

# living with energy

IN IOWA



Chariton Valley  
Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

JULY 2020

Inside: Chariton Valley Electric Cooperative annual meeting details!



Visit our website at [www.cvrec.com](http://www.cvrec.com)

**CVEC announces 2020  
scholarships winners**

**CVEC awards Q1  
Operation Round Up® funds**

**Summer's best  
burger recipes**

*Living with Energy in Iowa* magazine (ISSN: 1935-7176) is published monthly by the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives, a not-for-profit organization representing Iowa's member-owned local electric cooperatives. Association address: 8525 Douglas Ave., Suite 48, Des Moines, IA 50322-2992. The phrase **Living with Energy in Iowa** is a mark registered within the state of Iowa to the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives. The magazine does not accept advertising.

**Editorial Office:** 8525 Douglas Ave., Suite 48, Des Moines, IA 50322-2992. Telephone: 515-276-5350. E-mail address: [editor@livingwithenergyiowa.com](mailto:editor@livingwithenergyiowa.com). Letters may be edited for clarity and length before publication. *Living with Energy in Iowa* magazine does not assume responsibility for unsolicited items.

**Website:** [www.livingwithenergyiowa.com](http://www.livingwithenergyiowa.com)

**Postmaster:** Send address changes to *Living with Energy in Iowa* magazine, 8525 Douglas Ave., Suite 48, Des Moines, IA 50322-2992. Periodicals Postage Paid at Des Moines, Iowa, and at additional mailing offices.

**Change of Address:** Every local electric cooperative maintains an independent mailing list of its members, so please send your change of address directly to your local electric cooperative's office. *Living with Energy in Iowa* magazine cannot make an address change for you.

© Copyright 2020, Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives. No portion of the editorial, photographic or other content of *Living with Energy in Iowa* magazine or its website may be reproduced without written permission of the editor.

**You'll find more than 1,500 free recipes on our website!**

[www.livingwithenergyiowa.com](http://www.livingwithenergyiowa.com)



## CONTENTS

JULY 2020

### Features

#### 6 Managing home energy use through a summer of social distancing

Save money on your summer energy bill with these tips from the U.S. Energy Information Administration.



#### 8 Summer's best burger recipes

July is National Grilling Month! Co-op cooks share their best burger recipes for summer. **PLUS:** Find out how you can receive a \$25 credit on your power bill!



#### 10 Iowa companies pivot to address COVID-19 needs

The COVID-19 pandemic has created many challenges and also some unforeseen opportunities for Iowa businesses and industries.



### Favorites

#### 3 Statewide Perspective

Outsmart utility scammers this summer

#### 14 Advancing Technology

E-transportation zips along

#### 3 Editor's Choice Contest

Win a \$160 grilling package

#### 15 Out Back

A letter to summer

### ON THE COVER

#### Soak up summer!

Flags are common sights during Iowa's summer activities, including the Fourth of July. To celebrate the season, we're giving away a special grilling package. Grilling with family is a perfect way to soak up summer! See Page 3 for details. ⚡





# You can outsmart utility scammers this summer

BY ERIN CAMPBELL

With all the confusion and uncertainty in our world today, scammers are taking advantage of these circumstances to target consumers by phone, email and text. These con artists claim to be from your local utility and the caller ID on your phone or their email address may even look legitimate.

Consumers in good standing with their utilities are often caught off-guard by the aggressive tone of these impersonators. They will usually speak with a sense of urgency, ensuring consumers do not have time to ask questions or verify their claims.

The best defense against a utility scammer is an educated consumer; follow these tips from UtilitiesUnited.org to protect yourself from a potential scam.

## Protect personal information

Never provide or confirm personal information (Social Security number, date of birth) or financial information (banking account information, debit or credit card information) to anyone initiating contact with you and claiming to be from your local electric co-op. Never give out information or provide any payment type to any callers or unexpected individuals appearing at your door claiming to represent your co-op. Your local co-op will already have your relevant personal and account information.

## Take your time

Do not be rushed. If you receive a call, text, email or visitor saying you have to pay your bill immediately to avoid disconnection, tell them you would like to verify that they are a legitimate co-op

representative by calling a verified number for the local co-op office. Beware if a representative exhibits impatience, annoyance or anger when you question their authority. While a scammer will discourage you from hanging up and calling the number on your utility bill, a real co-op representative will encourage you to do so for your peace of mind.



## Always ask questions

Ask the person contacting you to provide you with your account number, last payment amount, date of payment and their employee identification number. If he or she is a legitimate utility representative, this information will be readily accessible. If not, hang up or shut the door, and call your utility directly to report the suspicious activity.

## TIPS TO AVOID SCAMS

Scammers can threaten you with everything from shutting off power to your home to legal action. Don't fall victim to these types of scams.

## Contact your electric cooperative directly

If you receive a suspicious call or visit, please contact the local police and your electric co-op immediately. Share details that the scammer told you, which might aid in a possible criminal investigation. ⚡

Erin Campbell is the director of communications for the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives.

## EDITOR'S CHOICE CONTEST

# Win a \$160 grilling package!



July is National Grilling Month, and we're giving away \$80 in beef and pork certificates (courtesy of the Iowa Beef Council and Iowa Pork Producers Association) along with a Classic Super-Fast® ThermoPen® digital read thermometer. Originally designed for commercial kitchens, labs and manufacturing plants it is often named a top consumer cooking thermometer for home use. The total grilling package value is \$160. ⚡

## Visit our website and win!

Enter this month's contest by visiting [www.livingwithenergyiniowa.com](http://www.livingwithenergyiniowa.com) no later than July 31, 2020. You must be a member of one of Iowa's electric cooperatives to win. There's no obligation associated with entering, we don't share entrant information with anyone and multiple entries from the same account will be disqualified. The winners of the weather radios from the May issue were Dennis Barrick, Franklin REC, and Matt Bakker, North West REC.

