



Jackson Electric's youth ambassadors volunteer their time at Project Christmas.

PROJECT CHRISTMAS OF JACKSON COUNTY WISCONSIN, INC.

Jackson Electric Cooperative is once again the site for Project Christmas. The public is invited to help wrap gifts and pack food items on the following dates:

- **Tuesday, December 11, 6 p.m.** – wrapping of gifts
- **Thursday, December 13, 6 p.m.** – packing of food items
- **Saturday, December 15** – delivery of gifts and food items (please contact Ruth Buswell if you're interested in helping deliver the gifts)

If you would like to donate non-perishable food items (no glass, please) and/or a gift, there are various drop-off sites located throughout Jackson County. Look for the red Project Christmas barrels. Gifts are accepted for children, birth to 18, and should not be wrapped. Gift guidelines are:

- 1) no batteries;
- 2) non-violent; and
- 3) \$12-\$15 price range.

If you would like to refer another family or your own family, please contact American Family Insurance at 715.284.4113.

Project Christmas of Jackson County is an organization run with 100 percent volunteers and community donations. If you're unable to volunteer, but want to assist Project Christmas with their mission, monetary donations can be sent to Project Christmas, c/o Co-op Credit Union, P.O. Box 157, Black River Falls, WI 54615.



Left: Drop off your gift in one of these red Project Christmas barrels, located in various locations throughout Jackson County.

Jackson Electric serves as one of the gift drop-off sites.

Right: Each year, more than 500 families in Jackson County receive food boxes and gifts.



REFLECTIONS ON 2018, LOOKING AHEAD TO 2019

Kevin Babcock, General Manager/CEO

During the holidays, many of us spend time reflecting on the past year. When I reflect upon this past year, several occasions come to mind:

I witnessed my granddaughter's baptism, my parents celebrated their 89th and 84th birthdays, I watched a very close friend of mine fight back from cancer, and another friend married his longtime acquaintance. I am truly thankful to live in America and have the opportunity to receive everything she has to offer.

Jackson Electric welcomed many new members. Some relocated here because of the beautiful scenery the area has to offer, while others moved for job opportunities or to return back home. We researched areas such as solar energy, electric vehicle charging stations, and broadband for rural areas.

Jackson Electric is also preparing for the future. Two of our employees are enrolled in the line worker apprenticeship program at Chippewa Valley Technical College. We are involved in researching more affordable daycare in our area, and we continue to work with our county and Industrial Park to attract new jobs and expand opportunities in this area.

On behalf of the board of directors and employees of Jackson Electric, I would like to wish you a Merry Christmas and a happy, joyous, and peaceful 2019.



Jackson Electric's Board of Directors toured the renovated casino and hotel expansion at Ho-Chunk Gaming Black River Falls this fall. At the end of the tour, the group observed the new electric vehicle charging station installed by Jackson Electric.

The charger was donated by JEC to accommodate Ho-Chunk Gaming customers with electric vehicles.



JACKSON ELECTRIC CONTRIBUTES TO ID PROGRAM

What if your loved one went missing? Other than photos, do you have any other way to identify your loved one? Imagine if you had to recall details while under stress and pressure. Wouldn't it be great if there were a way to have this information ahead of time, to put your mind at ease?

Fortunately, there is a program available in this community that can assist residents with identification preparedness if a loved one goes missing. Since 2008, the Jackson County Sheriff's Department has provided the SafeAssured ID program. Sheriff Duane Waldera says, "It's very important for families today to be prepared. We ease that preparedness by offering this service."

According to SafeAssured's website, "SafeAssured ID is the most comprehensive, technologically advanced identification solution in the industry."



Presenting the checks to Sheriff Duane Waldera are Jackson Electric's Director Jerry Huber (left) and President Gary Woods (right).

Program participants partake in a 10- to 15-minute ID session and leave with an ID kit stored on a mini-CD ROM. The CD contains information gathered from the session, including a photograph and personal profile, a full set of fingerprints, a voice sample, and a streaming video showing movement and gait. The information gathered at the ID session is

stored on the CD only, and it's password protected. In the event that a loved one is missing, the CD can be provided to law enforcement to begin their search and rescue efforts.

