

InTouch

WITH MEMBERS OF BUTLER COUNTY RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

June 2023

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



Plan to join us!

Tuesday, Aug. 1: Maple Hills Country Club—2586 170th St., Tripoli
Thursday, Aug. 3: Big 4 Fairgrounds—499 Greenwood Ave., Nashua
Monday, Aug. 14: Butler County REC Warehouse—619 N. Railroad St., Allison

From 5-7 p.m., we will be serving grilled hamburgers, beans, potato chips, cookies, ice cream, lemonade, and water. Join us for a sit-down meal or stop by for a drive-thru meal, register for prizes, and grab a pup cup for your pup!

For those in attendance, find out what it's like to be a line crew member with the Lineman 360 virtual reality experience, and take your photo in the Butler County REC lineman cutout!

Each family will receive one clip-on Bluetooth speaker and be eligible for one of two \$25 bill credits.

Kids can also register to win! We will give away an electric scooter and helmet after each event.

Be sure to read your July InTouch newsletter for more information on what you can expect and **ADDITIONAL GIVE-AWAYS**, including a large give-away drawing for both members and kids.

We look forward to seeing you at one of our appreciation events for a casual evening of grilled hamburgers and relaxing with neighbors!

*Members only entered into drawing—must be the name on the account/bill holder's name. Members allowed to only win one item—either a bill credit or the large give-away item.

**2023 Member
Appreciation
Events
Announced!**



Usher and Bennett join BCREC team

Butler County REC is pleased to announce that Shane Usher and Cade Bennett have begun their employment as apprentice linemen working out of our Horton warehouse.

Shane (top left) was employed with LaPorte City Utilities in LaPorte City, Iowa, and is a May 2019 graduate of Northwest Iowa Community College, Sheldon, Iowa.

Cade (bottom left) came to the REC from Alliant Energy out of Marshalltown. He graduated in April of 2021 from Southwest Wisconsin Technical College, Fennimore, Wisconsin.

Welcome, Shane and Cade!



Annual meeting drawing held

Did you have a surprise bill credit? If so, you were one of our annual meeting drawing winners!

Butler County REC gave away \$700 in bill credits in a random drawing of 25 of our members returning their mail-in ballots for the director election. RKD Biz, Inc., Greene, was the grand prize winner of a \$100 bill credit.

Thank you to each of our members returning their ballots and participating in the cooperative principle of Democratic Member Control. We are here because of, and for, YOU!



Stay safe outdoors

As sunny days arrive and temperatures soar, it is easy to be footloose and fancy free. As you spend more time outdoors, keep these safety tips in mind to have a fun, safe summer.

Pools and hot tubs Before opening your pool or hot tub for the season, ensure there is ground fault circuit interrupter protection on underwater lighting circuits, as well as for lighting around pools, hot tubs, and spas. Have your pool's electrical system inspected. Faulty wiring can cause swimmers to experience electric shock drowning.

Safe swimming Never swim near boats plugged into shore power or docks with an electrical source. Energized water can cause electric shock drowning.

Recreational activity According to the National Lightning Safety Council, between 2006 and 2021, nearly two-thirds of lightning deaths occurred while enjoying outdoor activities. Thirty-three percent of the fatalities occurred during water-related activities such as boating, spending time on the beach, and swimming, while 14 percent happened during sporting activities such as fishing, soccer, and running.

During a storm Install a weather app on your phone to inform you of weather alerts. Lightning can occur up to 10 miles away from the heart of the storm, so if you hear thunder, take cover. A watch means that conditions are likely for severe weather to develop; a warning means take action.

When playing Fly drones, remote-controlled planes, toys, and kites in a wide-open area away from overhead power lines. If an object is stuck in an overhead power line, do not try to remove it. Instead, a Butler County REC crew will safely address the issue.

Ensure that overhead power lines do not run through or over a tree before your child starts to climb. Select trees that are in a wide-open space without overhead power lines nearby.

Teach your children to never touch or climb a substation fence to attempt to retrieve a ball or any other item. Call Butler County REC to safely take care of it. The same precaution applies to a pet or animal inside the fenced area of a substation.

Releasing balloons Be careful with metallic balloons. If they become caught in a power line or other utility equipment, they can cause a major power outage. Additionally, use caution during a balloon release regardless of the type of balloon. Be sure to release balloons in wide-open areas, far from overhead power lines and airports.

For additional electrical safety tips, visit SafeElectricity.org.



Butler County REC, your Touchstone Energy cooperative, encourages you to MOVE OVER AND SLOW DOWN when you approach a vehicle with flashers on.

Let's obey the law and make sure everyone arrives safely!



Know what's below. Call before you dig.

Weekend warrior energy-saving projects *By Abby Berry*

Weekend warriors: Considering home improvement upgrades that save energy and money? We have a few project ideas for you that can be completed in a day or less!