# Annual meeting canceled

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the board of directors voted to cancel the in-person 2020 annual meeting of Chariton Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc. This meeting was to be held at the Albia Community High School on Aug. 3, 2020. The decision was made due to uncertainty surrounding the ability for large groups to gather in the coming months, and for the protection of the health and safety of our members and employees.

The board elections will continue as balloting can be completed by mail. The Election Committee (Tellers), which is made up of cooperative members and CVEC's attorney, will tally the ballots submitted by noon, Monday, Aug. 3, and then determine



and certify the election results.

A full report of the election results and the recipients of the "Luck of the Draw" scholarships will be provided that evening on Facebook and in a future edition of *Living with Energy in Iowa* magazine.

In addition, the cooperative will still draw for voting prizes. Any member who votes in the election via mail-in-ballot will be eligible for a prize. The Election Committee will draw one name for a \$1,500 energy credit, one name for a \$500 energy credit and one name for a \$250 energy credit. Also, 25 names will be drawn for \$25 bill credits.

The health and safety of CVEC's employees and membership is our priority. We hope you agree that being diligent to help prevent the spread of this virus is warranted at this time. We look forward to returning to our typical celebration next year!

If you have any questions, please contact our office at 641-932-7126 or 800-475-1702. ⚡

## CHANCE TO WIN

# \$500 "Luck of the Draw" scholarship



Although Chariton Valley Electric Cooperative will not be holding an in-person meeting this year, we will still draw for **TWO** \$500 "Luck of the Draw" scholarships for any recent 2020 high school graduates. This year has proven to be trying and unpredictable for all 2020 graduates, and CVEC feels

offering an additional scholarship opportunity is well deserved.

### There are only four requirements:

1. Parent/legal guardian must be a member of CVEC.
2. Student must complete the entry form in its entirety and return to CVEC by Monday,

Aug. 3, at noon.

3. Student must have graduated from a high school or an accredited home school program in 2020.
4. Student must attend a technical/vocational/junior college or university.

Simply fill out the information below, snip it out and mail it to:

**Chariton Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc. - Scholarship**  
 PO Box 486  
 Albia, IA 52531

The lucky students whose names are drawn will receive the \$500 scholarship upon enrollment in the second semester. The scholarship will be sent directly to the school of the student's choice.

That's it – no essay to write, no transcripts to provide, no worrying about grammar and punctuation. Simply sign up, and of course, have a little bit of luck! ⚡

**Luck of the Draw Scholarship Entry Form**

Student Name (First, Last): \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name: \_\_\_\_\_

CVEC Account #: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Phone Number: ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

Student Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of High School: \_\_\_\_\_

College or Vocational School you Plan to Attend: \_\_\_\_\_

Major or Course of Study you Plan to Pursue: \_\_\_\_\_

# GM & President's report

BY RICHARD WELSH & BECKY TENO

When combined with the drive to succeed, a clear mission gives an organization a larger goal to always work toward in serving its members. For Chariton Valley Electric Cooperative, our mission is to empower and energize communities with safe and reliable energy.

Over the last year, CVEC's board of directors and staff have established and started implementing a series of strategic goals to help the co-op maintain a focus on this primary mission. These goals relate to enhancing safety, retaining a quality workforce, improving the reliability of electric service, increasing involvement with the communities we serve, and strategically evaluating existing and potential affiliated businesses.

Chariton Valley Electric Cooperative's staff and directors have spent hours brainstorming and collaborating on what the future of the cooperative should look like and how we will get there. The strategic

plan developed through that process is more than just another stack of papers collecting dust on a desk; it is a guiding document for ensuring CVEC's top-notch member service continues to rank high.



**Randy Gottschalk – District 2**

One area we are continually seeking to improve is regarding the cooperative's community engagement efforts. We have proudly hosted and participated in volunteer events, charity drives and everything in between over the years. Yet, we have still found innovative ways to support the progress made in the areas we serve. Chariton Valley Electric has renewed its commitment to empowering communities by becoming more involved in local organizations and giving back in bigger ways.



The co-op is also going through a period of renewal. From updating facilities to building a team and crew, to searching for a new general manager, work is being done to make sure CVEC is set up for long-term success. Our co-op is led and managed by members, just like you, who live in our communities and are constantly looking for ways to improve the quality of service we deliver to every member.

Although 2020 is proving to be an unusual and challenging year so far, CVEC is powering on, and we are excited about what the future holds. Your electric cooperative is doing more than ever to empower the very communities that founded it with a clear mission in sight.

We appreciate the opportunity to serve you and are grateful for your continued support throughout the years.

Richard Welsh is president of the board of directors, and Becky Teno is the interim general manager for Chariton Valley Electric Cooperative.

## Exercise your right as a member and vote during the director elections!

Three directors' terms will expire at this year's annual meeting, and a slate of five candidates has been nominated by the Nominating Committee chaired by Sharon Tibbals. The official ballot, along with biographies of these director candidates will be mailed to all members later this month. All ballots must be received by 12 p.m. on Monday, Aug. 3, 2020, for your vote to be counted and your name to be registered for this year's prizes.



