to tip over.
- Finally, never leave a space heater unattended.



There are many ways to stay warm during the winter months without the use of a space heater and still save money. A few effective measures would include installing a ground-source or air-source heat pump that will heat in the winter and cool in the summer. Also, you could have a programmable thermostat installed that will lower the temperature while you are gone to work or while sleeping. The best option would be to add insulation, weather stripping and placing plastic over the windows. You could also complete a home energy audit offered by the Energy Detective provided by Jo-Carroll Energy.

Ron Vacura

Reader prize

Each month we print the name of a Jo-Carroll Energy member who is eligible to win a monthly \$25 readership prize. If your name is printed in this month's edition, and not a part of any article, contact Jo-Carroll Energy

Petitions available for 2019 director nominations

Nomination petitions for the 2019 Jo-Carroll Energy board of directors are now available.

Your cooperative's directors are members and consumers just like you who live in and are a part of the communities we serve. Running for the board of directors and voting in elections are benefits of being a co-op member.

Three director posts are up for election in 2019. They include representatives for Districts 1, 2 and 4. Any Jo-Carroll Energy member residing in a district that is up for election – including the incumbent – may petition for nomination in that district.

Members interested in seeking election to the board may download a petition from the cooperative's website at jocarroll.com or pick up a form at any of Jo-Carroll's offices.

Petitions must be signed by at least 25 Jo-Carroll Energy members residing in the

district for which the director is to be elected. Petitions must be filed at the cooperative's Elizabeth headquarters no earlier than Monday, Jan. 14, 2019 and no later than Friday, April 12, 2019.

In order to qualify to have their name placed on the ballot, all nominees must participate in an orientation process provided by the attorney for the cooperative, assuring that all nominees fully understand the expectations and responsibilities of directors. These include, but are not limited to: time demands, educational expectations and fiduciary duties.

All eligible candidates will be listed on the cooperative's website and in Hi-Lines.

Complete details on director qualifications and the nomination procedure can be found in Jo-Carroll Energy's bylaws posted at jocarroll.com. Anyone without internet access may request a copy by calling 800-858-5522.

Coming soon! 2019 rebates and incentives

We're finalizing details about our 2019 energy efficiency rebates and incentives. Watch future issues of Hi-Lines and our website at jocarroll.com for information with

complete details and a listing of the rebates and incentives available.

Incentives will be available for both electric and natural gas members.

Are you interested in
FASTER INTERNET?

Tell Sand Prairie you are interested in **FIBER INTERNET.**

Please visit connectSP.com/iwantfiber to fill out our interest survey.



Sand Prairie
Connecting our members to the world.
A service of Jo-Carroll Energy



800-858-5522 // connectSP.com



The power of cooperation

Four JCE linemen among those who responded after Hurricane Michael

In the wake of Hurricane Michael, electric co-ops banded together to provide mutual aid to those affected by the storm. Four Jo-Carroll Energy (JCE) linemen were among those who responded.

Lineworkers Steve Ludwig and Jeremy Whitmer left from the co-op's Elizabeth headquarters on Oct. 10 to meet up with fellow linemen Tony Schefsky and Tim Grau from JCE's Geneseo territory. They headed for South River EMC in North Carolina where a group had just returned from storm duty following Hurricane Florence less than a month before.

Two hours out of Asheboro, N.C., the four were rerouted to Randolph EMC to aid that co-op. After two days, the JCE crew was reassigned to West Florida Electric Cooperative (WFEC).

WFEC serves approximately 28,000 meters in four Florida counties; most were without power when the crew reported to the co-op's office in Sneads, Fla.

"When we first started getting into the damaged areas, I thought to myself, this is pretty bad but not what I really expected," said Schefsky. "Little did I realize, we had some distance before we got to the worst, to what was really bad. Once we got to Sneads, got out and took a look, it hit home of how bad it really was."

Ludwig, who worked in Georgia following Hurricane Irma, described the aftermath as the worst damage he's seen. "The damage was widespread," he said. "Every corner you made, every road you went on was nonstop destruction. It wasn't what we're used to

fixing one or two problems and energizing the line back."

While some houses stood up to the winds, many buildings had roof damage and were covered in tarps, and outbuildings were leveled. Much of the damage was caused by downed trees – 80-100 foot tall pine trees that couldn't take the wind.

"Wherever you looked, there were 40-60 acre fields of pine trees mowed over about eight to 10 feet up," Whitmer said. Grau described it as looking "like someone just came through with a lawnmower and mowed them all off."

It was those trees that caused about 90 percent of the damage the crew dealt with.

"It wasn't like a tree knocked down a span, it was multiple poles broken, multiple lines down," Whitmer said.

In addition to line crews, multiple tree contractors were brought in to aid the restoration. Work was coordinated so roads and right-of-way would be cleared ahead of the line crews. Using end loaders and skidders, the contractors moved trees, poles, wires and everything out of the way, creating windrows of debris along the road.

The JCE crew teamed up with four-man crews from Illinois co-ops Adams Electric and RECC, along with a lineman from WFEC.

The crew described one day when they had 12 linemen working together on the same line just to get to the point of energizing that one line. "Some places it was a rebuild, not repair," Ludwig said.

"We didn't start at one end of the road and rebuild new the entire way, but it was

Be ready when Mother Nature strikes

When Mother Nature strikes this winter, make sure you're ready.

Prepare ahead of time for storms that could last days at a time. Tune in to local stations or check online for the latest winter storm updates and sign up for weather alerts. Have a portable charger and extra batteries on hand. Also, have a battery-operated radio available (with extra batteries) to listen for updates.

