

# ACEC NEWS

NOVEMBER 2023 | VOLUME 26 | ISSUE 11

HOLIDAY GIFT  
GUIDE

FAVORITE RECIPES

KEEP YOUR HOME  
WINTER SAFE





## A MESSAGE FROM Your General Manager

**Hollie McCormick**  
EVP/General Manager

# CONTINUED PROGRESS IN FIBER PROJECT

For nearly 20 years, Allamakee-Clayton REC has been on the forefront of providing reliable internet services in Northeast Iowa. We began installing satellite internet in 2005. By 2014, we were offering wireless internet in Allamakee County.

While we continue to offer satellite and wireless internet options, we realize those are legacy technologies that will phase out with the expansion of fiber optic internet. That's why we've been focusing the bulk of our efforts on expanding fiber internet coverage in underserved areas of Allamakee County. Since we began laying fiber lines in 2020, we have put in 283 miles of fiber, with 1,241 passings and subscribed 553 fiber customers. Overall, we have over 1,000 internet customers between our three options.

It's been a labor of love and patience. Deploying fiber internet takes time and money. We've all experienced how valuable it is to have high quality and reliable internet service both at home and at our local businesses. However, having that gold standard has, at times, been out of reach financially. The infrastructure alone comes with a high price tag, not to mention that on average, we serve nearly four members per mile of line in our rural areas. It can make it a challenge at times to justify the cost.

To fund our fiber projects, we've been diligently applying for Empower Rural Iowa grants. To date, the Office of the Chief Information Officer for the State of Iowa (OCIO) has awarded ACEC five grants totaling just over \$8 million. Those opportunities have allowed us to deploy fiber in Waukon and areas of northern Allamakee County.

In the city of Waukon, we broke the project down into four phases. We started in 2020 with the west side, hooking up our first customer in December of 2021. Phase 2 involved working along Main Street. This summer we began

activating customers on our downtown build. Just last month, we started Phase 3, which includes 836 "passings" on the north side of town.

Obviously, we all wish this project could move faster. There are many things to consider when planning a fiber build. It's a six-step process from start to finish. It all begins with our contractors.

We've worked with several local contractors to construct the main fiber line, which involves trenching and underground boring of fiber optic cables. Then the crews drop the mainline, which transports the internet to homes and businesses. Once the main line is in, another crew is sent out to splice the fiber at the home or business, as well as splice the mainline to the fiber "drop." The most time-consuming step is testing the integrity of the cable. Once things are completed, then we're able to schedule a time with customers to set up their internet connection in their home or business.



We consistently hear feedback from businesses and residents that fiber has been such a game changer for them. One such example is Michael McMullen, owner of Cunningham Hardware. The hardware store was one of our first customers in downtown Waukon. McMullen calls our fiber service "an absolutely game changer." His credit card machine didn't work for over a year on his previous provider. Once AC Skyways was installed, McMullen said his machine worked right away. "A year's worth of frustration and stress was ended by the new internet," he said. McMullen also has our fiber service at his home and has commented many times even with kids at home and streaming on phones and TVs, he's never had a problem with it.

The phrase "it takes a village" is an accurate description of this endeavor. We've been fortunate to work with amazing, local contractors helping us map the route and put in the fiber lines. #134

At AC Skyways, we have three technicians – Matt Marting, Kelly Blockhus, and Darren Smith – who are trained to install our fiber, wireless and satellite systems, as well as troubleshoot problems and keep up with the latest technology and cyber security practices. They've been working non-stop from the moment we started our fiber projects, and I cannot thank them enough for the energy and hours they've put in. I would be remiss if I didn't also thank Staci Malcom, our AC Skyways Member Services Representative. Staci is the one who answers all the calls and helps troubleshoot from the start.



We've also had several people assist as a member of our "drop crew." They've been our boots on the ground, going door-to-door along our fiber route to talk to home and business owners about the upcoming project. We would not be as far along in this project without them and their dedication.

I often have people ask me why we aren't deploying fiber in other areas, like to the west near Decorah or into Clayton County. The answer is simple – we don't bring fiber into territories that are going to be served by a different provider. We only investigate grant opportunities for areas that are underserved and where there aren't already plans from other providers.

Although we still have work to complete before we close the book on 2023, we already have our eyes to 2024. In addition to finishing any work on Phase 3 in Waukon, we anticipate working on the remainder of the city of Waukon (the southern portion of the city), as well as in rural southwest Allamakee County. We also plan to begin engineering the city of Lansing. It will be another big undertaking but we're excited to move forward with our plans.

We're happy to answer your calls and talk you through the process if you have any questions. And as always, we thank all our current and future AC Skyways customers. We wouldn't be here without you. ■

# Holiday Shopping on our Lines

As you complete your holiday shopping this season, here are just some of the businesses that get their electricity from ACEC.

**Name: Upper Iowa Resort & Rental**

**Location:** Dorchester

**Info:** Give the gift of relaxation with a camping or cabin stay along the Upper Iowa River.

**Phone:** 563-568-3263

**Website:** [www.upperiowaresort.com](http://www.upperiowaresort.com)

**Social Media:** [www.facebook.com/upperiowaresort/](http://www.facebook.com/upperiowaresort/) ; @upperiowaresort

**Name: Clayton Lighthouse Restaurant and Bar**

**Location:** Clayton

**Info:** Gift cards are available in any dollar amount. Available for in-person purchase or online purchase.

Online at <https://squareup.com/gift/2GAKX5SHPB9HD/order>

**Phone:** 563-964-1100 Thurs – Sun

**Website:** [www.claytonlighthouse.com](http://www.claytonlighthouse.com)

**Social Media:** [www.facebook.com/theClaytonLighthouse](http://www.facebook.com/theClaytonLighthouse)

**Name: Great River Maple**

**Location:** Garnavillo

**Info:** We have pure maple syrup and pure maple syrup products that we produce in our family business on our farm in NE Iowa.

**Phone:** 319-830-5882

**Website:** [www.greatrivermaple.com](http://www.greatrivermaple.com)

**Name: PromiseLand Winery**

**Location:** Guttenberg

**Info:** Located on the southern hills of Guttenberg, along the Great River Road, this winery offers a full experience of tasty wines, food, six boutiques for shopping and beautiful views!

**Phone:** 563-252-2665

**Website:** [www.Promiselandwinery.com](http://www.Promiselandwinery.com)

**Social Media:** [www.facebook.com/PromiseLandWinery](http://www.facebook.com/PromiseLandWinery); @promiselandwinery

**Name: Forest Mills Quilt Shop**

**Location:** Postville

**Info:** This unique quilt shop is located just south of the beautiful Yellow River outside of Postville. They carry material, quilt kits, quilts for sale and host events.

**Phone:** 563-568-3807

**Website:** [www.forestmillsquilts.com](http://www.forestmillsquilts.com)

**Social Media:** [www.facebook.com/forestmillsquiltshop](http://www.facebook.com/forestmillsquiltshop)

**Name: Country View Dairy Creamery**

**Location:** Hawkeye

**Info:** Country View Dairy makes award-winning dairy products in a creamery right on their dairy farm in Fayette County. Products include yogurt, Greek yogurt, sour cream, milk, chocolate milk, egg nog and frozen yogurt. There is also a self-

service

farm store in front of the creamery offering locally made and produced items from all over Northeast IA.

**Phone:** 563-422-8633

**Website:** [www.countryviewdairy.com](http://www.countryviewdairy.com)

**Social Media:** [@countryviewdairy](http://www.facebook.com/countryviewdairy)

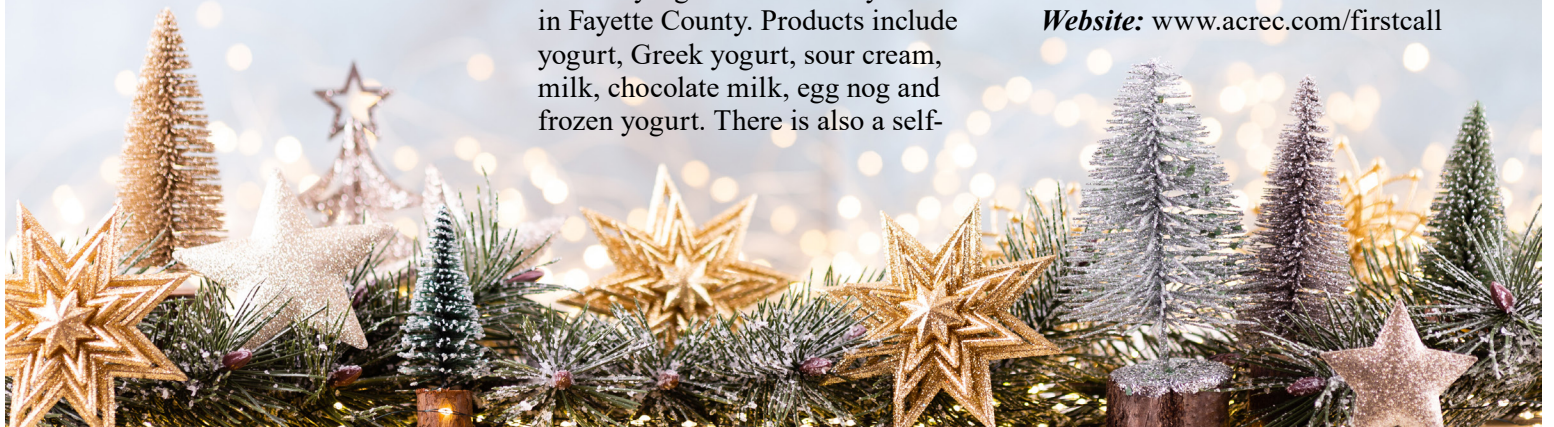
**Name: ACEC FirstCall**

**Location:** Postville

**Info:** Give the gift of reassurance with our emergency response system that is activated by a fall or by pressing a button. FirstCall is available to ACEC members and non-members within our service territory.

**Phone:** 888-788-1551

**Website:** [www.acec.com/firstcall](http://www.acec.com/firstcall)



## BOARD BRIEFS | October 30 Meeting

- Heard a cybersecurity update from Jeni Kolsrud
- Approved IRS Form 990/990T Tax Return
- Approved 2023 Patronage Capital Retirement in the amount of \$586,991.41
- Approved revisions to Policies 8.1; Work Week, Workdays, Working Hours and Compensations & 9.4; Ethics and Conflict of Interest
- Approved DPC Cost-Share Applications to Main Street Lansing & River Bluffs Scenic Byway
- Received updates on current Strategic Initiatives from management staff
- Approved a donation request to Elgin Historical Society

# A LINEWORKER'S TIMELINE: RESTORING A POWER OUTAGE

*ACEC staff share what the process is during a power outage*

"How long is it going to take?" Those are familiar words to all who work in the electric industry. It's a phrase I've been asked thousands of times in my career. I've been asked by phone, through car windows, from front porches, sidewalks, bicycles, gas pumps, diners. I'm pretty sure I've even been asked by children in car seats. It's the first thing people think when the lights go out. It doesn't take long sitting in the dark to realize how dependent we are on electricity. How much it makes our lives better and easier.

As a lineworker, it's always a good feeling to help people get those lights back on. I can remember times when I've been on storm or extended outages re-energizing neighborhoods and heard people in their homes cheering as their lights came on for the first time in days. No matter how tired I am or how long I've been working, that feeling will always make it worthwhile.

But what does it take to get those lights back on? Why does it sometimes take so long? Most people will never get to experience or witness the work that goes into ending outages. Hopefully after reading this, you will have a better understanding of the process and the work that ACEC line crews are doing to restore your power.

The electricity you use travels a great distance and goes through several steps to get to your home. It starts with a power plant. Power plants use fuel to produce power. That fuel could be natural gas, diesel, coal, hydro, wind, solar or nuclear. A power plant typically produces voltages of less than 30,000 volts. That voltage needs to be "stepped up" so it can travel long distances. That process starts next door in the power plant's substation and switchyard. In the substation, a transformer will step the voltage up to 345,000 volts, or sometimes higher, and send it out on transmission lines to another substation.

At the next substation, electricity starts to get closer to its destination. Here we start stepping the voltage down. In this second substation, a transformer will step the voltage down to 69,000 volts and send it out to smaller local substations.

These local substations are the final substation before the electricity reaches your home. Here it is stepped down, again with a transformer, to the 7,200 volts that can then be delivered to the poles outside your home. Once it arrives outside your home, it is stepped down a final time, yes, by another

transformer. This final transformer will step the voltage down to 120 volts that operate all the devices that power your life.

What I just described is hundreds of miles of line and thousands of poles. That's a lot of exposure for something to happen and cause an outage. Just like your home, our system has breakers. Our breakers help us reduce the exposure of the line and allow us to split our system into sections. Doing so helps limit the size of the outages and allows us to keep as many people on as possible. Breakers also help to protect equipment on the line. Ever wonder why your lights blink a few times before going off? That's the breaker. They operate a few times trying to give the fault a chance to clear the line before they open for good.

Now that the lights have blinked, your breaker has opened, and the power is off. So what happens? **#4193**

## The Outage Begins:

### 6:35 p.m.: Your local lineworker gets a phone call.

When I answer the phone, I'm told that we have an outage. My first question is, "Is this an individual or a line outage?" A line outage will be a large section of line and several people. An individual will be just a single transformer or pole. If it's a line outage, my next question is, "Where's the location?" This is why it's important to report your outage. It verifies the outage, and it helps the lineworker decide where to go. Next I ask "What farm numbers are involved?" Depending on what farm numbers are involved decides what breaker I go to first.

## Heading Toward the Outage:

### 7 p.m. The drive

An after-hours outage requires your lineworker to respond from home. Depending on where the outage is, the drive alone can sometimes take an hour.

### 7:45 p.m. Arrival and line inspection

I often see people outside when their power is off, sitting on their porch or working in the yard. Sometimes I drive by several times. I often wonder what they are thinking when they see me driving by multiple times. Do they think I'm just driving around? Do they wonder why I'm not getting their power back on? But that's exactly what I'm doing. The first time you see me I'm most likely driving to the breaker. I need to go to the breaker to verify that it's open. The second time you see

me drive by I'm visually checking the line for what may have caused the outage. Checking the line can take some time. It's one of the more time-consuming steps we take, but also one of the most important parts of restoring an outage. We can't just simply flip a switch and restore the power. That can be dangerous for many reasons. The outage could be a line down in someone's yard, or it could have been caused by equipment failure. Re-energizing the line under those two examples would be very dangerous to the public and could cause more damage and just extend the outage longer. So, it's very important to visually check the line before trying the breaker. Several things can cause an outage. A few examples of things I'm looking for are fallen trees, tree limbs, old line repairs that have failed, car accidents, lightning, animals and equipment failure.

Another factor that can add time to inspecting the line is terrain. We try to put poles along the road, but that can't always be accomplished. Electric co-op lines go where they are needed, and that might be in extremely remote places. While poles and lines that run along the road can be inspected and repaired faster, terrain and direction of the line sometimes require us to run the line offroad. If it's not along the road, the line must be checked on foot. If it's dark that can make this job even more difficult and time consuming regardless of where it's located.

## The Process of Repairs:

### 8:30 p.m. Outage cause located, but first safety.

Once we find the cause of the outage, there are safety steps that must be taken



before we can start the work. These safety procedures add time, but they are vital. It's how we survive in a dangerous job. It's how we ensure lineworkers are protected and everyone goes home to their families. The most important thing we have to do is isolate and ground the line. This is an important step for many reasons. One reason is to protect from back feed. Lineworkers always try to be aware of their surroundings. An important thing to listen for and to be aware of are home generators. The transformer on your pole that drops the voltage down can also work in reverse. Your home generator, if installed wrong, could back feed through your transformer and put primary voltage back on the line. To protect lineworkers, we install grounds as close to the work location as we can on both sides of the work. These grounds connect the neutral wire to all primary wires making them all the same 'grounded potential' and safe to work on. The final safety step is the briefing. During the safety briefing, the job plan is discussed and explained, hazards are identified, and everyone is made aware of the grounds, their location and the location of the breaker.

**9 p.m. All safety procedures are in place. We can begin the work.**

Let's say for this outage it was a tree. A 50-foot-tall oak tree fell through the line. It's off the road, but we got lucky—it broke a crossarm, but the pole is good. The wire isn't broken either but is currently under the oak tree. We've got to chop the tree and free the wire. This will take some time. Anyone who has cut up a downed tree will understand the danger. You have to be careful and pay attention to the tree and how it's sitting on the ground. Downed trees can shift, and roll while being cut. And here you also have power lines under tension, pinned down by the tree adding an extra layer of danger. Special care and awareness must be used to remove this tree. Sometimes the power lines must be tied down, so that they can be let up in a more controlled manner once the tree is cut. While we work to clear the tree from the line, new material is on the way. We are going to need a crossarm, crossarm braces, new insulators, bolts and ties to tie in the wire.

**10:30 p.m. The tree has been cleared and the material has arrived.**

As I mentioned, the pole is off the road, so that means we can't get a bucket truck to it. We will have to climb the pole. One of our lineworkers will put on his belt and hooks and climb to the top of the pole. He'll bring all the tools he'll need with him. One thing he will take with him is a handline. It's a rope in a



pulley that's long enough to go from the top of the pole to the ground in a loop. This will be used to lift material and other objects to the lineworker that were too heavy or awkward to take up in his belt. Once he gets to the top of the pole, he will get to work. He'll start by removing all the broken material. He'll also inspect the top of the pole for damage we couldn't see from the ground. Once he has it cleaned up, we will start sending up material on the handline. He should have taken the crossarm bolt with him when he climbed and installed that in the pole. The lineworker on the ground should have already put everything on the crossarm. Next, the lineworker on the ground will tie the crossarm onto the handline in a way that will allow the lineworker on the pole to just guide the arm onto the bolt as it's being lifted up. Once the new crossarm is on the pole and all the bolts are tightened the wire will be lifted up, also with the handline, and placed on the arm. The wire ties will be sent up, again on the handline, and the lineworker will tie in the wire. After completing all the work in the air, the lineworker will send down the handline and climb down. Once down, he'll remove his belt and hooks and pack them away. The lineworker on the ground will now be "making up the handline" which means he is getting it ready to store until it's needed again. We'll all carry the tools that we used back to the truck and get them packed away. Lastly, we will remove our grounds.

**11:45 p.m. Repairs complete**

Now if you still happen to be on your porch, you will see me drive by a third time. This is good news because you are about to get your power restored. I'm heading for the breaker. Once I get to the breaker, I'll call dispatch and get clearance to re-energize. I'll let them know who is with me and if they are in the clear. They will check to make sure no one else is working on the line and then give me

clearance to try the breaker. At this time, I will close the breaker and your power will be restored.

**12:05 a.m. Power restored. Outage over**

Keep in mind this is just one scenario; not every outage is the same. Each outage varies in time for restoration. This example outage took around five and a half hours to restore. If the tree had broken a pole, it would have been even longer.

**1 a.m. Lineworker returns home, safe and sound.**

**We work for you, our neighbors.**

We've become so dependent on electricity that every outage, whether it is a short outage or an extended one, can be stressful for those without power. The longer outages last, the more stressful and irritating it can become. I hope that I've provided a better understanding of the restoration process so you have an idea what's happening while you wait. Just know that your co-op line crews are doing their best to get the lights back on as quickly and safely as possible.

ACEC and its employees are members of your community. We live in the same neighborhoods. We shop at the same stores. Our kids go to the same schools. If your lights are off, there is a good chance ours are off too. We will always be committed to serving our members and communities by providing safe and reliable electricity—24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. ■



# Five Ways to Safeguard Your Home This Winter

As the temperatures drop and the days grow shorter, there's a natural inclination to create a warm and cozy haven at home. Unfortunately, as we see increased use of heating equipment, candles and electrical items, the number of home fires tends to increase during winter months.

Here are five ways you can safeguard your home for the winter season.

- 1. Ensure carbon monoxide and smoke detectors are working properly.** If your detectors are battery-operated, replace the batteries annually. Test the detectors once a month and give them a good dusting to ensure the sensors are clear of dirt and debris.
- 2. Inspect electrical cords.** We depend on more cords during winter, whether for holiday lighting, extension cords or portable heaters. Before using any corded items, double check to make sure cords aren't frayed or cracked. If you use portable space heaters, remember to keep them at least 3 feet away from flammable items. Use models that include an auto shut-off feature and overheat protection. Space heaters can take a toll on your energy bills. Use them efficiently (to heat smaller spaces) and safely. Never plug a space heater into a power strip. Speaking of power strips...
- 3. Avoid overloading electrical outlets and power strips.** When overloaded with electrical items, outlets and power strips can overheat and catch fire. If you use power strips for multiple devices, make sure the strip can handle the electrical load. For a safer bet, look for power strips that include surge protection.
- 4. Clean the fireplace to improve safety and efficiency.** There's nothing better than a warm fire on a chilly night, but it's important to maintain your fireplace for safety. As wood burns, a sticky substance known as creosote builds up in the chimney. When creosote



*Keep your fireplace clean to improve efficiency.*

buildup becomes too thick, a chimney fire can ignite. The chimney should be cleaned at least once a year to reduce fire risks. Regular cleaning also improves air flow and limits the amount of carbon monoxide that seeps indoors.

- 5. Practice safety in the kitchen.** As we spend more time in the kitchen during the holiday season, be mindful of potential fire hazards. Never leave food that's cooking on the stovetop unattended. Clean and remove spilled foods from cooking surfaces and be mindful of where you place flammable items like dish towels.

ACEC wants you and your family to stay safe during the winter season. Visit [www.acec.com](http://www.acec.com) for additional safety tips. ■ #6779



## Snowbirds Leaving for the Winter?

Please call the Co-op to notify us of your temporary address and to make billing arrangements while you're away.



## Happy Thanksgiving

Our office will be closed on Thursday, November 23, for Thanksgiving. We will reopen at 7:30 a.m. Friday, November 24.

# MEMBER RECIPES

Send your favorite recipes and/or recipe topics to Jennifer Achenbach, ACEC, PO Box 715, Postville, IA 52162 or email [jachenbach@acrec.coop](mailto:jachenbach@acrec.coop).

You'll receive a \$5 bill credit if your recipe is printed. Please note – recipes must be received by the 25th day of the month before the intended publication.

December – **SOUPS**; January – **NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS RECIPES**; February – **BRUNCH**



## MARINATED CHEESE

*A pretty Christmas appetizer*

- ½ c. olive oil
- ½ c. white wine vinegar
- 3 Tbsp. chopped fresh parsley
- 3 Tbsp. minced green onion
- 1 tsp. sugar (can use Splenda)
- ¾ tsp. dried basil
- ½ tsp. salt
- ½ tsp. freshly ground pepper
- 3 cloves minced garlic
- 2 oz. jar of diced pimento, drained
- 8 oz. block of cheddar cheese (approximately 5 ½ x 2 x 1)
- 8 oz. block of cream cheese

### Directions

Combine first 10 ingredients in a jar. Cover tightly and shake vigorously. Set the mixture aside. Take the block of cheddar cheese and cut in half lengthwise. Then cut crosswise into ¼ in.-thick slices and set aside. Repeat the procedure with the cream cheese. Arrange the cheese slices alternately in a shallow baking dish, standing slices on edges. Pour marinade over cheese slices. Cover and set covered in refrigerator for at least 8 hours. Transfer cheese slices, keeping the alternate design, to a serving platter, reserving marinade. Spoon marinade over cheese slices. Garnish if desired. Serve with assorted crackers.

■ *Becky Engelhardt, Postville*

## PUMPKIN PIE CAKE

- 1 29 oz. can pumpkin
- 4 eggs
- 1 can evaporated milk
- 1 ½ c. sugar
- 1 tsp. ginger
- 2 tsp. cinnamon
- ½ tsp. nutmeg
- 1 yellow cake mix
- 1 c. melted butter
- Chopped nuts

### Directions

Beat together first 7 ingredients. Pour into ungreased 9x13 in. pan. Sprinkle with dry cake mix and nuts. Drizzle with melted butter. Bake 1 hour (no longer) at 350°.

■ *Darlene Johnson, Waukon*

## BEST EVER PEANUT BUTTER FUDGE

- 14 oz. can of sweetened condensed milk
  - 12 oz. white baking chips
  - ½ c. peanut butter
  - ½ c. butter
  - 1 bag of holiday M&Ms
- Melt butter in saucepan on low heat. Add white chips, milk and peanut butter. Stir until melted and combined. Add ½ of the M&Ms. Pour into greased 8x8 pan. Sprinkle more M&Ms on top. Let set for 2 hours before cutting.

■ *Lynn Monroe, Postville*

## CORDON BLEU APPETIZER

- 4 oz. cream cheese, softened
- 1 tsp. Dijon mustard
- 1 c. shredded Swiss cheese (4 oz.)
- ¾ c. diced fully cooked ham
- ½ c. minced chives (divided)
- 18 slices French bread (1/2 in. thick)

### Directions

In a small bowl, beat cream cheese and mustard until smooth. Stir in Swiss cheese, ham and ¼ c. chives. Spread 1 Tbsp. mixture over each bread slice, place on ungreased baking sheet. Bake at 350°F for 12-15 min. Sprinkle with remaining chives.

*Note: I use baby Swiss cheese. It's more mild.*

■ *Cathy Ender, Colesburg*

## HOLLAND FUDGE

- 1 c. sugar
- 1 c. light corn syrup
- 2 Tbsp. baking cocoa (heaping)
- Butter (amount of the size of a medium size egg)
- 1 tsp. vanilla

### Directions

Boil sugar, syrup, cocoa and butter until it cracks when a little is put in cold water (hard crack). Add vanilla and stir. Immediately pour in an 8x8-in. greased pan. Right away, cut into squares. Cool.

■ *Charlotte Waldbeser, Elgin*

# PLUGGED IN: Electric Vehicle Update



## OCTOBER

Number of miles driven: **725 miles**

kWh's Charged: **98 kWh**

A trip to Des Moines used 40 kWhs at home x .13 = **\$5.20**

Two fast chargers in Des Moines used 30 kWhs x .34 = **\$10.20**

Remaining 28 kWhs charged at .13 = **\$3.64**

Total cost to charge the 725 miles = **\$19.04**



## CYBER SECURITY Tip of the MONTH

**Going on vacation?** Password protect your devices. Set your devices to require the use of a PIN, passcode or extra security feature (like a fingerprint or facial scan). This will keep your phone, tablet or laptop locked if it is misplaced or stolen.

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INTERNET SOLUTIONS  
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## FIND YOUR SERVICE NUMBER

ACEC has hidden three Service Location numbers within this newsletter. The numbers are from different regions of our service area – **two are worth a \$10 bill credit and one is worth \$5 if found.** The service location number must be yours to claim the credit, and you need to notify us when you find it.



## CONTACT ACEC

### HEADQUARTERS

229 Highway 51 • PO Box 715  
Postville, IA 52162

### PHONE NUMBERS

**LOCAL** 563-864-7611

**TOLL-FREE** 888-788-1551

**PAYMENT LINE 24/7** 833-284-5051

**UNDERGROUND CABLE LOCATING**  
811

**SKYWAYS INTERNET SOLUTIONS**

800-864-1611

### WEBSITE

acrec.com

### OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Friday 7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

### OUTAGES

888-788-1551 or 563-864-7611

### IOWA STATE ONE CALL

811

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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**AL STEFFENS**, Clermont

**BRICE WOOD**, Lansing

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# Power Pole Clutter

Flyers, satellite dishes, posters, basketball hoops, decorative lights, even hunting stands. You name it, someone has tried to staple, nail or tie it to a power pole. Here's a quick look at the dangers and pitfalls associated with unauthorized pole attachments.

## Illegal

Many state and local laws and the National Electrical Safety Code prohibit any unauthorized items on poles. Utilities can face fines if these attachments aren't removed.



## Pole Damage

Even small holes can allow moisture and insects past the pole sealant, which can shorten the life of the pole or weaken it and cause it to fall in a storm.



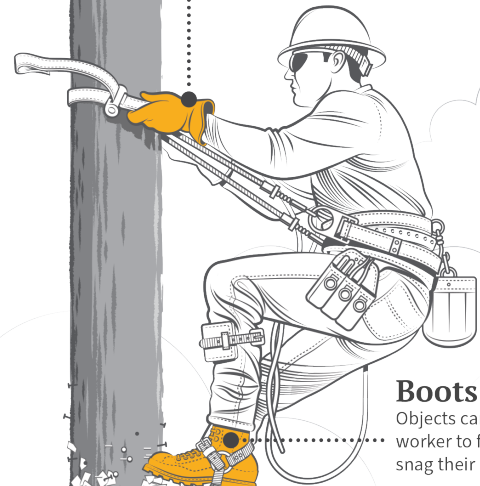
## Hinders Repairs

Posters and flyers can hide identifying markers on poles and slow repair work.



## Gloves

Staples, tacks and nails can puncture a lineworker's insulated rubber gloves and expose them to electric shock.



## Boots

Objects can cause a worker to fall if they snag their boots.

## Climbing Hooks

Nails and tacks can impede climbing hooks from sinking into the wood.



## Dangerous

A person who gets too close to energized lines while attaching an object can be electrocuted.



## Distraction

Some materials posted on poles, like mirrors or holiday decorations, can be a distraction to drivers.

Source: NRECA; Design: Jeff Dionise

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