**Doris Little – District 2**



**Michael Miller – District 4**



**Dennis Conley – District 5**



**Richard Welsh – District 5**

**All ballots must be received by 12 p.m. on Monday, Aug. 3, 2020**

 Chariton Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
Your Touchstone Energy® Partner



**Office**  
2090 Highway 5 South  
P.O. Box 486  
Albia, IA 52531-0486

**Office Hours**  
Monday through Friday, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.  
Closed Saturdays, Sundays and holidays

**Telephone Numbers**  
Days, nights or holidays:  
641-932-7126 (local)  
or 800-475-1702

**Website**  
www.cvrec.com

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

We accept  



# Managing home energy use

BY PAUL WESSLUND

If you want to make the best use of your efforts to save money on your energy bill, the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) can show you where to start.

Nearly half of the electricity Americans use in their homes – 43% – goes to heating and cooling air and water. Almost a third of our electric use, 31%, goes to running our heating and air conditioning systems. Another 12% powers our water heaters.

In second place for residential electricity use is a grab bag of appliances and lighting. One-fifth of the electricity we use in our homes goes to refrigeration (6%), lighting (5%), clothes drying (4%), and TV and video games (4%).



## OF THE ELECTRICITY AMERICANS USE IN THEIR HOMES

43%

GOES TO HEATING AND COOLING AIR AND WATER



31%

GOES TO RUNNING OUR HEATING AND AIR CONDITIONING SYSTEMS

12%

POWERS OUR WATER HEATERS



That means if you want to get the quickest and biggest return on energy savings, focus on how you use your heating and cooling system, and your water heater. That's according to Keith Dennis, vice president of

consumer member engagement for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

“Turning off an LED light bulb may come to mind when you think about saving energy,” he says. “But in the grand scheme of things, looking at EIA’s numbers, it’s adjusting your thermostat that’s going to make the biggest difference.”

Other appliances and devices consume even smaller shares of our total energy use. Eight percent of residential electricity use comes from a combination of computers, freezers, washing machines, dishwashers and cooking appliances. Other home energy users include a range of devices like small appliances, exterior lights, outdoor grills and spa heaters.

## How COVID-19 is impacting energy use

Even with the recent disruptions to daily life during the COVID-19 pandemic, the advice to focus on heating and cooling to save energy holds up. EIA has started revising its energy use predictions for 2020, and because of business closures and social distancing, they project that electricity sales to commercial and industrial customers will decline by 6.5%. With more people staying home, you might expect residential sales to increase, and they will, but not enough to overcome the weather. Even with more people staying home and using more heating and air conditioning, the weather is

# through a summer of social distancing

LOWERING YOUR WATER HEATER TEMPERATURE TO

120° 

IS AN EASY WAY TO SAVE ENERGY

FOR EVERY 10°  
REDUCED

SAVE 3% TO 5%  
ON

WATER HEATING COSTS

expected to be mild leading EIA to project a 1.3% decline in residential electric sales this year. However, those predictions could be adjusted depending on how quickly businesses reopen and whether they adopt new ways of operating.

With many unknowns in 2020 patterns of energy use, EIA's forecast tried to imagine what's going on inside our homes to make their projections for the year. EIA's May 2020 Short-Term Energy Outlook says that as a result of the actions to control

the spread of COVID-19, use of household electronic equipment will increase, and other uses of electricity, such as cooking or water heating, may also increase. Residential air conditioning use during the summer months is also likely to increase.

### Small adjustments for significant savings

During summer months, setting your thermostat a few degrees higher than normal can make a significant difference in energy use. The Department of Energy recommends setting your thermostat to 78 degrees or higher when possible. Consumers can achieve additional energy savings by investing in a smart or programmable thermostat.

In addition to monitoring your thermostat, Dennis suggests keeping an eye on another significant energy user, your water heater.

According to the Department of Energy, lowering your water heater temperature to 120 degrees is an easy way to save energy. For every 10 degrees reduced, consumers can save 3% to 5% on water heating costs. Dennis also recommends replacing an older, less efficient water heater with a newer, energy-efficient model that could pay for itself in the long run.

For persistently high energy bills,

DURING SUMMER MONTHS, THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY RECOMMENDS SETTING YOUR THERMOSTAT TO 78 DEGREES OR HIGHER WHEN POSSIBLE.

78°



Even though many of us are spending more time at home due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Energy Information Administration projects that 2020 residential energy use will decline by 1.3%. But those projections may change depending on how quickly businesses reopen and Americans get back to work. If you're looking to reduce energy use, monitor how you cool and heat your home, which is where the biggest potential for saving energy lies.

contact your local electric co-op for a thorough evaluation of your home and how you use energy. Consumers can also find a wide range of additional ways to save energy at [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov).

Small changes to energy use habits, like turning off lights when you leave a room or unplugging devices when not in use, can help you save. But to make the most significant difference in energy use – even during a global pandemic – pay attention to how you heat and cool your home. That's where the biggest potential for saving energy lies. ⚡

*Paul Wesslund writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the national trade association representing more than 900 local electric cooperatives.*



SUMMER'S BEST  
★ ★ ★  
**BURGER**  
RECIPES



## Grilled Pineapple Burgers

Source for grilling tips: Kevin Kolman, Weber's "Head Grill Master" and leading barbecue expert in the country. For more tips, visit <https://bit.ly/2B727y4>.

- 2 pounds ground beef
- 3 tablespoons Italian salad dressing
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/8 teaspoon pepper
- 1 15-ounce can unsweetened sliced pineapple
- bacon
- 3/4 cup barbecue sauce
- 1/4 cup packed brown sugar
- 1/4 cup honey
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice

Mix ground beef, dressing, salt and pepper. Shape into patties. Press pineapple into each burger and wrap with bacon. Mix barbecue sauce, brown sugar, honey and lemon juice in a pan and cook until hot. Pour hot mixture over patties. Marinate overnight before grilling. May use some of the sauce on burgers while grilling.

