

Clay ELECTRIC News

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

7784 Old Hwy. 50 ■ P.O. Box 517 ■ Flora, Illinois 62839 ■ www.cecicoop ■ 618/662-2171 ■ 800/582-9012

From the Manager

Time marches on and our crews at Clay Electric Co-operative have been busy working to maintain and improve your distribution system. There will always be accidents and storms that cause outages, but our crew's daily maintenance work helps to limit downtime outside those kinds of unforeseeable events.

We would like to remind you that if you experience an outage, please make sure to contact the cooperative at 800-582-9012. In severe storms, our dispatchers receive large call volumes. **13362-001** We ask our members to be patient and to make sure to stay on the line and report your outages. Outage information will be posted on Facebook at facebook.

com/cecicoop, but the only way to ensure your outage information makes it to our dispatcher is to call it in.

2020 is a census year. It's important for our members to participate in the 2020 census later this month. Illinois receives more than \$34 billion per year in federal funding through 55 federal spending programs. For Clay County to get its fair share, we need to step up and be counted. Federal programs help offer assistance to members of our community suffering through hardships as well as for the greater good of our residents as a whole. From road and infrastructure improvements to SNAP and Medicaid funding, the

only way for Clay County to receive its proper portion is with an accurate census. You can learn more at 2020census.gov.

As you flip through your newsletter, keep your eyes peeled for your member number. There are three member numbers hidden in Clay Electric News. If you find your number and give us a call, you win \$5 off your next bill!



Luke Johnson
CEO

When it comes to severe weather... hope for the best, **but prepare for the worst.**



You can begin your preparation by assembling an emergency preparedness kit, which includes items to help keep your family safe and comfortable during a power outage. Your kit should include items such as water, non-perishable food, flashlight, batteries, blankets, and a first aid kit.

- ___ Drinking water & food
- ___ Blankets, pillows, & clothing
- ___ Basic first-aid supplies
- ___ Medications
- ___ Basic toiletries
- ___ Flashlights
- ___ Battery-operated radio
- ___ Extra supply of batteries
- ___ Cell phone with chargers
- ___ Cash and credit cards
- ___ Basic tools (duct tape, wrench, etc.)
- ___ Important documents & numbers
- ___ Toys, books, & games
- ___ Baby supplies
- ___ Pet supplies

Learn more at:



Counting our community -

What you need to know about the 2020 census

The U.S. Constitution requires that each decade we take a count – or census – of America’s population. The U.S. Census Bureau is responsible for conducting the decennial census. The Census Bureau collects data on the peoples, places and economies of the communities within the U.S. This data is held in confidentiality and is used in figuring the allocation of more than \$675 billion of federal funding to states and communities.

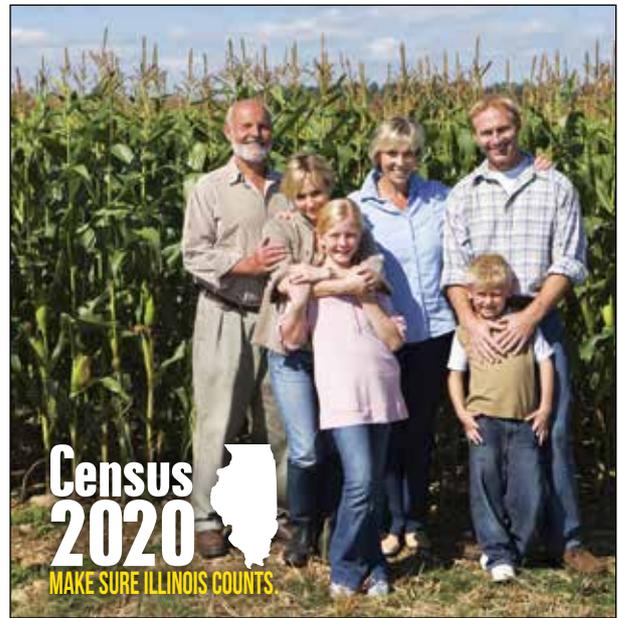
How else is census data used?

- It determines how many representatives each state gets in Congress and is used to redraw district boundaries. Redistricting counts are sent to the states by March 31, 2021.
- Communities rely on census statistics to plan for a variety of resident needs including new roads, schools and emergency services.
- Businesses use census data to determine where to open new locations.

The 2020 census will showcase new technologies and strategies. For the first time, you will be able to respond online, by phone, as well as by mail. By utilizing existing

data, the Census Bureau expects to reduce follow-up visits, build accurate address lists, and automate some field operations while keeping your information confidential and safe.

