

Neighbors helping neighbors

Time and time again, the generosity of our community in Northeast Indiana is something that can be counted on! When COVID-19 started impacting our area in March, so many of our members wanted to know how they could help others who could no longer afford to pay their electric bills. The "Northeastern Neighbor Aid" fund launched because of YOU.

So far, nearly \$9,500 has been donated. Donations have come from close to 200 people including members, employees and the board of directors.

"We hope to see even more people step up to rally around those going through tough times," said Tom Western, Chairman of the board of directors. "After each round of donations are distributed, the fund be significantly depleted, but our members will still need help in the coming months as well."

We were also one of the first co-ops to temporarily suspended disconnecting members who were unable to pay their electric bills as an initial response to help the community. "Pausing disconnects was the right thing to do. During this time, a family should not have



to choose between buying groceries and paying their electric bill," said Eric Jung, CEO.

Those wanting to contribute to the Northeastern Neighbor Aid fund can do so and find more information at nremc.com/NeighborAid. You can even choose to have your donation added to your next month's bill or spread out over several months.



More ways to help the community right now

- Order carry-out from your favorite local restaurants.
- Order gift cards from local boutiques or places you usually shop.
- If you can't monetarily support a local business, share and comment on their Facebook posts.
- Thank a health care worker by sending cards to local hospitals.
- Choose to round up your electric bill to help local non-profit organizations at: nremc.com/operation-round-up
- Order groceries and have them delivered to a neighbor anonymously.



GET A FREE NEST THERMOSTAT TO SAVE ENERGY, TIME & MONEY.

Buy from any retailer and get a \$200 bill credit on your next bill.

We know saving money is one of the most important things on members' minds right now. That's why we've partnered with Google to provide a FREE Nest smart thermostat for the first 500 members who sign up for our Rush Hour Rewards program.

How it works:

- First, buy a Nest thermostat. Buy it from Lowes, Menards or ANY retailer who sells Nest thermostats.
- Then, sign up for the Rush Hour Rewards program. This program shifts energy usage to off-peak hours for multiple days each year.
- That's it. **You'll receive a \$200 bill credit on your next bill.**

Hurry!
Offer ends 6/30

Learn more:
nremc.com/nest

NREMC awards college scholarships to local teens

We're excited to announce the two recent recipients of the NREMC \$1000 college scholarships.

The first recipient of the scholarship is **Naomi Rubrake**, daughter of Martha and Darrin Rubrake. Now a graduate of **Columbia City High School**, she plans to attend Bethany College in West Virginia where she will study business marketing.

The second scholarship was awarded to **Wyatt Schroeder** of **Carroll High School** in Fort Wayne. Wyatt, son of Jeffery Schroeder, plans on studying engineering at Purdue University in West Lafayette.

We give these scholarships based on scholastic achievement, community involvement, and recommendations. To learn more about these annual scholarships, visit nremc.com/scholarship



Naomi Rubrake
Columbia City High School

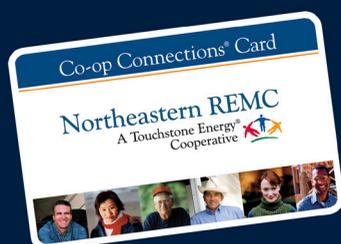


Wyatt Schroeder
Carroll High School

Use your Co-op Connections Card to help local businesses

Shop local.
They're counting on us.

Use the Co-op Connections Card for discounts for area businesses.



Use the mobile app to view deals and to access your card!

One of the many perks of being a member of our cooperative is the Co-op Connections Card! With this discount card, you are eligible to receive discounts on products and services from participating businesses around the area, the state, and the whole country!

We recently began contacting the local businesses in **Columbia City, Churubusco, South Whitley, Pierceton, and Fort Wayne** to pull together new deals for carryout, delivery and contact-less pickup to support our local community as the state begins to re-open.

You can visit nremc.com/coopcard to get signed up and to start viewing the deals. You can also sign up for emailed updates when new deals come in!

If you own or know anyone that has a local business that would like to have their offer listed for free, contact us at marketing@nremc.com and we will get them added to the ever growing list of outstanding co-op connections deals!

How it works:

- Go to nremc.com/coopcard to sign up.
- Browse deals by your specific zip code.
- Show your card (or the card on the mobile app) to redeem your deal while shopping.

Recently added deals:

Food & Dining

From My Side of the Kitchen | Columbia City | (260) 503-8472

Carry out and free local delivery (out of local area, small service fee) Show a receipt from another local business and receive a \$5 gift card to spend at our business.

Downtown on the Square | Columbia City | (260) 244-4011

Delivery & take out. Mention this ad and receive 20% off.

Mozzarelli's Pizza | Fort Wayne | (260) 489-4049

10% off online order. Use discount code: REMC at checkout.

Shopping & Services

Columbia Automotive | Col. City | (260) 244-6432

10% off any service and or repair over \$200.

A/C recharge starting at \$69.95

Eberly Photography | S. Whitley | (260) 723-4800

1- hr session free for families, senior, children. Free 11x14 portrait.

Wilma's Health Care Center | Churubusco | (260) 693-6382

10% off any purchase over \$40. Not valid with other discounts.

View all deals at nremc.com/coopcard

Add your business!

Email us at marketing@nremc.com and we'll talk about placement opportunities too!

Keep metallic balloons inside

Now that summer is here and the Governor's plans to reopen the state are underway, some folks are trying to get back to a sense of normalcy. Part of that may include hosting belated graduation parties, wedding receptions, or other events that may have been postponed.



We would like to remind you to keep the quarantine in place on metallic balloons! These types of metal-coated balloons, or Mylars, can cause power outages and pose a public safety risk. If a gust of wind grabs the balloon, filled with helium or not, it can break loose from its string and blow into overhead power lines.