**Becky Pierschbacher • Chariton  
Clarke Electric Cooperative, Inc.**

## Spinach and Sun-Dried Tomato Burgers

- 1 teaspoon olive oil
- 1/2 cup onion, finely chopped
- 2 tablespoon sun-dried tomatoes, chopped
- 1 cup baby spinach
- 1 teaspoon kosher salt
- 1/2 teaspoon black pepper
- 1 pound ground turkey breast

Heat olive oil in skillet over medium heat. Add onion and sauté for 2-3 minutes. Add tomatoes, spinach, salt and pepper. Cook for an additional 1-2 minutes until spinach is wilted, set aside to cool. Once cooled, combine with turkey and mix to form burgers. Freeze or grill immediately.

**Courtney Walter • Exira  
Guthrie County Rural Electric Cooperative Association**

## Bacon Onion Burgers

- 1 pound bacon
- 2 pounds beef
- 1 medium onion, diced

Cook bacon and crumble. Combine beef, bacon and onion. Form into patties and cook.

**Rebecca Hancox • Plano  
Chariton Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc.**

## Krautburgers

- 1 1/2 pounds ground beef
- 2 eggs
- 8 ounces sauerkraut
- 1/2 cup cracker crumbs
- 1/2 cup mushrooms
- 1 tablespoon pimentos
- 1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce
- 2 tablespoons barbecue sauce

Mix all ingredients together. Grill, pan fry or broil.

**Denise Anderson • Ocheyedan  
Osceola Electric Cooperative, Inc.**



**Search** our online recipe archive for thousands of recipes from Iowa's rural kitchens.

[www.livingwithenergyiowa.com/recipes](http://www.livingwithenergyiowa.com/recipes)

### PREHEAT THE GRILL

Preheat your grill with the lid closed for 10 to 15 minutes. With all the coals glowing red, or all the gas burners on high, the temperature under the lid should reach 500 degrees F.



## Better Burgers

- 1 can mushrooms
- 2 pounds of ground beef or pork
- ½ cup sauerkraut
- ¼ cup Italian dressing
- salt and pepper
- bacon

Drain and chop mushrooms into small pieces. Mix meat, mushrooms, sauerkraut, dressing, salt and pepper. Form into patties and wrap a strip of bacon around each of the patties. Secure with toothpicks. These are delicious when grilled but can also be broiled or fried.

**Allyson Bailey • Hamilton  
Chariton Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc.**

## Country Kitchen Burgers

- 2 pounds ground hamburger
- 1 cup raw potatoes, grated
- 1 cup raw carrots, grated
- 1 small onion, chopped
- 2 eggs
- ¾ cup tomato sauce
- 1 cup breadcrumbs
- salt and pepper

Mix hamburger, potatoes, carrots and onion (can use chicken, turkey or veal in place of hamburger). Add eggs, tomato sauce, breadcrumbs, salt and pepper, or other spices to taste. Make patties. Grill, cook in a skillet or put mixture in a large pan and cover with ketchup to make meatloaf (bake at 350 degrees F for 1 hour).

**Patti Carson • Osceola  
Clarke Electric Cooperative, Inc.**

## Tangy Pork Patties

- 2 pounds ground pork
- 1½ teaspoon seasoned salt
- 1 teaspoon garlic salt
- 1 green pepper, chopped
- ¼ cup brown sugar
- ⅓ cup vinegar
- 2 tablespoons soy sauce
- 1 can sliced pineapple, drained
- 8 to 10 bacon slices

Mix the first seven ingredients well. Shape into 8 to 10 patties and top with pineapple rings. Wrap bacon slice around each patty and secure with wooden toothpick. Grill pineapple side down first, 10 minutes per side.

**Sue Warner • Rock Rapids  
Lyon Rural Electric Cooperative**

## Pimento Cheese Bacon Burgers

- 1 pound ground sirloin
- 1 pound ground chuck
- 1 teaspoon salt
- ½ teaspoon ground pepper
- ¼ cup mixed chopped herbs of choice (basil or oregano)
- optional toppings: pimento cheese, crisp cooked bacon slices, sliced tomato, lettuce, hamburger buns

Preheat grill to 350 degrees F. Combine first four ingredients. Stir herbs into the mixture, then shape into 6 patties. Grill with the lid on for 4-5 minutes on each side so burger is no longer pink in center. Place burger on bun and add toppings.

**Dave Duit • Nevada • Consumers Energy**

### DIRECT VS. INDIRECT HEAT

Direct heat (when the fire is directly below the food) is best for relatively small, tender pieces of food that cook in 20 minutes or less. Indirect heat (when the fire is on either side of the food) is best for larger, tougher cuts of meat that require more than 20 minutes of cooking.

GRILLING TIPS

### TAME THE FLAME

Too many flare-ups can burn your food. Keep the lid on as much as possible. This limits the amount of oxygen inside the grill, which will help extinguish any flare-ups.

GRILLING TIPS

## Wanted: Thanksgiving Pie Recipes! The Reward: \$25 for every one we publish!



A Thanksgiving feast isn't complete without pie! Whether the recipe has been handed down for generations or it's a new one, share your favorites! If we run your recipe in the magazine, we'll send a \$25 credit for your electric co-op to apply to your power bill. Recipes submitted also may be archived on our website at [www.livingwithenergyiowa.com](http://www.livingwithenergyiowa.com).

The deadline is July 31, 2020. Please include your name, address, telephone number, co-op name and the recipe category on all submissions.