For more information, visit 2020census.gov.



Clay Electric Co-operative is proud to announce the new Co-op Connections app for your Apple or Android device. You may remember the Coop Connections discount card. While the discount card will still be available and accepted by our partners, the new digital app has improved usability. With the app you can find local deals, book hotel rooms through our partnership with iBennie, earn cash back, and more.

We would like to take a moment to thank our member businesses for partnering with us to provide you with discounts. This corner of our center section will be dedicated to highlighting the businesses that work with us to provide tremendous services and discounts to our membership. **11267-001** If you are a business owner interested in partnering with Clay Electric Co-operative, please call our office at 618-662-2171 or email CoopConnections@ceci.coop. There is no cost to the program. We help our members connect with local

businesses and get some great discounts. It's a win-win.



Grounded Coffee Shop is a family owned bistro and coffee shop. They have a variety of sandwiches, salads, wraps and soup. They provide a large variety of specialty coffees including lattes, cappuccinos, frappes, mochas and more. You can also set up a time to use the location for events, birthdays, meetings and more. They are located at 110 E North Ave in Flora.

Find them on Facebook at fb.me/groundedcoffeeshop or by phone at 618-403-5282.

CO-OP CONNECTIONS[®] CORNER



What is right-of-way and why is it necessary?

A: right-of-way, when it comes to utilities, is an agreement that allows a utility to use or access a piece of property according to the terms of the easement.

Easements are areas designated for overhead and underground utility access and are usually defined when a lot or neighborhood is first platted. **14586-001** Easements are implemented because it is more efficient and less expensive to run utility lines straight through neighborhoods than it is to run them around parcels of land.

Having right-of-way means that utilities can access the area to fix a utility-related problem or to perform maintenance. Easements outline general property rights by others while right-of-way (as its name implies) is a specific property right.

According to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's frequently asked questions:

Q: Who decides whether an electric utility can cut down a tree near a power line?

A: The choice of how to trim trees and manage vegetation growth near a power line is primarily made by the electric utility, subject to state and local requirements and laws, applicable safety codes, and any limitations or obligations specified in rights-of-way agreements.

Q: The power lines near my house don't seem to be near the trees. So why are my trees getting trimmed anyway?

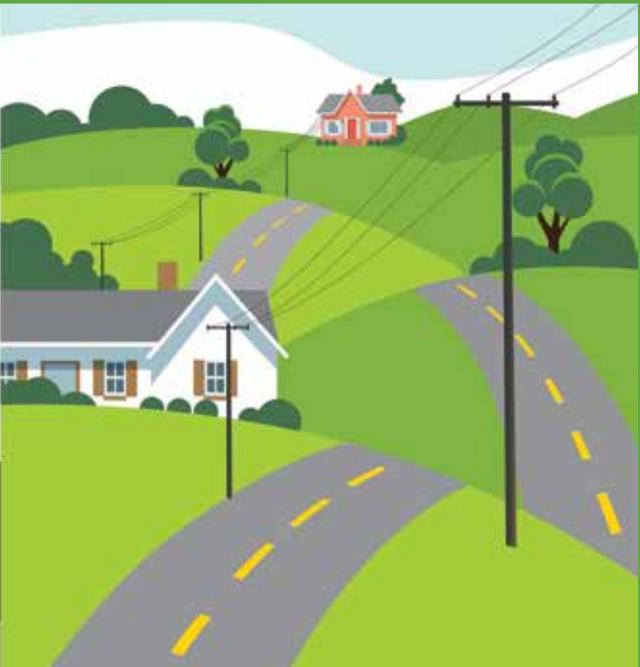
A: There are two reasons for this. First, electric utilities are required to maintain the appropriate clearance between trees and power lines. On a cool, still day, it may appear that there is ample clearance. However, power lines sag as they expand in the summer due to air temperature and heavy use. Clearances around the lines must account for this, as well as wind, which causes the lines to sway. Second, electric utilities usually prune or remove vegetation to a distance greater than the minimum clearances to account

for future growth, movement of trees or power lines due to wind, conductor sag due to heat and line loading, and other factors.

Q: The trees are in my yard. Why can't I stop the utility from cutting down or trimming my trees?

A: An electric utility is granted an easement or a right-of-way on private property in order to build and maintain power lines. The terms of a utility right-of-way, defining the rights of the parties for building and maintaining electric lines, are specified in rights-of-way agreements. These agreements are usually attached to a property deed.

Workers who service utility lines should arrive in a marked vehicle and have proper identification. If you have any concerns, please call us at 618-662-2171. For more about electrical safety, visit SafeElectricity.org.



