



# Rural HILIGHTS

Local News from Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative

## LED security light conversion is underway

After providing twenty years of amber lit skies, the time has come to retire our 100-watt HPS security lights. The high-pressure sodium lights, which are responsible for the unpopular color, will be replaced with clear, white LED models.

The time is right for the conversion. The LED prices have dropped dramatically in the past few years, and LED lighting is now the preferred standard for energy efficiency. Since the new 48-watt LED lights have a life expectancy of 70,000 hours, line crews will no longer need to make service calls just to change bulbs. In addition to energy savings and reduced maintenance cost, RECC will receive energy efficient rebates from Illinois Municipal Electric Agency (IMEA) for 844 security lights.

RECC has a limited time to participate in IMEA's rebate program, so we will be converting the 844 security lights by December 31, 2017. Several line crews will begin replacing the 100-watt HPS security lights in the Chatham



*RECC's new 48-watt LED security light.*

and Auburn areas. We will also be working in the Sunset Lake area in Girard and at Litchfield's Lake Lou Yaeger.

We hope to have all 1,931 100-watt HPS security lights converted to LEDs by June 7, 2018, just in time for our annual meeting. We will also be converting the 175-watt mercury vapor lights during this time.

Monthly rental charges will remain the same with the LED upgrade.

If our last security light conversion was any indication, there will be a large demand for old but still functioning security lights. In 1995 the used lights were sold for \$5 each and were gone within a few months. This time, all used security lights are going to be given away free.

RECC crews will leave the used security light at the base of the pole for most of our rural members. Security lights removed in subdivisions will be taken back to the shop in Auburn, Ill. If you are present while your light is being changed, you can discuss the options with our lineman.

If you have any security light questions, or want to get additional used lights, please call our office at (217) 438-6197. Current security light members will be given priority, but extra lights should be available for a limited time. All used lights are "as is" and do not include the metal arm.

### Advantages of LED Security Lights:

- Instant-on
- Produce less heat
- Contain no mercury
- Operate in cold temperatures
- Quality light and no flicker
- Excellent visibility and color accuracy

**Our office will be closed on  
Monday, December 25 for Christmas  
and Monday, January 1  
for New Year's Day.**



# Rebates are still available

## Heating Equipment:

Geothermal Systems	\$250	(2.5 Ton Min.)
Heat Pumps with Electric Backup	\$250	(2.5 Ton Min.)
Heat Pumps with Gas Backup	\$100	(2 Ton Min.)

A rebate application form must be submitted after the installation is complete.

## Water Heaters:

Standard Electric (<10 Yr. Warranty)	\$200
Long-Life Electric (10+ Yr. Warranty) (Includes Marathon water heaters)	\$250

Minimum capacity - 40 gallons. A copy of your receipt should be submitted along with your requested rebate type. Water heaters purchased for less than the rebate amount will be rebated for the actual price. Rebate for more than one water heater per residence is \$50 for additional units.

## Appliances:

Electric Range	\$25
Electric Clothes Dryer	\$25

A copy of your receipt should be submitted with an explanation of whether you are replacing an electric unit, a gas unit or the installation is in a new home.

Rebate checks are paid directly to the member after the installation is complete. Checks are written once a month, usually around mid-month. Any rebate applications or questions can be sent to:

**Jeffrey Lancaster**  
**Manager of Member Services**  
**Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative**  
**P.O. Box 19**  
**Auburn, IL 62615**  
**(217) 438-6197**

## DeLaby receives national safety award

Louis DeLaby, Manager of Operations and Maintenance, was presented with the Herman C. Potthast Award. The National Utility Training & Safety Education Association (NUTSEA) award is presented annually to the Job Training and Safety Instructor who has best attained those qualities of dedication, leadership, cooperation and service that was exemplified by "Potty." The award is sponsored by the Superintendents Section of the Pennsylvania Rural Electric Association and presented this year at its 75th annual meeting. As a member of NUTSEA since 2005, Lou served on the Board of Directors and Chairman of the Distribution Section. Lou recently celebrated his 45th year at RECC.



