



Rural HIGHLIGHTS

Local News from Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative

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RECC's transmission line repaired

On the evening of October 11, a dead tree fell on the cooperative's transmission line and caused an outage at the Glenarm Substation. Within an hour and a half, RECC linemen restored power by back feeding circuits to the Lowder, Girard and Sicily substations. The next morning, linemen walked and inspected the entire length of the transmission line. They found a few other maintenance items, which they repaired before the line was energized. Afterward, the back fed circuits were returned to their original substation.

The location of this line can present challenges. It follows along a busy highway, travels through residential areas, crosses a portion of Springfield Lake, and runs between Piper Glen Golf Course and a railroad track. The terrain can also get muddy. RECC employees expedited the inspections and repairs by providing their own Side by Side

vehicle and a fishing boat. Manager of Operations and Maintenance Tim Hemberger said the work was done safely and very efficient considering the working conditions. He was also thankful for the use of the employees' personal equipment.

RECC's 16.5-mile transmission line originates at the Amos Switching

Station in Springfield and delivers 69,000 volts to the Glenarm Substation, which is located a few miles south of Chatham. The transmission line was acquired from Prairie Power Inc. in 2008, along with the co-op's substations. This is the longest transmission line that is owned and maintained by RECC.



Touchstone Energy Community Service Project



RECC employees Sandy Lex, Dalton Brown, Sean Koen, Shane Norris, Shelley Barnes, Dave McCarty, Stefan Sporrer, Nick Hays and Jeff Lancaster

October was National Co-op Month and Illinois cooperatives celebrated the occasion by highlighting some of their contributions made in the local communities. Cooperatives are known for providing excellent member service, but most of their work in the community often goes unnoticed. Cooperatives have a long tradition of helping local organizations. In fact, Concern for Community is one of the cooperatives' core principles.

On Monday, October 18, RECC employees volunteered to help complete a few projects at the Sangchris Lake State Park. Co-op volunteers rocked

a 300-foot walking trail, installed a flagpole, trimmed a quarter-mile trail leading to Taylor Cemetery, replaced a security light, and painted two of the park's most popular pavilions.

Site Superintendent Jamie Hopper said he was grateful for the work performed by the co-op volunteers and was impressed with the number of projects that were completed in a single day. Jamie is new to this area and Sangchris Lake State Park, but knows the value of a good working relationship. During his time with Walnut Point State Park in Oakland, IL, he worked on similar projects with EnterStar Electric Cooperative.

Sangchris Lake State Park is located within RECC's service territory and the two organizations have worked together on other joint ventures in the past. Some may remember the Osprey Nest Project constructed and installed by the RECC linemen. The GobNob wind turbine is also located on DNR property, which is managed and maintained by Sangchris Lake State Park staff.



Rep. Bourne receives Illinois Electric Cooperative Award



RECC President/CEO David Stuva, Directors Lou Weitekamp and Cassie Eigenmann, Rep. Avery Borne, Member Services Liaison Sandy Lex, Board President Mel Repscher and Director Thom Hart.

State Representative Avery Bourne, R-95th District, received the 2021 Illinois Electric Cooperatives' Public Service Award. The award was made in recognition of Rep. Bourne's dedicated public service to all citizens of the state of Illinois and for outstanding contributions to the rural electrification program.

Representative Bourne has served in the Illinois House since 2015. She

serves as the Republican spokesperson on the elementary & secondary education: school curriculum & policies committee and several other committees including: appropriations-elementary & secondary education; executive; elementary & secondary education: administration, licensing & charter schools; child care access & early childhood education; and redistricting.

RECC President/CEO David Stuva congratulated Representative Bourne and thanked her for her strong support of Rural Electric Cooperatives. CEO Stuva said, "Avery is an active RECC member and understands what a cooperative is all about. She is a friend of rural electrification and friend of agriculture. We can always count on Avery to listen to our concerns or requests."



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Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative

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Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Christmas Lighting Contest for 2021



Entering our contest is easy. Simply take a picture of your lighting display and email it to contest@recc.coop. Photos can be submitted by anyone, but the member's name and address must be included with each entry. All photos must be received by December 20 to be eligible to win a prize. The prize total for our Christmas Lighting Contest is \$500. RECC judges will review the lighting displays and choose five lucky winners. The first-prize winner earns \$200, followed by \$150 for second, \$75 for third, \$50 for fourth, and \$25 for fifth place. Winner will be announced on December 31, 2021.

CONTEST RULES

Photos must be emailed to contest@recc.coop before Dec. 20, 2021. Eligible entries must contain the address and name of the cooperative member. Lighting display location must be served by Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative. Judging will start on December 20, 2021 and winners will be announced by December 23, 2021. Photos submitted to contest@recc.coop may be used in RECC publications. RECC employees and directors are not eligible to win prizes. All prizes awarded as bill credits: 1st \$200, 2nd \$150, 3rd \$75, 4th \$50, 5th \$25. Please contact us at 217-438-6197 if you have any questions.

Delbert England passed away at 84

Former RECC President/CEO Del England passed away at his home in Montgomery, Alabama. Del took over for retiring General Manager Roy Goode in June 1991 and stayed until his own retirement in October 1999. England's RECC tenure was short but eventful, as he dealt with difficult issues like: The WIPCO/Soyland lawsuit, proposed RECC-Menard consolidation, the elusive COGA plant, and deregulation of the nation's electric industry. England also managed several electric cooperatives and spent three years in Bangladesh as a consultant for NRECA International.

Delbert England

January 29, 1937



October 23, 2021