We clear certain areas in our service territory, known as rights of way, to:

- Keep power lines clear of tree limbs
- Restore power outages more quickly
- Reduce unexpected costs for repairs

Maintaining rights of way improves service reliability for you - our members!

Minutes of the Board of Trustees Meeting

January 27, 2020

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of Clay Electric Co-operative, Inc. (CECI) was held at the Clay Electric Cooperative Headquarters, Flora, Illinois beginning at 1:00 o'clock p.m. on Monday, January 27, 2020.

Trustees present were: Kevin Logan, Bill Croy, Frank Czerwinski, Bob Pierson, Richard Rudolphi, Neil Gould, Danny Schnepfer, Greg Smith and Frank Herman. Also present were: Luke Johnson, CEO, and Tyra Cycholl, Attorney for the Board. The meeting was opened by Bob Pierson, who presided and Greg Smith, acted as secretary thereof.

The pledge of allegiance was recited followed by the invocation, given by Frank Herman.

The following proceedings were had [all action being first duly moved and seconded, and all action taken being upon the unanimous vote of the board or without dissenting vote of abstention unless otherwise stated]:

APPROVED, the Suggested Agenda.

DISCUSSED, disbursements and credit card statements.

APPROVED, the Consent Agenda including the following:

APPROVED, the prior meeting minutes.

APPROVED, (a) to admit to membership those 11 applicants connected for service since the last such review by the board, and (b) cancel those 12 former members shown on the Manager's Report since the last such review by the board, said members no longer taking service;

- **APPROVED**, the Work Orders;
- **APPROVED**, the Disbursements;
- **APPROVED**, the Credit Card Statements;
- **REVIEWED**, the Attorney Retainer;

- **REVIEWED**, the Account Summary Report;
- **REVIEWED**, the Insurance certificates;
- **REVIEWED**, the Federated Report from the Board;
- **REVIEWED**, the Clay Power Factor;
- **REVIEWED**, the Power Cost Adder;
- **REVIEWED**, the December Compliance Exchange;
- **REVIEWED**, the NCSC Report from the Board;
- **REVIEWED**, the CRC Report from the Board.

APPROVED, the Purchase Power Agreements.

APPROVED, the Joint Pole Agreement with the City of Flora and Clay County Water.

APPROVED, the IRS Rate of 57.5 cents.

REVIEWED and **DISCUSSED**, policies 1000-1, 1000-3, 1000-4, 1000-15 and 200-13.

APPROVED, policies 1000-1, 1000-3, 1000-4, 1000-15 and 200-13.

APPROVED, the CFC Annual Meeting Minutes.

REVIEWED, the NRECA Annual Meeting Notice.

HEARD, a report by Frank Herman regarding the SIPC Meeting and Strategic Planning.

REVIEWED, the SIPC Patronage Allocation for 2019.

HEARD, a report by Richard Rudolphi regarding the AIEC Meeting.

WERE REMINDED of the Lobby Day in Springfield March 18.

HEARD and **APPROVED**, a financial report by Luke Johnson as to the following:

- December 2019 Form 7;

- December 2019 Balance Sheet;
- Yearly Equity Model;
- December 2019 Cash Flow;
- SIPC Power Delivered in December 2019 dated Jan. 8, 2020;
- December Line Loss;
- Monthly Reconciliation;
- Federated Check.

HEARD, a Safety Report for the month of January.

REVIEWED, the Monday morning safety meeting sheet dated Jan. 20, 2020.

HEARD and **APPROVED**, the Manager's report by Luke Johnson on the following topics.

- Cost of Service Study;
- Operations Report;
- Communications Report;
- Auditors Letter of Engagement.
- Upcoming meetings

REVIEWED and **DISCUSSED**, the Cost of Service Study.

REVIEWED, the Operations Report.

REVIEWED, the Communications

Report.

REVIEWED, the Auditors Letter of Engagement.

WERE REMINDED, of upcoming meetings on Feb. 24, 2020 at 1 p.m. and March 23, 2020 at 7 p.m. and agreed to move the April meeting to May 4, 2020 at 7 p.m. in the Clay board room.

There being no further business to come before the board, said meeting was declared adjourned at 2:50 p.m.



MEMBER PRIZES

Every month we will have three member numbers hidden throughout Clay Electric News. If you find your member number that corresponds to the one found on the upper right corner of your bill, call our office and identify your number and the page it's on. If correct, you will win a \$5 credit on your next electric bill.

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Office hours:
7:30 a.m. — 4:00 p.m.
www.ceci.coop
facebook.com/ceci.coop

