



Rural HIGHLIGHTS

Local News from Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative

Three directors re-elected

Elections were held for three positions on the board of directors. Elected this year were Clayton Bloome in District #1, Chris Wilcox in District #2 and Jimmy Ayers in District #3. All three directors were re-elected to new three-year terms.



Clayton Bloome
Pawnee



Jimmy Ayers
Rochester



Chris Wilcox
Waverly

Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative's 85th Annual Meeting was held at the Route 66 Drive-In on June 9. The event occurred too late for coverage to be included in this issue but will appear in the August center section of the Illinois Country Living magazine. Voting results for the bylaw amendments and photos of the annual meeting can be found on recc.coop or any of the cooperative's social media sites.

Teaching the values of Touchstone Energy®



RECC's Sandy Lex is a certified Touchstone Energy® facilitator. After a two-year hiatus due to the pandemic, she is back to teaching again. This time at Jemez Mountains Electric Co-op in Espanola, N.M. Jemez is the largest cooperative in New Mexico with more than 31,000 members.

Sandy taught two Service Excellence classes over four days. The courses were "Back to Basics" and "Cooperative Culture." Each class was three hours long and included group activities. Sandy spent her time between the co-op headquarters in Espanola and an outpost in Cuba, N.M.



Always assume a downed power line is energized. Downed lines can energize the ground up to 35 feet away.

**STAY BACK.
STAY SAFE.**



Five tips for better indoor air quality

Change your air filter often.

Clogged, dirty filters reduce the amount of airflow and the HVAC system's efficiency. When a filter becomes too clogged, the excess dirt and dust are sent through your air ducts, adding unnecessary allergens and other unwanted particles into your living space. During the cooling season (summer months), the Department of Energy recommends replacing your air filter every month or two. This is one of the easiest ways to promote better indoor air quality and energy efficiency.

Regularly vacuum carpet and rugs—especially if you have furry friends.

The cleaner the home, the healthier the home. Vacuuming carpet and area rugs once a week can greatly reduce the accumulation of pet dander and dust inside your home. Frequently clean other areas that collect dust, like drapes, bedding and cluttered areas.

Use vents to remove cooking fumes.

Those exhaust fans aren't just for when you burn the bacon. Fans help remove fumes emitted while cooking and eliminate unwanted moisture and odors. They may be a

Breathe Easier.

Regularly changing your cooling system's air filter provides multiple benefits.

- Improved indoor air quality
- Cleaner home
- Fewer indoor allergens
- Improved system efficiency



bit noisy, but these handy tools can help you improve indoor air quality while you're preparing that culinary masterpiece (or even a grilled cheese sandwich!).

Get a handle on humidity.

Summer months typically bring more humidity than we'd like, especially if you live in a high-humidity climate zone. Moisture in the air can carry bacteria and other unwanted particles that you eventually breathe in. Dehumidifiers work to remove that moisture from the air, reducing the amount of bacteria, mold, and other allergens in your home.

Incorporate air-purifying plants into your living space.

There are several varieties of indoor plants that can help detoxify your home from dust and germs found in a variety of home products, furniture, and other materials. A few low-maintenance, air-purifying plants to consider are snake plants, aloe vera plants and pothos plants (also known as Devil's Ivy). These vibrant, lush plants are eye-catching and beneficial for any home. Remember to review care conditions and think about placement for any new plants you add to your home.



Rural Electric
Convenience Cooperative

Taking simple steps to purify indoor air can improve health and overall quality of life. With a little effort, you can improve the indoor air quality of your home and breathe a bit easier.



Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative

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Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



Understanding power surges & blinks

Have you ever noticed your lights blink during a thunderstorm? Or perhaps you've noticed a blinking microwave clock when you arrive home. When this happens, you've likely experienced a brief disruption to your electric service, which could result from a power surge or blink. While the symptoms of surges and blinks can appear similar, what's happening behind the scenes can be quite different.

What's a power surge?

Power surges are brief overvoltage spikes or disturbances of a power waveform that can damage, degrade or destroy electronic equipment within your home or business. Surges can be caused by internal sources, like HVAC systems with variable frequency drives, or external sources, like lightning and damage to power lines and transformers.

RECC encourages all members to install surge protective devices, such as surge protector power strips, to safeguard their sensitive electronics. If you're experiencing frequent surges in your home or business and you believe the cause is internal, contact a qualified electrician to inspect your electrical system.

What's a power blink?

Power blinks are also brief service interruptions, but they're typically caused by a fault (short circuit) on a power line or a protective device that's working in reaction to the fault. Faults can occur through a variety of instances like squirrels, birds, or other small animals contacting an energized power line; tree branches touching a power line; or lightning and other similar events.

Any of the events noted above can cause your power to blink, but you may also experience a brief interruption when protective devices that act like circuit breakers are working to detect the fault. Believe it or not, these brief power blinks caused by protective devices are actually good because that means the equipment is working properly to prevent a prolonged outage.

Regardless of the cause, RECC crews will be on their way to inspect the damage and make necessary repairs after a power outage. And you can help too! Any time you experience repeated disruptions to your electric service, please let us know by calling 217-438-6197. Outage maps can be found on our website at recc.coop.



Our office will be closed on July 4th
to celebrate Independence Day.