

November 2015

# WATT'S HAPPENING

SCENIC RIVERS ENERGY COOPERATIVE

LANCASTER, DARLINGTON AND GAYS MILLS, WISCONSIN

## *Photos from our October Member Appreciation Celebrations*



## Why electric co-ops replace utility poles

You probably don't pay much attention to the utility poles found throughout Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative's service territory, but did you know these tall structures are the backbone of our distribution network?

Strong, sturdy utility poles ensure a reliable electric system, which is why we routinely inspect the thousands of poles found on our lines. Throughout the year, our crews check poles for decay caused by exposure to the elements. They know which poles are oldest and conduct inspections through a rotational process. Typically, a standard wooden distribution pole is expected to last more than 50 years.

Occasionally, poles need to be replaced for other reasons besides decay and old age. Weather disasters, power line relocation and car crashes are potential causes for immediate replacement. When possible, Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative communicates when and where pole replacements will take place so that you stay informed of where crews will be working.

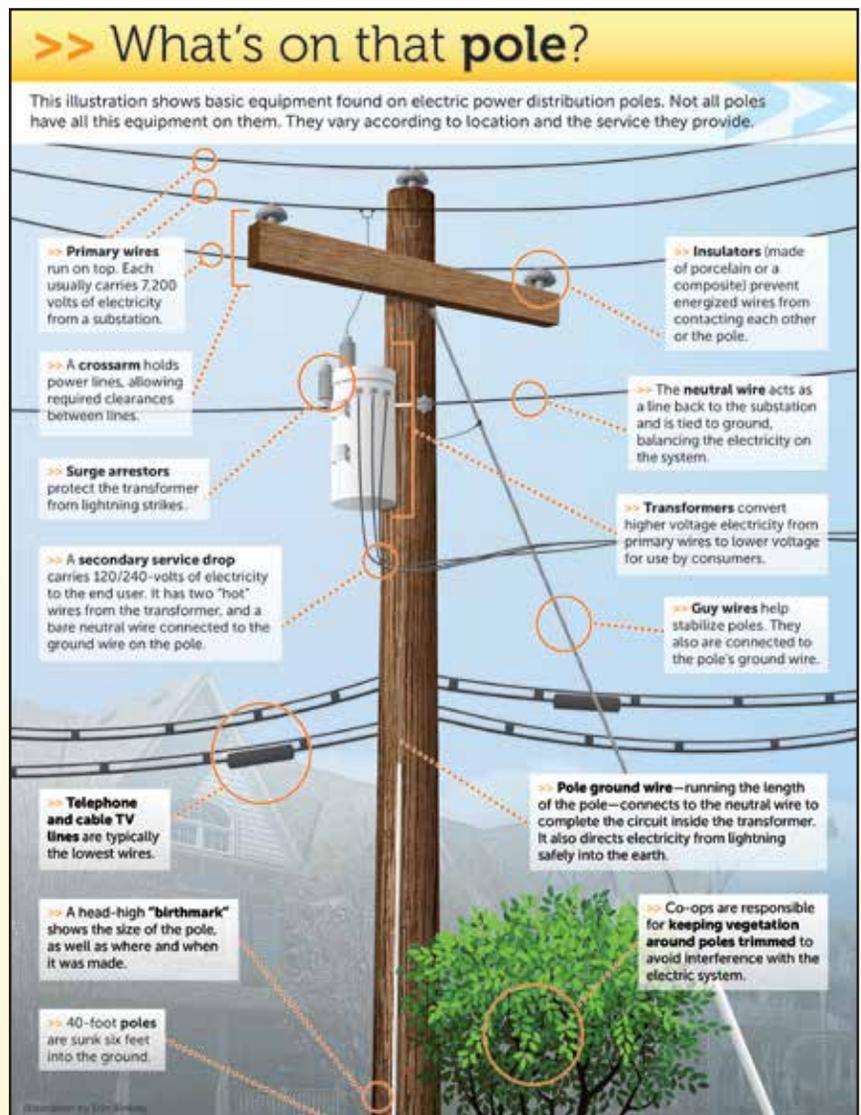
### Here is a quick breakdown of how crews replace a utility pole:

When a pole needs to be replaced, crews will start the process by digging a hole, typically next to the pole being replaced. The depth of the hole must be 15 percent of the new pole's height. Next, the new pole must be fitted with bolts, cross arms, insulators, ground wires and arm braces - all of the necessary parts for delivering safe and reliable electricity. Then, crews safely detach the power lines from the old pole. The new pole is then raised and guided carefully into position, and the lines

are attached, leaving the new pole to do its job.

So, the next time you come across a Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative crew replacing a pole, use caution and know that this process ensures a more reliable electric system for you, our members.

