

WATT'S HAPPENING

SCENIC RIVERS ENERGY COOPERATIVE
LANCASTER, DARLINGTON AND GAYS MILLS, WISCONSIN

MEMBER APPRECIATION CELEBRATION

October 8 – Lancaster Office, 231 N. Sheridan St., Lancaster

October 9 – Gays Mills Office, 15985 State Highway 131, Gays Mills

October 10 – Darlington Office, 300 Barth Drive, Darlington

4 to 7 p.m. at each location

- Catered meal includes hamburgers, brats, baked beans, cheesy potatoes, cheese curds, drinks, and desserts.
- County Nurses will provide flu shots and blood pressure checks as available.
**Flu shots are free with your Medicare card.*
- Focus on Energy will be onsite with a lighting showcase and sales.
- Door prizes, including bill credits and gift cards, will be drawn for attendees.
- Bucket rides will be offered by our linemen as weather permits.
- 2020 calendars, featuring our winning member photos, will be available on a first come, first serve basis.



Want FREE lightbulbs? Bring up to 12 of your incandescent or halogen bulbs and exchange them for ENERGY STAR® certified LEDs!

See the promotion on the facing page for more details!



Cybersecurity Starts with All of Us

October is National Cybersecurity Awareness Month, and we at Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative want to remind everyone how to protect yourself against cybersecurity threats. It only takes one click on a malicious email, website or attachment to enable a bad actor to gain access to your data.

Attacks on private emails, servers and networks continues to be a problem both nationally and locally. It is critical that we all stay vigilant. We at SREC take our cybersecurity seriously and we want our members to avoid being 'caught' as well. Ransomware, credential theft, phishing emails and other attempts at cyber crime are no longer a question of if, but of when.

Here are some simple things you can do to protect your systems from cybersecurity threats. Remember, the actions and step you learn here can help you not only at home, but also in your professional line of work!

Keep Your Defenses Up!

- Make sure all your computer software--including your web browser--is updated with the latest version.
- Create a strong password and keep it private--it can take five days to crack a nine-character password, but more than two centuries to crack a password consisting of 12 characters or more!
- Treat all Wi-Fi networks as a potential security risk. Never check financial or other sensitive accounts when using public Wi-Fi.

Don't Fall for a Phish!

- Be on the lookout for emails, phone calls and other messages that try to gain access to your personal information.

If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.

- Think before you click! Don't click links or attached files in emails or text messages from senders you don't know. Even if you do know the sender, hover over the link before you click, as they may have been hacked or someone could be spoofing them! There are many ways to spot a phish, and you can visit www.staysafeonline.org to see them all.

Remember, you are your own first line of defense against cybersecurity threats.

OCTOBER IS NATIONAL CYBERSECURITY AWARENESS MONTH

We all share responsibility for our organization's online safety and security, and YOU are our first line of defense.

- Think Before You Click**
 - Always hover over a link first to be sure it is safe.
 - Report suspicious emails or emails from an unknown sender to your spam filter and delete them from your inbox.
- Defend Your Computer**
 - The best defense against viruses, malware and other online threats is keeping your equipment up to date.
 - Work with our IT staff (or provider) to keep your software, including your web browser, and operating systems current.
- Lockdown Your Log-in**
 - Create long and unique passwords. Use familiar phrases or song lyrics you'll remember.
 - When possible, use 2-factor authentication as a second layer of defense.
 - Change passwords regularly, and do not share them.
- Protect Sensitive Information**
 - Use encryption to protect sensitive data.
 - Limit the spread of any attack by only accessing files and folders you need.
 - Do not put confidential information in emails, or instant and text messages.
- Watch for Red Flags to Identify Potential Phish Attacks**
 - Phishing attempts seek to steal or compromise data and will often mimic a known sender.

Look for red flags:

 1. the email is unexpected;
 2. there is a sense of urgency conveyed;
 3. there is an offer that seems too good to be true; and/or
 4. there are typos and misspellings.
- Practice Good Cyber Hygiene On the Go**
 - Treat all public Wi-Fi networks as a security risk, and don't make financial or other sensitive transactions over public networks.

Want more tips to improve your cyber hygiene?
Visit www.staysafeonline.org.

