

President's Report



William R. Dodds
President/CEO

May is National Electrical Safety Month!

Four common culprits of electrical fires

May is National Electrical Safety Month, which is the perfect time to evaluate the safety of your home's electrical system. Outdated wiring and overloaded circuits are the most common causes of electrical fires. Check the following areas of your home to ensure your home's electrical safety is up to par.

ELECTRICAL OUTLETS

Faulty electrical outlets are a leading cause of home fires. As outlets age, so do the wires behind them that you can't see. Any loose, damaged or warm-to-the-touch outlets should be repaired or replaced.

ELECTRICAL WIRING

Outdated wiring is another common cause of electrical fires. Frequently tripped breakers, flickering lights and burning smells are clear warning signs. If your home is more than 20 years old, it may not be able to

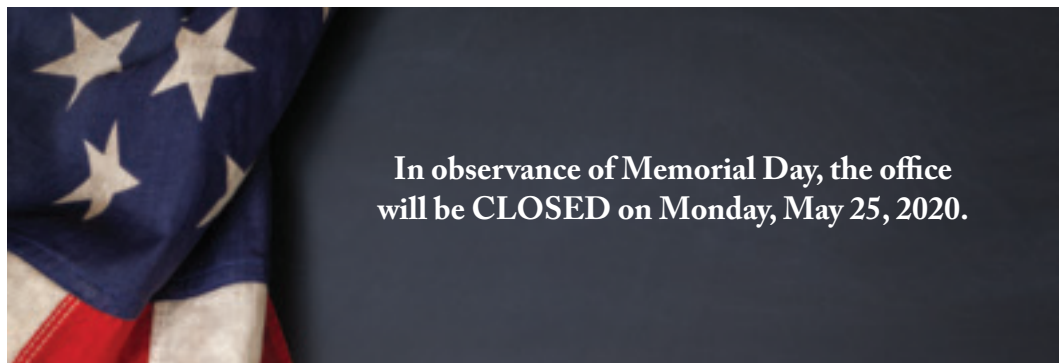
handle today's increased power load. If you suspect your home's wiring is outdated, leave this one to the pros and contact a qualified electrician.

OVERLOADED CORDS AND OUTLETS

Extension cords are not permanent solutions. If your big-screen TV, home theater system and other electronics are plugged into one extension cord, it's time to call an electrician and install additional outlets.

OLD APPLIANCES

Older appliances are more likely to have loose or damaged wiring, which means they're more likely to catch fire. Check older appliances for damage and determine if it's time to upgrade or replace. Also check to ensure you're using appliance-grade outlets. A qualified electrician can help with installation.



In observance of Memorial Day, the office will be **CLOSED** on Monday, May 25, 2020.

Spoon River Electric Cooperative

930 South Fifth Ave, PO Box 340,
Canton, IL 61520
8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
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President/CEO

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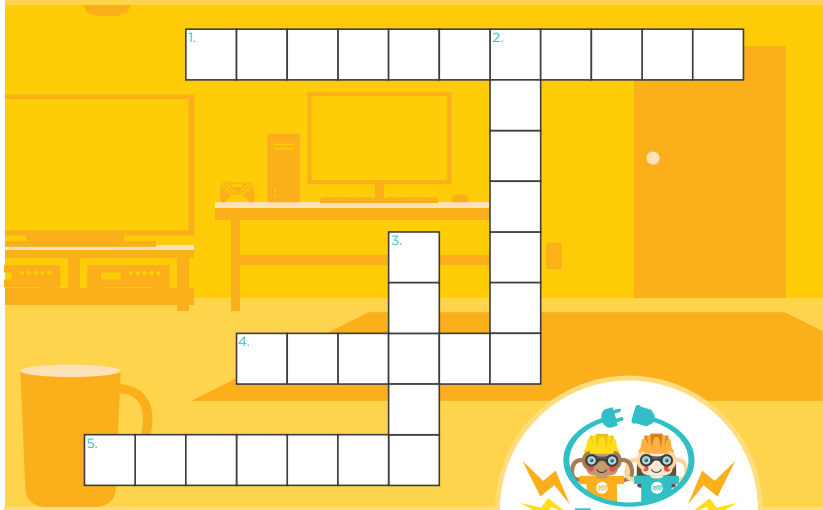
Editor of Spoon River News

Taryn Mellert
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Spoon River Electric Cooperative – By the Numbers

Miles of line energized: 1,272
Number of members served: 5,022
Number of power poles
in territory: 29,361

ELECTRICAL SAFETY CROSSWORD PUZZLE



May is Electrical Safety Month!