*Abby Berry writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Arlington, Va.-based service arm of the nation's 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives.*



## Why we plan outages

Have you ever received a notification from the folks here at Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative informing you of a “planned outage?” You may have wondered, “what is a planned outage?” and “why does my electric utility need to perform one?” Occasionally, the equipment we use to bring power to your home needs to be replaced, repaired or updated. When this happens, as a way to keep our crews and you safe, we plan an interruption to electric service.

We do our best to plan these outages during times when you will be least inconvenienced, so we often perform planned outages during school and business hours. We also try to avoid planning these outages during winter or summer months. We understand these are peak times of the year when you depend on running your heating and cooling units the most.

While they may sound slightly inconvenient, planned outages are actually beneficial to you, our members. Regular system upgrades are necessary for optimal performance, and they increase reliability. Repairing and upgrading our equipment is also critical to maintaining public safety. If older lines need to be replaced, we plan for it, repair or replace it, and that keeps everyone safe.

Planned outages also allow us to keep you informed of when and how long you will be without power. We can notify you 1-2 days before an outage, so you can be prepared. We also keep you aware of when line crews will be working in your area.

Here at Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative, we want to make sure we are doing everything we can to keep you safe and to keep our system running smoothly.

So, the next time you hear about a planned outage, know that it is one of the best ways we can provide you with quality electric service.

*Meghaan Evans writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Arlington, Va.-based service arm of the nation’s 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives.* ■



### Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



Reduce energy for water heating. Take simple steps like lowering your water heater’s temperature and installing low-flow showerheads to reduce your water heating bills.

Source: [energy.gov](http://energy.gov)

HAPPY  
THANKSGIVING

OFFICE  
CLOSED

for Thanksgiving,  
November 26

## Recipes

Thanks to Carolyn Creighton (Hazel Green) for sharing this Grilled Turkey/Dressing – Cranberry/Cheese Melt recipe. “Tired of the bun filled turkey and dressing sandwich?? Here is a less filling and tasty way of serving up the ever famous Turkey and Dressing Sandwich.”

### Grilled Turkey/Dressing – Cranberry/Cheese Melt

- Sliced Bread
- Turkey & Dressing
- 1 can Whole Cranberry Sauce
- Slices of Marble Jack Cheese (or other cheese you prefer)

Warm up in the microwave the amount of turkey & dressing that you will need to make your sandwiches. Lay out your bread and butter the sides that will be grilled.

Assemble your sandwich: Spread a thin layer of whole cranberry sauce, on one side. Add a thin layer of turkey & dressing on the cranberry and place a slice of cheese on the turkey and dressing. Spray grill pan and grill until bread is brown; flip and do the other side.

Place on cutting board and let rest for a couple of minutes, before cutting the sandwich in half. Serve and enjoy.



Thanks to Cathy Skaike (Platteville) for sharing this Spare Ribs in a Crock Pot recipe.

### Spare Ribs in a Crock Pot

- 4 pounds ribs of your choice
- 2 tsp Worcestershire sauce
- 1 tsp Vinegar
- Salt and Pepper to taste
- 1 bottle of Sweet Baby Rays BBQ sauce
- 2 Tbsp Brown Sugar
- 1 tsp Oregano

In a bowl, mix together all the ingredients except for the ribs themselves. Place ribs in slow cooker. Pour sauce over the ribs. Cover and cook on low for 8 hours, or until ribs are tender.



## Vegetation Management

Zielie’s Tree Service Inc. will be trimming the Fennimore North circuit in Grant County.

DJB Inspections LLC is inspecting underground transformers and cabinets in the Belmont, Shullsburg and Crawhall Substations in Lafayette County and Mt Hope and Kaiser Substations in Grant County.

**It is important for SREC to maintain its rights-of-way for the following reasons:**

- Accessibility for field crews, vehicles and equipment
- Fire prevention
- Reliable electric service
- Quality service with the reduction of outages and blinks
- Safety for workers and the public
- Meeting state and federal code requirements

On a daily basis, SREC employees and contractors are working throughout the area, at times on your property, to operate and maintain the electric system and our rights-of-ways. We appreciate your cooperation. If you have questions, please contact Jay at [jgardner@srec.net](mailto:jgardner@srec.net) or call 800-236-2141, ext. 566.



*Watt's Happening* is published monthly as an information service to the member-owners of Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative.

Any questions or comments can be directed to *Watt's Happening*, c/o Heidi Pierce, Editor, Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative, 231 North Sheridan, Lancaster, WI 53813 or telephone (608) 723-2121 or toll free Lancaster 800-236-2141.

[www.sre.coop](http://www.sre.coop)

Steve Lucas ..... CEO  
Heidi Pierce ..... Editor

Our board of directors consists of Chuck Simmons, Sandra Davidson, Don Schaefer, Dave Stute, Larry Butson, Ellen Conley, Delbert Reuter, Steve Carpenter and Marcus Saegrove.



printed on recycled paper