These balloons can conduct electricity and can cause a short circuit or power surge when in contact with power lines. This can lead to large-scale power outages, melting of electrical wires, and fires, leading to possible injuries and property damage.

To reduce the risk of outages and injuries associated with Mylar balloons, here are some important tips:

- Securely tie helium-filled metallic balloons to a weight that is heavy enough to prevent them from floating away.
- Never release helium-filled Mylar balloons into the sky.

If you see a Mylar balloon that has contacted a power line or floated into an electrical substation, never attempt to retrieve it yourself. Keep yourself, your equipment, and all other items and people, at least 20 feet away. Call NREMC at 1-888-413-6111 and 9-1-1 if there is immediate danger.

Board of director candidates to be announced on June 26

This year's board of director candidates will be announced on June 26. You'll get the opportunity to watch candidate videos and learn more about each prospective board member before online and mail voting begins on August 12.

Watch for more news about in-lobby voting as we get closer to that time.

SPOTLIGHT

Re-opening the lobby

We've received a lot of questions about when our office, lobby or drive-thru will be reopened. This is a decision we do not take lightly since the safety of our employees and our members is our top priority. Once a decision has been reached, we will post an announcement on our website and Facebook page. Thank you for your patience.

Do you have unclaimed patronage capital?

It's important to us that our members receive their patronage capital. Inactive members with unclaimed patronage from the 2018 general distribution are listed on our website at nremc.com/unclaimed. If you know someone on this list, please have them utilize the claims form to receive their funds.

Employee Milestones

Recently, two of our own employees celebrated two BIG milestones! Thank you for your continued service!



Brett Clark
Operations Coordinator

35 Years



Nancy Law
Large Power Billing

30 Years

Our Vision

Service, Satisfaction and Safety -
Second to None!

Our Mission

To meet our members' on-going need for reliable energy service at a good value while meriting trust and confidence.

Pick up the phone and call 811 before picking up the shovel



Calling 811: What to expect:

- Call 811 two business days prior to digging.
- You'll be asked to provide your name and address.
- Then locators from each utility will stop by your property to mark the underground lines in your area.
- Once all utilities are checked, the ground will be marked with either a dotted line or flags to indicate underground lines.
- A painted "OK" means that there are no lines in that location.
- Red, yellow, orange, green and blue markers indicate that all necessary utility lines have been checked.

As your summer projects begin, don't forget to take all of the proper precautions to stay safe during your DIY projects. Hitting a utility line could result in serious injury, damages to your home and even knock out service to your entire neighborhood. Here are a few frequently asked questions about digging.

My project is small and only in a small area of my yard. Do I need my entire yard marked?

You can outline the area you want marked in white paint to ensure that only the utilities in that part of your yard will be located and marked. When you call, let the 811 representative know your plans and they'll communicate it to the utility locators.

I am installing a mailbox that's at the end of my long lane. Shouldn't I be fine?

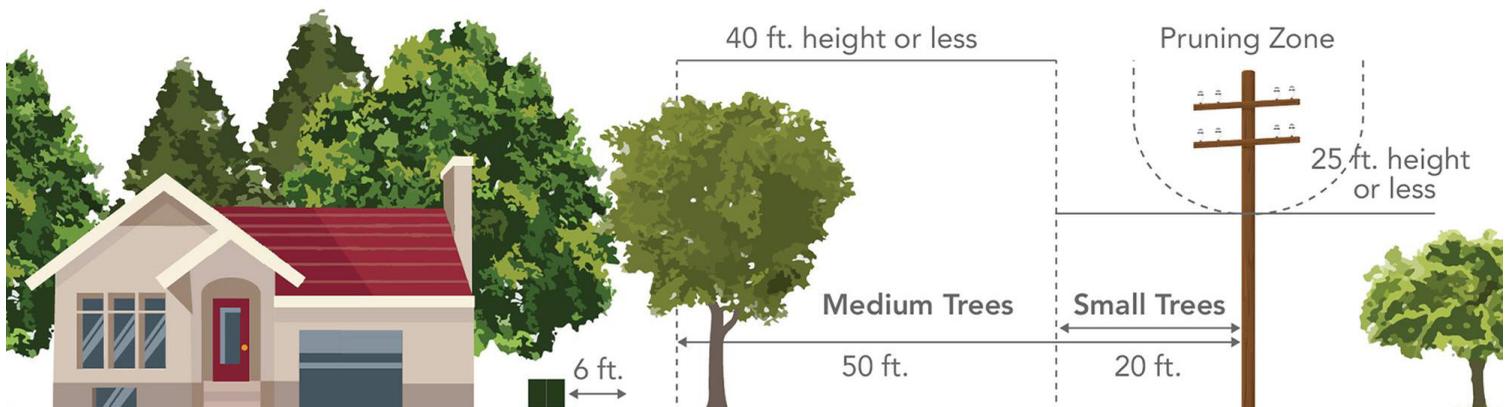
No. Buried lines could be anywhere. Installing mailboxes and fences are examples of projects that require a call to 811 to know what's below before digging.

I'm digging in a spot that was previously marked. Do I need to call again?

The location of buried lines may have changed or could have been altered by erosion and root growth. It's always good to call each and every time.

I hired a landscaper to do the digging project. Whose responsibility is it to call?

Check with the professionals you hired to make sure they will be contacting 811. Never let any digging work begin on your property without contacting 811 first.



Put the right tree in the right place.

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...and more!



LIGHTPOST

Questions? E-mail memberservices@nremc.com

Hours of operation: Monday–Friday, 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

1-888-413-6111

Line Locating: Please call 811 at least 2 business days prior to digging.