

living with energy

IN IOWA



Guthrie County REC
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

MAY 2018

Electric vehicle charging station coming to co-op soon; rebates available for home chargers too

Insulation: Now's the perfect time to add more

Play it cool with our
energy-saving ideas

Take a look at the
evolution of lineworker
safety gear

Royal Neighbors
help members with
energy bills

Visit our website at www.guthrie-rec.coop

Complaint Procedure

Guthrie County REC strives to provide you with the best service at the lowest possible cost. But sometimes you have questions regarding your electrical service or billing – or possibly a complaint. If you have a complaint about Guthrie County REC’s service rather than its rates, you can reach a representative of the cooperative by contacting us during normal business hours: 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, at 641-747-2206 or 888-747-2206. You can also write to Guthrie County REC, 1406 State St., P.O. Box 7, Guthrie Center, IA 50115-0007.

If your complaint is not resolved, you may ask for help by: writing the Iowa Utilities Board, Customer Service, 1375 E. Court Ave., Room 69, Des Moines, IA 50319-0069; calling 877-565-4450 or e-mailing customer@iub.iowa.gov.

SAFETY MATTERS

May is National Electrical Safety Month

To highlight the importance of safety around electricity, the Electrical Safety Foundation International uses the month of May to promote electrical safety in the home, school and workplace.

The 2018 theme, “Understanding the Code That Keeps Us Safe,” focuses on the importance of the National Electrical Code (NEC) and its 3-year cycle. The NEC codifies the minimum requirements for safe electrical installations. While it’s not a law, many states like Iowa have mandated that the NEC be followed.

Every 3 years, the code is updated through a process that includes public input and technical review by the National Fire Protection Association. The last update to the NEC was issued in 2017 and has been adopted by the state of Iowa.

Is your home up to code? Contact a qualified electrician to ensure your home meets the requirements of the NEC. Guthrie County REC also has many resources available to help

educate your family about electrical safety. Give us a call at 888-747-2206 to learn more. ⚡



DID YOU KNOW?

More than 50% of the electric fires that occur every year can be prevented by Arc-Fault Circuit Interrupters (AFCIs). Arc faults can occur when older wires become frayed or cracked, when a nail or screw damages a wire behind a wall or when outlets or circuits are compromised. AFCI breakers and receptacles should be tested monthly and should only be installed by a qualified electrician.



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CO-OP VIPS

We love our linemen!

Lineman Appreciation Day was April 9, and Guthrie County REC celebrated by treating its linemen to breakfast. Although Lineman Appreciation Day only occurs once a year, we want to make sure they feel appreciated every day! If you see one of our linemen working in your area, be sure to thank them for the brave work they do. ⚡



Pictured are (clockwise from lower left) Jeremy Gruber, Brian Marso, Keith Hise, Jalen Spack, Darwin Marean, Doug Downing, Larry Newbrough, Josh Oltmann, Elden Wolfe, Jordan Terwilliger and Todd Tinken. Not pictured: Curt Knapp.



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Office
1406 State Street • P.O. Box 7
Guthrie Center, IA 50115-0007

Office Hours
Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Telephone Number
641-747-2206 or 888-747-2206
Calls answered 24 hours a day, 7 days a week

Website
www.guthrie-rec.coop

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

Mary Garst was a trailblazer in the community



Mary Garst (center) reads to children Ed, Sarah and Liz in 1955.

Mary Garst was not only passionate about her home community of Coon Rapids, but she also served as a role model, mentor and inspiration to her five daughters and countless girls and women throughout her life. Although she died in 2014 at the age of 86, Mary's legacy lives on through the family's Whiterock Conservancy, 5,000 acres of the family's land in the Raccoon River valley now operated as a nonprofit trust.

Mary's daughter, Liz, who remains involved in Whiterock Conservancy's mission and lives on the Garst farm served by Guthrie County REC since 1952, took a moment to share her experiences as Mary's daughter.

Q. What's the best piece of advice you received from your mom?

Liz Garst: When I left for college, she advised me to never admit to a man that I could type, which I could. She was a good listener but let me make mistakes and learn for myself.

Q. How has she influenced how you live your life?

LG: She worked hard, and she was brave. She knew how to stand up for what she believed in, but she did it with grace and humor. And she was the first woman on several business boards, in the cattle industry and other nonprofit boards. She led the

way for women's equality. Even better, she talked about the struggles of women in a man's world. I try to do the same.

