

THE MAGAZINE FOR MEMBERS OF SOUTHERN IOWA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.



# living with energy

IN IOWA

AUGUST 2011

## You are there: Snapshots from the Youth Tour

Use the sun  
to show off your  
garden at night

See Page 5



Pump up  
heating and  
cooling  
efficiency

For a buck,  
you can locate  
a lot of  
air leaks

Electric co-ops  
offer exciting and  
stable job  
opportunities

## What's Going On?

# Join us at the Annual Meeting!

The 72nd Annual Meeting of Southern Iowa Electric Cooperative, Inc., will be held Sept. 8, 2011, at our office: 22458 Highway 2, Bloomfield.

**4:30-5:30 p.m.**

### Member Registration

Receive your Co-op Connections Card and a Free Gift!

**5:30-6:30 p.m.**

### Hamburger/Hot Dog, Chips, Dessert

Entertainment: The Davis County Community Band

**6:30-8:00 p.m.**

### Business Meeting and Prize Drawings



Southern Iowa Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

*Our mission is to serve our members and community by safely providing reliable and environmentally responsible power and other services efficiently and at a competitive price to benefit members and improve the quality of life in the areas that we serve.*

**Office:** 22458 Highway 2, P.O. Box 70, Bloomfield, IA 52537-0070

**Phone:** 641-664-2277 or 800-607-2027

**Phone Payments:** 800-927-5341

**Report Outages:** 800-607-2027

**Call Before You Dig – Iowa One Call:** 800-292-8989

**Web Site:** www.sie.coop

**Office Hours:** Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Closed Saturdays, Sundays and holidays

#### Management

Mark Aeilts, Manager/CEO

Tami Weilbrenner, Finance and Admin. Manager/CFO

Jeremy Wilcox, Operations Manager/COO

#### Board of Directors

Paul Wells, President Dean Black

Trent Gregory, Vice President Darrell Downing

Joy Evans, Treasurer Donnie White

David Hopkins, Secretary Dave Yahnke

Fred Zeilter

#### What to Do in Case of Trouble

- ▶ Check for blown fuses or tripped breakers.
- ▶ Check with your neighbors. Ask if their electricity is off and whether they have reported the outage. If not, call Southern Iowa Electric Cooperative, Inc., and report the problem 24 hours a day: 641-664-2277 or 800-607-2027.

#### Service Charges

ACH (Electronic Payment).....	No Charge
Bill Collection.....	\$30
Meter Tampering.....	\$150
Overtime Service Call.....	\$150
Convenience Charge (Online or Phone Payment).....	\$5
Disconnect.....	\$30
Posting.....	\$30
Returned Check.....	\$30
Reconnect.....	\$75
Trip Charge.....	\$30

## Local Perspective

# Member benefits program brings value for community residents and businesses

BY MARK AEILTS

As your electric cooperative, it's important for Southern Iowa Electric Cooperative, Inc., to provide you with safe and reliable power.

However, our service goes beyond the wires: It's also important that we offer additional value that has a positive impact on everyone in the community. As a Touchstone Energy® cooperative, we strive to meet that goal on a daily basis.

That's why SIEC, in conjunction with the other Touchstone Energy co-ops serving 22 million members nationwide, has launched the Co-op Connections® program. This new card-based, member-benefits program will deliver added value to our members – both residential and business – by offering valuable discounts at participating local and national businesses. And it's free.

Whenever a Co-op Connections cardholder shows the card at a participating business, he or she will receive a discount. Each of those businesses will benefit from increased customer visits because of co-op members participating in the program.

It's easy to spot which local businesses are participating: Just look for the Co-op Connections stickers in their windows. You also can visit SIEC's Web site at [www.sie.coop](http://www.sie.coop); click on the Co-op Connections Card, and then click View All for a list of participating businesses.



You will receive your Co-op Connections card at our Annual Meeting on Sept. 8,

2011, the day the program goes into effect. If you're unable to attend, we'll mail your card to you the following week. Once you've signed the back of the card, it's ready for use at participating businesses, locally and nationally.

