



By James Anderson, General Manager/CEO

# COMMUNITY CENTS

## Your change can make change!



**Jump River Electric Cooperative, Inc.**

Since 1938

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

balances, revenue, and expenses for the preceding fiscal year will be provided to any person upon request.

**Two-Billing Cycles Coming** Your billing cycle will change in October 2019. JREC will be implementing two billing cycles, one for the Hayward members and one for all other members. The two cycles are as follows:

CYCLE	LOCATION	*MAIL DATE	DUE DATE
1	Hayward Area	3rd of month	18th of month
2	Ladysmith/Jump River Area	13th of month	28th of month

If you have any questions regarding your billing cycle, please feel free to give our office a call.

*\*Mail date may fluctuate if date falls on a weekend, holiday, or due to extraordinary circumstances.*

**Board & Member Policies** In March we reported that the board policies had been overhauled by the board of directors, management, and legal counsel. Since then, these same people have been working on the member policies to again ensure that they are consistent with current legal requirements or standards, are not duplicated or in contradiction to other policies, and meet the current needs of the cooperative.



You can now view the revised board and member policies online at [jrec.com/bylaws-policies](http://jrec.com/bylaws-policies). If you have any questions, please call our office at 715-532-5524.

**Program begins in November** The board and management have worked with the cooperative attorneys over the past year to create Community Cents, Inc., a non-profit charitable organization incorporated by JREC to operate the Community Cents program. This program provides the members of the cooperative with an opportunity to make a difference in their own communities through participating in a monthly utility bill round-up program.

The extra change donated by the members to the Community Cents program each month will benefit needy individuals, families, charities, and community service organizations within JREC's service territory. The average yearly cost for participation into this program is about \$6.

**How do I participate?** All members are **automatically enrolled** in the Community Cents Program, and your energy bill will be rounded up to the next highest dollar each month, starting with your November statement. If you do not wish to take part in this program, please notify JREC and you will be removed.

More information on this program will be included with future bills and within this magazine. A financial statement of the charitable organization disclosing assets, liabilities, fund



## CONSTRUCTION CAM

### New headquarters project underway

Click on the Construction Cam button on [jrec.com](http://jrec.com)'s home page and watch the new headquarters building being constructed. As you can see by these photos, block work and walls are being set. The first wall was constructed on August 6.

MY CO-OP



# STORM SAFETY BEFORE AND AFTER

Living in Wisconsin means that you need to be prepared for storms, no matter what the season. It has been noted that northwest Wisconsin experienced the highest number of outages than had been seen in the prior 20 years, following the multiple tornados that hit July 19 and 20. Nearly all the cooperatives in Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Iowa within the Dairyland Power Cooperative system (JREC's power supplier) experienced outages due to these storms.

Fortunately, Jump River Electric Cooperative (JREC) had just a few outages during this time, which allowed us to send a crew to Barron, Polk-Burnett, and Central Wisconsin Electric Coopera-

tives to assist in their power restoration. Crews described widespread damage in some of those areas, leaving some people without power for many days.

**Before the storm** September is National Preparedness Month, with this year's campaign focusing on planning: *Prepared, Not Scared. Be Ready for Disasters.* If you haven't put together a storm safety kit (see below), now would be the time to do it. You should be prepared for your worst-case scenario.

Also consider putting together a family communication plan. Does your family know where to meet if separated during a storm or a disaster? How would you contact each other if the cell phone, internet, or landline doesn't work? Sit down with your loved ones and make a "what if" plan so everyone knows what steps to take in an emergency. A sample

family communication plan can be found on <http://www.ready.gov/kids>.

Always report your power outage — never assume that someone else will call it in. Please post 866-273-5111 as the after-hour emergency number for JREC. Another tip is to always keep your telephone number updated with JREC as this can help expedite any call made to Cooperative Resource Center (our after-hour emergency call center) during an outage.

**After the storm** Watch for hidden hazards after the storm. Do not venture out on roads after a storm unless you have to. If your vehicle comes in contact with a downed power line, do not leave the car. Any downed wires should be considered energized and potentially dangerous. Wait for utility and emergency professionals to make sure the power line is de-energized before exiting the car.

When cleaning up after the storm, do not use water-damaged electronics before properly restoring them. Electric motors in appliances should be cleaned and reconditioned before use. It may be necessary to replace some of your appliances and electronics. Have water-damaged items inspected and approved by a professional before using them.

