

living with energy

MARCH 2019

IN IOWA



Chariton Valley
Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Your Touchstone Energy Cooperative



High school seniors: The deadline to apply for a CVEC scholarship is March 30 ► See Page 5

Weather, critters and reliability



Visit our website at www.cvrec.com

Brunch
favorites

Win an electric
weed trimmer!

Safety changes
at CVEC's office

Seeking board nominations!

Have you ever wondered how you could get more involved in YOUR electric cooperative? Consider running for Chariton Valley Electric Cooperative's Board of Directors! If you are interested in being nominated, would like to nominate someone or would like to serve on the nominating committee, contact any current board member or call CVEC at 641-932-7126. 🌱



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



Safety is our first priority

BY BRYON STILLEY

There have been a few changes to the look and feel of CVEC's headquarters, and I would like to share the reasons behind the heightened security measures. Safety of our members and our team is the utmost importance to everyone at CVEC. We take specific steps to ensure that our members receive safe and reliable electric service, and I also want to ensure the safety of the team at our office.

Unfortunately, we live in a time where we must plan for the worst-case scenarios. News reports are all too familiar detailing shootings at schools, banks and other businesses. An electric cooperative in Virginia suffered the loss of an employee due to a shooting in December. I am pleased that CVEC has been proactive in creating a safe environment for our team, and I hope this safe environment will never be compromised.

We made changes to CVEC's lobby area almost a year ago. This included putting our member services team behind bullet-proof glass and installing doors that are locked to the public. While the look of our lobby has changed, our service has remained the same. Our members still receive personal and professional service when they visit our office.

We also installed an electric gate

leading into our garage, warehouse buildings, storage and maintenance areas. With the safety of our team

in mind, I wanted to have better control of vendors and visitors in this area. Vendors and visitors are required to check in with the office before gaining entrance to our other facilities. This step helps us monitor who is coming into our facility and the purpose of their visit.

We have also added a robust security system and motion detectors throughout our entire facility. CVEC was the victim of copper wiring theft last summer. The thief gained entrance to one of our locked buildings in the middle of the night and took more than \$20,000 worth of copper wire. While we hope this was an isolated incident, the cameras and motion detectors should now act as a deterrent for any other possible illegal activity.

I am very comfortable with the security measures CVEC has made over the last year. We will continue to do our best to keep our members and team safe, as well as keeping them in mind when decisions are made. If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to me. I would be happy to talk to you! 🌱

Bryon Stilley is the general manager of Chariton Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc.



BENEFIT OF MEMBERSHIP

Use your card and save!

Visit Cutting Edge in Albia. New clients receive **10% off** any chemical service.



Check www.connections.coop for all available discounts.

High school seniors: Don't miss your chance at a scholarship!

Are you – or do you know – a graduating high school or homeschooled senior? If so, apply now for a Chariton Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc., scholarship. CVEC will be awarding \$5,500 in scholarship money to graduating high school students this May!

Four \$1,000 individual scholarships will be awarded to students who will be pursuing a post-secondary education. In addition to that amount, CVEC will also award a \$1,500 individual scholarship to a graduating senior who will be majoring in electrical engineering or electrical hot line work at an accredited line school.



Qualifications:

- The student must be graduating from an accredited high school or home-schooling program.
- Parents or legal guardians must be members of Chariton Valley Electric Cooperative.
- The student must be planning to attend an accredited institution of higher learning, including

vocational school, technical school, junior college or university.

- The student must maintain a 2.5 GPA during the first semester of the 2019-2020 school year.
- The student must complete an application **and** a 500- to 600-word essay describing how electric cooperatives operate based on the seven cooperative principles. Tell which of the seven cooperative principles you think is the most

important and why.

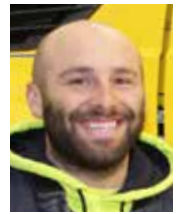
- All completed forms must be returned to the cooperative by March 30, 2019.

The selection of winners will be based on a combination of academic achievement, leadership and initiative, goals and aspirations, and prepared essay. The selection committee is comprised of local leaders throughout the CVEC service territory.

For more information check with your high school guidance counselor, call CVEC at 800-475-1702 or visit our website at <http://www.cvrec.com/content/scholarship-program>. ⚡

Welcome!