Lou DeLaby displays the Herman C. Potthast award.

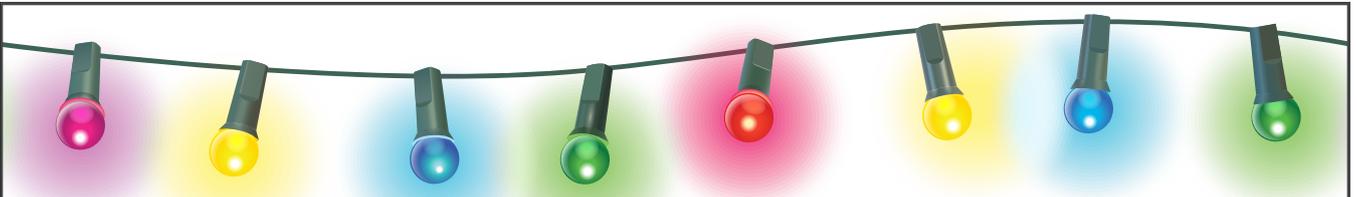
$$\text{Logo} + \text{Logo} + \text{Logo} = 30$$

$$\text{Logo} + \text{Truck} + \text{Truck} = 20$$

$$\text{Truck} + \text{RECC} + \text{RECC} = 13$$

$$\text{Truck} + \text{RECC} + \text{Logo} = ?$$

Hint: Answer is the same as your cooperative P.O. Box #



## MERRY, BRIGHT AND EFFICIENT HOLIDAY LIGHTING

Decking the halls doesn't have to take a toll on your energy bill! Keep your holiday lighting merry, bright and energy efficient with LED light strands.

- Consider replacing older light strands with new ENERGY STAR LED® lights. LED strands are 70 percent more efficient and last 10 times longer than the age-old standard bulbs.
- You can get the look of cozy lighting with LEDs. Just look for "warm white" on the label.
- Unlike older light strands, LED lights give off virtually no heat, making them safer for kids and pets (and reindeer).
- Save energy by setting a timer for outdoor lighting and decorations. Program the timer so the lights turn on in the evening and turn off later at night when you typically go to sleep.

Source: Dept. of Energy





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See our web page for monthly Board meeting reports.

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## Is that really an emergency? Should I call 911?

Bruce Centko, Auburn Chief of Police, was the guest speaker at our monthly safety meeting. He discussed the volume of 911 calls received and what differentiates emergency from non-emergency calls. Obviously, 911 operators will pick up every call, but Bruce reminds us that resources are limited, and non-emergency calls received on a 911 line limits the response to actual emergencies.

The 911 calls should be reserved for incidents that need to be addressed immediately. Non-time sensitive calls



Chief Centko explains when to call 911.

should be made directly to local police departments or the county sheriff department.



## IEC Memorial Scholarships Available for 2018

Illinois electric cooperatives will award ten academic scholarships to high school seniors through a memorial scholarship fund designed to financially assist deserving students in the electric cooperative family. The ten scholarships of \$2,000 each will be awarded through the Thomas H. Moore Illinois Electric Cooperatives (IEC) Memorial Scholarship Program.

Five scholarships will be awarded to high school seniors who are the sons or daughters of an Illinois electric cooperative member receiving service from the cooperative.

One scholarship, the Earl W. Struck Memorial, will be awarded to a student who is the son or daughter of an Illinois electric cooperative employee or director.

Three scholarships are reserved for students enrolling full-time at a two-year Illinois community college

who are the sons or daughters of Illinois electric cooperative members, employees or directors.

One scholarship, the LaVern & Nola McEntire Lineworker's, will help pay for costs to attend the AIEC/LLCC lineworker's school in Springfield, Ill. Sons and daughters of co-op members, relatives of co-op employees or directors, and individuals who have served or are serving in the armed forces or National Guard are all eligible to apply for the lineworker's scholarship.

For more information regarding the scholarships, contact Sandy Lex, Member Services Liaison at sandy.lex@recc.coop or (217) 438-6198. Information has been shared with area high school guidance counselors and is also available for download at the cooperative's website recc.coop.