Jackson Electric recently used Federated Youth Foundation funds and Co-Bank's Sharing Success program to give a \$2,000 donation to the Jackson County Sheriff's Department. Jackson Electric uses Federated Youth Foundation funds to provide scholarships and monies to charitable organizations. This account is funded from Jackson Electric's unclaimed capital credits. CoBank's Sharing Success program matches contributions made by their customers to the charitable organization of their choice.

Funds from this donation will allow the department to continue providing the SafeAssured ID program at community events and locations, such as the Jackson County Fair, Black River Country Bank, Ho-Chunk Nation, the Lunda Center, and Pine View Care Center. Over 500 children and 150 seniors are served by the program each year.

Jackson Electric's Board President Gary Woods, his wife, and his grandchildren have all participated in the ID program. "It's a free service that this community provides," shares Woods, "and I would encourage every family to utilize the program. It's a simple process, and it only takes a few minutes to complete." —*Brandi Shramek, Executive Coordinator*

YOUR CAPITAL CREDIT CHECK

It's one of the benefits of being a member

If you were a member of Jackson Electric Cooperative during a portion of years 2001 and 2002, you may receive a capital credits retirement check in the mail or a retirement credit on your December billing statement. This is one of the many benefits you receive when you are a member of Jackson Electric.

Cooperative members share in the ownership, construction, maintenance, and prosperity of Jackson Electric. When financial conditions allow, every member gets a "piece of the pie," so to speak.

Capital credits represent your ownership in Jackson Electric, and are one of the most unique and rewarding benefits you enjoy as a member.

Capital Credits Account Reminders

If you move from Jackson Electric's service lines, please be sure to contact our office with your new address. We will continue to send to you any capital credits retirement you are eligible to receive.

When a member passes away, the capital credits account is available for estate retirement. The representative of the estate should contact our office or go to www.jackelec.com to complete the required documentation.

Capital Credits Retirement Notice

- Jackson Electric shall not retire and pay capital credits in an amount less than \$25.
- Jackson Electric shall apply retired capital credits in the amount between \$25 and \$50 to the active member's billing account.
- Accounts with retired capital credits more than \$50 will receive a check to the patron's most current address on file at Jackson Electric.
- Retired capital credits check not cashed within 90 days from assignment will become null and void. There is a \$25 administrative fee to reissue that check.

Jackson Electric's office will be closed:
Christmas Eve Day, December 24
Christmas Day, December 25
New Year's Day, January 1



All power outages can be reported to 855.222.3275.

Pay your bill with a debit or credit card at 844.759.3984 or use any of our online payment services. Both are available 24/7.

COOPERATIVE PRINCIPLES IN ACTION:

Youth Ambassadors educated on tours, show concern for community

Jackson Electric's Youth Ambassador Program is designed to educate high school juniors and seniors about cooperative principles, career opportunities, rural area development, and the extension of leadership skills in the cooperative and community. What better way is there to educate youth than to immerse them in hands-on activities and community service?

Since their introductory "Co-ops 101" meeting in September, participants in the youth ambassador program have been putting the cooperative principles into action. Cooperative principle number five is education, training and information. On October 10, 2018, eight youth ambassadors traveled to tour the native prairie restoration at Freshwater Family Farms and the aquaponics facility at Superior Fresh. In addition to the informational tour, the students gained knowledge about job opportunities that they may not have thought of prior to the tour.

Freshwater Family Farms is a privately-owned company situated on a 720-acre native prairie restoration. The company actively restores and enhances the wildlife habitat throughout the acreage. Two 20 to 30-acre lakes are maintained to provide aquatic habitat and vegetation to the restoration. In addition, the youth were introduced to the native seed production process. Freshwater's distribution of native plants is not limited to the restoration site, but to other areas in Wisconsin.

Situated on the same property, Superior Fresh neighbors Freshwater Family Farms. Superior Fresh specializes in leafy greens, Atlantic salmon, and Steelhead trout. The industry-leading aquaponics facility is the largest of its kind in the world. The youth learned how an aquaponics system works by touring both the fish house and the greenhouse. The sustainably raised fish and produce can be found at Kwik Trip and Festival Foods.