**EMAIL:**  
[recipes@livingwithenergyiowa.com](mailto:recipes@livingwithenergyiowa.com)  
(Attach your recipe as a Word document or PDF to your email message.)

**MAIL:**  
**Recipes**  
*Living with Energy in Iowa*  
8525 Douglas Ave., Suite 48  
Des Moines, IA 50322-2992

### KEEP YOUR GRILL CLEAN

When bits of food have stuck to your cooking grate, and the grate is hot, clean it with a stainless steel brush. This step is not only for cleanliness, it also prevents your food from sticking.

GRILLING TIPS

# Iowa companies pivot to address COVID-19 needs

BY KAY SNYDER

The COVID-19 pandemic has created many challenges and also some unforeseen opportunities for Iowa businesses and industries. Many Iowa companies have adjusted, innovated and stepped up to fill needs in the form of personal protective equipment, sanitizer and testing components. Iowa's electric cooperatives serve a number of these companies.

For nearly 35 years, the Iowa Area Development Group and its electric utility partners have presented Iowa Venture Awards. In total, 272 organizations have been recognized for their significant contributions to Iowa's economy through entrepreneurial leadership, innovation and job creation. In this article, we spotlight companies who, during the pandemic and in the course of typical business operations, continue to demonstrate the qualities they were recognized for as Iowa Venture Award recipients.

## Iowa's ethanol producers

As travel and the demand for fuel plummeted as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the ethanol industry experienced a significant downturn. With an available product and the desire to help in a time of need, many plants have sold or donated ethanol and glycerin to produce hand sanitizer.

Members of the Iowa Renewable Fuels Association (IRFA) donated products to Iowa Prison Industries to make hand sanitizer. To date, these donations helped to create more than 25,000 gallons of hand sanitizer, which is equivalent to 46 million single uses. The hand sanitizer is provided free of charge and distributed through the State of Iowa emergency center. Recipients include major state agencies, hospitals, daycares, jails and more.

"It's incredible to watch this project

grow as Iowa ethanol producers continue to step up to fight the spread of COVID-19," says IRFA Executive Director Monte Shaw. "We applaud Gov. Reynolds and Iowa Prison Industries for working to make this manufacture of hand sanitizer possible."

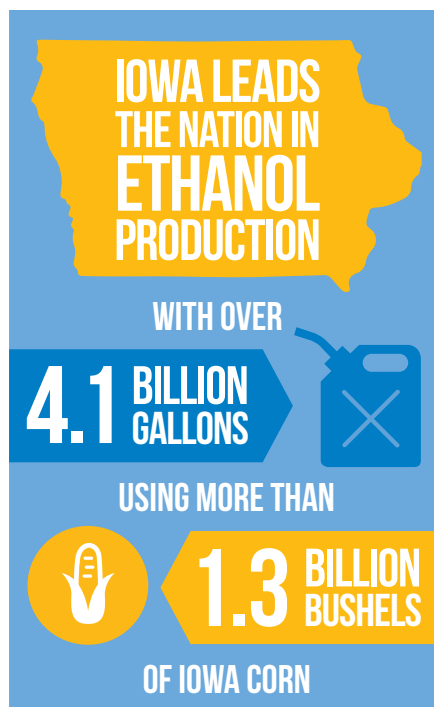


including weekend shifts, to produce up to 30,000 face shields per day. Brownmed also produces protective gloves and shoe coverings to support frontline medical workers.

Brownmed has adopted the motto "find a way" and lives that mantra every day. In anticipation of increased demand for personal protection, the company began producing cloth masks for the general public. This effort was even before the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommended that everyone wear cloth masks in public places. Brownmed established a satellite production site in Spencer by partnering with Community Insurance Group to use its facility. Enthusiastic students from Spencer and Lake Park have also joined Brownmed's efforts at the production facilities.

Brownmed continues to give priority to Iowa hospitals and other in-state facilities. As its production capabilities have expanded, the company has been able to grow to nationwide distribution.

"Every person on staff in our Iowa locations is a hero," says Brownmed President Kyla Garver. "They exemplify the hard work and determination Iowans are known for, and I hope they know they are saving lives."



Iowa's electric cooperatives have honored 11 ethanol plants with an Iowa Venture Award.

## Brownmed, Inc.

In early March, as the COVID-19 pandemic spread to Iowa, Spirit Lake manufacturer Brownmed quickly identified ways it could help provide necessary personal protective equipment to local medical facilities. The company, which manufactures innovative orthopedic products like cast and bandage protectors, arm slings, cold therapy wraps and kinetic sleeves, added additional products to its company offerings. The staff is working extended hours,

Brownmed is a 2013 Iowa Venture Award recipient, nominated by Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative.





### Hy-Capacity

Humboldt’s Hy-Capacity is another Iowa manufacturer that felt an immediate desire to help the medical community safe as they work amid the coronavirus. Molly Varangkounh, president of Hy-Capacity, says Humboldt County Memorial Hospital (HCMH) needed masks and asked if the company could help.

Hy-Capacity, a manufacturer and supplier of heavy-duty tractor parts, also has a sewing department that makes tractor seats that could accommodate the request for masks. Workers made a couple of prototypes, then reached out to Jensen Trailers, who produced aluminum nose pieces that could be sewn into the mask to provide the necessary fit. Hy-Capacity is also sewing hospital gowns at the request of HCMH.

“It is important for us to support our community,” Varangkounh says. “Many Hy-Capacity employees and their family members have helped with making hundreds of cloth masks.”



Hy-Capacity is a 1998 Iowa Venture Award recipient nominated by Midland Power Cooperative.



