

# POWERLINE

NEWSLETTER FOR CO-OP MEMBERS OF CORN BELT ENERGY



EDITION: MAY 2019

## Local artisans build dreams with metal

What started as a hobby in a small garage next to Dan and Lynn Rasmussen's house, has quickly grown into a successful business.

Dan and Lynn Rasmussen, owners of Design & Color Your Dreams Inc., expanded their hobby to a business when they realized a need existed for industrial metal cutting and powder coating in northern Illinois. Design & Color Your Dreams has been in business for almost three years and their customers include residential customers, fabrication shops, auto shops and other commercial businesses. In addition, they hope to offer services to large manufacturers in the future.

The Rasmussens have scaled from small projects such as yard art and powder coating motorcycle parts to offering large scale services such as fabrication, Computer Numerical Control (CNC) plasma cutting, powder coating of large items such as outdoor staircases, lawn furniture and vehicle frames.



Their main workspace was originally in a garage on their property which currently houses a sanding room, small oven, CADD computer and a CNC machine. The CNC plasma cutter operates by using computer systems to automate cutting sheets of metal through the use of intricate software systems.

Recently, the Rasmussens built a second building to serve as a clean and dust free facility. This facility is equipped with state-of-the-art equipment including a dust collection system that removes contaminants from the air, a top of the line preparation area where they ensure parts meet the highest standards, a large powder coating room





*Jeremy Myers, Energy Advisor for Corn Belt Energy, (pictured on the right) assists Dan and Lynn Rasmussen in assembling a 3D yard art moose.*



*CNC machine, cuts out a 3D yard art moose. Once finished cutting, Dan Rasmussen removes the antlers from the metal sheet.*

and an industrial oven that heats and cures metal that has been powder-coated.

During the powder coating process, the powder is sifted to keep consistency and then

the powder is applied using a spray gun which applies an electrostatic charge to the powder that is attracted to the grounded metal object. Once coated with powder, the parts are allowed to cure in an oven which hardens the finish.

**What is powder coating?**

Powder coating is a popular finishing and coating process used on a wide variety of products ranging from automotive parts, farm machinery as well as daily household items. It serves as a protective, durable and decorative finish reducing chipping, corrosion, fading as well as other wear and tear issues. And according to Lynn Rasmussen, “almost an unlimited range of colors and textures are available including metallic finishes.”



# Meet our employees

"In order to properly cure the powder coating, the oven is heated to 400-450 degrees Fahrenheit," stated Lynn.

## What makes Design & Color Your Dreams Unique?

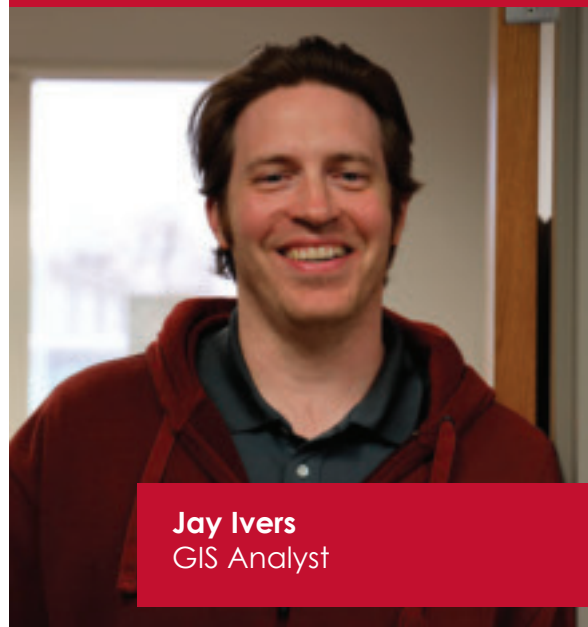
Design & Color Your Dreams takes great pride in their process, designs as well as the equipment used in their work. Dan and Lynn spent an extensive amount of time researching, testing and learning how to utilize the equipment. They

create decorative wrought iron pieces, 3D yard art, fire pits, powder coating automotive parts and much more. Whether you need a small project or would like to see an elaborate vision come to life, the Rasmussens enjoy the challenge.

If you would like to check out their latest projects or inquire about a custom project, follow Design & Color Your Dreams on Facebook or call Dan and Lynn at 815-915-5062.



The Rasmussens also received rebates from Corn Belt Energy for adding energy efficiency lighting to their new building. Pictured above left to right: Dan Rasmussen and Jeremy Myers, Energy Advisor for Corn Belt Energy



**Jay Ivers**  
GIS Analyst

*How long have you worked at Corn Belt Energy?*

**3 years**

*What is your role at Corn Belt Energy?*

**My role is to map Corn Belt Energy's physical assets and customize those maps for a variety of different purposes.**

*What aspect of your role do you enjoy the most?*

**I get to work with every department in the company on different projects and that prevents my job from becoming too routine.**

*If there is one piece of advice that you could share with our members, what would it be?*

**Your community is what you make it, get involved.**

*Corn Belt Energy puts SAFETY FIRST. What safety tip would you share with our members?*

**Call JULIE before you dig.**

*What are your hobbies and outside interests?*

**I love reading maps. Maps of animal habitats, human migration, cities I've never even been to, it doesn't matter, if it's mapped I'm interested.**

*Who or what inspires you?*

**I'm inspired by my parents. Two incredible people who live a life of doing for others.**

*If you had to select a hashtag to describe yourself, what would it be?*

**#Geographyenthusiast(nerd)**

*Is there anything else you would like to share with our members?*

**Thank you all for being members.**

## Corn Belt Energy 81<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting

Save the date for the 2019 Corn Belt Energy Annual Meeting at Central Catholic High School in Bloomington on Friday, June 21, 2019! If you receive electricity from Corn Belt Energy, you're a member of the cooperative and invited to attend. Watch your mail for more information about the upcoming event.

Congratulations to Gretchen Uphoff who was randomly selected to win \$250 for taking the time to complete our member satisfaction survey last year.





## Local students attend Youth Day in Springfield

Four students attended Illinois Cooperative Youth Day in Springfield, Ill., on Wednesday, April 13, 2019, with Corn Belt Energy. The students are pictured above from left to right: Easton Paul, Vivian Hedican, Lianna Benjamin and Austin Messiner.

More than 235 students representing 23 co-ops from across the state attended the event. Students had the opportunity to visit the State Capitol, view state government in action from the Senate floor and question their legislators on key issues. They were also invited into the office of Secretary of State Jesse White.

During lunch, State Treasurer Michael W. Frerichs addressed

students and chaperones and encouraged them to find where their passion lies. Frerichs said, "It doesn't matter what you do if you love what you are doing. Find your own path. There may be times when you start down a path and diverge from it but listen to your heart. Sometimes you have to immerse yourself in something and possibly fail. Even when we don't win, we learn from the experience."



Collin Moseley, the 2018-19 Illinois Youth Leadership Council representative from Clay Electric Co-operative, Inc., reflected on the past year and the experiences he had on the Youth to Washington Tour and his opportunity to represent Illinois at various meetings. He encouraged

everyone going on the 2019 Youth to Washington Tour to apply to represent Illinois as the YLC and not be afraid to connect with others on the trip.

After lunch, the students visited the Old State Capitol and Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum.

At the end of the day, students were interviewed for the chance to participate in the 2019 Youth to Washington Tour on June 14-21, 2019. Easton Paul and Lianna Benjamin were selected as the winners and Vivian Hedican was selected as the alternate.

### CONTACT US

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