Only use generators outdoors. Connect lights and appliances using extension cords. Do not connect the generator directly to the home circuitry unless there is a transfer safety switch to isolate the power. Without that safety feature, electricity could "back feed" into the utility system, creating danger for anyone near power lines, particularly utility crews working to restore power. More tips on how to stay safe until power is restored can be found on the facing page. You can find more safety information at [jrec.com](http://jrec.com), [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org), [esfi.org](http://esfi.org), and [ready.gov](http://ready.gov), to name a few.

**Repair or Rebuild** Watch for traveling contractors in the wake of a storm. The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protections (DATCP) recommends you seek trusted contractors for repairs and be leery of "storm chasers" that come knocking at your door with aggressive sales tactics. You can also contact DATCP's Consumer Protection Hotline (800-422-7128) to

## Staying Safe Until Power is Restored

### Storm Safety Kit

- Drinking water & food
- Blankets, pillows, & clothing
- Basic first-aid supplies
- Prescriptions
- Basic toiletries
- Flashlights
- Battery-operated radio
- Battery-operated clock
- Extra supply of batteries
- Phone
- Cash and credit cards
- Emergency numbers
- Important documents (in a waterproof container)
- Toys, books, & games
- Baby supplies
- Pet supplies

Stay safe until we can restore power to you. We and our partner Safe Electricity recommend the following safety precautions:

- Stay far away and keep others away from downed power lines. Just because they are damaged **does not mean they are dead!**
- Never enter a flooded room if electrical outlets are submerged. **The water could be energized.**
- **Do not** turn power off if you must stand in water to do so.
- Before entering storm-damaged buildings, **make sure electricity and gas are turned off.**
- If you clean-up outdoors after a storm, **do not use electric equipment** when it is wet out.
- If you are driving and come upon a downed power line, **stay away and keep others away.** Contact emergency personnel or your utility company to address the downed power line.
- If your vehicle comes in contact with a downed power line, **do not leave the car!** Wait for utility professionals to make sure the power line is de-energized before exiting the car.

For more information, visit:

check on complaints against a business. They also recommend the following:

- Get lien waivers from anyone you pay for home repairs.
- Get a written contract with a start and completion date and warranty information. Make sure this contract states exactly what work is to be done and what materials are to be used.
- Check with your local building inspector to see if the work requires a permit, and make sure an inspector visits the job site before you provide final payment.
- Request a copy of the contractor's certificate of liability insurance.
- Keep all receipts that document the cost of repairs or replacement.
- Contractors cannot promise to pay all or some of a property insurance deductible or negotiate with your homeowner's insurer on your behalf. The contractor can, with your consent, discuss the damages and costs with the insurer.
- You have a right to cancel the contract within three business days of being notified that your insurer has denied all or any part of the claim.

## GENERATE SAFETY

*Before use, learn about the potential dangers associated with portable generators, such as their production of carbon monoxide (CO). CO is an odorless, colorless, and tasteless poisonous gas that is often called the "silent killer" because it is virtually undetectable without the use of technology like CO alarms. Follow these tips to generate power AND safety when using a generator.*

### TIPS FOR THE PROPER INSTALLATION AND USE OF GENERATORS

	<b>NEVER</b> operate a generator <b>INSIDE</b> your home or in other enclosed or partially-enclosed spaces, including <b>GARAGES</b> .		Make sure your generator is properly grounded and used with a Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter (GFCI).		Install battery-operated <b>CO ALARMS</b> or plug-in CO alarms with a battery backup inside the home.
	A generator is a <b>TEMPORARY</b> power source and should <b>NEVER</b> be used as a permanent solution.		Use only extension cords that have a <b>THREE-PRONGED</b> plug and are rated for the intended load.		Do <b>NOT OVERLOAD</b> the generator.
	<b>NEVER</b> connect generators directly to household wiring without first installing a <b>TRANSFER SWITCH</b> . This prevents backfeeding which could electrocute utility workers making repairs.		Your home generator should be installed by a <b>QUALIFIED ELECTRICIAN</b> and bear the mark of a nationally recognized testing laboratory, such as UL, Intertek or CSA.		The Consumer Product Safety Commission recommends generators be positioned at least <b>20 FEET</b> from doors, windows and vents to prevent CO from entering the home.

