

living with energy

IN IOWA



AUGUST 2018

Access Energy Cooperative Photo Contest Launched ▶ See Page 12

Building communities with

solar energy

Energy audits turn into **big savings** for your home

Visit our website at www.accessenergycoop.com

\$10,500 in Access Energy Co-op Scholarships Awarded

Recipe box favorites

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Aug. 7** Annual Meeting of Members

- Aug. 9-19** Visit us at the Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives of Iowa booth in the Bruce L. Rastetter 4-H Exhibits Building at the Iowa State Fair

- Aug. 23** Blood Drive at the Access Energy Cooperative office; call 319-385-1577 for info

- Aug. 28-30** Farm Progress Show - Boone, IA

- Aug. 30- Sept. 3** Drive-A-Tractor event at the Midwest Old Threshers Reunion, sponsored by Access Energy Cooperative

- Sept. 3** Co-op office closed for Labor Day

You can access your account information 24 hours a day and 365 days a year on our website at www.accessenergycoop.com, through our SmartHub app for mobile devices or by calling the office at 866-242-4232.



Access Energy Cooperative is dedicated to exceeding members' expectations for safe, reliable and efficient service, while being a good citizen in our communities.

Office: Access Energy Cooperative
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Website: www.accessenergycoop.com
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Twitter: twitter.com/AccessEnergyC
E-mail: contactus@accessenergycoop.com
Office Hours: Monday-Thursday, 7 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
Friday, 7 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
Call our office 24/7: 319-385-1577.

Payments can be placed in dropbox under flag pole. Visa and MasterCard accepted.

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Assistant Editor: Cherity Wibben
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This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

LOCAL PERSPECTIVE

Do your part to keep Iowa's roads safe

BY KEVIN WHEELER

Have you ever had to stop your vehicle on the side of a busy highway to check on a flat tire or a trailer cover? Or maybe you've been pulled over by a police officer and worried about his or her safety on the shoulder of the road while hoping you can get away with just a warning!

If so, you are aware most drivers won't bother to move over or even slow down as they pass by you. But as of July 1, Iowa's newly expanded move over or slow down law – Iowa Code section 321.323A – now requires motorists to move over or slow down when approaching ANY stationary vehicle with flashing lights activated, including passenger vehicles with hazard lights.

Those who disobey the law could receive a hefty fine or potentially lose their driver's license.

This law is particularly important to Access Energy Cooperative because it helps keep our lineworkers and maintenance workers safe as they often need to perform difficult and dangerous work with electric equipment on the road's shoulder. Even though our employees set out

caution signs and orange cones, wear high visibility gear, and turn on their vehicles' emergency lights, other motorists often fail to give them the room they need to do their job safely.

This law will help keep Iowa's roads safe for everyone – drivers, emergency responders, utility workers and others. But the law doesn't do much good if motorists don't know

about it. Please make sure to share this safety message with other drivers in your family, especially younger drivers who don't have as much experience behind the wheel. We can each do our part to keep Iowa's roads safe by simply moving over or slowing down (preferably both) when we see stopped vehicles on the side of the road. We encourage you to visit www.MoveOverIowa.com to sign a simple pledge in support of this law.

When you're behind the wheel, keep your eyes on the road and make room for utility workers and others who are stopped on the shoulder. Their jobs are dangerous enough already. ⚡

Kevin Wheeler is the general manager/CEO of Access Energy Cooperative.



SAFETY MATTERS



Linemen would like your help in keeping them safe while they work on your electric lines. If you see them, move over to the other lane and slow down. Kurt Lowenberg and his family thank you!

Co-op sends students to nation's capital for a week of leadership development

Access Energy Cooperative sponsored two high school students who, with 35 other students from Iowa's electric cooperatives, participated in the June 8-14 Electric Cooperative Youth Tour to Washington, D.C. They joined more than 1,800 other students from across the nation for the event. This year marked Iowa's 60th anniversary of participation in the Youth Tour.

Maddie Williamson of Mount Pleasant and Evelyn Winer of Fairfield represented Access Energy Cooperative.

Maddie is the daughter of Steve and Courtney Williamson, and she'll be a senior at Mount Pleasant Community High School. She participates in varsity basketball and track and has been involved in the Iowa Amateur Athletic Union basketball program for many years.

Evelyn is the daughter of Carol Chesnutt and Paul Winer, and she'll be a junior at Maharishi School in Fairfield. She has been active in speech, student council, piano lessons, voice lessons, screenwriting and play production. She is also an active participant in the Interact Rotary Club and a local CrossFit group.



Evelyn Winer (left) and Maddie Williamson stand on the steps of the U.S. Capitol during the 2018 Youth Tour.

