

Storm Safety Tips

Storm season is in full swing. Many summer storms have the potential to produce tornadoes—they can happen anytime, anywhere, and can bring winds over 200 miles per hour.

No one likes the power to go off, but knowing what to do can make a big difference in how soon your power is restored.

Consumers Energy Cooperative is committed to providing reliable service, but not all outages can be avoided. Weather, animals, accidents, and service interruptions from our power supplier can all cause power outages. If an outage occurs, please do the following:

- Check to determine if power is lost to your entire home or farmstead.
- Check fuses and circuit breakers which may include both the meter pole panel and the panel located inside your home.
- To help determine the extent of the problem, check with neighbors to see if they have electricity. This will help our crews know if it is just your service or if it is multiple services.
- Turn off major appliances to protect them from any high or low voltage conditions and to decrease the load when lines are re-energized.
- Leave a light or lamp on so you'll know when service has been restored.
- Leave doors closed on refrigerators and freezers as much as possible during outages. Food will keep much longer if the doors are left closed.
- **If you cannot restore power by resetting circuit breakers, call Consumers Energy at [641-752-1593](tel:641-752-1593) or [800-696-6552](tel:800-696-6552) to report the outage. Our phones are answered 24/7, and crews are on call to respond.**

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WIN

ONE OF TWO MONTHLY \$5 BILL CREDITS

THIS MONTH'S CONTEST:

Submit your answers to the Father's Day Emoji Pictionary on page 8-6.

The solutions will be published in the July newsletter.

◆ ◆ ◆

Winners for the month of April:
Roseann Nymeyer, Marshalltown
Melvin & Joyce Osgood, Marshalltown



Here's how to enter:

1. Answer the question or challenge posed each month.
2. Send answers to Consumers Energy with:
 - Name
 - Service Address
 - Account Number
 - Phone Number
 - Email Address

Submit via email or mail:
 Email to: kglenney@consumersenergy.coop
 Subject line: Contest

Mail to: Consumers Energy
 Attn: Contest
 2074 242nd Street
 Marshalltown, IA 50158

3. Winners' names will be drawn at random and published in upcoming issues of *The Connection*.

June 2024

Dates To Remember:

JUNE

- 3 Bills Due
- 3 Automatic Payments Deducted
- 7 Email / Mail Bills
- 16 Father's Day**
- 25 Automatic Payments Deducted

JULY

- 1 Read Meters
- 3 Bills Due
- 3 Automatic Payments Deducted
- 4 July 4th Holiday - Office Closed**

Storm Safety Tips *(continued)*

How to prepare for storm emergencies

When faced with severe weather, it's crucial to have a clear plan in place, saving valuable time and ensuring everyone's safety. Consider these important things:

Call Consumers Energy for all outages.



Contact Us

Cooperative staff do not know your power is out until you notify us. Calling us at **800-696-6552** is the most effective way to notify staff of an outage at your service location as email is not monitored at all times, especially if there is a large-scale outage. Consumers Energy phones are answered 24/7, and crews are on call to respond. The cooperative will post updates on the home page of the co-op's website at www.consumersenergy.coop. Members can also look at the Iowa statewide outage map at www.iowarec.org/updates to check progress on any ongoing outages.



Documents

Keep important documents in a known location ready to be gathered and protected in a waterproof container when severe weather is imminent.



Essential Devices

If severe weather is coming, ensure all electronic devices are fully charged ahead of time, and have a battery-powered radio on hand to stay updated on weather conditions.



Generators

If you plan to use a portable generator as a power source, be sure you know how it works and how to safely operate it before severe weather hits. **Never run a portable generator inside or near a building.** See the co-op's Generator Safety page at www.consumersenergy.coop/generator-safety for more information on how to safely use a generator at your home or business.



Medical Equipment

If you or someone in your care has a condition that requires continuous or special medication, life support systems, or medications that require constant refrigeration, contact your doctor, and make a plan for power outages.