While our No. 1 priority is keeping the lights on, Southern Iowa Electric Cooperative is committed to bringing additional value to our members and the communities we serve. The Co-op Connections program is just another way to accomplish that goal.

That's the cooperative difference. ⚡

Mark Aeilts is the manager/CEO of Southern Iowa Electric Cooperative, Inc.

## Military Matters

### A soldier says, "Thanks!"

We received this note from one of our soldiers overseas. It was written in response to SIEC's CFL Lightbulb Giveaway for Care Packages program last December. Thanks to the generous donations of SIEC members, we were able to ship 90 boxes to 21 local soldiers serving overseas.

Thank you for the boxes that you sent to me over the course of my deployment here in Afghanistan. I will never forget the support from everybody, for myself and others here on FOB Lyon. I am forever in your debt for always providing those little signs of home that at times seemed so far away.

Thank you again,

SFC Tony McDavitt  
Iowa Army National Guard

## Co-op Connections Card

# These local businesses will be participating in the new Co-op Connections Card program

The Southern Iowa Electric Cooperative, Inc., Co-op Connections Card discount program begins Sept. 8, 2011, immediately following the conclusion of the Annual Meeting. You will receive your card when you register at the Annual Meeting. If you are unable to attend the Annual Meeting, your card will be mailed to



you the following week.

Please note that you must present your card at participating businesses to be eligible for discounts and other special offers. All offers are subject to change, and new offers may be added at any time.

For the latest list of participating businesses and offers, visit the SIEC

Web site at [www.sie.coop](http://www.sie.coop).

### **Bloomfield Greenhouses**

10% off 1 shade tree. Discount does not apply to delivery and planting.

### **Bloomfield Rent-All**

\$5 off any equipment rental

### **CJ's Restaurant**

Buy a meal, get a free drink (no shakes).

### **Clearview Animal Hospital**

\$5 off dental for cats and dogs

### **Cobblestone Inn and Suites Bloomfield**

10% discount – only available at Bloomfield location

### **Davis County Tire**

\$5 off any alignment

### **Dutch County Supply**

With \$100 purchase, receive 5% off

### **Dutchman's Store**

With \$50 purchase, get 1 free quart bottle of Dutchman's Homemade B'Que Sauce

### **ELR Photography**

10% off sitting fees and pictures

### **Gas N Mor/Bredeaux Pizza**

\$2 off a large pizza/\$1 off a medium pizza

### **Hastings Meat Processing**

Buy 10 lbs. hamburger, get 1 lb. free

### **Heads-Up Styling Salon and Tanning Center**

5% discount on tanning

### **Hotel Manning**

\$5 off published rates

### **Image Shapers**

15% off tanning packages (excludes tanning package specials)

### **J's One Stop**

Buy 1 slice of pizza and 1 20-oz. fountain drink, get 1 slice of pizza free

### **Long Term Medical Supply Corp.**

10% off retail products

### **Making Memories Flowers and Gifts**

10% off purchase. If ordering by phone, mention your Co-op Connections Card to receive discount.

### **Misty's Malt Shop**

Purchase full meal, get small ice cream cone free

### **Moulton Locker**

Buy 5 months meat locker rental, get the 6th month free

### **Oasis Coffee House**

10% off any order

### **OT Communication Solutions**

\$5 off any phone and 10% off any accessory

### **Perfect Touch Wellness Center**

10% off our spa packages for 2 to 8 people

### **Rancho Centinela**

\$1 off entree

### **Riverbend Pizza and Steakhouse**

Free drinks with dinner purchase (no alcohol)

### **Southfork Restaurant**

Spend \$25 or more in restaurant, receive a free homemade dessert

### **Stampede Graphics**

Free 1st screen on min. order of 24 shirts (\$35 Value)

### **Subway at Bloomfield**

\$0.50 off any footlong sub or \$5 off any Party Platter or Party Sub at Bloomfield Location Only