### Integrated DNA Technologies

Coralville company Integrated DNA Technologies (IDT) was the first company in the nation to have its primer and probe kits approved by the CDC for use as a key component of the testing protocol for the diagnosis and detection of COVID-19. IDT quickly achieved large-scale manufacturing. As of early June, it had produced primer and probe kits sufficient to enable more than 34 million tests to be conducted in the U.S. pursuant to the CDC Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) testing protocol.

In early June, IDT and Sherlock Biosciences announced the companies’ strategic collaboration to enable large-scale manufacturing of the Sherlock™ CRISPR SARS-CoV-2 kit to detect the novel coronavirus that causes COVID-19. This new test is the first CRISPR-based diagnostic test to receive EUA use for the detection of SARS-CoV-2. It does not require specialized instruments to complete the test and uses standard laboratory equipment, providing a turnaround time of approximately one hour, significantly faster than other testing methods. IDT supports the manufacturing of the kit by supplying several key components on which the test is based. IDT’s product quality, speed and ability to scale are key factors in bringing the Sherlock kit to market.

“Sherlock has developed a unique methodology for quick and specific detection of SARS-CoV-2, and IDT is proud to leverage our high-quality products to support this groundbreaking testing method,” says Trey Martin, president of IDT.

In addition to its manufacturing headquarters in Coralville, IDT has manufacturing sites in California, North Carolina, Belgium and Singapore.



Integrated DNA Technologies is a 2001 Iowa Venture Award recipient nominated by Linn County REC.



Stories of people, companies, and communities stepping up to support efforts to address the challenges created by the COVID-19 pandemic are many. Iowa’s electric cooperatives thank our members and others who have donated time, talents, resources and care to navigate these turbulent times. ⚡

Kay Snyder is the director of marketing and communications for the Iowa Area Development Group.

# Treasurer's Report



Marchelle Brown

The board of directors of Chariton Valley Electric Cooperative is elected by you, the membership, to ensure the cooperative remains financially stable. Every month, the directors review the current financial statement and compare it with the annual business plan and financial position of the previous month.

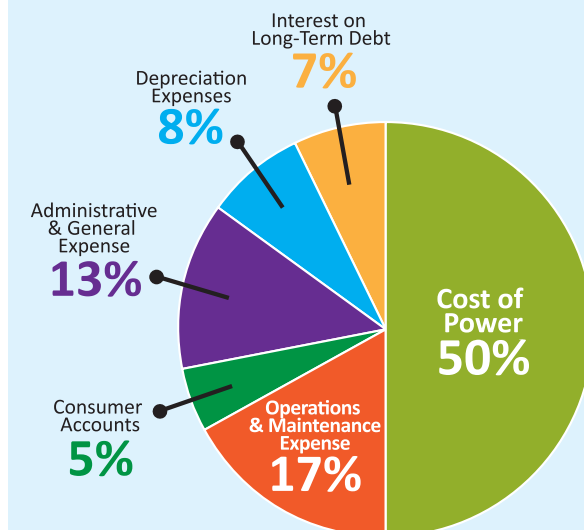
Our annual Independent Financial Audit, performed by BKD's CPAs and Advisors of Des Moines, was completed in April 2020 and presented to the board of directors on April 23, 2020. The reports included the balance sheets, statement of operations, equity, long term debt, patronage capital statement of cash flows and assets. The board approved the year-end audit report to officially close the 2019 books.

For 2019, total equity was at a strong 32.58% and overall audited net margins total \$875,127. Any earnings leftover after all expenses and/or reserves are paid are allocated to members as patronage dividends. CVEC is pleased to report that your cooperative is refunding, for the 37th year in a row, a total of \$386,142 in patronage dividends. Since 2003, your cooperative has refunded more than \$3 million. This is not a claim that an investor-owned or municipal utility can make!

One highlight from your cooperative's financial reports show that even though our members are becoming more energy conscious, we continued to have strong kilowatt-hour (kWh) sales of over 97 million kWhs sold. As in the past, the bulk of our sales (59%) comes from our residential class members, with the remaining 41 percent from our commercial classes.

One of the major components of our budget is power cost, which represents over 50% of the total cost of providing you with electrical service. Our power supplier,

Northeast Missouri Electric Power Cooperative, provides power to us, which is then distributed to our members. The graph at the right depicts this expense in relation to the cooperative's other expenses. The board of directors and staff work diligently to ensure all auditing standards are followed and all requirements are met. ⚡



## 2018-2019 Financial Statistics

	2018	2019
<b>Assets</b>		
Total Utility Plant	\$33,972,893	\$35,242,222
Less Depreciation	(9,827,470)	(10,211,527)
Net Utility Plant	24,145,423	25,030,695
Patronage Capital	4,631,037	4,818,059
Investments	4,601,590	7,510,528
Cash/Temp Investments	565,699	1,150,149
Accounts Receivable	1,544,077	2,052,249
Other	1,082,565	1,053,552
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$36,570,391</b>	<b>\$41,615,232</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Member Patronage	\$13,083,760	\$13,559,274
Long Term Debt	15,994,762	25,335,200
Notes/Accounts Payable	5,872,283	841,303
Consumer Deposits	114,835	126,840
Other Liabilities	1,504,751	1,752,615
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$36,570,391</b>	<b>\$41,615,232</b>
<b>Revenues &amp; Expenses</b>		
Total Revenue	\$12,454,060	\$11,882,958
Power Cost	6,087,936	5,885,552
Operations/Maintenance	2,499,441	2,023,169
Consumer Accounts	590,906	561,205
Administration/General	1,400,531	1,468,932
Depreciation	883,121	889,108
Interest on Long Term Debt	636,388	783,446
Other Expenses	12,236	11,605
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$12,110,559</b>	<b>\$11,623,017</b>
<b>Margins</b>		
Operating Margins	\$343,501	\$259,941
Non-Operating Margins	77,865	225,447
G & T Co-op Capital Credits	320,192	362,539
Other Org. Capital Credits	30,853	27,200
<b>Net Margins</b>	<b>\$772,411</b>	<b>\$875,127</b>



# Q1 Operation Round Up® funds awarded

The Chariton Valley Electric Operation Round Up® Foundation Board is proud to announce the first-ever distribution of funds to two local organizations with the monthly contributions of CVEC's co-op members.