Students on the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour participated in leadership training, engaged in one-on-one conversations with elected officials, jumpstarted their national peer network, learned about electric cooperatives and toured Washington, D.C.

Nationally, more than 50,000 students have participated in this program over the decades. Applications for the 2019 Youth Tour will be available in December at www.accessenergycoop.com. For more information, also visit www.youthtour.coop. ⚡

Dividends are coming

Once a satisfactory level of margins or profits for 2017 was determined by the Access Energy Cooperative Board of Directors, the cooperative assigned the rest of the margins to you – the members (each of whom owns a portion of the cooperative) – according to the amount of energy purchases you made in 2017.



Each member has a dividend account at the cooperative where your dividend allocations accumulate. When the board allocated the 2017 margins, your portion was moved to your dividend account. Notices were mailed May 31 with the amount that was allocated to your account.

This year, Access Energy Cooperative allocated \$1,637,496 and passed through allocations from Northeast Missouri Electric Power Cooperative (our power supplier) of \$1,074,508 for a total allocation of \$2,712,004.

The amount of total allocations the cooperative has stored in the dividend accounts was then reviewed by the Access Energy Cooperative Board of Directors to determine whether or not to generate a dividend payment this year. After reviewing the cooperative's current financial position, the board approved a dividend refund this year of \$1,085,593. This refund is 100 percent of the remaining dividends for 1997, 54 percent of 2003 and 10 percent of 2017.

Dividend checks will be available to pick up at the annual meeting on August 7. Any checks not picked up will be mailed after the annual meeting. Checks will be sent to the most current address we have on file. The cooperative won't print checks for amounts under \$5; these amounts will be added to next year's refund. ⚡

EDITOR'S CHOICE CONTEST

Win an Amazon Echo Show!

Amazon's Echo Show brings together what people love most about Alexa, but now she can show you things, too! Watch video flash briefings, Amazon Video content, see home security cameras, view photos, catch weather forecasts, and create to-do and shopping lists. With Amazon-supported devices you can be more efficient with your energy use by turning on and off lights or setting the thermostat.



The suggested retail price is approximately \$230. For details go to www.amazon.com/echoshow. Enter the contest by visiting www.livingwithenergyiowa.com no later than Aug. 31, 2018. ⚡

SAFETY MATTERS

Practice safety with gasoline dispensing facilities near electrical equipment

One of the most common safety violations found near electricity lines is the location of the gasoline dispensing facilities on farmsteads, in relation to the meter pole or farm buildings.

The National Electrical Safety Code shows the requirements your farm wiring system should follow. One section of the wiring code covers the requirements for electrical equipment and wiring for all voltages in locations where fire or explosion hazards may exist due to flammable gases or vapors, flammable liquids and other volatile materials.

The National Electric Safety Code (NESC) outlines the standards that the

utility follows. Because of the hazard that exists in the vicinity of gasoline dispensing facilities, and especially the hazard to Access Energy Cooperative personnel wherever there's a possibility of electric sparks or arcing igniting flammable vapors, the NESC suggests that electric utilities not permit the installation of meter poles or service entrances within 20 feet of a gasoline dispensing barrel or tank, or within 3 feet of any point that could be reached by a gasoline dispensing nozzle. In addition, it's recommended that existing installations with less than the required clearances be modified to provide the required clearances.

For Access Energy Cooperative to change the location of existing meter poles would be quite costly. Therefore, we ask members to check to make sure their gasoline dispensing facilities are located 20 feet from the meter pole. The end of the dispensing nozzle should not be within 3 feet of the meter pole.

If Access Energy Cooperative discovers there's a violation of this requirement near our equipment, we have no choice but to disconnect the electric service at the site until the hazard is corrected.

In addition to these location requirements, please make sure your gasoline dispensing facilities are electrically bonded to the electrical ground of the farm wiring system. Install a ground rod at your gasoline tank and connect the tank to the ground rod and to the farm wiring ground. ⚡