2020 Calendar Photographers

Our 2020 members only calendar will be handed out on a first come first serve basis at our Member Appreciation Celebrations on Oct 8, 9 and 10. (See the front page for details). We had many, many, many great submissions and the selection process was very difficult. The following photographers will be featured in this year's calendar:

- Maureen Prestbrotten, Blanchardville
- Dick and Rhonda Wiedenbeck, Lancaster
- Vickie Wessel, Bloomington
- Karen Hlavacek, Argyle
- Kathy Miller, Cuba City
- Sandra Davidson, Readstown
- Nancy Dowling, Gays Mills
- Isaac Erschen, Hazel Green
- Craig Grau, Livingston
- Linda Hanson, Argyle
- Jemma Holden, Lancaster
- Linda M Goodman, Cuba City
- Kyle Baldeswiler, Darlington
- Jean McDaniel, Boscobel
- Collen McGowan, Seneca
- Anna Schultz, Gratiot
- Jo DeMars, Boscobel
- Jamee Stanley, Soldiers Grove
- Christina Buttles, Lancaster
- Deb Gates, Eastman
- Jeff Kopsell, South Wayne
- Maggie Vetsch, Potosi



Thank you to all of the members who submitted photos this year. We hope you will enjoy this free calendar throughout 2020 as you enjoy the many scenes from across our service area.

Dual Fuel Program Members

***Load Management Test
Wednesday, November 20***

A test for the load management system will be conducted for members of the Dual Fuel program on Wednesday, November 20. Electric heat will be turned off around 5:00 p.m. and will be turned back on starting at 8:30 p.m., with everyone's electric heat scheduled to be back on by 10:00 p.m. This test is done to make sure your backup system and the Cooperative's load management system are working properly. Please contact us at 800-236-2141 ext. 563, the following day if you experienced any problems during this test.





START SAVING MONEY AND ENERGY TODAY!

Focus on Energy wants to help you use energy smarter. Through our Simple Energy Efficiency program, we offer FREE packs of energy saving products, shipped right to your door.

Choose the pack that works best for you!

ORDER YOUR FREE ENERGY SAVINGS PACK:
focusonenergy.com/simple or 800.230.4701

FREE Energy Saving Products

As a member of Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative, you are eligible to receive FREE energy saving products from Focus on Energy. We encourage our members to take advantage of this offer by visiting the Focus on Energy website and ordering your package of products. Choices include power strips, flood lights, LED light bulbs, showerheads and aerators. One package is available per member per year. Visit their website at focusonenergy.com/simple and have your Scenic Rivers account information handy. Your free products should arrive within 6 – 8 weeks. Don't miss out.

**HALLOWEEN IS ON
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2019**

HALLOWEEN SAFETY TIPS



WALK SAFELY

- Cross the street at corners, using traffic signals and crosswalks.
- Always walk on sidewalks or paths. If there are no sidewalks, walk facing traffic as far to the left as possible. Children should walk on direct routes with the fewest street crossings.



TRICK OR TREAT WITH AN ADULT

- Children under the age of 12 should not be alone at night without adult supervision. If kids are mature enough to be without supervision, they should stick to familiar areas that are well lit and trick-or-treat in groups.



KEEP COSTUMES CREATIVE AND SAFE

- Decorate costumes and bags with reflective tape or stickers and, if possible, choose light colors.
- Have kids carry glow sticks or flashlights to help them see and be seen by drivers.



DRIVE EXTRA SAFELY ON HALLOWEEN

- Drive slowly, anticipate heavy pedestrian traffic and turn your headlights on earlier in the day to spot children from greater distances.
- Popular trick-or-treating hours are 5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. so be especially alert to kids during those hours.

Source: SafeKids.org

Mi-Tech Services Inc will be testing poles in Benton, New Diggings, Shullsburg, White Oak Springs, Monticello, and Seymour Townships in Lafayette County.

Badgerland Utility Solutions has completed the spraying for 2019.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Heating requires more energy than any other system in your home, typically making up about 42% of your energy bill. With proper equipment maintenance and upgrades like additional insulation and air sealing, you can save about 30% on your energy bill.

Source: energy.gov



Vegetation Management

Zielie's Tree Service will be trimming on the Gays Mills south circuit along Oak Ridge Road, Hobbs Hollow, Kettle Hollow, and Maple Ridge Road.

It is important for SREC to maintain its rights-of-way for the following reasons:

- Accessibility for field crews, vehicles and equipment
- Fire prevention
- Reliable electric service
- Quality service with the reduction of outages and blinks
- Safety for workers and the public
- Meeting state and federal code requirements

On a daily basis, SREC employees and contractors are working throughout the area, at times on your property, to operate and maintain the electric system and our rights-of-ways. We appreciate your cooperation. If you have questions, please contact Jay at jgardner@srec.net or call 800-236-2141 ext. 566.

WATT'S HAPPENING

Watt's Happening is published monthly as an information service to the member-owners of Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative.

Any questions or comments can be directed to *Watt's Happening*, Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative, 231 North Sheridan, Lancaster, WI 53813 or telephone (608) 723-2121 or toll free 800-236-2141.

www.sre.coop

Steve Lucas CEO

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