The program, Operation Round Up®, rounds up electric bills to the nearest dollar. Each bill is increased anywhere between \$0.01 and \$0.99 for the 80% of CVEC members participating in the program. On average, a member will contribute \$6 per year. The money collected through Operation Round Up® is pooled together and then administered in a series of grants by the Chariton Valley Electric Operation Round Up® Foundation Board.

In May, the Operation Round Up®

Foundation Board reviewed a total of four applications and was able to fund two of them. The Foundation Board chose to follow more of a humanities path with this first round and awarded

\$3,800 in total. Monroe County South Central Iowa Community Action Program (SCICAP) was awarded \$3,500 to aid in repairs required at the building. The

SCICAP agency provides a variety of programs to assist local families with different needs such as food shortages, housing, money management, education and employment. The county outreach center staff works with families to help them overcome these everyday problems to achieve self-sufficiency.

In addition, \$300 was awarded to the Seymour Food Pantry, where food, cleaning supplies, dairy/meat vouchers,

as well as fans will be distributed to those in need in our local area. The food pantry is located on the back side of the Community Center in Seymour, Iowa and is open every Wednesday from 3-5 p.m. The Seymour Food Pantry is funded primarily through the United Methodist Church but always accepts and appreciates any and all donations.

CVEC is grateful that our members are donating their small change, which is changing lives each month. As this program continues, we hope our membership sees the value and benefit this program will bring to the communities we serve.

If you would like your organization to be considered for a grant, please visit our website at [www.cvrec.com](http://www.cvrec.com) to complete the application documents. ⚡



SCICAP, pictured from left to right: Christina Estes, Jerry Durian, Brenda Fry, Jerry Power, Tina Maddison and Becky Teno



Seymour Food Pantry, pictured from left to right: Jerry Power, Leanne Blizek and Becky Teno



## 2020 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

# Congratulations!

Chariton Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc. is pleased to announce this year's \$1,500 scholarship winner that is offered specifically for electrical hot line work or electrical engineering:

**Michael Thomas**, graduate of Albia Community High School and son of Justin Thomas, plans to attend Iowa State University and major in electrical engineering.



Chariton Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc. is also pleased to announce this year's \$1,000 scholarship winners:

**Kaitlyn Couchman**, graduate of Seymour Community High School and daughter of Angie Couchman, will attend Northwest Missouri State University and study pre-physical therapy.



**Shanna Fellows**, graduate of Eddyville-Blakesburg-Fremont High School and daughter of Lew and Lori Fellows, plans to attend Iowa State University and major in engineering.



**Sherryl Mae Rowe**, graduate of Albia Community High School and daughter of Alan and Arnie Rowe, will attend Dordt University and major in computer science.



**Savannah Stalzer**, graduate of Albia Community High School and daughter of Bradley and Melinda Stalzer, plans to attend the University of Northern Iowa and major in actuarial science and finance. ⚡



# E-transportation zips along

BY MARIA KANEVSKY

Ten years ago, electric vehicles were a rare sight, but today, you see them on roadways across Iowa. Advancements in battery technology have led to smaller, even more efficient batteries, which has opened the door to new forms of electric transportation, or e-transportation.

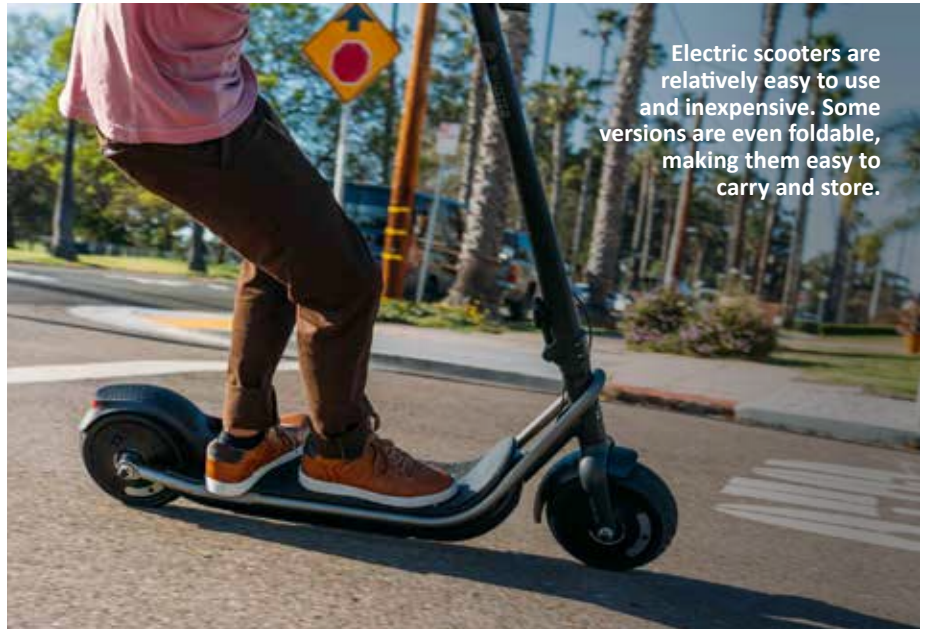
## Electric scooters

One of the newer forms of electric transportation is the electric scooter. They're relatively easy to use and inexpensive. Some versions are even foldable, making them easy to carry and store. Several electric scooter rental companies offer their services in many major cities, making it especially easy to find a nearby scooter to use for a limited time. Electric scooters' small wheels are only meant to be ridden on paved surfaces like sidewalks, and their limited range and speed also make them unsuitable for long-distance travel.

