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OFFICE HOURS

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P.O. Box 137, Albion, IN 46701

EMERGENCY POWER OUTAGES

To report a power outage, please call 800-933-7362. We are available to serve you 24 hours a day.

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LIGTEL TAKING BROADBAND LEAD



Recent grant funding is making broadband deployment a reality in underserved areas of Noble

County, where many of you, our members, reside.

We want to congratulate our friends at LigTel Communications, who were recently awarded \$11.5 million in NextLevel Broadband grants from Indiana's Office of Rural and Community Affairs. Combine this with more than \$7.7 million being invested by LigTel, and it adds up to approximately 8,000 households that have the potential to be served by its high-speed internet service.

This provides an enormous boost to LigTel's plan to serve as many residents in Noble County and the surrounding area as possible with broadband, a necessity in this day and age.

Your input through the Indiana Farm Bureau speed test played a huge part in securing that funding by showing overwhelming evidence of the inadequate speeds or complete lack of service in our area. You went above and beyond to place Noble County as the state leader in completed speed tests. For that, we thank you for taking the time to make a difference in your community.

LigTel has already started its network expansion with

construction currently taking place in the LaOtto area, which has a projected completion date for rural homes slated for October.

Then, with its NextLevel funding, it will spread its service territory to the northwest, covering 5,000 addresses and providing a much-needed service across the county.

Communities positively impacted by this grant reach nearly every corner of the county, including rural Albion, Avilla, Brimfield, Cromwell, Kendallville, Kimmell, LaOtto, Ligonier, Rome City, Wawaka and Wolcottville, plus some in neighboring counties.

LigTel will be providing internet packages that range from 100 megabits up to 2 gigabits, a sizable increase in speeds from what is currently provided to a lot of our members.

Noble REMC was proud to help promote the speed test and work alongside LigTel and Noble County Economic Development Corporation to investigate the best solutions to provide this essential resource to our community.

We're excited to champion this new option for our members and will continue to support LigTel in its efforts to provide a better alternative for high-speed internet throughout Noble County – and beyond.

RON RAYPOLE
President/CEO

Noble REMC's Marla Ober and Sarah Dreibelbis help register members who attended the event.



MEMBER APPRECIATION EVENT

Nearly 900 attend the family-friendly program

Soft serve ice cream, splashes in the dunk tank and smiles on faces. You couldn't have asked for a better first-ever Member Appreciation Event.

Celebrating our members at the May 23 event, we appreciated all who came out — nearly 900 of you — to enjoy the myriad of family-friendly activities we had set up at the Noble County Community Fairgrounds.

From a free porkburger meal and ice cream to horse and pony rides, a petting zoo and bounce houses, it was a night full of entertainment options. Members could also interact with community organizations who set up informational booths, as well as take a walk through the Indiana DNR Woods on Wheels trailer.

Our crew enjoyed entertaining you

with our dunk tank — which our guys are still thawing out from! — and teaching you a bit about our utility trucks and lineworker gear. Energy Advisor Brian Hawk appreciated the opportunity to talk about the benefits of electric vehicles, and our directors loved interacting with the friends and neighbors they represent on our board.

But most of all, we enjoyed being able to be among our members and celebrate all that you do for us as customers of the cooperative and residents of the community.

The past few years have been a practice in finding new and unique ways to keep each other and our community safe and supported during such unprecedented times. The

Member Appreciation Event was a nice reminder of just what we do all of this for — you.

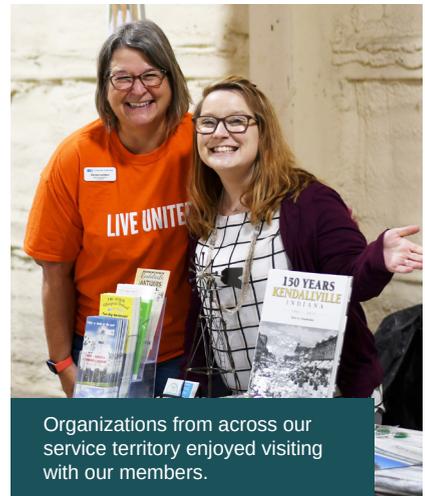
Little ones and adults alike enjoyed learning more about electric vehicles with a Tesla and Ford Mustang on site.



Apprentice Lineman Luke Gillis made a splash as one of the employees who volunteered to be in the dunk tank during the event.



Soft serve ice cream from Noble County 4-H was a huge hit with visitors.



Organizations from across our service territory enjoyed visiting with our members.

