

# POWERLINE

NEWSLETTER FOR CO-OP MEMBERS OF CORN BELT ENERGY



EDITION: JULY 2019

## Surge protection for your entire home

Storms often bring an increased threat of power surges which could damage your valuable electronics and appliances.

Many people think a blink in power is a surge, but these are generally caused by something such as a tree contacting a line. When a blink occurs, Corn Belt Energy's protective devices work, causing an interruption to protect the wires and other components.

What is a power surge? A power surge is defined as sudden, short-

lived increase in voltage. Power surges can enter the home in a variety of ways including power lines, telephone lines, cable/satellite connections and any other metallic system that connects to your home.

Corn Belt Energy can help protect your home from the threat of power surges which could damage your valuable electronics and appliances.

### Internal Surges

80% of temporary power surges

come from inside the home; protect your equipment with surge protector devices like power strips. Make sure to look for the UL 1449 label, which guarantees it meets tested and approved standards. Surge protectors carry a "joule" and/or a "surge-current" rating; the higher the rating of these two categories, the higher the quality of internal surge-stopping components. Corn Belt carries several surge strips and outlet receptacles that may fit your needs.

### External Surges

Whole-house protection is recommended for more severe surges, including lightning strikes. Corn Belt can install a surge protector on your exterior electric meter for \$6.95/month (200 amp meter) and a \$25 installation fee. 400 amp meter protection is available for \$8.95/month with a \$25 installation fee.

Inside your home, a panel-mounted circuit panel or service entrance suppression device (TVSS) forms a second layer of defense by greatly reducing harmful surges entering your home. A qualified electrician can ensure proper installation.

For more information, please visit our website at [www.cornbeltenergy.com](http://www.cornbeltenergy.com) or call us at 800-879-0339.

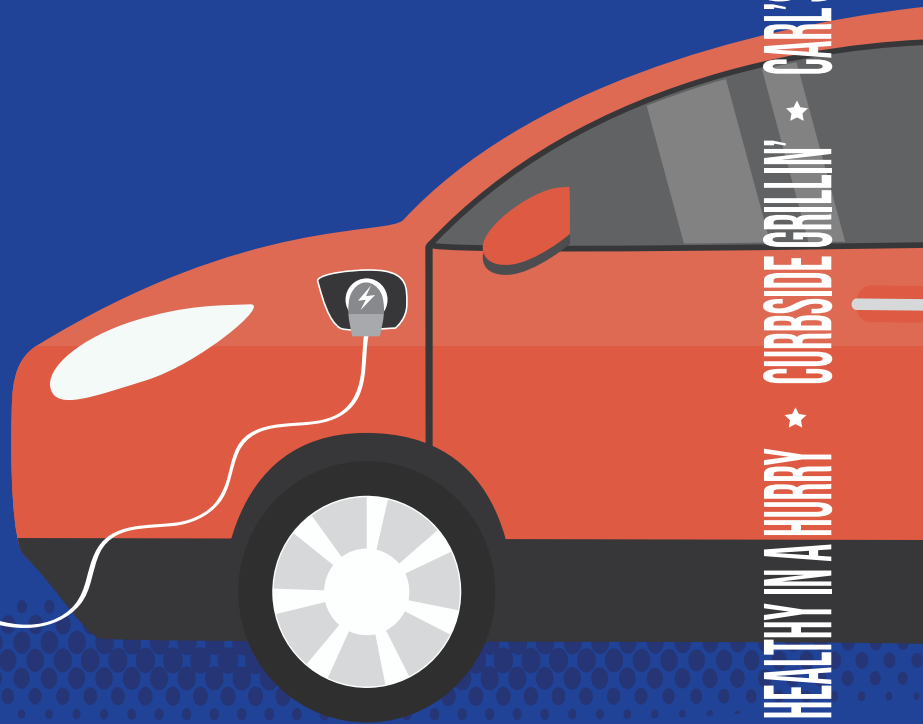
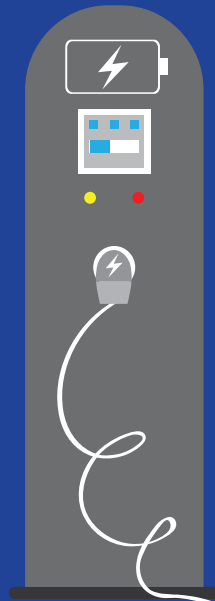


19  
JULY

# ELECTRIC VEHICLE DRIVE-IN

5  
PM

★  
ELECTRIC VEHICLE CAR SHOW  
★



★  
FOOD VENDORS: HEALTHY IN A HURRY ★ CURBSIDE GRILLIN' ★ CARL'S ICE CREAM  
★

**FREE ADMISSION**

Corn Belt Energy will host local electric vehicle (EV) owners and enthusiasts for a modern take on the classic car show. Stop by for a fun night out to learn more about the growing local EV community. Local vehicle dealers will be on hand, offering EV test drives, including Tesla.