Pets

Make sure outdoor pets are brought inside before a storm hits. Have arrangements in place in case you need to evacuate to an emergency shelter as animals may not be allowed there.



Roles & Responsibilities

Determine beforehand who in your household or business will take care of gathering animals, retrieving your safety kit, etc.



Safety Kit

Have an emergency safety kit with all the items you need in one place and ready to go in case a storm hits. Your safety kit should include items such as: flashlights, a battery-powered radio, spare batteries, fully charged cell phone/device power banks, blankets and/or warm clothing, first-aid supplies, spare baby care supplies if applicable, pet supplies if applicable, a three-day supply of nonperishable food and water for everyone in your household (NOTE: Some foods in your unpowered refrigerator may not be safe to eat during or after an outage.). a manual (non-electric) can opener, extra cash in case local ATMs are also down.



Shelter

Pick a designated location to seek shelter during severe weather. This is often the basement or a room away from windows or sharp objects. If possible, check on those with special needs or those who otherwise have difficulties seeking shelter during severe weather to ensure they have arrangements in place.



Vehicles

Make sure your vehicle has gas or your electric car is charged before the storm in case you need to evacuate.



◀ continued on page 12-C



Downed Power Lines

STAY AWAY FROM DOWNED POWER POLES AND LINES! They may still be energized, and electrocution is possible. Do not go near a downed power line for any reason.

See the graphic at right for more information on how to stay safe if there is a downed powerline or pole.

Summer is a time for many fun-filled activities, but the season can also bring severe, dangerous weather. Talk to your loved ones about storm safety so that everyone is prepared and knows exactly what to do when a storm strikes.

Bridget Itzen

Bridget Itzen,
CEO/General Manager

DO YOU CALL TO MAKE PAYMENT?

Secure Payments System has a new phone number!

Pay your Consumers Energy bill 24/7 by phone!

The Secure Payments System keeps member information safe, and allows you to store your payment preferences for easier, quicker payments.

Software enhancements and increased security are prompting this change. Beginning in June 2024, use the new phone number below to make payments by phone to your Consumers Energy account.

855-939-3832

For more information, contact the Member Services Department at 800-696-6552 or info@consumersenergy.coop.

WHAT TO LOOK FOR AFTER A STORM

When the skies clear and the birds sing, know that the storm's fury could have created **electrical hazards that you may or may not be able to see**. Conditions in which stray electricity could energize the area, a person or objects include:

DOWNED POWER LINES

- On the ground.
- Under storm debris.
- Draped over or touching a metal fence.
- Covered by standing water.
- Across or by the road.
- Hidden in tree branches.

OTHER POSSIBLE DAMAGE

- Drooping or sagging lines (never try to move one).
- Split or broken utility poles.
- Damage to a padmount transformer (green box).
- Lightning strike to a substation transformer.
- Damaged or unstable guy wires.

NEVER GO NEAR downed power lines or other damaged electrical equipment to assess damage or clean up the area. **STAY AWAY** and call 9-1-1 to report damage.

Power lines and other electrical equipment do not have to be sparking, arcing (giving off a flame) or on fire to be energized.

 Safe
Electricity.org®

Nominate a local volunteer, and they could win \$3,000 for their charity!

Contest entries accepted during June at IowaShineTheLight.com

SCAN HERE FOR SHINE THE LIGHT WEBSITE



Consumers Energy

is proud to announce

2024 Scholarship Recipients!

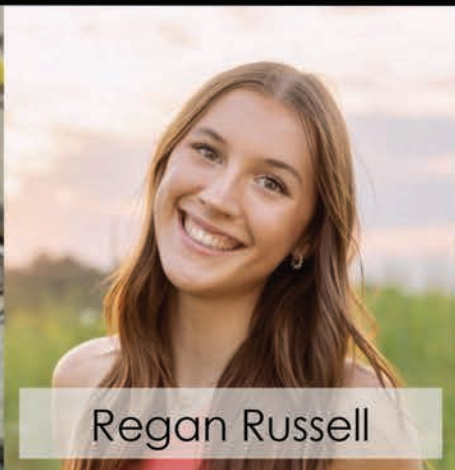
For more information on Consumers Energy's Scholarship Program visit www.consumersenergy.coop/scholarship-program or scan this QR code to go directly to that page. →



Julie Damman



Hannah Kimberley



Regan Russell



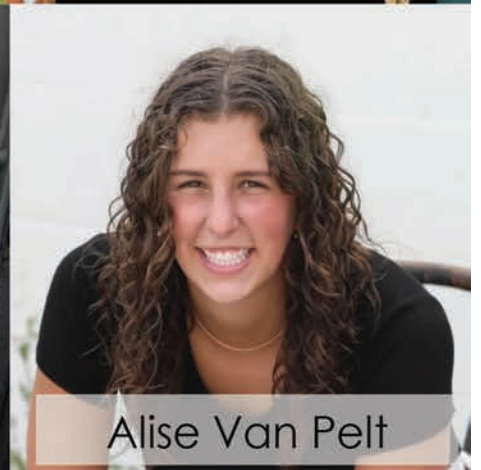
Ella Steward



Katie Tollefson



Devon Tsia-Olson



Alise Van Pelt



Brianna Winfield



Gwen Zrostlik



Carson Gibson

Each year, Consumers Energy awards \$1,000 scholarships to area students. The Lineworker Scholarship is available for a full-time student who resides in Iowa and is pursuing a career in the power industry. The Academic Scholarships are available to full-time students who are dependents of members of Consumers Energy and are pursuing a postsecondary education at an accredited two-year or four-year college, university, or vocational/technical school.

2024 winners of Consumers Energy scholarships!

Julie Damman, daughter of John and Darci Damman of Melbourne, is receiving an Academic Scholarship. At Baxter High School, Julie is the president of Baxter's chapter of FFA, a member of National Honor Society, and a member of Student Council. She participated in volleyball and is the varsity team captain. Julie is the 2024 Jasper County Beef Queen. This fall she will be attending Iowa State University.

Hannah Kimberley, daughter of Tom and Donna Kimberley of Collins, is receiving an Academic Scholarship. Hannah is dual enrolled with Collins-Maxwell High School and the homeschool program, Classical Conversations. She's participated in softball receiving 2nd team All-Conference, in volleyball receiving All-Star Award, and went to state in track. Hannah has won over 6 debates and is currently writing a senior thesis that she'll defend in front of a panel of judges in May. This fall she will be attending Spurgeon College.

Regan Russell, daughter of Josh and Cheryl Russell, is receiving an Academic Scholarship. Regan is a member of the National Honor Society, Student Council, and yearbook at Baxter High School. She's participated in dance team, cross country, track and field, and football cheer. Regan volunteers with the Big Bolt Little Bolt Mentorship Program. This fall she will be attending the University of Iowa.

Ella Steward, daughter of Lara and Matthew Steward of State Center, is receiving an Academic Scholarship. Ella is homeschooled and dual enrolled with Collins-Maxwell High School for sports. She participates in the swim team, volleyball, cross country, and track and field. She is the secretary for her 4-H group, youth group leader, vice president for the local Turning Point USA Club, and ACRE assistant teacher. This fall she will be attending Iowa State University.

Katie Tollefson, daughter of Steve and Susan Tollefson of Cambridge, is receiving an Academic Scholarship. At Ballard High School, Katie is a member of Student Council, her class's vice president for Executive Council, and the Drum Major for marching band. She participated in volleyball, cross country, bowling, track, soccer, and swimming. Katie enjoys volunteering in the school library and with the local food pantry to organize Thanksgiving meals and Christmas gift donations to families in need from her school. This fall she will be attending Iowa State University.

Devon Tsia-Olson, son of Travis Olsen and Karen Tsia of Ankeny, is receiving an Academic Scholarship. Devon is homeschooled and dual enrolled with Ankeny Centennial High School. He is a member of the National Honor Society, a creator of the resource pack "Plasticraft" for the Minecraft video game, and volunteers at the ARL weekly. Devon has made it to the Iowa All-State Music Festival as one of the top ten cellists in the past three years and has been participating in the youth symphonies at the Des Moines Symphony Academy since 2017. This fall he will be attending Iowa State University.

Alise Van Pelt, daughter of Jeff and Kim Van Pelt of Huxley, is receiving an Academic Scholarship. At Ballard High School, Alise is a member of Student Council, Stomp Out Stigma, and a leader for the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. She participated in basketball all four years and danced for three years. Going on a mission trip to Costa Rica was one of the best experiences of her life. While there she helped to lead Vacation Bible Schools, pack then deliver food bags, and build bunk beds. This fall she will be attending the University of South Dakota.

Brianna Winfield, daughter of Kristina Winfield of Baxter, is receiving an Academic Scholarship. Brianna attends Baxter High School where she is a member of the National Honor Society, the yearbook, and the varsity cheer team. She has participated in speech, choir, and band. Brianna enjoys being a mentor with Big Bolt Little Bolt where she meets with an elementary student for 20 minutes weekly. She desires to make a positive impact on the next generation. This fall she will be attending the University of Nebraska at Omaha.

Gwen Zrostlik, daughter of Rick and Julie Zrostlik of Nevada, is receiving an Academic Scholarship. While attending Roland-Story High School, Gwen was an active member of the National Honor Society helping to deliver Meals on Wheels, organize a teacher's breakfast, putting on a haunted high school as a fundraiser, and was the cross-country manager last fall. Gwen has been a dancer for ten years and currently works at the dance studio three days a week as an assistant teacher. This fall she will be attending Iowa State University.

Carson Gibson, son of Brian and Amy Gibson of Polk City, is receiving a Lineworker Scholarship. Carson attends North Polk High School where he is a co-captain for the high school soccer team. He has also participated in basketball, cross-country, and in competitive club soccer for eight years. During the summer he works for the Tournament Club of Iowa as part of the grounds crew. This fall he will be attending Northwest Iowa Community College.

For more information on Consumers Energy's Scholarship Program, contact Billing & Education Coordinator Tami Kerwood at 800-696-6552 or tkerwood@consumersenergy.coop.

KIM MEYER

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT



JOB: COST ACCOUNTANT



DREAM VACATION: ITALY/ENGLAND - WHICH SHE GETS TO DO THIS MONTH!



FAVE BANDS/PERFORMERS: COUNTING CROWS - ALL MUSIC REALLY!



FAVE MOVIES: STAND BY ME; FRIED GREEN TOMATOES



OTHER FAVES: HER THREE GRANDCHILDREN: ELEANOR, NOLAN, & LEDGER!



FUN FACT: KIM IS THE UNOFFICIAL GRAMMAR POLICE IN THE OFFICE

Congrats to

DIRECTOR QUICK!

Congratulations to Director Steve Quick for earning his Credentialed Cooperative Director Certificate from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA).



Director Steve Quick & Board President Denny Beckman

The NRECA Credentialed Cooperative Director (CCD) Certificate recognizes individuals who continue their professional development as a director. Directors who have attained CCD status have completed 5 core courses. Director Quick has taken many other classes in addition to these 5 core courses as well, putting him on the path to earn further credentials as a director.

Annual Audit of Co-op Financials Complete

In March, Eide Bailly LLP completed the Annual Audit of the balance sheet of Consumers Energy Cooperative and Subsidiary as of December 31, 2023, and 2022, and the related statements of operations, member patronage capital credits, and other equities and cash flows for the years then ended. The audits were conducted according to the generally accepted auditing standards.

An audit facilitates improved processes and controls, addresses regulatory or other compliance issues, and ensures processes are efficient as well as providing reasonable assurance the financial statements are presented fairly and are free of material misstatement. Eide Bailly LLP's Brady Cross, CPA, Audit Manager, presented a clean opinion to the Board of Directors at their April board meeting, stating that the financial statements are in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles. The financial statements for Consumers Energy will be presented to the membership at the Annual Meeting on Thursday, August 1, 2024.



