

President's Report



William R. Dodds
President/CEO

SREC and local bank team up for a great cause

In early June, Wee-Ma-Tuk Hills Country Club was purchased by a group of local member-owners. Since then, the member-owners and a group of volunteers have worked diligently to return the course back to its former glory.

Understanding the value the golf course provides to the community and surrounding area, Spoon River Electric Cooperative (SREC) joined the effort this summer to provide additional support and assistance in the spirit of impacting the community and adhering to their cooperative principles.



Bank of Farmington

In August, Bill Dodds, president of SREC, contacted Joe Higgs, president of Bank of Farmington, with an idea to partner on this important area project and both quickly realized the benefits of joining forces. Bank of Farmington provided the financial support while SREC provided equipment and other resources.

With the addition of all the countless volunteer hours spent on brush removal, tree trimming, mowing and other improvements, the golf course is taking shape. "This is a unique project that indirectly benefits organizations that provide



Continued on 20b ►

Spoon River Electric Cooperative

930 South Fifth Ave, PO Box 340,
Canton, IL 61520
8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
309-647-2700 • www.srecoop.org

President/CEO

William R. Dodds
bdodds@srecoop.org

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Editor of Spoon River News

Taryn Mellert
tmellert@srecoop.org

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

SREC and local bank team up continued from 20a

valuable services to our community and is truly wonderful to see so many people come together for such a great cause within our community,” said Dodds.

“I’m proud to bring the bank in on this project and partner with Bill Dodds and SREC,” said Higgs. “Wee-Ma-Tuk Hills Country Club is a Fulton County gem and it’s important to keep this area asset viable and sustainable as it provides so many positive benefits to the community and surrounding area.”

Wee-Ma-Tuk Hills Country Club reopened over Fourth of

July weekend. Golf outings and fundraisers are back in full swing. Businesses and organizations such as Canton Area Chamber of Commerce, Torch Light Special Olympics, Graham Hospital, Red Dog, U.S. Open Fishing, Spoon River College and YMCA have used Wee-Ma-Tuk Hills Country Club as their venue in 2020. These outings and events would not have been possible without the effort of the member-owners, volunteers, SREC and their employees, and the financial assistance of Bank of Farmington.

CO-OP MONTH FILL-IN-THE-BLANK

Did you know October is National Co-op Month?

Complete the fill-in-the-blank activity below to learn about a few ways co-ops are unique! Use the word bank if you need help.



1. Co-ops and their members work together toward a common _____.
2. Co-ops are _____ organizations, so they understand the communities they serve.
3. All co-ops operate according to the same set of seven cooperative _____.
4. Concern for _____ is the seventh cooperative principle.
5. Co-ops don't have customers; we have _____.
6. Co-ops are _____ by the members they serve.

WORD BANK

LED LOCAL GOAL PRINCIPLES MEMBERS COMMUNITY

Answer Key: 1) goal 2) local 3) principles 4) community 5) members 6) led



Consider electrical safety when preparing for the big hunt

As you prepare for hunting season, keep in mind along with general hunting safety, electrical safety should also be top of mind.

You might be preoccupied and excited about the big hunt but be sure to look up and out for power lines. Never place a tree stand near a power line. Contact with the power line, utility pole or related equipment can alter the path to ground, sending electricity through anyone or anything that comes too close or in direct contact with the power source. Even coming within 10 feet can cause an arc, transferring energy from the power line/source to an object or person.

In addition, don't shoot near or toward power lines, utility poles, transformers or substations. Stray bullets could damage equipment, possibly interrupting electric service. More concerning, they could drop a power line to the ground, causing a hazardous scenario: those who get within 50 feet of the downed line could be shocked or electrocuted.

Spoon River Electric and Safe Electricity remind hunters of these electrical safety tips:

- Familiarize yourself with the area before heading out to hunt. Take note of power lines and equipment, especially when in densely wooded areas.
- Observe signs or postings that advise electrical safety, especially when scouting out a location for your tree stand.
- Do not use power poles to support a tree stand.
- Do not place a tree stand near a power line.
- Look up and out for power lines and do not come within 10 feet of an overhead line or pole when setting up or taking down a stand.
- Never climb a utility pole.

Report any damage to a line or other related equipment to us so we can address it. Although we perform routine maintenance, damage may not be noticed for weeks or months, unless an outage occurs, due to the amount of lines in our service area. Of course, always take the time to observe general hunting safety measures as well. Stay safe out there!

