

Since 1940

WISCONSIN ENERGY *Cooperative* November 2019 NEWS

TREES FOR TROOPS



TAYLOR ELECTRIC
Cooperative



Your Touchstone Energy® Partner



WE'RE THANKFUL FOR OUR SISTER COOPERATIVES

When you think about Taylor Electric Cooperative you probably associate us with the local community. And you would be right. Our leadership team, board of directors, and employees all live and work right here in the community we serve. But you may not realize that Taylor Electric Cooperative is actually part of a much larger cooperative network that brings additional value, tools, and knowledge that benefit you, the members of the co-op.

Cooperation Among Cooperatives When a severe weather event is predicted for our region, we call on our sister co-ops in areas unaffected by the approaching storm. Through this system of mutual aid which we affectionately call ROPE (short for Restoration Of Power in Emergency), we coordinate with other co-ops to bring additional trucks, equipment, and manpower to our area. We work together and share resources in order to restore power to our community. And Taylor Electric reciprocates by assisting other electric co-ops when they request help.

A defining characteristic of a cooperative is “cooperation among cooperatives.” This is a way that co-ops work together to meet bigger challenges such as power restoration after a severe weather event.

Another area in which Taylor Electric benefits from cooperation among cooperatives is cybersecurity. Through the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association’s (NRECA) “Rural Cooperative Cybersecurity Capabilities Program” (RC3), we are able to access training, resources, and tools to strengthen our efforts to combat cyber threats.

Taylor Electric’s ability to tap into the larger electric co-

operative network and access tools, products, resources, and leading practices from across the nation ultimately makes our co-op and our community stronger.

Bright Spot The Solar Utility Network Deployment Acceleration (SUNDA) project is another example of an area where Taylor Electric has benefitted from collaboration with other electric co-ops.

Through the SUNDA project, electric co-ops were able to collect data and case studies that provide insight into challenges and solutions related to solar energy technologies. Now, electric cooperatives across the country, including Taylor Electric, have access to a set of knowledge and resources to more efficiently tailor our renewable energy mix to meet the needs of our local communities.



Wisconsin's electric cooperatives participated in an NRECA International project Partners for a Brighter Tomorrow,

Global Impact Lastly, communities across the globe have benefitted from the lessons learned and experience of co-ops in electrification of rural areas in the United States.

NRECA International has provided access to reliable and affordable electricity to 120 million people in 43 countries. This effort is made possible through the support of electric co-ops including Taylor Electric and across the country. In fact, in October of this year, Taylor Electric and the Wisconsin electric co-ops teamed together to complete a project in Guatemala to bring electricity to a village for the first time.

Hundreds of lineworkers, engineers, and other co-op employees have served as volunteers to bring first-time access to electricity and train local partners to help utilities be sustainable in their own communities.

November is a time of year for reflection and giving thanks. We are grateful for our sister co-ops who enable us to better serve you and our broader community. When electric co-ops collaborate, we strengthen each other and the communities we serve—and that is something in which to be truly thankful.

Taylor Electric Cooperative Members...

YOU'RE IN THE MONEY!

Based upon August and September purchased power costs and lower fuel costs, Dairyland Power Cooperative was able to issue Taylor Electric a credit on our power bill. We've opted to pass these savings along to you, our members, by issuing a credit on October's bill (to be sent in November). A member using 1,000 kwhs will receive an approximate credit of \$5.88.

Thank you for being a valued member of the cooperative!

