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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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AFFORDABILITY POWERS QUALITY OF LIFE



Most of us use electricity, either directly or indirectly, at almost all times. Because electricity is so abundant and available with the simple flip of a switch, it's easy to

take it for granted.

According to the Energy Information Agency (EIA), the typical U.S. household now uses more air conditioning, appliances and consumer electronics than ever before. The average home also contains 10 or more internet-connected devices. Considering everything that is powered by electricity, it's no wonder we occasionally might wince at our monthly bill. But keep in mind, it's no longer just the "light bill."

Electricity powers our quality of life. From the infrastructure of your home (appliances, water heater and HVAC system) to charging your smartphones, computers, TV and Wi-Fi router, your energy bill covers so much more than lighting.

Today, there is more demand for electricity than ever before. At home, in schools and business,

and in commercial sectors such as transportation, the need for electricity is increasing.

Typically when demand goes up, so does the price, as is the case with most goods or services, like cable or even your favorite specialty coffee. However, that's not true with electricity. Let's take a look at how the value of electricity compares to other common expenses.

Over the last five years, the cost of rent increased 3.4%; medical care increased 2.8%; and education increased 2.2%. **But the cost of electricity? It only increased 1%.** Considering all the ways we depend on electricity, it still remains a great value.

So, the next time you're enjoying your favorite podcast, TV series or movie, consider the value of electricity and how it enhances your quality of life.

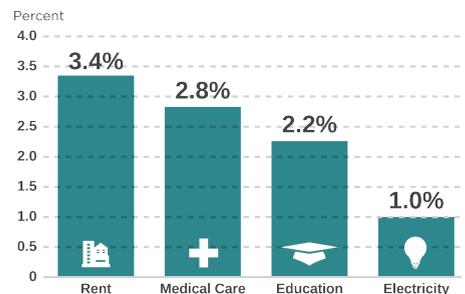
We care about you, the members we serve, and understand that electricity is more than a commodity — it's a necessity. That's why Noble REMC will continue working hard to power your life, reliably and affordably.

RON RAYPOLE
President/CEO

ELECTRICITY REMAINS A GOOD VALUE

When you look at price increases of common expenses over the last five years, it's easy to see electricity remains a good value!

Average Annual Price Increase 2015-2020



Sources: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Price Index

From a dream to a reality

COMMUNITY CENTER IS SPARKED BY COUPLE'S VISION

They say it takes a village, but no village can grow without the vision of its leaders.

For Augusta Hills Learning, Recreation and Community Center in Albion, that vision came from Bill and Marilyn Emmert.

Bill, a former Noble REMC director, is no stranger to giving back to the community. However, he and his wife had an idea: Is there a way to bring the community together to continue growing and learning through exercise, recreational and educational classes and more, right in their hometown?

They started asking around and garnering support for such a venture, and the spark turned into a flame.

The land that formerly housed the Augusta Hills Golf Course, two

miles west of Albion, was donated to the project. Groups started donating their time, businesses began donating their supplies and labor.

What was once a single clubhouse now includes a brand-new gymnasium that boasts a full-size basketball court and elevated walking track.

As a member of Noble REMC, Augusta Hill's renovations and new construction to the site were bolstered by more than \$12,000 in cash back from our Power Moves rebate program for making energy-efficient choices. In upgrading to LED lighting in the former golf course clubhouse, now a gathering place and rental space known as the Lodge, and installing a geothermal heat pump system for the newly built gymnasium, the

community center will see savings of nearly 44,000 kilowatt-hours a year.

From its beginning in early 2019, the community rallied around the project to make the dream a reality, and after two years, the center opened its doors this past spring.

Since then, Augusta Hills has already sold hundreds of family and individual memberships, scheduled and popularized pickleball matches and started booking events at the site.

And the Emmerts' vision created its own village, of sorts – a village of people who support one another in their self-improvement. It's now a place where area residents come to socialize, learn new hobbies, exercise their brain and bodies and do it all right in their own community.



Pickleball and walking around the elevated track are some of the most popular activities at the newly constructed gymnasium at Augusta Hills Learning, Recreation and Community Center, a member of Noble REMC and located two miles west of downtown Albion.



Line of Duty

KIRKPATRICK EARNS JOURNEYMAN TITLE

When most people graduate after four years of schooling, there's a large ceremony with family and friends and time spent looking back on their achievements.

But after four years, including 612 hours of classroom instruction and more than 8,000 hours of on-the-job-training as an apprentice lineman, Cody Kirkpatrick is only looking forward in his new role as journeyman lineman.

"I don't feel any different," Kirkpatrick said with a smile. "I have more responsibilities, but that's about it."