ELECTRIC VEHICLE DRIVE-IN ★ FRIDAY, JULY 19 ★ 5-8 PM  
CORN BELT ENERGY, 1 ENERGY WAY, BLOOMINGTON, IL



# Meet our employees



**Steve Streitmatter**  
Underground Foreman

## Monitor your hourly energy use

If you receive electricity from Corn Belt Energy, you can access your usage data online! As your electric co-op, we're here to help you use energy wisely, and SmartHub is a great way to track your usage, down to the hour.

### Getting Started

Go to [www.cornbeltenergy.com](http://www.cornbeltenergy.com) and log in to your eBill account by clicking the "Account Log-in" link along the top and enter your username and password. If you don't have an account, setting up a new one is fast and easy.

Once you're logged in, click the "Usage&Billing" text link to access SmartHub.

You can view your electric consumption by month, day or hour. You can even overlay temperature data to see how the weather impacts your heating and cooling costs.

### For more information

For a quick video overview of how to use it, go to [www.youtube.com/cornbeltenergy](http://www.youtube.com/cornbeltenergy)

If you have questions or concerns about your electric consumption, call us at 800-879-0339 and speak to a member service representative during normal business hours.

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

**30 years**

*What is your role at Corn Belt Energy?*

**My role is to construct, maintain and restore powerlines.**

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

**Working with the young apprentices and seeing the appreciation from our members when we complete a project for them.**

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

**Be sure to get in touch with Corn Belt Energy or other professionals when in doubt about power lines.**

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

**Never get out of your vehicle if you hit a utility pole. Call 911 and wait for professional help (police, power company, etc.)**

*What are your hobbies and outside interests?*

**I enjoy spending time with my family, playing music and working on the farm.**

*Who or what inspires you?*

**I have an interest in learning about improving the energy efficiencies in my home.**

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

**Heard the term hashtag but not sure sure what this means.**

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

**Corn Belt has been a wonderful place to work. It has helped my family and I live our American dream.**

## Call before you dig

To avoid personal injury and damage to underground lines, state law requires you to contact Joint Utility Locating Information for Excavators (JULIE) before any digging project, regardless of the project size or depth. The call is free, and so are the services.



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

According to state law, the person doing the digging is required to call JULIE with the locate request information at least 48 hours (*two working days, excluding weekends and holidays*) in advance of the start of excavation. You must begin your project within 14 days from the time you call and if you want to start your project over the weekend, remember to contact JULIE by Wednesday at 4:00 pm.

In order to help the utility locator properly identify your project area, JULIE recommends that you mark the area where you will be digging with white paint and/or flags.

Each JULIE utility member is responsible to mark their own underground facilities with paint or flags within the two working day period required by law (*excluding Saturdays, Sundays and holidays*). Visit [www.illinois1call.com](http://www.illinois1call.com) to learn more about the process.



## Summer safety tips

### **Avoid Power Lines**

Overhead wires enter houses and buildings at places called service drops. Service drops are not insulated, so never attempt to touch these wires.

Storms or accidents can sometimes cause power lines to fall to the ground. Assume any wire lying on the ground is carrying electricity and stay away from it. If you spot a downed wire, immediately call your local police and Corn Belt Energy; Keep others from getting near the downed wire until help arrives.

### **Tree Safety**

Tree limbs that grow up near power lines can be unsafe. If you climb

such a tree, you could get hurt from electrical shock. Never trim trees near power lines – if you see a tree growing too close to power lines, contact Corn Belt to report it.

### **Hot Tubs and Pools**

Water and electricity never mix! Keep electronics like radios away from pools and hot tubs, and watch for overhead power lines when cleaning pools, sailing or fishing. Never install pools underneath or near power lines. Never touch an electrical appliance if you are wet; always dry off completely.

### **Outdoor Electronics**



Be careful when using electrical

appliances outdoors. Whether it's a bug zapper, an electric charcoal lighter, or a radio or CD player, use outlets that have weatherproof covers and ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCI) to prevent serious shock injuries. Use portable GFCIs for outdoor outlets that don't have them.

### **Kites and Balloons**

Since overhead power lines are not insulated, a kite or balloon string can conduct electricity to the ground. If a kite gets stuck in a tree that is near power lines, do not climb up to get it. Fly kites and model airplanes in large open areas like a park or a field.

## CONTACT US

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1 Energy Way, Bloomington IL 61705 | Office hours: Monday - Friday, 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM