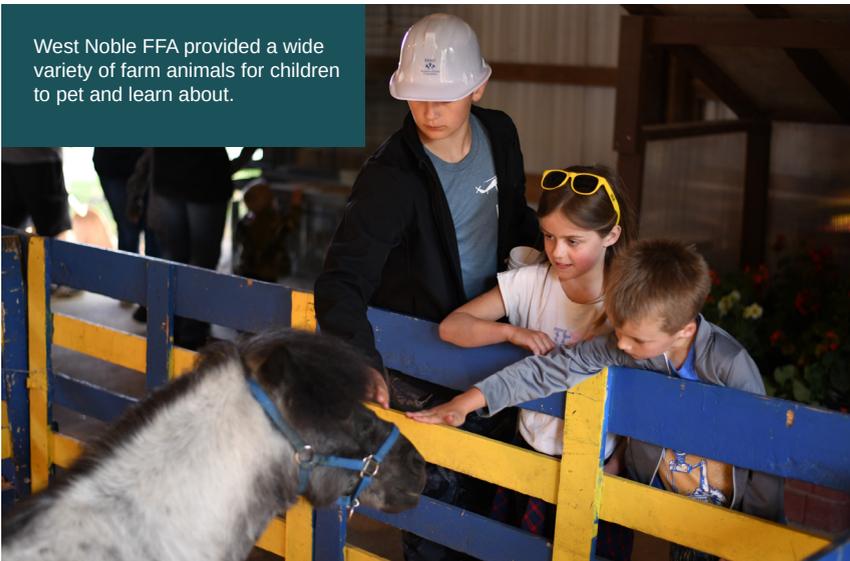
PRIZE WINNERS ANNOUNCED

Congratulations to the winners of our \$50 cash prize drawing who attended and registered at our Member Appreciation Event!

The winners were announced on our social media in May and included:

- Fred Inniger
- Timothy Wells
- Francis Stottler
- Perry Lawrence
- Brenda Fortman

West Noble FFA provided a wide variety of farm animals for children to pet and learn about.



LIGHTING the Way

TINA GIENGER IS AN OPEN BOOK

Noble REMC wouldn't be successful without our employees and directors. To highlight the work that they do, we've established Lighting the Way to place a spotlight on those who help the co-op thrive.

If you want a good story told right, you go to Tina.

After 20 years with the co-op, Collection Coordinator and Member Service Representative Tina Gienger has plenty to tell. Working one-on-one with our members in their time of need, she has seen and heard it all and has the compassion to do everything she can to help those who need it, whether through payment arrangements or coordinating assistance.

And outside of the co-op, Gienger has just as many stories revolving around the things that matter most to her: her family and friends, her church and most of all, John Cougar Mellencamp.

WHAT MOTIVATED YOU TO WORK HERE AT THE CO-OP?

"I was working at the newspaper, and Albion was my town. I would stop here to get the ads all the time. Then something became available, and they didn't know if I would be interested or not, but asked if I would like to interview for this. I did and here I am."

WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE PART OF WORKING AT THE CO-OP?

"My favorite part is helping people — people that are struggling with their bill,



Noble REMC
Collection Coordinator
and Member Service
Representative Tina
Gienger in her office.

especially during COVID-19. I've heard many stories, and it's heartbreaking. It's been a blessing to be able to extend their payments. Sometimes you get burned if they're not telling the truth, but most times, after you've done it long enough, you can genuinely tell when someone is telling the truth. It makes me feel good as a person, and if I can help them get back on track and get caught up, it's all the better."

WHAT DO YOU LIKE TO DO OUTSIDE OF THE CO-OP?

"I like to knit. I learned how to knit back in high school, but then when my dad was really ill, all of us kids took turns going over there. I was trying to stay awake. He told me to just go on to bed, but I wanted to try to figure knitting out again. He got up a couple of times and went, 'If I know you, you won't go to bed until you figure it out.' And I said, 'Yep, that's right.' I got it back again and remembered how to do it. So it's always a nice reminder of my dad, so I continue to do it.

"And I used to play Bingo a lot with my mom. We had a lot of fun." One of the Bingo nights fell on her mother's birthday, and wouldn't you know, they won the \$1,000 jackpot!

WHAT ARE YOU MOST PROUD OF IN YOUR LIFE?

"The thing I'm most proud of, of course, would be my children. They are all uniquely different and uniquely beautiful, all at the same time."

WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE MOVIE?

"My favorite movie is 'It's a Wonderful Life'. All the kids had to watch that I don't know how many times and hated it because it was in black and white."

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE MUSIC?

