

President's Report



Josh DeWees
President/CEO

\$13,500 donated to local organizations through Spoon River Electric's Operation Round Up

The Spoon River Electric Operation Round Up Committee recently met and voted to donate \$13,500 to nine local organizations within our service territory. Donations of \$1,500 were given to the following organizations: Browning Senior Center, Loving Bottoms Diaper Bank, Cuba Fire Protection District, Fiatt Fire Protection District, Smithfield Fire District, Vermont Christian Church, Fulton County Fair, Schuyler County Fair and Knox County Fair.

These donations are made possible by the generous members of Spoon River Electric who voluntarily make the decision each month to "Round-Up" their electric bill to the next dollar and donate this "extra change" directly to the Operation Round-Up Program. All the funds collected are donated back into our communities as charitable grants. The average donation a member makes annually ranges from \$6-\$12.

For more information about the Operation Round-Up Program, visit our website at srecoop.org and click on Operation Round-Up or call Taryn at 309-647-2700.



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

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Vice Chairman

Terry Beam, Cuba

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Kurt Duncan, Lewistown
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John Spangler, Marietta
Wesley Strode, Marietta

Editor of Spoon River News

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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



ENERGY VAMPIRES WORD SCRAMBLE

Energy vampires could be lurking in your home! These are electronic devices that consume energy even when they're not being used.

Unscramble the bolded words to identify common energy vampires. Check your work in the answer key below.

When you're finished playing that new video game, unplug your **eagm oncloes**.

Tell your parents to unplug the **efcfeo kmrea** when they're finished brewing.

When you're done watching your favorite show, unplug the **seotnivile**.

If your phone is juiced up, unplug your **nophe rahrgce**.

Answer Key: game console, coffee maker, television, phone charger



Focused on YOU.

Electric cooperatives were created to serve their members. Because we're a co-op, we're able to adapt to our community's unique needs. That's the power of co-op membership.

OCTOBER IS NATIONAL CO-OP MONTH

Four Ways to Boost Your Cyber Hygiene

October is Cybersecurity Awareness Month

In today's digital world, cyberattacks are unfortunately nothing new. Cyber criminals can attack on a multitude of levels, from large-scale attacks targeting corporations to smaller phishing attacks aimed to gain an individual's personal information.

October is Cybersecurity Awareness Month, but good cyber hygiene should be practiced year-round. This year's theme is "See Yourself in Cyber" – because we all have a part to play in cybersecurity. When we hear about massive data breaches, it can feel overwhelming and lead us to think we're powerless as individuals to stop cyber criminals.

The truth is, there are several practical steps we can take to safeguard our devices and data. Here are four easy ways to boost your cyber hygiene:

1. Enable multi-factor authentication.

Also known as two-step verification, multi-factor authentication adds a second step when logging into an account (to prove you're really you), which greatly increases the security of the account. This second step could include an extra PIN, answering an

extra security question, a code received via email or a secure token. Regardless of the type of authentication, this additional step makes it twice as hard for cyber criminals to access your account. Not every account offers multi-factor authentication, but it's becoming increasingly popular and should be utilized when available.

2. Use strong passwords and a password manager.

Remember, passwords are the "keys" to your personal home online. Your passwords should always be long, unique and complex. Create passwords using at least 12 characters, never reuse passwords for multiple accounts and use a combination of upper- and lower-case letters, numbers and special characters. If you have a lot of accounts, consider using a password manager to store them easily and securely in one place.

3. Update software.

It may seem obvious, but regularly updating software is one of the easiest ways to keep your personal information secure. Most companies provide automatic updates and will send reminders so you can easily install the update. If you're not receiving automatic software updates,

set a reminder to do so quarterly. Be aware that some cyber criminals will send fake updates; these typically appear as a pop-up window when visiting a website. Use good judgment and always think before you click.

4. Recognize and report phishing attacks.

Don't take the bait when cyber criminals go phishing. The signs of a phishing attack can be subtle, so take the extra time to thoroughly inspect emails. Most phishing emails include offers that are too good to be true, an urgent or alarming tone, misspellings and poorly-crafted language, ambiguous greetings, strange requests or an email address that doesn't match the company it's coming from. Most platforms like Outlook, Gmail and Mac Mail allow users to report phishing emails. If you suspect a phishing attempt, take an extra minute to report it.






Cyber criminals are here to stay, but when we all take a risk-based approach to our cyber behavior, we're creating a safer internet for all. Visit www.staysafeonline.org for additional cybersecurity tips.



Safe
Electricity.org®

Dress up with care for HALLOWEEN

When dressing your little ones (or yourself), keep these safety tips in mind:

-  Always wear costumes that are labeled flame resistant.
-  Wear bright, reflective costumes or add strips of reflective tape to improve visibility.
-  Do not wear decorative (colored) contact lenses unless you have seen an eyecare professional.
-  Wear makeup and hats rather than costume masks that can obscure or obstruct your vision.
-  Test the makeup you plan to use in advance for a possible allergy.

In addition, inspect any plug-in decorations for signs of wear and tear (fraying or bare wires or broken plugs) and replace them if damaged.

WHEN POWER LINES COME DOWN



A variety of conditions or scenarios can result in a downed power line. Sometimes downed lines are visible while other times they are hidden by ice, snow, branches or storm debris.

Collisions with a pole or padmount transformer can cause the ground and objects to become energized. Regardless of the cause, always consider a downed line or damaged equipment energized and deadly.

If you are in a car accident involving a downed line, stay in the cab or car and wait until someone from the electric utility says it is safe to get out.

Call 9-1-1 to report a downed or damaged power line. Stay away and alert others to do the same.

Remember, if there is a downed line, stay away! Electricity can jump from a wire or object to you to find the quickest path to ground.

Learn more at:



If you see a downed or damaged power line or pole or a dislodged electrical cabinet:

- Do not go near it.
- Do not touch it.
- Do not try to move it with another object.
- Do not touch items that could be energized.