- In preparing for a storm, be sure to:
- Consider special needs or medical issues in your household; have a supply of medications.
- Have a supply of non-perishable food as well as plenty of drinking water and a first-aid kit.
- Keep a checklist of items to have on hand and have as many of these essentials at the ready in case a storm event happens without warning.
- Prepare your home with proper insulation, caulking and weather stripping. Learn how to keep pipes from freezing. Install and test smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors with battery backups.

Stay inside

Stay home during snow and ice storms and wait until roads are cleared. Whatever the commitment, it's not worth getting into an accident or getting stranded.

If you do drive in extreme conditions, do not leave your car to look for help. Your car should be equipped with several items during cold months, such as a first-aid kit, portable car charger and batteries, blankets, water, snack food, a windshield scraper, warm clothing, tire chains, canned and compressed air with sealant for tire repair, booster cables, emergency flares, and road salt and sand for traction.

If you're at home during an outage, please know we will restore power as fast as possible without compromising safety. Do not turn on the stove for heat. It's not safe. Instead, use blankets, sleeping bags and warm coats. You can use an up-to-code fireplace or portable heater when used correctly.

For additional safety tips, go to SafeElectricity.org.



GET CONNECTED

With

CO-OP CONNECTIONS

Jo-Carroll Energy

APPLE RIVER STATE BANK

112 N Main Street
Elizabeth, IL
815-858-2225

Use your Co-op Connections card at Apple River State Bank in Elizabeth, for \$250 off closing costs for any real estate purchase or refinance.

SIEVERT'S STEAKS-N-STUFF

121 West Market Street
Mount Carroll, IL
815-244-7553

Use your Co-op Connections card when you dine at Sievert's Steaks-N-Stuff for \$2.00 off any dinner.

FOR A COMPLETE LIST OF DEALS, VISIT WWW.CONNECTIONS.COOP AND CLICK ON B2B SAVINGS. YOU CAN ALSO USE THE CARD TO RECEIVE DISCOUNTS ON PRESCRIPTIONS AS WELL AS DENTAL, VISION AND CHIROPRACTIC SERVICES. FOR PROVIDERS CALL 800-800-7616.



The Electric Co-op Youth Tour

Washington



Students will have the opportunity to....

MEET WITH THEIR U.S. REPRESENTATIVES AND SENATORS

VISIT HISTORIC MONUMENTS AND MUSEUMS

MEET AND FORM CONNECTIONS WITH STUDENTS FROM OTHER STATES

SCHOLARSHIPS 2019

06

Jo-Carroll Energy Scholarships
\$1,000 each



10

Director's Scholarships
\$500 each



04

2 Year/Technical School Scholarships
\$1,000 each



02

Lineworker Scholarships
\$2,000 each



04

Adult Student Scholarships
\$1,500 each



Applicants must be the son, daughter or under guardianship of a Jo-Carroll Energy member.

Visit jocarroll.com for deadlines, complete details, guidelines and applications.

pretty much at that point," Ludwig said. "You would either be straightening each pole or replacing them. In some places, you didn't even try to attempt to use the old wire – you just started out with brand new wire going right down the road."

Crews worked 16-hour days in hot and humid temperatures to turn the lights back on. "A lot of nights you'd lay down at 11 or midnight and be back up at 5," Ludwig said. "If you got five hours of sleep, you were doing pretty good."

Accommodations for the crews were in tents with cots for sleeping and semi-trailers for showers and laundry. "When things are that bad, that's what they bring in for you," Ludwig noted. "They make their own accommodations."

"Tent City was an experience all by itself," Schefsky said. "But the thing is, you think you've got it bad but somebody else has it worse... at least you had a shower, a cot and dinner to go back to." "The amazing thing is how coordinated it was," he added. "You've got about 1,300 linemen; you saw semi load after semi load of material come in. It was nothing to see a whole flatbed with nothing but 25kv transformers on it."

With nowhere to buy fuel, that too was brought in. At the end of the day, crews parked their trucks in a long line at the end to be refueled while they were sleeping.

After 15 days, about half of WFEC's system was still off. Although closed to the members, the co-op still functioned out of the building that sustained a lot of damage.

WFEC made it clear to its membership at the beginning that it could be six to eight weeks until power was fully restored. "When you talk about turning somebody's life upside down, that was it where we were," Ludwig said.

As the power came on, members expressed their appreciation to the crews.

"The people were 100 percent appreciative," Whitmer said.

"We had two different families start to cry they were so happy we were there to get their lights on," Grau noted. "They didn't expect their power to come on anytime soon, and we were there to get it back on for them."

No matter how badly their homes were damaged, people were still offering the crews what they had – as simple as a bottle of water or oranges picked from their trees. "You felt bad for them when you saw what their places were, and they were still trying to give to us," Whitmer said. "They were thinking about everybody who was there helping them before themselves."

Another WFEC member asked Grau if he was married. When he told her he was, she said, "God bless your wife. You want to know why? Because your wife and kids are home without you. You're here. I'm grateful your families are all understanding that you guys are here doing this."

"Looking back at it, it's the human element," Grau said. "You're helping someone out who's in need. You never know when that shoe may be on the other foot. It's probably one of the single most rewarding things you could do."



KEEP SAFE AND WARM THIS WINTER



When the chill of fall and winter set in, be aware of **potential fire hazards that are lurking in your home**. Whether keeping warm with heat from your furnace, space heater, fireplace, or electric blanket, **Safe Electricity offers these tips to prevent a fire in your home:**



Have your furnace inspected annually.

Always place your space heater on a **steady surface** and away from curtains, tablecloths or other flapping fabrics. Use a space heater with an automatic shut-off switch.



Be sure your **chimney is clear** before each use, and cover your fireplace with a screen to keep children and pets away from flames.



Inspect electric blankets for scorch marks or visible damage regularly.

For more **tips on fire prevention**, visit