"Old rock 'n' roll. '70s and '80s is my favorite, with my favorite out of all those is John Cougar Mellencamp. Back in high school and afterward, my goodness, I couldn't tell you how many concerts I went to in Fort Wayne.

"I think almost every concert I went to I got kicked out for trying to rush the stage because I knew every word to every song and I knew he would pull me up there at some point. We didn't have seats in the front, and I'd get down there and they'd turn me away."

DO YOU VOLUNTEER IN THE COMMUNITY?

"I'm in the Rosary Sodality at my church, Immaculate Conception Church, in Kendallville. The project we're working on now is Our Lady Mother of Mercy Patroness of America in Rome City. It's an amazing place. One Saturday my husband and I were out there all day just raking up leaves and working on the landscaping. It's just so pretty."

LOOK FOR MORE CO-OP
INFORMATION ON
PAGES 25 AND 26!

WELCOME, JOSH FITZGERALD!

A Warsaw native, **Josh Fitzgerald** learned about the co-op difference from his friends who work at neighboring Kosciusko REMC.

"From what they told me, the REMC was second to none in how they treat their employees, that it's more family oriented," he said. "I've enjoyed being part of the co-op and giving back more."

Previously serving in the Army for six years, Fitzgerald is the newest member of Noble REMC's right-of-way crew, helping to trim trees and manage vegetation around our

poles and lines.

So far, he's enjoyed being part of the Noble REMC team and looks forward to doing the best at everything he can here to contribute and advance in the company.

Outside of the co-op, Fitzgerald shares two children, Raelynn and Mason, with his wife, Eliana. In his free time, he likes to go hunting, fishing and shooting, including skeet, trap, sporting clays and R100 archery.

Welcome to the team, Josh!



INDIANA'S ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES ADVOCATE FOR YOU



Beginning July 1, Hoosiers no longer have to pay the utility receipts tax.

This tax elimination will annually put an estimated \$28.5 million back in the pockets of 1.3 million Hoosiers served by the state's 38 electric cooperatives, including members of Noble REMC. This was made possible because of the efforts of Indiana's electric cooperatives advocating for their members and negotiating with the Indiana General Assembly to repeal this tax, ultimately saving money for each and every electric cooperative member across Indiana.

You will see this tax as a reduction on your August bill for July energy use and will be shown as a line item. There is no action you need to take.

WEATHERING THE STORM ... AND HEAT

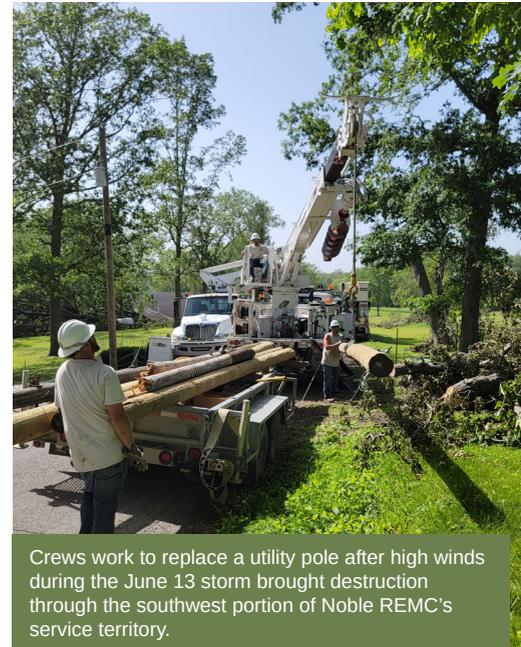
Our community saw one of its worst storms in decades on June 13. Winds of more than 70 mph ripped through our area and brought down trees and poles across our service territory — knocking power out to more than 4,500 members.

From 10 p.m. that Monday until 10:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Noble REMC crews were out clearing roads and repairing damage, mostly concentrated in southwest Noble County.

And on top of all that, Mother Nature doubled down and brought blistering heat and humidity throughout our restoration efforts, with temperatures of nearly 100 degrees.

Though dealing with lack of electricity in such a heat wave, we appreciate you, our members, for your patience and understanding as we worked as quickly and safely as possible to restore service to each of you. Your support helps to power us through those strenuous days.

We also want to extend our gratitude to three of our fellow co-ops to the south — Boone REMC, Carroll White REMC and Tipmont REMC — who traveled here to assist in our restoration efforts. Thank you for displaying true cooperation among cooperatives and helping us to return service to our members quicker than we could have on our own!



Crews work to replace a utility pole after high winds during the June 13 storm brought destruction through the southwest portion of Noble REMC's service territory.

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It's free! We'd like to help you take the best approach to solar for your home and budget.

Contact us at **800-933-7362**.

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