2024 ANNUAL MEETING



Food & Entertainment
Enjoy a yummy meal & dessert and entertainment with kids' activities!

Business Meeting
The business meeting will start at 6 p.m. giving you updates on YOUR cooperative! Director elections take place in conjunction with this meeting.

Kids in attendance are welcome to watch a movie in the Community Room while the meeting is taking place!

Giveaways & Prizes!
Members in attendance to the 2024 Annual Meeting will receive a \$20 bill credit as well as attendance gifts for adults and kids!
Many lucky members will also go home with additional fabulous prizes! Prize drawings will be held at the conclusion of the Annual Meeting.

Watch for your Annual Meeting mailing in July with your ballot & more information!

Contact the co-op with questions:

800-696-6552

admin@consumersenergy.coop

THURSDAY AUGUST 1, 2024



REGISTRATION BEGINS AT 5 P.M.
MEETING BEGINS AT 6 P.M.
HELD AT CO-OP HEADQUARTERS



WATER SAFETY FILL-IN-THE-BLANK



Summer means fun in the sun and spending time in the water to cool off. But remember, electricity and water never mix! Read the safety tips below and fill in the blanks with the correct choice from the word bank.

Psst! Check your work in the answer key.

- When possible, use _____ operated or rechargeable devices when you're near water sources like a swimming pool.
- If you hear _____ while swimming, go inside until storms have passed.
- Never bring _____ devices near a swimming pool or other body of water. Devices should be kept at least 10 feet away from water sources.
- All outdoor electrical outlets should be covered and kept _____.
- Never handle electrical devices if you are _____ from swimming or other water activities.



Answer Key: 1) battery 2) thunder 3) electrical 4) dry 5) wet

Happy Father's Day

EMOJI DAD PICTONARY

Guess the dad-inspired phrases using the emoji pictures!
Enter the monthly newsletter contest by sending in your answers!
Contest details are on page 8-A.

1		6	
2		7	
3		8	
4		9	
5		10	

CONSUMERS ENERGY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

District 1 - Marshall, Jasper, & Tama Counties:
Denny Beckman
President
dbeckman@consumersenergy.coop

Bill Hobson
Director
whobson@consumersenergy.coop

Pat VonAhnen
Secretary-Treasurer
pvonahnen@consumersenergy.coop

District 2 - Story County:
Arden Greiner
Director
agreiner@consumersenergy.coop

Bob Meimann
Assistant Secretary-Treasurer
rmeimann@consumersenergy.coop

Steve Quick
Director
squick@consumersenergy.coop

District 3 - Polk County:
Craig Griffieon
Vice President
cgriffieon@consumersenergy.coop

Tony Lem
Director
alem@consumersenergy.coop

Jennifer Sease
Director
jsease@consumersenergy.coop

Energy Efficiency Cost per kWh:
\$0.000381

To report an outage, call 800-696-6552.

For the most accurate outage updates, check SmartHub or www.consumersenergy.coop for messages, the statewide outage map, or call Consumers Energy.

WAYS TO PAY YOUR CONSUMERS ENERGY BILL



Online or the app
www.consumersenergy.coop

Automatic recurring
monthly payments



In person

By phone 24/7
855-939-3832



By mail

By dropbox



2074 242nd Street | Marshalltown, IA 50158



641-752-1593 | 800-696-6552



855-939-3832



641-752-5738



www.consumersenergy.coop



info@consumersenergy.coop

OFFICE HOURS
7:30 AM - 4:00 PM
MONDAY - FRIDAY



REBATES

- Residential
- Agricultural
- Commercial



ROUND-UP FOR RENEWABLES

- Contribute to renewable energy projects in the cooperative's service territory.

For information on ways to pay or programs and services offered, contact the Member Services Department.