 For more information about portable generators and carbon monoxide safety visit [www.esfi.org](http://www.esfi.org)

## MAKING A COOPERATIVE DIFFERENCE

Youth Leadership Congress is just one more way we practice Principle 5 – Education, Training, and Information; and Principle 7 – Concern for Community. JREC has sponsored students for several years – to this conference at UW-River Falls each July. This year, JREC sponsored two students, Alexi and Shemiah (left and right in the photo at right), from Winter High School and Ladysmith High School. These photos show them participating in the various workshops held during this three-day conference. Not only do we hear about how much fun students have during this conference, but we also receive feedback on how they learned more about cooperatives and being an effective leader in their schools and community. You can find more information on this program at [jrec.com](http://jrec.com) or from your high school guidance counselor.





## EMPLOYEE RECIPE CORNER

We've heard from many members about how they love the recipe section of this magazine. That is why we felt this recipe corner would be a great addition to our local pages. Not only do you get a bonus recipe, but you get to know your employees as well.

Our first contributor to the recipe corner is Vicky. She is the voice of JREC. Not only do you hear her voice on all the introduction messages, but you have a good chance of talking to her personally when you call in. Vicky works as a consumer service representative and has worked at the cooperative for eight years. If you need a home remedy, have a gardening or planting question, or are looking for a delicious way to incorporate kale into your diet, talk to Vicky. Many of you who have stopped by our office over the last few years have also enjoyed her huge Christmas village that is on display during the holidays.



Please enjoy one of her favorite dishes.

### Blueberry Cake with Lemon Nutmeg Sauce

#### Ingredients

2 c. flour, 1 c. sugar, 2 t. baking powder, ¼ c. butter, 1 c. milk, 1 egg, 1 c. or more of fresh (or frozen) blueberries



**Directions:** Combine all ingredients except the egg and blueberries and beat until smooth and creamy. Add the egg and beat well again. Fold in the blueberries and pour into a 9"X9" greased and floured pan. Bake at 350 degrees for 35-40 minutes until golden brown and firm to touch. Cut in squares and serve with lemon nutmeg sauce.

**Lemon Nutmeg Sauce:** 2 c. water, ½ c. white sugar, 1 T. cornstarch, dash of salt, ¼ c. lemon juice, ¼ - ½ t. freshly grated nutmeg, 2 T. butter, ¼ t. pure lemon extract or 1 t. grated lemon zest

**Directions:** Combine the water, sugar, cornstarch, salt in a medium saucepan. Cook over high heat to a full boil. Remove from heat and stir in the lemon juice, lemon extract or zest, butter, and nutmeg. Drizzle on top of cake.

Now enjoy!

## Dormitory 101: Make Room for Safety

The car is loaded up and check-in is about to start on college campuses across the country. While you want to have all the comforts of home at school, there are some electrical **safety tips to keep in mind** as you set up your new space on campus.

- Some older dorm rooms may have a limited number of outlets. Still, **resist the urge** to use excessive extension cords or power strips.
- Use power strips with **overcurrent protectors**. This will shut off the power if there is too much power being drawn.
- Only purchase and use electrical products tested for safety. Some commonly

approved safety labels include UL, CSA, and MET.

- **Unplug small appliances** when not in use and all electronics when away for extended periods.
  - Keep all electrical appliances and **cords safely away from bedding, curtains, papers, and other flammable material.** Check with your university's **housing department** on specific housing rules before planning to bring hot plates, coffee makers, toasters, microwaves, and portable heaters.
- For more information, visit

Safe Electricity.org



## SALES TAX ON SUMMER ELECTRIC BILLS

A sales tax will be applied to your electric bill for electric usage in the months of May through October. According to Wisconsin Statute 77.54 (30) (a) 2, Electricity and natural gas sold during the months of November through April for residential use are exempt from sales and use tax. This statute was enacted in 1995.

The state government regards electricity for residential use during the winter months as a necessity; therefore, electricity is exempt from sales tax during these months. "Residential use" is defined in the statute as a structure or portion of a structure which is a person's permanent principle residence. It does not include use in motor homes, travel trailer, other recreational vehicles, or transient accommodations.

**Year-Round Tax Exemption** If you qualify for year-round tax exemption status, please confirm that you have a completed and signed Wisconsin Sales and Use Tax Exemption Certificate on file at JREC. If this form is not file, taxes will be charged. Tax Exemption forms are available from our office or at <https://www.jrec.net/new-member-construction>.

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After-hour emergency service, call 866-273-5111

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JREC is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Denise Zimmer, Editor



## Jump River Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Since 1938

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

**JREC's office will be closed  
Monday, September 2, for Labor Day.**