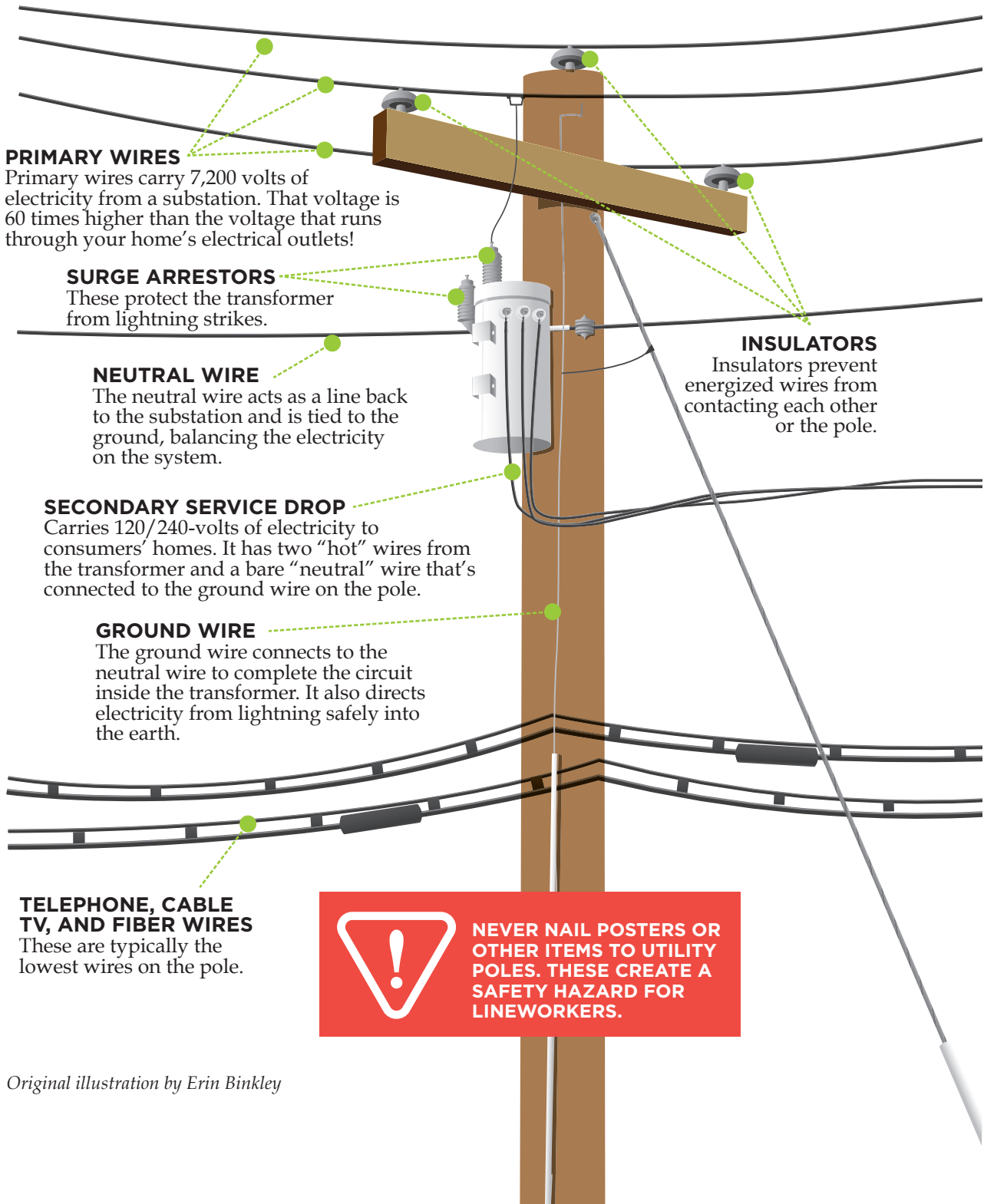


WATCH FOR YOUR CREDIT IN NOVEMBER!



WHAT'S ON THAT POLE?

This illustration shows the basic equipment found on electric utility poles. The equipment varies according to the location and the service they provide.



PRIMARY WIRES

Primary wires carry 7,200 volts of electricity from a substation. That voltage is 60 times higher than the voltage that runs through your home's electrical outlets!

SURGE ARRESTORS

These protect the transformer from lightning strikes.

NEUTRAL WIRE

The neutral wire acts as a line back to the substation and is tied to the ground, balancing the electricity on the system.

SECONDARY SERVICE DROP

Carries 120/240-volts of electricity to consumers' homes. It has two "hot" wires from the transformer and a bare "neutral" wire that's connected to the ground wire on the pole.

GROUND WIRE

The ground wire connects to the neutral wire to complete the circuit inside the transformer. It also directs electricity from lightning safely into the earth.

INSULATORS

Insulators prevent energized wires from contacting each other or the pole.

TELEPHONE, CABLE TV, AND FIBER WIRES

These are typically the lowest wires on the pole.



NEVER NAIL POSTERS OR OTHER ITEMS TO UTILITY POLES. THESE CREATE A SAFETY HAZARD FOR LINeworkERS.

Original illustration by Erin Binkley

TAYLOR ELECTRIC OPEN HOUSE

The weather may have been cold and damp on the outside, but it was a bright and cheery forecast inside the Centennial Community Center on Thursday, October 3, as Taylor Electric members gathered for the annual Member Appreciation Day and October Co-op Month celebration.

Breakfast included ham and egg bake, French toast, sausage, and cheese and was served from 6:30–9:30 a.m. Almost 400 plates of food were served. Focus on Energy and TechniArt brought a pop-up shop in which members were able to bring in up to 12 old incandescent bulbs and exchange them for new LED's free of charge. There were also kits available to purchase for only \$10 that included 10 LED bulbs and a desk lamp.

This year the Taylor County Association of Cooperatives, of which Taylor Electric is a member, asked for donations to help fund the Christmas Wish Program. The program, which was developed by Taylor Electric's CEO, Mike Schaefer, has been helping families in need for over 20 years during the holiday season. Thank you to our members who so generously donated to the program at our open house. One hundred percent of all donations go directly to Christmas Wish.








Lucky \$30 electric bill credit winners included: Elva Storch, Kelsey Brost, Mary Rose Gumz, Sandra Rizzi and Melinda Jones.



KITCHEN SAFETY FOR THE HOLIDAY SEASON



While you're busy in the kitchen preparing your family's holiday feast, the Safe Electricity program wants to help keep your family safe.

-  Inspect all small appliances and electric cords to make sure they are in good condition before using them. Don't use appliances if cords are cracked or frayed.
-  Read the operating instructions of any appliance before use.
-  When purchasing new kitchen appliances, look for UL-Listed appliances with automatic shut-off features.
-  Never plug more than one high-wattage appliance, such as a microwave or toaster oven, into a single outlet.
-  Stay focused and attentive to baking, boiling, and simmering foods.
-  Make sure outlets near sinks are equipped with properly tested ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) to prevent shocks.
-  Always know the location of a working fire extinguisher, and know how to operate it.

To learn more, visit SafeElectricity.org.



CHRISTMAS WISH PROGRAM

You can make someone's Christmas a little brighter by participating in the 23rd annual Christmas Wish program.

For more than 22 years, Taylor Electric has sponsored this program, *making wishes come true*

for those whose spirits could use a little lift during the holidays. It's just one of the ways we practice the Seventh Cooperative Principle, **Concern for Community.**

Watch next month's issue of the *Wisconsin Energy Cooperative News* for more details about this year's program. For more information, contact WIGM/WKEB radio at 715-748-2566.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Trim your holiday energy costs by choosing energy efficient LED lights! LED holiday lights use less energy and can last up to 40 seasons. They're also easier to install—you can connect up to 25 LED strings without overloading a wall socket!

—Source: energy.gov



Michael Schaefer, President/CEO

N1831 State Highway 13, Medford, WI 54451
715-678-2411 • 800-862-2407
email: taylrec@tayloelectric.org
website: www.tayloelectric.org

Lainie Kellnhofer, Editor

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