Get smart about cooling and heating. Now that smart thermostats are more affordable (as little as \$70!), this simple upgrade makes for a fun, efficient weekend project.

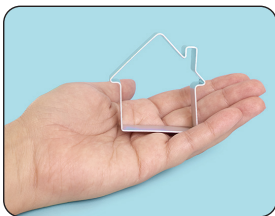
Your new smart thermostat will come with step-by-step instructions, but this project typically involves shutting off your HVAC at the breaker panel, disconnecting/removing the old thermostat, installing the new smart thermostat, and connecting it to your home Wi-Fi.

Go green and boost your greenery with a rain barrel. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, one rain barrel can save a homeowner 1,300 gallons of water annually.

The simplest way to install a rain barrel is positioning a plastic or wooden barrel directly under your gutter downspout. Basic piping may be required, as well. Consider a cover for the top of your rain barrel to keep insects and small debris out of your harvested water.

Create fresh savings with a DIY clothesline. You can create your own clothesline with two T-posts, wire, and hook-and-eye turnbuckles. First, call 8-1-1. Depending on your soil, you may need a small amount of Quikrete to set the posts. Another option is installing the line between two trees—a typical load of laundry requires about 35 feet of line.

Be sure to check out Butler County REC's website for more energy-saving ideas and tips.



Home Safety Awareness Month

Home Safety Awareness Month is a good time to check for accidents waiting-to-happen in your home, especially when electricity is involved.

Perform an audit of your home by following these safety tips:

- Check that your appliances are still in working order by turning them on and off, listening to the sound of the motor (is it “normal?”), and inspecting their cords and plugs for damage. Only purchase new appliances that have the thumbs-up from an independent testing laboratory such as UL.
- If you have young children, plug wall outlets with child-safety caps.
- Replace frayed or worn appliance cords.
- Choose light bulbs with the correct wattage for each lamp and overhead light fixture. The maximum safe wattage is imprinted on the fixture.
- Remove electrical cords from under your carpets.
- Put your extension cords away. They are not meant for everyday use.
- Install waterproof covers on your outdoor outlets.



**Nominate a local volunteer
and they could win
\$2,500 for their charity!**

Contest entries accepted during June at
IowaShineTheLight.com



Scholarships awarded to BCREC youth

Congratulations to Lily Mayo, Peter Miller, and Dawson Testroet! Each were awarded a \$500 scholarship from Butler County REC.

Lily and Peter qualified for our Youth Tour scholarships after interviewing for the 2022 Youth Tour trip to Washington, D.C. This fall, Lily, from Sumner, will be attending Coe College in Cedar Rapids, majoring in business with a collateral major in organizational science, and Peter, from Bristow, will be attending NIACC in Mason City, with an undecided major.

Dawson, from Greene, applied for and was granted our trade/technical industry scholarship. He will be attending powerline school at Northwest Iowa Community College, Sheldon, in the fall.

BCREC wishes you all the best!

Help support renewable energy with our EnergyWise Renewables program

Butler County REC's EnergyWise Renewables program was established in 2006 to give co-op members the opportunity to support member-owned renewable energy projects in its service territory. This program supports any type of distributed generation that provides an alternative or enhancement to the traditional electric power system. All contributions support small-scale distributed generation in our service territory. Butler County REC does not charge for the administration of this program.

To take part in this voluntary program, complete the information below and return to Butler County REC. If you already contribute, there is nothing you need to do now. Your participation is greatly appreciated.



EnergyWise Renewables Participation Form

I wish to support (the amount you select will be automatically added to your monthly power bill):

- 100 kilowatt-hours (\$1.50 per month)
- 200 kilowatt-hours (\$3.00 per month)
- 300 kilowatt-hours (\$4.50 per month)
- 400 kilowatt-hours (\$6.00 per month)
- Other per month _____. Maximum contribution is 3,000 kilowatt-hours (\$45.00 per month)
- One-time contribution. I wish to support EnergyWise Renewables with a one-time contribution. My check for _____ is enclosed.

Name _____ Account Number _____

Signature _____ Date _____

INtouch is published monthly for members of Butler County Rural Electric Cooperative
 521 North Main • PO Box 98 • Allison, IA 50602
 PHONES: 319.267.2726 or 888.267.2726 • FAX: 319.267.2566
 OFFICE HOURS: Mon. - Fri., 7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
 WEBSITE: www.butlerrec.coop • E-MAIL: butler@butlerrec.coop
 Craig Codner, CEO • EDITOR: Anne Gardiner, CCC

 Follow us on Facebook at facebook.com/bcrec

 Follow us on Instagram at instagram.com/butlercountyrec



Pay your bill online with SmartHub

smart choices  Sign up for our e-newsletter at www.butlerrec.coop

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.