## Electric bicycles, skateboards, unicycles and motorcycles

Another newer form of electric transportation is the electric bicycle. These modern versions of the familiar bicycle offer the same ease of use while requiring much less physical exertion. Travelers can ride longer distances without being as fatigued, and they can be parked easily at bike racks.

Some of these electric forms of



Electric scooters are relatively easy to use and inexpensive. Some versions are even foldable, making them easy to carry and store.

Photo Source: Boosted

transportation can be used for recreation in addition to everyday use. For example, the electric skateboard has additional power that a typical skateboard does not have, and the user can still perform tricks while riding it. Electric roller skates are another example, which are just as entertaining as regular roller skates, and users can maintain fast speeds without the effort. While these electric modes of transportation are fun, their faster speeds can also make them more dangerous, which makes it especially important to wear helmets and knee pads.

For those looking for more exciting forms of e-transportation, there are many innovative options being developed. One of these is the electric unicycle, which is a self-balancing device. You can speed up and slow down the device by simply leaning forward or backward. The electric unicycle is easy to store or carry

around, and its large wheel can drive on a variety of terrains like grass, gravel, curbs and potholes. The major drawback is that it's relatively difficult to learn how to ride the electric unicycle, so be prepared to spend a few hours learning how it works.

For even faster speeds, there is the electric motorcycle. This mode of transportation has many benefits compared to gas-powered motorcycles, such as increased performance, less maintenance and lower fuel costs.

Since these technologies are relatively new and more complex, price tags for all these modes of transportation will be higher than their conventional counterparts. Each mode includes a variety of features, so it's essential to consider all options. Before purchasing any of these newer forms of e-transportation, make sure you do research to find the mode of transportation that best matches your needs. ⚡



For those with the need for speed, electric motorcycles offer many benefits when compared to their gas-powered counterparts.

Photo Source: Zero Motorcycles

Maria Kanevsky is a program analyst for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the national trade association representing more than 900 local electric cooperatives.



# A letter to summer

BY VALERIE VAN KOOTEN

Dear Summer,

As you appear to be making your annual debut, I'd like to request a few things for your consideration. We go back a long way, you and me, and I feel secure enough in our relationship to broach this subject.

First, could we cut the number of outdoor picnics that involve schlepping food to a filthy, bug-encrusted picnic table in a shelter house somewhere? I'm all for eating al fresco, but my prepared food barely makes it from the oven to the table, let alone from my kitchen to the wilderness. The heat makes the gelatin melt, and the meatballs usually slop sauce into my backseat. In case you are not amenable to this request, I will invest in some foil pans that can be dumped when I don't claim said item. Who brought that pink glop? Not I.

And then, can we nix flip-flops unless we're at the beach or getting a pedicure? The plasticky squelch-squelch that they make when walking drives me nuts. You have to proceed strangely while wearing them so that the front doesn't get caught and curl underneath. And I won't even start on why they're called "flip-flops" now, and they were called "thongs" when I was a girl. You don't have time.

Of course, you knew I was going to mention humidity, and you're right, it stinks, but not for the reasons most people hate it. Friends say their hair gets all crazy and kinky. However, for those of us with fine, limp hair, ours goes even flatter. Could I have a bunch of crazy instead this year?

Let's talk about summer air conditioning. It may be 95 degrees with 90 percent humidity outdoors, but I guarantee you that once I walk into a movie theater or my office,



I will freeze. As in, the-heater-is-going-under-my-desk frozen. It's crazy to walk into a movie and see the patrons there all bundled up in sweaters and scarves ... in July. What gives?

Can we set a schedule and stick to it? Once September rolls around, can you gracefully bow out? I hope this doesn't hurt your feelings, but fall is really my favorite. Summer is a steppingstone to fall. Have your fun over Labor Day weekend, and then skedaddle. I get testy when it's the end of September and I can't light my pumpkin-spice candle. You've had your season; then it's time to bid adieu.

I don't have time here to discuss tornadoes, mosquitoes, inappropriate swimwear or the misery of camping. No time to expound on sand in everything, the way my dog smells or gas prices that spike in the summer. But I'm sure you've heard all those things before.

Thanks for listening, Summer. We can get along okay together with a few concessions. At least, we can until after Labor Day. ⚡

---

Valerie Van Kooten is a writer from Pella who loves living in the country and telling its stories. She and her husband Kent have three married sons and two incredibly adorable grandsons.



Touchstone Energy®  
Cooperatives

# DRIVE ELECTRIC

*The average electric vehicle can save a driver who drives 15,000 miles in a year about \$850 annually on fuel. All-electric vehicles start to pay for themselves a long time before they reach the end of their expected lifespans, leading to significant savings over time.*

*-Fleet Carma*

**CONTACT YOUR LOCAL CO-OP FOR MORE INFORMATION.**

Touchstone Energy®  
Cooperatives of Iowa  
[www.touchstoneenergy.coop](http://www.touchstoneenergy.coop)