Read the safety tips below to complete the crossword puzzle.

- 1. ACROSS:** Keep all liquids away from _____, like TVs, computers and gaming consoles.
- 2. DOWN:** Never overload electrical _____. This creates a greater risk of fire.
- 3. DOWN:** Never use electrical _____ that feel warm to the touch or are damaged in any way.
- 4. ACROSS:** Smoke _____ should be installed in every bedroom, outside each sleeping area and on every level of your home.
- 5. ACROSS:** Don't run electrical cords under rugs. This creates potential fire _____.

1. electronics 2. outlets 3. cords 4. alarms 5. hazards **ANSWER KEY**

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

When the weather is nice, put your grill to use! During summer months, cooking outdoors is a great way to save energy and eliminate unwanted heat from cooking indoors.



Trimming trees near power lines can kill

There's no other way to say it. Trimming branches or limbs near power lines can kill.

If you look the other way, get distracted by deciding which limb to trim next or lose your footing, you could inadvertently make contact with a power line. You might think you have a steady hand, but moving a few inches off course could be the last thing you ever do.

It doesn't take contact with a wire to cause a fatal shock — electricity will jump to find the quickest path to the ground. Keep yourself and your tools or equipment more than 10 feet away from lines.

Did you know trimming within 10 feet (in any direction) of a power line is illegal? Only OSHA-certified line clearance workers are authorized to trim near power lines. So when hiring a tree trimmer to trim near power lines in your yard or on your property, make sure the person you hire is certified to do so.

For more information about electrical safety, visit SafeElectricity.org.



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Funding provided in whole or in part by the Department of Human Services



ATTENTION 2019-2020 SENIORS!

Spoon River Electric Cooperative Is Awarding Three \$1,000 Scholarships to High School Seniors

High school students who are seniors during the 2019-2020 school year and are the son or daughter of a Spoon River Electric member are eligible to apply for a \$1,000 Scholastic Scholarship, a \$1,000 Honorary Scholarship, and the \$1,000 Scott Parrish Memorial Scholarship, which will be awarded at this year's Annual Meeting on June 4, 2020.

Please fill out the form at the bottom of the page and return it to the Cooperative to participate. Applications must be turned in by **May 15, 2020** to be considered. Please see official rules and descriptions of scholarships below.

OFFICIAL RULES

- **Applying students and their parent/legal guardian must be present at the Annual Meeting June 4, 2020 to win.**
- Students must be a son or daughter of a Spoon River Electric Cooperative Member.
- Students must be a high school senior during the 2019-2020 school year and begin college undergraduate studies in the 2020-2021 school year. Students must plan on attending a two-year or four-year accredited college or university, including vocational/technical schools.
- Scholarship winners must be full-time students (at least 12 hours) during the 2020-2021 academic year.
- Scholarships are for one year and are non-renewable.
- Past Spoon River Electric Cooperative scholarship winners are not eligible to receive another one.

SCHOLASTIC AND SCOTT PARRISH MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIPS

- The Scholastic and Scott Parrish Memorial Scholarships will be awarded based on an application detailing GPA, college entrance test scores, work and volunteer experience, participation in school and community activities, and a biographical statement.
- Semi-finalists will be notified by mail with a time and place for a personal interview.
- Those not chosen as semi-finalists for the Scholastic and Parrish Scholarships will be automatically placed in the Honorary Scholarship drawing.

HONORARY SCHOLARSHIP

- The Honorary Scholarship will be awarded by a drawing as students are recognized at the Annual Meeting.
- All applicants are eligible for the Honorary Scholarship drawing except the Scholastic and Parrish Scholarship winners.



Scholarship Participation Request

Name of Student _____

Address of Student _____

Name of Parent/Guardian _____

Telephone Number _____

Return To: Taryn Mellert
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647-2700