### **T and L Market and Deli**

\$1 off any large pizza

### **The Flower Shop**

10% off reg. priced merchandise – cash and carry only

### **The Green Leaf Place Bed and Breakfast**

10% off regular room rates

### **Trimble-Parker Guest House/Bed and Breakfast**

20% off of entire house rental

### **Troy Elevator**

5% off pet foods at Bloomfield, Troy and Blakesburg locations

### **True Value at Bloomfield**

Make your best deal, and present this card to receive an additional \$25 off any Energy Star® qualified LG or Crosley appliance over \$399. Offer expires 7/1/12.

### **Upholstery and Sew Forth**

10% off quilting fabrics

## Editor's Choice Contest

# Use the sun to show off your garden at night



If you've ever purchased a wired low-voltage lighting system for your garden or to position along a sidewalk, you know it can be a hassle to install and keep everything working properly. These solar-powered lights solve those problems; all you do is push the 12-inch-tall units into the ground and wait for the sun to go down, for 8-plus hours of bright-white, LED light.

From Hampton Bay, these lights include stainless-steel posts with a brushed nickel finish, ribbed glass lenses for maximum light distribution and rechargeable NiCad batteries. For more details, visit your local Home Depot – or go to [www.homedepot.com](http://www.homedepot.com) and enter 259 323 in the search box for a full description.

## Visit our Web site, and win!

We're going to give a dozen solar walk lights worth about \$60 to one lucky electric co-op member this month. To register, go to the Editor's Choice Contest at the *Living with Energy in Iowa* Web site ([www.livingwithenergyinowa.com](http://www.livingwithenergyinowa.com)) and fill out the entry form by Aug. 31, 2011. We'll pick the winner's name at random and publish it in an upcoming issue.

The winner of a \$50 power bill credit and other prizes in the June issue was Jerry Berte, a member of Humboldt County REC. Other product winners included James Frazier, T.I.P. Rural Electric Cooperative; Ed Platte, Heartland Power Cooperative; Joseph Volland, North West Rural Electric Cooperative; Jane Johnson, Prairie Energy Cooperative; George Dilley, Southwest Iowa REC; Gene Jackson, Consumers Energy; Dennis Perkins, Harrison County REC; Dave Hawk, Southern Iowa Electric Cooperative, Inc.; and Mary Lou Rinehart, Chariton Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc.

## Office Closing

**SIEC's offices will be closed Monday, Sept. 5, in observance of Labor Day.**

## Youth Tour

# Youth Tour students got the experience of a lifetime

Brooke Bodkins and Jakob Ruchti recently participated in the Iowa Electric Cooperatives' Youth Tour of Washington, D.C. They were sponsored by Southern Iowa Electric Cooperative, Inc., and spent 6 days in the nation's capital, traveling with 31 high school students from other Iowa co-ops.

Each year in June, an action-filled week provides participants with many opportunities to learn first-hand what it's like to be involved in politics, community service and today's pressing issues in the energy industry. Students met Sens. Chuck Grassley and Tom Harkin, as well as Reps. Bruce Braley, Leonard Boswell,

**Awareness Is Your Best Electrical Safety Tool.**

# Be part of a 360° safety team.



Working outside with an extension cord, it's easy to leave a potentially dangerous electrical situation behind. Frayed or broken cords can cause a deadly electric shock. Looking up, down, and behind as well as in front is the best way to remain safe.



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Bloomfield, IA 52537



**Brooke Bodkins**

Dave Loeb sack, Tom Latham and Steve King.

The students also saw historic sites and met more than 1,500 students from across the country who participated in their state's Youth Tour programs.

"The Youth Tour was so amazing," said Brooke Bodkins. "It was really cool to meet my senators and representative and learn about politics up close. Plus, I made friends from nearly every state and experienced history firsthand. It really made me think about what it means to be an American and shows that people my age do care about this country." ⚡



**Jakob Ruchti**