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Power On: October is National Co-op Month

As an electric cooperative, our top priority is always to provide reliable, affordable energy to you, the member-owners we serve. Because we are a co-op, our mission is to enrich the lives of our members and serve the long-term interests of our local community—and this mission has never been more critical than in recent months. One of the seven principles that guides all co-ops is “concern for community.” This principle is the essential DNA of EnerStar Electric Cooperative, and it sets us apart from other electric utilities.

October is National Co-op Month, and electric cooperatives across the country are highlighting the many ways we “Power On.” Keeping this theme in mind, we recognize the essential role we play in serving a special community like ours.

Who would have fathomed in March, that the COVID-19 virus would amount to a test of our community and our nation? The changing circumstances due to the pandemic

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Then. Now. Always.
We're proud to power your life.
October is National Co-op Month.



11597 Illinois Highway 1
Paris, IL 61944
800-635-4145
Monday through Friday
7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.



#PowerOn

have created both challenges and opportunities. Over the past several months, we've all been challenged to operate differently, and EnerStar has stepped up to help our members and strengthen the safety net for our more vulnerable neighbors.

As an essential service, and to ensure reliability of your power supply, we modified our operations to safeguard business continuity. At different times, our employees worked staggered schedules to maintain separation as much as possible. Some staff have worked remotely. We have adjusted our walk-in office availability and in-person service calls to ensure the health and safety of our employees and our valued members. For the health and safety of everyone, we think these measures were the prudent course of action for the times.

During this time, EnerStar delayed until next year a rate increase to the monthly Grid Access Fee (formerly called Facilities Charge) and waived late fees. We are also working with those members hardest hit financially with special deferred payment plans.

We tell you about all these efforts not to boast about EnerStar but to explain how much we care about this community—because we live here too. We've seen other local businesses rising to meet similar challenges during this time, because that's what communities do. While the challenges caused by COVID-19 have been daunting, we are heartened to see how everyone is pulling together.

In 1939, EnerStar Electric Cooperative was built by the community to serve the community, and that's what we'll continue to do – Power On.

Position changes to current EnerStar employees

This year has brought several position changes to current cooperative employees.



Tim Haddix recently moved in the position as Manager of Operations and will continue his duties as System Engineer for the time being. Haddix is a graduate of Paris High School and Lakeland College with a degree in Civil Engineering. Prior to joining the cooperative in 1989, he was employed for many years at the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) as a Nuclear Inspector certified in the areas of electrical, mechanical, and civil.



Journeymen lineman **Chad Cornwell** was named Substation Specialist earlier this year. Chad is a graduate of Paris High School and received his lineman certification at Northwest Iowa Community College. He was employed by Ameren Illinois prior to joining EnerStar in 1999.



Earlier this year, **Chase Graham** moved into the position of EnerStar's Groundman/Warehouseman. He is a graduate of Chrisman High School and Ivy Tech Community College with an associate degree in Applied Sciences. He earned his lineworker certification at Northwest Iowa Community College.



Earlier this year, journeymen lineman **Russ Camp** was named Assistant Foreman. While attending Kansas High School, Camp participated in EnerStar Electric's high school internship program. After high school, he graduated from Northwest Iowa Lineman College with his lineworker certification. He was employed at two other Illinois electric cooperatives before coming to EnerStar in 2009.

EnerStar, Co-Bank with help from ECCF distribute grants to area schools

For the ninth consecutive year, EnerStar Electric Cooperative has been awarded the CoBank Sharing Success matching grant. The grant's purpose is to help cooperatives support causes and organizations important to the communities they serve. Because of the additional financial burdens faced by schools due to COVID-19, this year's recipients are the following schools: Paris Crestwood, Kansas, Oakland, Chrisman, Shiloh, Martinsville and Marshall.

CoBank, a non-profit cooperatively owned bank, assists rural America with financial services to agribusiness and rural electricity, water, and communication providers in all 50 states. CoBank matches contributions by its cooperative members to the charitable organizations of their choice on a dollar-for-dollar basis up to \$10,000. The charitable organizations must be established as a non-profit under section 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Service code. Other potentially eligible organizations include schools, churches and government organizations, if the donation serves a public purpose and is consistent with the program's purpose and guidelines.

