

From the Manager

Spring is here and it is time for spring projects. Be mindful of overhead lines or ground mount transformers while working in your yard this year. It is important to stay attentive while working around the house and to keep a safety mindset.

Clay Electric Cooperative is also gearing up for our spring and summer projects. This year will see us rebuilding some of our core three-phase lines. **11655-001** Construction contractors will be building new three-phase line in our service territory this year, so do not be concerned if you see trucks without the familiar Clay Electric logo working on utility poles in the rebuild area.

The rebuild will begin along Clay Electric's three-phase on Ironwood Road east of the intersection with Fir Lane. It will continue along Ironwood Road until they reach Dogwood Road

and then will turn north. The three-phase will continue to be replaced along Dogwood Road until it intersects with Oak Mound Lane and construction will turn east to work along Oak Mound Lane. The Oak Mound Lane rebuild will extend almost all the way to Highway 50.

The rebuild will also include a section of Hemlock Lane from Charlie Brown Park west around the curve and over the highway. The work will continue north and end when it reaches Oak Mound Lane.

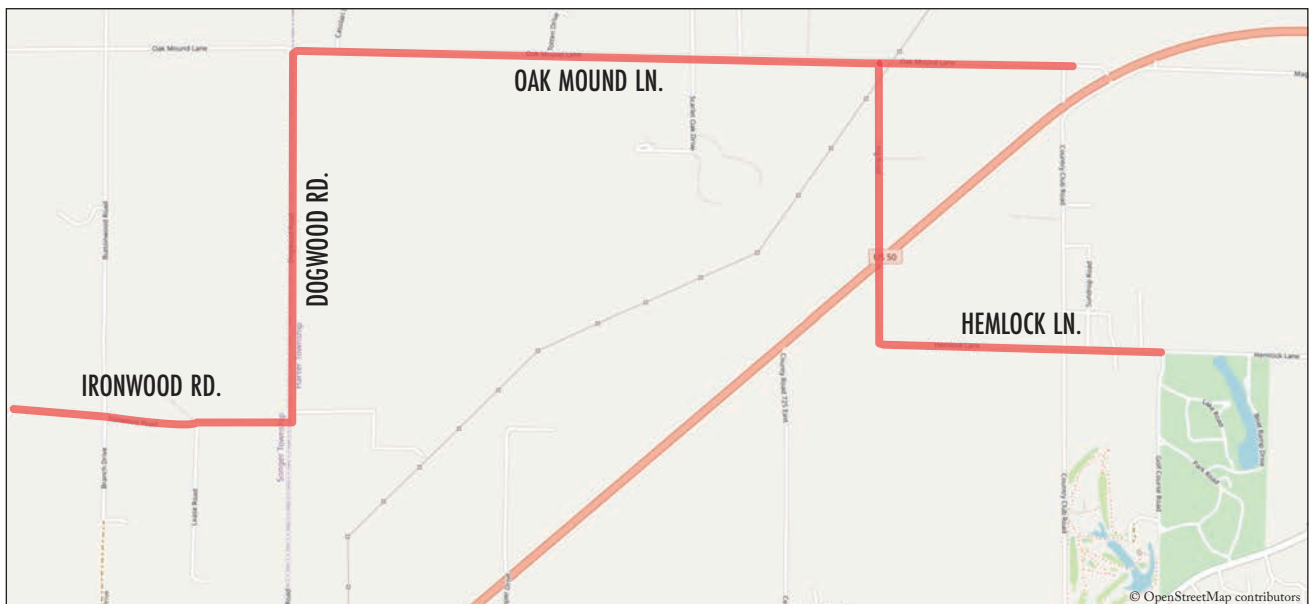
If you live on this section of our lines, you may have noticed stakes with white flags have been placed near poles and guy wires. These flags mark the route that our contractors will follow on this line upgrade. This project will increase the gauge of line used along the backbone of our system. Looking toward the future,

as more and more appliances, yard tools, cars and more are electrified, we need a system that can support the future demands of our membership. This project is part of Clay Electric's plan to futureproof our grid so our members can be confident in the supply of power offered to them by their cooperative.

Don't forget to be on the lookout for your member number in the center section of this magazine. There are three member numbers hidden in Clay Electric News. If you find your number and give us a call you win \$5 off your next bill!



Matt Conklin
CEO



Selecting a tree?