For more information about safety around power lines and other electric equipment, go to SafeElectricity.org.

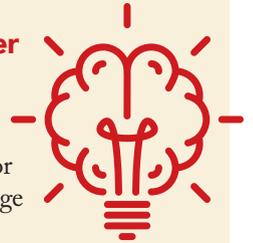
Increasing your brain power: Fun energy facts

Did you know although Americans account for 4.25 percent of the world's population, we use at least 17 percent of the world's energy?

Fossil fuel sources (coal, petroleum, natural gas) provide the most energy; they "fuel" 80 percent of our nation's energy consumption. Nuclear electric power accounts for 8 percent and various types of renewable energy provide 11 percent (numbers rounded by the U.S. Energy Information Administration).

Most Americans own cars, so getting around in them accounts for a large part of our energy use. Less than 10 percent of Americans use public transportation. Worldwide, more than 20 percent of energy consumed is used for transportation.

Here are some other energy facts:



- Heating and cooling your home accounts for about half of the average utility bill.
- To help reduce your utility bill, find (and fix) sources of air leaks in your home and replace inefficient windows, especially single-paned ones. Energy-saving related fixes and tweaks add up to a more efficient home, thus saving on energy costs. (These are only a few ways to use less energy. Home energy audits can find sources of inefficiency.)
- Lighting accounts for approximately 10 percent of home utility bills. Put high-efficiency light bulbs to work.
- The typical U.S. family spends \$2,200 or more on home utility bills each year.
- Using a smart or programmable thermostat to adjust your thermostat 10 degrees for 8 hours a day could lower your heating and cooling costs by 10 percent.
- Despite previously being touted as energy saving, closing vents in unused rooms can put a strain on your HVAC system, which typically uses more energy, not less.

Sources: *Energy Resource Center, energy.gov, Energy Information Administration.*

UNDERSTANDING THE SEVEN COOPERATIVE PRINCIPLES

Cooperatives around the world operate according to the same set of core principles and values, adopted by the International Co-operative Alliance.

These principles are a key reason why America's electric cooperatives operate differently from other electric utilities, putting the needs of our members first.



VOLUNTARY AND OPEN MEMBERSHIP

Membership in a cooperative is open to all persons who can reasonably use its services and stand willing to accept the responsibilities of membership, regardless of race, religion, gender or economic circumstances.



DEMOCRATIC MEMBER CONTROL

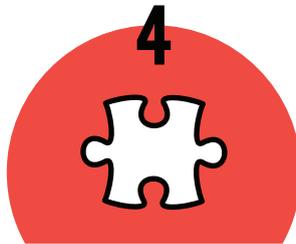
Cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting policies and making decisions.

Elected representatives (directors/trustees) are elected from among the membership and are accountable to the membership. In primary cooperatives, members have equal voting rights (one member, one vote); cooperatives at other levels are organized in a democratic manner.



MEMBERS' ECONOMIC PARTICIPATION

Members contribute equitably to, and democratically control, the capital of their cooperative. At least part of that capital remains the common property of the cooperative. Members allocate surpluses for any or all of the following purposes: developing the cooperative; setting up reserves; benefiting members in proportion to their transactions with the cooperative; and supporting other activities approved by the membership.



AUTONOMY AND INDEPENDENCE

Cooperatives are autonomous, self-help organizations controlled by their members. If they enter into agreements with other organizations, including governments, or raise capital from external sources, they do so on terms that ensure democratic control as well as their unique identity.



EDUCATION, TRAINING AND INFORMATION

Education and training for members, elected representatives (directors/trustees), CEOs and employees help them effectively contribute to the development of their cooperatives. Communications about the nature and benefits of cooperatives, particularly with the general public and opinion leaders, helps boost cooperative understanding.



COOPERATION AMONG COOPERATIVES

By working together through local, national, regional, and international structures, cooperatives improve services, bolster local economies and deal more effectively with social and community needs.



CONCERN FOR COMMUNITY

Cooperatives work for the sustainable development of their communities through policies supported by the membership.

THESE ARE
THE WORDS
WE LIVE BY.



The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) is the national service organization for more than 900 not-for-profit rural electric cooperatives and public power districts providing retail electric service to more than 42 million consumers in 48 states and whose retail sales account for approximately 12 percent of total electricity sales in the United States. Learn more at electric.coop