

Norris Electric *News*

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Norris Electric Cooperative

8543 N St Hwy 130
Newton, IL 62448

Phone: 618-783-8765
or **Toll-Free:**
1-877-783-8765

Report an Outage:
1-877-783-3221

Office Hours:
Monday – Thursday
7 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Chairman
Gordon McClureJasper

Vice Chairman
Justin Parcel..... Clark

Secretary/Treasurer
Ted Helmink Cumberland

Directors
Ava LemmonCrawford
Dean Dietrich Richland
Kurt HolscherCrawford
Gilbert Garbe Effingham
Scott Weiss.....Lawrence
Dan Strine Wabash
Dave Sheppard.....Jasper
Ron Viehman.....Lawrence

General Manager
Tamara Phillips



Office building update

Since the groundbreaking on Oct. 19, the contractors have been very busy! The new office building is coming along nicely with the roof framing and sheathing complete, wall framing/sheathing complete and the building enclosed. Anticipated completion is summer of 2023.



Photo taken Nov. 29. *Courtesy of Wohltman Construction*

If you are thinking of a career as a lineman, this scholarship is for you.

The LaVern and Nola McEntire Memorial Lineworker's Scholarship is a \$2,000 scholarship to help pay for costs to attend the lineworker's school conducted by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives in conjunction with Lincoln Land Community College in Springfield, Ill.

One scholarship a year will be awarded to an individual who is related to a rural electric cooperative employee or director in the State of Illinois; or is the son or daughter of an electric cooperative member in Illinois; or is enrolled in the Lincoln Land lineworker's school; or has served or is serving in the U.S. Armed Forces or National Guard.

If interested in a lineman career, check out the official rules and regulations at www.norriselectric.com.



Residential electric heat rate available

Did you know Norris Electric offers an electric heat rate? The rate is available to residential members of the cooperative for uses where electricity is the sole source of all heating energy. The heat source must be for the whole house and permanently installed. Types of electric heat which qualify include **geothermal heat pumps, air source heat pumps and electric furnaces.**

The only obligation is the member must continue the electric heat rate for 12-month increments.

The electric heat rate offers a lower rate in the winter months that more than offsets the slightly higher summer rate when compared to our standard rate.

Call our office today at 877-783-8765 for a rate comparison and see if you can start saving money on your electric bill!

Outage Information Center:



We work hard year-round to deliver reliable service, but when big storms strike and damage equipment, outages can result. When they do, our entire focus is to safely and quickly restore your service. There are three ways our members can report their outage:

1. **Call 877-783-3221.**
2. **Text your outage.** For those who prefer to text rather than call an outage in, members will need to have their cell phone number on file at Norris Electric. Then they will need to complete a short registration process on our website, www.norrselectric.com. Once that is complete, members will be able to text their outage in. You will also receive a text when your electric is restored!
3. **Use our app.** If members have a smartphone, download our app and report an outage. (Sign up as a new user through online bill pay on our website to gain access.)

View outages

Members are able to view Norris Electric's outage map by logging on to our website at www.norrselectric.com or view it on the Norris app. By viewing the map, it will give members an idea of where the outages are and how many members are affected.

Outage updates

Facebook/Twitter – Be sure to like us on Facebook and Twitter to receive current outage information and updates.



“**SAVE THE DATE**”

Norris Electric Cooperative will be hosting the 85th Annual Meeting of Members on Feb. 25, 2023. Come and spend time with your friends and neighbors and enjoy a catered lunch and a chance to win mega prizes after the meeting. We will also be giving away four \$500 scholarships to four lucky high school seniors.

You don't want to miss it!
Mark your calendars and check out more details in February's magazine.

Be proactive in preventing electrical fires

Take steps to help prevent electrical fires by identifying possible issues before they occur.

When assessing your home, the first step is to hire a qualified electrician to check all wiring to ensure it is up to code and that the electrical system can handle the demands of your electronics, appliances, lights and other electrical needs. Beyond that, watch for possible issues as they arise.

Symptoms of issues include flickering lights, discolored outlets and switch plates, damaged cords, frequently tripped circuit breakers or blown fuses.

