



Rural HIGHLIGHTS

Local News from Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative

Tree trimming in right-of-ways and easements



Aerial view of RECC's transmission lines running through a private right-of-way.

What is right-of-way and why is it necessary?

A right-of-way, when it comes to utilities, is an agreement that allows an electric utility or cooperative use or access a piece of property according to the terms of the easement.

Easements are areas designated for overhead and underground utility access and are usually defined when a lot or neighborhood is first platted. Easements are implemented because it is more efficient and less expensive to run utilities in a straight line.

Having right-of-way means that utilities or cooperatives can access the area to fix a utility-related problem or to perform maintenance. Easements outline general property rights by others while right-of-way (as its name implies) is a specific property right. Here are some other frequently asked questions according to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

Who decides whether an electric utility can cut down a tree near a power line?

The choice of how to trim trees and manage vegetation growth near a power line is primarily made by the electric utility, subject to state and local requirements and laws, applicable safety codes, and any limitations or obligations specified in rights-of-way agreements.

Why are my trees getting trimmed if the power lines near my house are not near the trees?

There are two reasons for this. First, electric utilities are required to maintain the appropriate clearance between trees and power lines. On a cool, still day, it may appear that there is ample clearance. However, power lines sag as they expand in the summer due to air temperature and heavy use. Clearances around the lines must account for this, as well as wind, which causes the lines to sway. Second, electric utilities

usually prune or remove vegetation to a distance greater than the minimum clearances to account for future growth, movement of trees or power lines due to wind, conductor sag due to heat and line loading, and other factors.

The trees are in my yard. Why can't I stop them from cutting down or trimming my trees?

An electric utility is granted an easement or a right-of-way on private property in order to build and maintain power lines. The terms of a utility right-of-way, defining the rights of the parties for building and maintaining electric lines, are specified in rights-of-way agreements. These agreements are usually attached to a property deed.

Workers who service utility lines should arrive in a marked vehicle and have proper identification. If you have any concerns, please call us at 217-438-6197. For more about electrical safety, visit SafeElectricity.org.

26th Annual Contractor Dinner



Area contractors braved the snowy weather to attend our annual event. RECC appreciates all they do for our members. Attendees included Snell Plumbing and Heating, Rettberg's Inc., Lebeck Ref., Weidner Ref., Walch Electric, McNeely Electric, Two Toms Services, Weldon Ladage Construction, Craig Ladage Builders, Pawnee Lumber, Phill Prill, and John Freitag from GAOI.

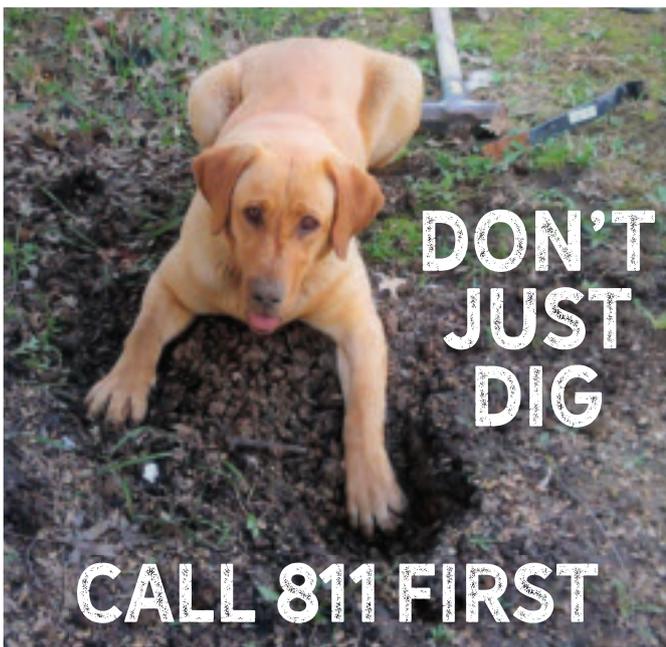


Edgewood Golf Club



Nominating committee member replaced

Garry Niemeyer resigned from the nominating committee to become a director candidate from district 5. At the Feb. 25, 2020 board meeting, the directors appointed Walt Caruthers to replace Niemeyer on the nominating committee.



You'll know what's below by the different flags, stakes or paint.

-  **Red** - Electric
-  **Yellow** - Gas, oil or petroleum
-  **Orange** - Communications
-  **Blue** - Potable water
-  **Purple** - Reclaimed water, irrigation
-  **Green** - Sewer
-  **White** - Proposed excavation
-  **Pink** - Temporary survey

JULIE, Inc. neither owns nor marks underground lines, however we alert our member utility companies so they can mark your property for safe digging.

THANK YOU FOR POWERING OUR LIVES

Lineworker Appreciation Day
April 13, 2020



*RECC Linemen
Andrew Boston
and Dalton Brown*

**Our office will be closed
April 10 for Good Friday.**



Rural Electric Convenience Cooperative

3973 W. State Route 104
P.O. Box 19 • Auburn, IL 62615
(217) 438-6197
e-mail: recc@recc.coop
www.recc.coop

Find us on 

Board of Directors

Mel Repscher, Chairman
Chris Wilcox, Vice Chairman
John A. Beatty, Sec.-Treasurer
Cassie L. Eigenmann, Asst. Sec.-Treasurer
Jimmy L. Ayers
Clayton Bloome
Andy Goleman
Thomas Hart
Lou Weitekamp

President/CEO

David Stuva

Editor

Jeff Lancaster

Choose your payment option!

- At our office front desk or outside drop-box
- Mail to: PO Box 19, Auburn IL 62615
- Set up recurring bank draft or credit card payments
- Online, with Pay Now from our website
- Use SmartHub portal, online or mobile app
- By phone to our office, using credit card or checking account
- By phone using automated payment (217) 438-6197

See our web page for monthly
Board meeting reports.

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Nominating committee selects candidates



Pictured from left: Brian Abshire, John Megginson, Ted Chapman, Mike Hart, Walt Caruthers, Galen Bailey, Thomas Vail, Brett Slightom and Susan Fuchs-Holt.

The RECC nominating committee met on March 12, 2020 and has chosen candidates for the board of directors for elections to be held at this year's annual meeting. The committee nominated two incumbent directors who are seeking re-election in districts 4 and 6. In district 5, two candidates were nominated to stand for their first director election. They are:

District 4

Thomas W. Hart
22790 Sulphur Springs Rd.
Atwater, IL 62572

District 5

Curt Diemer
13331 BAB Road
Auburn, IL 62615

Denver Eytchison
13318 BAB Road
Auburn, IL 62615

Garry Niemeyer
8370 Auburn Road
Auburn, IL 62615

Mark Schmid
6 Prairie Street
Auburn, IL 62615

District 6

Melvin L. Repscher
928 E. 1090 North Rd.
Taylorville, IL

The nominations have been posted at the Auburn office, as stipulated in the co-op's bylaws. Other candidates may be named by petition for a district, signed by 15 or more members in that district.

Petition forms are available from the co-op office in Auburn and must be returned by May 12 (30 days before the annual meeting, which is scheduled for June 11). Any persons nominated by petition will be included in the 2020 Annual Meeting Notice, to be printed in the June edition of the Illinois Country Living magazine. Biographical information and a statement from each candidate will also be printed in the notice.

Thank you to these members for their time and interest in the cooperative's election process and to the candidates who are willing to work for the benefit of all RECC member-owners!

Brian Abshire
Ted Chapman
Walter Caruthers
Thomas P. Vail

John Megginson
Mike Hart
Galen W. Bailey
Brett Slightom

Susan Fuchs-Holt, Chairman