Kyle Kirchner, formally of Lochbuie, Colorado, has been hired as a journeyman lineman. Kyle earned a Bachelor of Science and a Master of Science degrees from Illinois State University before graduating from the Rocky Mountain Lineman School in Colorado Springs, Colorado. He previously worked as an apprentice lineman at United Power REA in Brighton, Colorado. "I enjoy working in a cooperative environment," Kyle says. "This area is nice, we have a great crew, and I feel fortunate to be here."



Ryan Romanco, of Albia, began working with CVEC as a 1,000 Hour Employee in May. He was hired as a full-time apprentice lineman in October. Ryan graduated from Albia Community High School in 2016 and graduated from Indian Hills Community College in 2017 with an Associate in Arts degree. He attended Marshalltown Community College, earning a Utility Technician-Powerline Tech diploma in 2018. Ryan says, "I'm happy to join the crew because it's in my hometown, and I look forward to a long career with CVEC."



Mark Waechter, formally of Sigourney, has been hired as an apprentice lineman. Mark graduated from high school in 2013 and attended Northwest Iowa Community College in Sheldon, earning a Powerline Tech diploma. Mark previously worked at CVEC as a 1,000 Hour Employee before taking a full-time position with Eastern Iowa REC. "I enjoyed working at CVEC and was excited when a full-time position became available. Albia is a great community, and I look forward to my career here," Mark says.



Please join us in welcoming Kyle, Ryan and Mark! ⚡

EDITOR'S CHOICE CONTEST

Win an electric weed trimmer!

Electric lawn and yard equipment has exploded in popularity over the last few years. Some electric units are even rivaling traditional gas equipment in effectiveness. Weed eaters are the best equipment on the market for snatching up the weeds from your lawn or garden with relative ease. With spring quickly approaching, you could win this BLACK+DECKER LST136 40V MAX Lithium String Trimmer, with the battery. The PowerDrive Transmission delivers more power from the motor to the cutting string so you can get the job done faster. This product is valued at \$150 and easily converts from a trimmer to an edger.

Visit the Living with Energy in Iowa website at www.livingwithenergyinowa.com to enter the contest no later than March 31, 2019. ⚡



Winter moratorium ends soon!

Members who qualified for Energy Assistance during the winter moratorium – please be advised the moratorium ends April 1, 2019. If your account(s) are past due, you need to come in or call the office to make arrangements before April 1 to avoid interruption of your electrical service. ⚡



SEEKING NOMINATIONS

No Barriers USA-Warriors Opportunity

CVEC is seeking veterans from within our co-op membership to nominate for a No



Barriers USA-Warriors Expedition or Summit experience this summer that is fully paid by CoBank. This is a life-changing opportunity, designed to push participants mentally and physically, help them connect with fellow veterans and break through barriers in their life. For more information, contact Heather Anderson at 641-932-7126 or handerson@cvrec.com. ⚡

Hamilton promoted

CVEC is pleased to announce that Ryan Hamilton has been promoted to Operations Manager.

Ryan grew up in DeKalb, New York. He graduated from North American Lineman Training Center in McEwen, Tennessee, where he had hands-on experience learning about electrical concepts and theory, construction techniques, transmission and distribution systems, material and hardware, and job safety. Before CVEC, he worked as a Journeyman Lineman for Alliant Energy in Chatfield, Minnesota.

Ryan began his career with CVEC in 2013 as a Journeyman Lineman and was promoted to Safety Coordinator in January of 2018.

“Ryan’s extensive knowledge of line

work and focus on safety make him an excellent choice for Operations Manager.

We are fortunate to have an employee with such as excellent skill set,” says Bryon Stilley, CVEC general manager.

Ryan says, “I am looking forward to working with the management team at CVEC. Our crew has great veteran guys and several new apprentices. I am excited to be part of their journey.”

In Ryan’s spare time he enjoys hunting, fishing, farming and spending time with his wife Ellie and two boys Carter (4) and Cooper (2).

Join us in congratulating Ryan on his new position as Operations Manager. ⚡



Be wise to guy wires.

Did you know that guy wires on power poles provide grounding as well as support? Damaging a guy wire can cause an electric current disruption, creating a dangerous situation.

Observe the 10-foot rule to stay clear of guy wires and overhead power lines. If a guy wire is disrupted or broken, do not try to fix it yourself. Call the professionals at your electric cooperative.



Chariton Valley Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

2090 Hwy. 5 South • Albion, IA 52531 • (641) 932-7126 • cvrec.com