Q. What do you feel is her biggest legacy?

LG: In Coon Rapids, she was a quiet benefactor. My favorite example is that she funded (and still funds through an endowment) pool passes for all the poorer kids in town. On the state level, she was most proud of her involvement in a League of Women Voters lawsuit, which resulted in Iowa's redistricting law, which is even today regarded as the fairest redistricting law in the country.

Q. Do you have a particular memory of her that you would care to share?

LG: She made mistakes and could laugh about it. As she started her career managing the family cattle herd, she asked the vet to treat the "paws" of a couple of our cows. She wasn't a very good cook, but she made sure that as a family we sat down and ate together every weekday evening. Mother's Day was always celebrated in the woods, with a campfire, fresh asparagus and a mushroom hunt. Whiterock is a great place to get outdoors, and it is her legacy. ⚡



Mary Garst (center) is pictured with her five daughters in 2004 when Whiterock Conservancy was established; (from left) Rachel, Sarah, Mary, Liz, Jennifer and Kate.

Copper theft: It's not worth a life

With almost 1,500 miles of line stretching across a 6-county region, GCREC must rely on its members to report any suspicious activity around substations in isolated areas. If you see something, say something! Call 911 to report anyone around a substation or power poles when there are no GCREC trucks in the area. Anyone caught stealing copper will face felony charges under an Iowa utility trespassing law. ⚡



EDITOR'S CHOICE CONTEST

Win a kit to automate your lights at home!

Control the lights in your home with the Philips Hue personal wireless lighting system. This ENERGY STAR® rated bulb starter kit includes four soft-white, 60-watt equivalent LEDs, and you can program them with your smartphone to match your schedule whether you're home or away. For details, visit www2.meethue.com/en-us.



To enter this month's contest for the \$150 Philips Hue automated lighting kit, visit the *Living with Energy in Iowa* website at www.livingwithenergyiowa.com no later than May 31, 2018. ⚡

IN THE COMMUNITY

Royal Neighbors help members with energy bills



Guthrie County REC would like to say “thank you” to Royal Neighbors of America Chapter 7072. On March 19, a lasagna dinner was held at the Christian Church Fellowship Hall for Duane Bandy’s Royal Neighbors Difference Maker Project. The dinner raised money for people in the community needing help with their energy bills. Guthrie County REC received a check for \$505 from Duane Bandy’s project that went toward members’ electric bills.



Thank you! ⚡

OFFICE CLOSING

The Guthrie County REC office will be closed Monday, May 28, in observance of Memorial Day. We wish all our members a safe holiday weekend!



ON THE FARM

Please share the road with farm equipment!



Planting season has returned to Iowa, and with it comes the increased chance for drivers to come upon slow-moving farm equipment on roadways. Farmers often need to move equipment from one field to another, which can present unique challenges when slow-moving equipment tries to mix with fast-moving vehicles.

“We urge our members to use caution during these months as farmers enter and exit their fields,” said Guthrie County REC CEO Cozy Nelsen. “A little bit of patience is all that is needed to ensure the safety of everyone.”

Here are a few tips for drivers to help avoid any mishaps:

- **Slow down:** If you’re driving in an agricultural area, pay attention to the posted speed limit. Begin slowing down several hundred yards before you come upon a slow-moving vehicle. This will help signal to cars and trucks behind you to slow down as well.
- **Stay back:** The triangular slow-

moving vehicle emblem on the back of farm equipment means it won’t be traveling at high speeds, and maneuverability is limited. Keep your distance to allow space for quick stops, flying debris or other unexpected events.

- **Don’t assume the farmer can see your vehicle:** Drive far enough behind to ensure they can see you in their mirrors.
- **Use extreme caution when passing:** Never pass when approaching a hill or curve – or within 100 yards of an intersection, bridge or railroad crossing.

Remember, farmers are as eager to exit the road as you are to get around them. When farmers have to use roadways, they’re driving slower and more cautiously than anywhere else. The farmer must also find an appropriate time to move over and let a vehicle pass, by looking at the shoulder for an area that isn’t soft, wet or too steep to support the weight of the equipment. ⚡



We Salute Our Cattle Farmers

Guthrie County REC board Member Andrew Van Aernam (left), owner of Van Aernam Simmental



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