To supplement their initial "cooperatives" meeting, the youth had the opportunity to tour Dairyland Power Cooperative and the Genoa power plant on November 7. They toured the biology and chemistry labs, observed the system operations area, learned about careers in the energy industry, and learned more about the generation of electricity.

The youth ambassadors displayed the last cooperative principle, concern for community, through their fall service project. Initially, the goal of the project was to collect candy donations to be used for the safe trick-or-treat events at area care facilities, including Pine View Care Center, Atrium Post Acute Care, and



Youth ambassadors toured Dairyland Power Cooperative's Genoa plant.

Grand View Care Center. However, the activity became more than just collecting candy. Not only did the youth work with their schools or other community groups to collect candy donations, but they also had the opportunity to work one-on-one with the residents at Pine View Care Center.

Youth ambassadors met on the morning of October 25 to deliver candy donations and Thanksgiving cards to Pine View Care Center, and they stayed to paint and carve pumpkins with the residents. A few of the youth even helped the residents collect seeds from the carved pumpkins to be roasted at a later date. The youth took initiative to talk with the residents and discovered things they had in common, from a trip to Mount Rushmore to a shared love for the Green Bay Packers. What started as a service project turned into a learning experience for both the residents and the youth.



Left: Youth ambassadors had the opportunity to visit Superior Fresh and Freshwater Family Farms located in Northfield. Right: Youth ambassadors painted and carved pumpkins with residents at a local nursing home.





OPERATING AN ELECTRIC SPACE HEATER WILL INCREASE YOUR ELECTRIC BILL

This time of the year, our office begins to receive calls from members regarding high electric usage. For most, the culprit is the use of a portable electric space heater.

All portable electric space heaters are 100 percent efficient; however, they still use a considerable amount of electricity if used regularly. If you must, use an electric space heater for supplemental heat in a small area. Electric space heaters are not designed to heat your entire home.

How much does it cost to use an electric space heater? Use the following formula to calculate the approximate operating cost:

$$\text{Watts}/1,000 \times \$0.1130/\text{kWh} \times 8 \text{ hours of operation} = \text{cost}$$

For example, a 1,500-watt electric space heater operating eight hours a day for 30 days costs \$40.68 per month to operate.

There are more economical choices available to heat your home. Contact Jackson Electric to learn more about cost-effective electric heat options.

Change in Billing Dates and Payment Deadlines

Effective May 1, 2019

Next spring, you will see a change in your Jackson Electric bill due date. Starting with the May 2019 billing statements (April's usage), billing dates will be as follows:

1st day of the month: All meters will be read.

6th day of the month: Jackson Electric bills will be mailed.

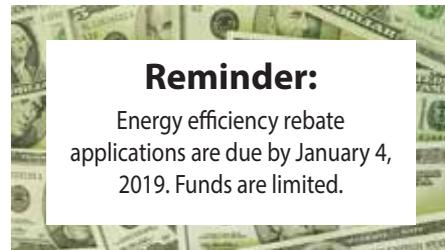
10th day of the month: Delinquent accounts (from the previous month) become subject to disconnect at the close of business.

11th day of the month: Delinquent accounts (from the previous month) will be disconnected.

24th day of the month: Due date for bill payments; automatic recurring bank draft and credit/debit card payment transactions will occur.

25th day of the month: Late fees will be applied to delinquent accounts. Late fee is \$25 or 1.5%, whichever is greater.

If the above dates fall on a weekend or cooperative-recognized holiday, they will be moved to the next business day.



SMART TIPS

SPACE HEATER SAFETY

Space heaters can be a cost effective option when heating no more than one or two small areas.

- Review and follow all manufacturer directions.
- Place them out of high-traffic areas and on a hard, level floor surface.
- Keep them at least 3 feet away from flammable items.
- Plug them directly into outlets. Avoid using an extension cord.
- Turn them off before you leave the room or go to sleep.

Learn more at: SafeElectricity.org



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Customer Service 715.284.5385
800.370.4607
Outage Reporting 855.222.DARK (3275)
Diggers Hotline 800.242.8511
Credit Card Payments 844.759.3984
www.jackelec.com

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 546
Black River Falls, WI 54615

Office Hours: Monday – Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

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