Know its mature height before deciding where to plant

If you are considering planting a tree, carefully select its location before you begin digging. Also, call 811 before you break ground to get underground utilities marked. If trees are planted in the wrong location, they can be expensive to maintain and even dangerous. Clay Electric Cooperative, Inc. and Safe Electricity offer tips on how to pick an optimal location.

A mature height of fewer than 15 feet is recommended if planting near lines. Some trees that are generally not tall enough to interfere with lines include crabapple, honeysuckle, juniper, flowering dogwood and hawthorn.

Trees should never be planted directly under power lines, near poles or too close to electrical equipment.

Once you have a tree selected, call 811 before putting a shovel to the ground. The “Call Before You Dig” number is a free service that locates and marks public underground utilities in your yard or on your land. Call several business days before you plan to dig. Locators will mark public underground utilities such as electric, gas, water, cable and fiber. The service does not mark privately owned lines or pipes.

Other tree tips

- If your established trees are growing into power lines, contact us to ask about them. In some cases (depending on the tree’s location), we will come out and trim the tree. If it is your responsibility, do not take on the task yourself. Only tree trimmers who are line-clearance certified are legally allowed to prune and trim trees within 10 feet of power lines.
- It is important to have trees trimmed. Limbs can fall on power lines during bad weather, resulting in power outages or blinking lights. **14997-001** Broken or drooping limbs could also cause a fire.
- Tall-growing trees with a mature height greater than 45 feet should be planted at least 45 feet away from lines to avoid future pruning. Some of these trees include oak, white and blue spruce, most pines and most maples.
- Be sure no one climbs a tree near power lines. If branches are touching the wires, the tree could be energized. Even branches that do not touch power lines could become energized if a child’s weight is added. In addition, a child could climb high into the tree and be able to reach the line.

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



TEST YOUR GFCI OUTLETS

ONCE A MONTH

The safety functions of ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) can fail without notice, so check them monthly. Pick the first or last day of the month so that it is easy to remember.

HOW TO TEST A GFCI OUTLET:

- Find the test and reset buttons.
- Press the TEST button.
- You should hear a snap sound that trips the outlet.

CONFIRM THE POWER IS CUT

- Plug in a lamp or other device.
- The item you plug in should not turn on.

RESET THE OUTLET

- Once you confirm the GFCI is working properly (that the outlet does not work when tested), press the reset button to restore power to the outlet.

RETEST FOR REMAINING SOCKET(S)

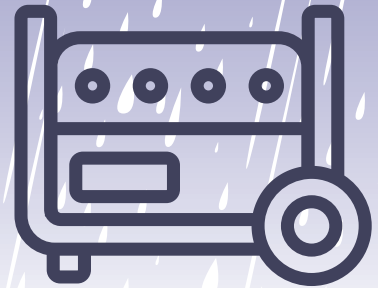
You can also buy a GFCI outlet tester that has a display and test button.

GFCI protection can also be installed on circuit breakers to safeguard an entire circuit. They should be tested monthly by pressing the test button on the breaker. If working properly, the interrupter should shut off power to the circuit.

 Safe Electricity.org®

A QUICK GUIDE TO GENERATORS

With proper use and maintenance, generators provide great convenience during a power outage. Before you purchase a generator, determine your backup power needs to select the right size. Make a list of essential appliances and devices you'll want to power during an outage, then total the required wattage.



RECOMMENDED IF YOU...

... **rarely** lose power.

Recreational Inverter

Up to 2,000 watts

Lightweight, about 60 pounds

Quiet, easy to store

Power: fridge and a few smaller items (i.e. lamp, phone charger and home security system)

Midsized Inverter

Up to 3,500 watts

Weights up to 150 pounds

Power: fridge, laptop, five to 10 lights, phone charger, home security system and 10K BTU air conditioner

... **occasionally** lose power.
Transfer switch required.

Portable Generators and Large Inverters

Up to 7,500 watts

Weights about 300 pounds

Power: fridge, gas furnace, 10K BTU air conditioner, dishwasher, multiple lights, TV, laptop and more

Ability to connect to home's breaker panel

... **frequently** lose power.
Transfer switch required.

Home Standby

Up to 20,000 watts

Must be permanently installed; starts automatically during outage

Power: nearly all home appliances and electronics (simultaneously)

Can run indefinitely on natural gas or propane

Recommended if you frequently lose power.

SAFETY FIRST!