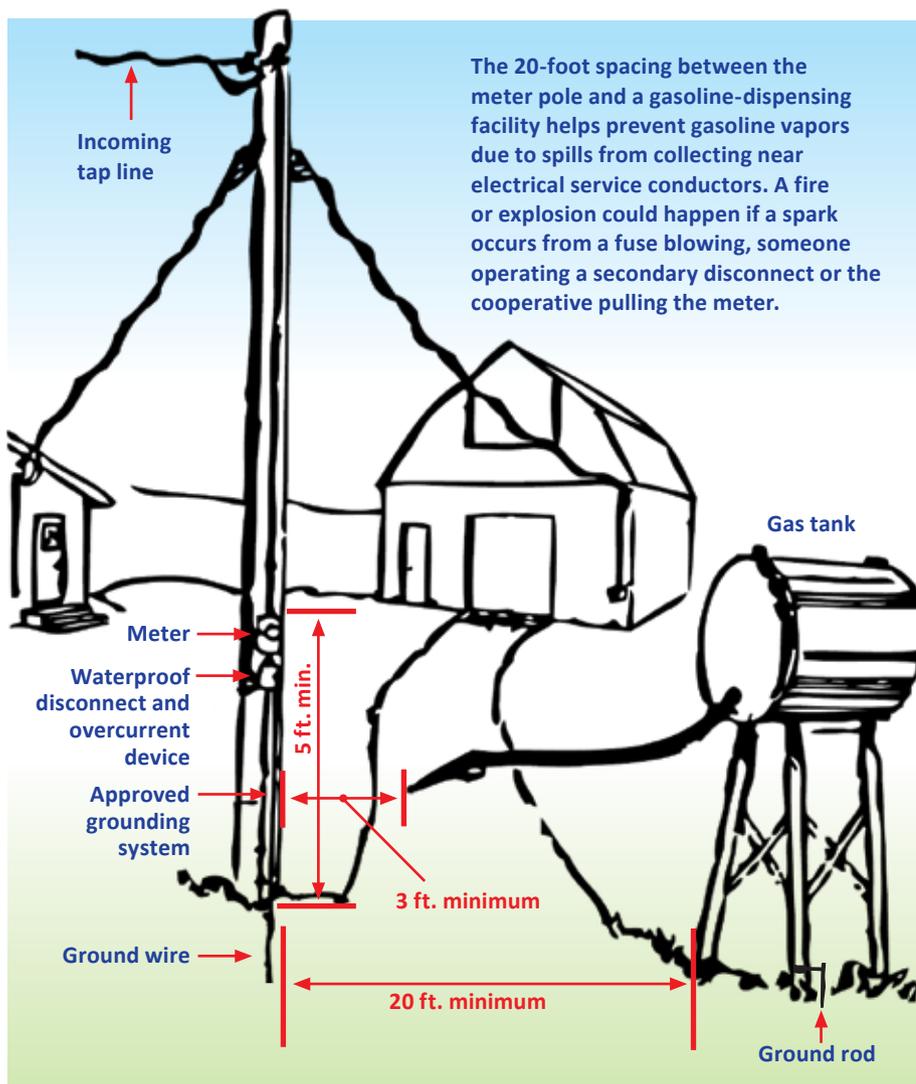


PHOTO CONTEST

2020 photo contest launched

Access Energy Cooperative is holding its annual photo contest,

and winning entries will be shown in the 2020 Access Energy Cooperative calendar. We're looking for original photos of rural settings in southeastern Iowa – including landscapes, animals, buildings or people – during any season of the year.

Every photographer with an entry selected as one of the 13 photos to be featured in the calendar will win \$50. The entry deadline is March 31, 2019; to see the contest rules visit our website at www.accessenergycoop.com. ⚡



Access Energy Cooperative scholarships awarded

Seven area high school graduates were recently named recipients of \$1,500 scholarships from Access Energy Cooperative.

The parents or guardians of the applicant must be members of Access Energy Cooperative.

Winners are chosen based on their academics, achievements, community involvement and a submitted essay.

Canyon Decker of Brighton, son of Marcy Boddard, plans to attend Indian Hills Community College to pursue a career in machine technology.



Jordan Magnani of Mount Pleasant, son of Alan and Diane Magnani, will attend Cornell College and study business.



Samuel Loyd of New London, son of Damon and Jen Loyd, plans to attend Grand View College to major in business.



Jacob Lowe of Mount Pleasant, son of Scott and Amy Lowe, plans to attend the University of Iowa to pursue a career in dentistry.



Devon Lybarger of New London, son of Tony and Valerie Adams, plans to attend the University of Iowa to study pre-medicine.



Rylee Reid of Burlington, daughter of James and Amanda Reid, will attend Southeastern Community College to pursue a career in criminal justice.



Brooke Stout of Washington, daughter of Tim and Julie Stout, will attend the University of Iowa to major in accounting and finance. ⚡



TIP #6

Get notified of power outages on your mobile device



Our SmartHub App is now available to notify you if your power is out. If you have an email address stored on your account with Access Energy Cooperative, you will receive an email notification if your power experiences a service interruption. If you don't have an email address on your account and want to add one, call our office at 866-242-4232.

Members can also arrange to receive a text message alerting you of any service interruptions. Just call our office, and we will update your account to receive a text message.

You can opt out of this program at any time by calling us at 866-242-4232.



WATT'S GOING ON?

Barnyard Bash



Daniel Philips, Access Energy Cooperative Safety Director, provided two safety presentations about electrical hazards at home and on the farm at the Barnyard Bash held in Fairfield in June. ⚡