Because of grant restrictions with a limit of four awards, to fund more schools throughout the EnerStar service territory, as one of the grant recipients, the Edgar County Community Foundation was awarded \$11,428.58 and stepped in to distribute the funds to the four Edgar County schools. "We could not have accomplished our goals if they were not so willing to help out," said EnerStar's Angela Griffin, vice president of utility services. After all individual checks were distributed, each of the seven schools received \$2,857.14.

"Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, our schools were required to purchase items outside their normal budget. I am proud that EnerStar was able to assist to help keep our area children, educators and staff safe," said Griffin. She explained that as a not-for-profit electric cooperative, EnerStar is guided by seven cooperative principles, which include "Cooperation Among Cooperatives" and "Concern for Community." *Continued on page 20D*



EnerStar Electric Cooperative was awarded the CoBank Sharing Success matching grant. Because of grant restrictions, the Edgar County Community Foundation (ECCF), stepped in to distribute \$11,428.58 in grant funds to four Edgar County schools: Shiloh, Chrisman, Kansas, and Paris Crestwood. Each school received \$2,857.14 to assist the additional financial burdens faced by schools due to COVID-19. EnerStar's Angela Griffin (center) presents the ECCF check to ECCF board members (left to right) Warren Sperry, Doug Hasler and Christian Colvin.



Presenting a check to Chrisman schools is ECCF Board Member Warren Sperry, Chrisman Principal Cole Huber, ECCF Board Member Bob Morris and EnerStar Board Member Kevin Julian. Chrisman received \$2,857.14 to assist with the additional financial burdens faced by schools due to COVID-19.



Presenting a check to Kansas schools is EnerStar Board Member John Fell, Principal Cindy Spencer, ECCF and Kansas Board Member Matt Ehlers, and ECCF Board Member Warren Sperry, Kansas schools received \$2,857.15 to assist with the additional financial burdens faced by schools due to COVID-19.

Distributing grants to area schools

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Griffin added, “We are very proud to be a part of this CoBank Sharing Success program. Through these grants, we have been able to assist several worthwhile organizations over the years.” Past recipients include the food pantries in Edgar County, Chrisman, Marshall and Martinsville; the Edgar County and Clark County Sheriff Departments; the Clark County Park District and the Twin Lakes All-Ability Playground; the Human Resources Center of Edgar and Clark County; the University of Illinois Extension Service in Edgar and Clark County; and the Paris High School Construction Project.



Presenting a check to Crestwood is ECCF Board Member William Minnis, EnerStar Board Member Thad Martin, Crestwood Superintendent Danette Young, and ECCF Board Members Warren Sperry and Scott Ingram. Crestwood received \$2,857.15 to assist with the additional financial burdens faced by schools due to COVID-19.



Presenting a check to Shiloh schools is ECCF Board Members Warren Sperry and Renee Craig, Superintendent Dr. Allen Hall, and EnerStar Board Member Dale English. Shiloh schools received \$2,857.14 to assist with the additional financial burdens faced by schools due to COVID-19.



Accepting for Marshall schools is Superintendent Kevin Ross (left) from EnerStar Board Member Dan Gard.



Accepting for Martinsville schools is Superintendent Jill Rogers (left) from EnerStar Board Member Jeremy Williams.



Accepting for Oakland schools is Superintendent Lance Landeck (left) from EnerStar Board Member Jeff Zimmerman.

Past Sharing Success Grant Recipients

- 2019** Edgar County Food Pantry, Chrisman Food Pantry, Northern Edgar County Ambulance Service
- 2018** Edgar County Sheriff Dept. and Clark County Sheriff Dept.
- 2017** Clark County Park District and Oakland Food Pantry
- 2016** Twin Lakes All-Ability Playground, Paris
- 2015** Human Resources Center of Edgar and Clark County
- 2014** University of Illinois Extension Service in Edgar and Clark County
- 2013** Marshall Food Distribution Center and Martinsville Food Pantry
- 2012** Paris High School Construction Project