- Let us know if you purchase a generator that you plan to connect to an electric panel.
- Improperly installed generators can create back feed, which is dangerous to our crews and the community.
Before using the generator, disconnect the normal source of power coming into your home/business.
- Never operate a generator indoors or in an enclosed space.

Disclaimer: Please note safety requirements may differ based on the type of generator you purchase. Thoroughly read the operator's manual and know how to shut off the generator quickly.

Source: *Consumer Reports*

Minutes of the Board of Trustees Meeting

March 28, 2022

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of Clay Electric Cooperative, Inc. (CECI) was held at the Clay Electric Cooperative Headquarters, Flora, Illinois beginning at 5:00 o'clock p.m. on Monday, March 28, 2022.

Trustees present were: Bob Pierson, Neil Gould, Bill Croy, Richard Rudolphi, Frank Czyzewski, Frank Herman, Kevin Logan, Josh Schnepfer and Evan Smith. Also present were: Matt Conklin, CEO and Tyra Cycholl, Attorney for the Board. The meeting was opened by Bob Pierson, who presided and Neil Gould, acted as secretary thereof.

The invocation was given by Bill Croy and was followed by the pledge of allegiance,

The following proceedings were had [all action being first duly moved and seconded and all action taken being upon the unanimous vote of the Board or without dissenting vote of abstention unless otherwise stated]:

APPROVED, the Suggested Agenda.

APPROVED, the Consent Agenda including the following:

- **APPROVED**, the prior meeting minutes;
- **APPROVED**, (a) to admit to membership those 10 applicants connected for service since the last such review by the board, and (b) cancel those 9 former members shown on the Manager's Report since the last such review by the Board, said members no longer taking service;

REVIEWED, the Consent Agenda including the following:

- **REVIEWED**, the Work Orders;

- **REVIEWED**, the Disbursements;
- **REVIEWED**, the Credit Card Statements;
- **REVIEWED**, the Attorney Retainer;
- **REVIEWED**, the Account Summary Report;
- **REVIEWED**, the Federated Report from the Board;
- **REVIEWED**, the CRC Report from the Board;
- **REVIEWED**, the NCSC Report from the Board.

OPENED bids for the Meter Loop.

ACCEPTED, the high bid.

REVIEWED and **DISCUSSED**, contractor bids for rebuild.

ACCEPTED, the bid from JW Didado.

REVIEWED, the Federated Insurance Quotes.

APPROVED, the increase in cyber insurance and keeping everything else the same.

APPROVED, the Deceased Estates.

DISCUSSED, CFC Report and Annual Meeting in Boston.

HEARD, a report by Frank Herman regarding SIPC Board Meeting and the SIPC Annual Meeting.

HEARD, a report by Kevin Logan regarding AIEC Meeting.

WERE UPDATED, on Board Training events at AIEC and **11120-001** AIEC Annual Meeting, the Legislative Conference as well as the CFC Forum and ACES Conference.

HEARD and **APPROVED**, a financial report by Matt Conklin as to the following:

- Monthly Reconciliation;
- SIPC Power Delivered in February 2022;

- February 2022 Cash Flow;
- Line Loss;
- February 2022 Form 7;
- February 2022 Balance Sheet;
- Capital Credit check from Meridian;
- Capital Credit check from Federated.

REVIEWED the Safety Report for the month of March.

REVIEWED, the Monday morning Safety meeting held March 28, 2022.

HEARD and **APPROVED**, the Manager's report by Matt Conklin on the following topics:

- Operations Report;
- Communications Report;
- Upcoming meetings.

REVIEWED, the Operations Report.

REVIEWED, the Communications Report.

WERE REMINDED, of upcoming meetings on April 25, 2022, May 23, 2022, June 27, 2022, and July 25, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

REVIEWED, a thank you cards.

There being no further business to come before the Board, said meeting was declared adjourned at 6:50 P.M.



Every month we will have three member numbers hidden throughout Clay Electric News. If you find your member number that corresponds to the one found on the upper right corner of your bill, call our office and identify your number and the page it's on. If correct, you will win a \$5 credit on your next electric bill.

Clay Electric Co-operative, Inc.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

7784 Old Hwy. 50,
P.O. Box 517,
Flora, Illinois 62839
618-662-2171
800-582-9012

Office hours:
7:30 a.m. — 4:00 p.m.
www.ceci.coop
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