Check these electrical items in your home:

- 1. Electrical outlets:** Check for loose-fitting plugs and loose wall receptacles. Replace missing or broken wall plates. If you have young children, install tamper-resistant outlets if your home does not have them. Avoid overloading outlets with adapters and too many appliance plugs.
- 2. Ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs):** Make sure GFCIs are installed in your kitchen, bathrooms, laundry room, workshop, basement, garage and outdoor outlets. GFCIs help protect against electrical shock. Use the “test” and “reset” buttons monthly to ensure that they are working properly.
- 3. Cords:** Check cords to ensure they are not frayed or cracked, placed under rugs, tightly wrapped around an object or located in high traffic areas. Do not nail or staple them to walls, floors or other objects.
- 4. Extension cords:** These are not intended to be permanent solutions, so use them temporarily. If you find that you need more electrical outlets, consult your electrician.
- 5. Light bulbs:** Verify that your light bulbs are the intended wattage for the lamp or fixture.
- 6. Appliances/electronics:** If an appliance repeatedly blows a fuse, trips a circuit breaker or gives you an electrical shock, it is time to discard it and replace it with a new version. Use surge protectors to protect expensive electronics. Make sure your appliances and electronics are placed in dry locations.
- 7. Circuit breakers/fuses:** Check that circuit breakers are working properly. Fuses should be properly rated for the circuits they protect.
- 8. Electrical wiring:** If an outlet is not working, it may be an indicator of unsafe wiring. Also, check for loose wires and lighting fixtures. Listen for popping or sizzling sounds behind walls. If light switches are hot to the touch or lights spark and flicker, immediately shut them off at the circuit breaker and contact a qualified electrician to make repairs.
- 9. Arc fault circuit interrupters (AFCIs):** AFCIs, which monitor the flow of electricity throughout your home, should be properly installed. If an AFCI detects any abnormality, it shuts the system off to prevent a fire. Upon inspection, an electrician can assess whether your home is properly protected.
- 10. Service capacity:** If fuses blow or trip frequently, you may need to increase the capacity of your electrical service or add new branch circuits. Contact a qualified electrician.

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

Preventing Home Electrical Fires

Fire departments respond to an average of **46,700** home fires each year caused by electrical failure or malfunction.

According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA):
Over a recent 4-year period...

30% happened in cold weather months (Nov. – Feb.)

Fires caused an estimated average of:
390 Deaths
1,070 Injuries

1 Wiring and related equipment were involved in the **greatest number of home electrical fires.**

Lighting, a lamp or a bulb was involved in the **second largest number of fires.**

WARNING SIGNS of electrical issues:

- Damaged cords and flickering lights
- Discolored outlets and switch plates
- Frequently tripped circuit breakers or blown fuses

Hire a licensed contractor to ensure that your home's wiring is **installed to code** and functioning properly. Learn more at:

SafeElectricity.org

Source: NFPA's Electrical Fires Report, 2022

ATTENTION High School Seniors



Norris Electric Cooperative will award three \$1,000 scholarships to the sons or daughters of Norris Electric members who are currently receiving service from the cooperative at the time the scholarship application is submitted.

Requirements for application:

1. Must be a high school senior
2. Must begin college within a year of notification
3. Must be a full-time student (12 hours)
4. Parent(s) or guardian must be a Norris Electric member

Scholarship awarded based on:

1. Grade point average
2. College entrance test scores
3. Work and volunteer experience
4. School and community activities
5. Knowledge of electric cooperatives
6. Biographical essay

Deadline for application submission is Feb. 1, 2023.

For more information, contact your high school guidance department or visit the cooperative website at www.norriselectric.com to download an application.

Add a little light to your night

There's no place like home – and at nightfall, you'll have peace of mind with a night light from your electric cooperative.

Nothing discourages a would-be burglar or trespasser like a brilliant night light. Today's night lights are brighter and more efficient than ever. And since the night light turns itself on at dusk and off at dawn, it's there when you need it – automatically.

A night light is an affordable way to provide safety and protection for your family and possessions.



**Norris Electric offers the following night lighting:
70-watt LED outdoor light \$7 per month**

This cost covers installation, operation and maintenance of the light. The electricity the light uses is not metered and is included in the monthly fee. The only requirement is the light must be installed on a Norris Electric transformer pole or existing meter pole. It's a great deal for our members! Contact our office at 877-783-8765 to sign up.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Did you know insulating your electric water heater can reduce standby heat loss by 25% to 45%? This could save you 7% to 16% on annual water heating costs. Insulating your electric water heater is an easy, inexpensive project that can improve energy efficiency and save you money each month. The Dept. of Energy rates this project as medium difficulty, meaning most homeowners can tackle this project on their own. You can purchase pre-cut jackets or blankets for about \$20 at most home improvement stores. Visit energy.gov for project tips and additional considerations.

Source: energy.gov