Kirkpatrick started his Noble REMC career nine years ago as a tree trimmer on the right-of-way crew, but once he saw the challenge of doing something new each day on the line side, he started on a new track.

He enrolled in Indiana Electric Cooperatives' Rural Electric Apprenticeship Program (REAP), where he spent four years training and learning how to become a lineman. This included everything from hands-on learning, such as climbing school and tool and equipment instruction — his favorite part — to classroom work.

The hardest part?

To complete his training and earn his journeyman designation, he had to pass a comprehensive exam at the end of his four years that took everything from REAP and put it on paper. After about four hours, he felt confident in his results, but he wouldn't know for sure until the next day.

When the time came to announce the results, his instructors put a piece

of paper facedown in front of the apprentices. Then he flipped it over.

"I just had a giant smile and was relieved," Kirkpatrick said of earning his journeyman title.

Through the program, he also earned an associate of applied science in apprenticeship technology – electric line technician degree from Ivy Tech Community College.

Kirkpatrick, as a journeyman, will now be a leader on his crew. Rather than looking to someone else for answers on the job site, he'll be the one to help teach the next classes of apprentices.

He looks forward to teaching them all the tricks and tools of the trade that he's learned along the way, ensuring they have just as good an opportunity to succeed, if not better.



50

COURSES OF INSTRUCTION



612

CLASSROOM HOURS



8,000+

HOURS OF ON-THE-JOB TRAINING

INTERNET SPEED TESTS NEEDED FOR FUNDING

There's no doubt that there's a need for more (and better) high-speed internet options in our area, but one of the biggest obstacles to making it a reality is funding.

But you can help.

Please take a minute of your time to complete Indiana Farm Bureau's broadband speed test – and do so as many times as you're able. This

will allow community businesses and leaders to provide a much more accurate representation of the need in our community when applying for grant funding.

You can either visit nobleremc.com/broadband-updates to access the link or scan the QR code at right with your smart phone, which will take you directly to the speed test website.



Members to see bill adjustment this month

Noble REMC's power supplier, Wabash Valley Power Alliance, has increased its cost for power. As a result, Noble REMC is passing the costs on to you and increasing the amount of the power cost adjustment (PCA) portion of your bill. The PCA will be set at \$0.0025 per kWh, which

equals about \$2.50 for the average member's monthly use, and will go into effect for use in July that will be included on August bills.

RESIDENTIAL RATE SCHEDULE

Customer service charge: \$30 per month

Energy charge: \$0.0948 per kWh

Power cost adjustment: \$0.0025 per kWh

Security light charge (40-watt LED): \$9.75 per month

If you have any questions about your bill, please contact our office.



SMART ENVIRONMENT

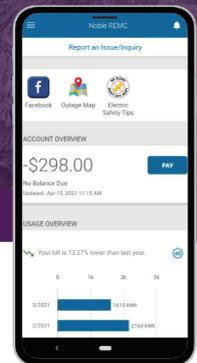
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Log into your account, choose "Paperless Billing" under your settings and switch the toggle to go paperless. You'll then receive an email when your bill is ready and get instant and secure access to make a payment and manage your account.

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Visit nobleremc.com/payment-billing-options for details.

WEATHERING THE STORM

85 YEARS OF HANDLING MOTHER NATURE'S WORST

In Indiana, Mother Nature holds no punches. Regardless of season, she usually has surprises lurking around every corner.

As we write this in July, she seems to favor high heat and humidity, with what seems like an unending amount of rain and thunderstorms, but by the time this is published in August, it could be dry as a bone out there.

In our 85 years as your community cooperative, we've had our fair share of storms and damage to contend with, and every time, our employees are there to make sure your electricity gets back on as soon, and safely, as possible.

Tornados can't stop us. Whether it's like the one in 1974 which caused \$27,000 worth of destruction, or makes a larger impact, like the one in October 2002 that saw two touch downs — one in Cromwell in Noble County and another in Fairfield Township in DeKalb County — and destroyed \$100,000 of our equipment, we'll be there.

Ice storms also bring another challenge. From freezing temperatures to galloping lines, we've sustained our fair share of damage. In 1959, we were dealing with almost \$15,000 in damage in a January ice storm, while in the winter of 2002 (what was going on in 2002?!), more than \$100,000 was spent repairing damage due to an ice storm.

Regardless of the weather, our linemen and ground crew are out there, making sure you're safe and comfortable inside your



In April 1974, a tornado touched down locally and caused more than \$27,000 worth of damage to Noble REMC — then, Noble County REMC — lines.

homes and businesses, and our office employees are stationed at headquarters to communicate what's happening when you have questions.

We can do this because we're here,

right in the community, living and working right beside you, our friends, families and neighbors.

Noble REMC has been here for 85 years, and we plan to be here for at least 85 more.