

# living with energy

IN IOWA



Guthrie County REC  
A Renewable Energy Cooperative

NOVEMBER 2016

Win a boxful of assorted LED lightbulbs and figure out which kind you like best! ▶ See page 5

**Co-op donation**  
helps bring theater  
back to life

Is nuclear power an  
**overlooked**  
energy  
source?

Start your day with  
a family-favorite  
**breakfast!**

This winter,  
make your  
**energy dollars**  
work harder



## Legislative Action

# We're working for you in Washington, D.C.

Guthrie County REC board member Marcel Fett was in Washington, D.C., in late September with other cooperative leaders from across Iowa to advocate for issues important to the state's electric cooperatives. The annual trip is sponsored by the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives and allows cooperative representatives to meet face-to-face with members of Iowa's congressional delegation. ⚡



**Guthrie County REC board member Marcel Fett (seated, left) listens to Rep. David Young (standing), during the trip to the nation's capital.**



**Guthrie County REC**

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



### Office

1406 State Street • P.O. Box 7  
Guthrie Center, IA 50115-0007

### Office Hours

Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

### Telephone Number

641-747-2206 or 888-747-2206  
Calls answered 24 hours a day, 7 days a week

### Website

[www.guthrie-rec.coop](http://www.guthrie-rec.coop)

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

## In the Community

# Co-op donation helps bring theater back to life



A 92-year-old movie theater in Audubon is getting a new lease on life with the help of a donation from Guthrie County REC. In September, the cooperative presented a check to the Audubon Community Cinema for \$5,000, as a general donation toward the Rose Theater's \$350,000 renovation.

"Movie theaters are the heart of any small town, but they're slowly disappearing as urban multiplex chains move in," said Cozy Nelsen, Guthrie County REC CEO. "We're proud to support projects with strong community backing like the restoration of the Rose Theater that holds treasured memories for generations of Audubon residents."

The Rose Theater has been in operation since 1916, and its current building was rebuilt in 1940 with a seating



capacity listed at 358, according to [cinematreasures.org](http://cinematreasures.org). The renovation will cut the seating capacity by more than half to 160.

Audubon Community Cinema is the nonprofit organization spearheading the restoration effort and plans to operate the theater as a nonprofit business utilizing volunteer staff. The group wants to reopen the theater with family friendly movies shown on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays. ⚡

## How Your Co-op Works

# Don't forget about our rebates!

Rose Acre Farms, one of Guthrie County REC's largest commercial accounts, has been working to replace outdated light fixtures in its Guthrie Center facility with energy efficient lighting. So far, the business has replaced 104 light fixtures, enough to qualify for \$10,246 in rebates from the cooperative!

Visit [www.guthrie-rec.coop](http://www.guthrie-rec.coop) to learn more about our rebates for home, farm and business. ⚡



**CEO Cozy Nelsen (left) and member services clerk Marlene Chalfant (right) from Guthrie County REC presented the rebate check to Rose Acre Farms plant manager John Knobbe.**

# Do you know the differences between overhead and underground power lines?

There are two methods of installing power lines that carry electricity to your home: overhead and underground. Members of Guthrie County REC often ask why we use one versus the other – and which method is better.

Although 75 percent of Guthrie County REC's new service lines are underground, they still only comprise about 22 percent of our entire service territory of 1,395 miles.

Overhead lines may not be pretty, but they have their advantages. They're cheaper to build than underground, quicker to construct, less expensive to repair and upgrade, can be built anywhere and support any voltage.

Conversely, underground lines aren't vulnerable to damage from trees, there is no right-of-way trimming required, they're not impacted by wind, snow or ice, and critters are less likely to come in contact with underground lines and cause blinks or outages. However, underground lines are more expensive to build and repair, more susceptible to flooding and still are fed by over-



Photo: Nancy Plagge

head lines that at some point also make them vulnerable to outages and interruptions.

Determining if power lines should be overhead or underground boils down to what's best for the situation. The ultimate mix of underground and overhead construction used by Guthrie County REC provides you, our members, with the highest possible quality of service at the lowest possible price. Cost, appearance, reliability, maintenance and future upgrades will drive which is the better approach, overhead or underground. ⚡

## WHAT DO I NEED TO WEATHER STRIP DOORS & WINDOWS?

There are a variety of materials available to weather strip your home. Here are a few options:

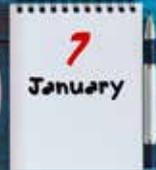
Felt	Rolled/ Reinforced Vinyl	Reinforced Foam
Reinforce with a flexible metal strip. Staple, glue or tack into place.	Pliable or rigid strip gasket (attached to wood or metal strips)	Closed-cell foam attached to wood or metal strips.
<b>Cost:</b> Low	<b>Cost:</b> Low to moderate	<b>Cost:</b> Moderately low
<b>Advantages:</b> Easy to install and inexpensive.	<b>Advantages:</b> Easy installation, various colors, some types of rigid strip gaskets allow for height adjustment.	<b>Advantages:</b> Effective sealer, rigid, proven to work well.
<b>Disadvantages:</b> Low durability. Don't use where exposed to lots of moisture. All-wool felt is more durable but very visible.	<b>Disadvantages:</b> Very visible.	<b>Disadvantages:</b> Very visible. <i>*Apply weather stripping around the door frame and stop. At the bottom of a door, install a door sweep, door shoe or threshold; or apply reinforced foam weather stripping. Apply weather stripping at the top and bottom of window sash.</i>



<http://energy.gov/energysaver/articles/weatherstripping>

## Save the Date

Guthrie County REC Annual Meeting



Jan. 7, 2017 • 12:30 p.m.

### Lake Panorama Conference Center

Have a voice in your co-op by joining your fellow member-owners at the 2017 Annual Meeting. The meeting will include cooperative updates from the past year, the election of three directors, a free membership meal and several prize drawings. Watch for more information in the next issue of *Living with Energy in Iowa* magazine. ⚡

## Editor's Choice Contest

Win \$125 worth of assorted LED lightbulbs!



This month's prize package includes a variety of energy-saving 60-watt equivalent LED bulbs, including soft white (for living areas and bedrooms), daylight (for the kitchen, garage and basement) and some you can adjust for color preference. We're also including a holiday bonus: two 66-foot-long strings of decorative outdoor LED lights and a heavy-duty 24-hour timer.

To enter this month's contest, complete the entry form at the *Living with Energy in Iowa* website ([www.livingwithenergyiniowa.com](http://www.livingwithenergyiniowa.com)) by Nov. 30, 2016. ⚡

## Safety Matters

# Keep kitchen safety in mind during the holidays

While you're busy in the kitchen preparing your Thanksgiving feast, Safe Electricity wants to help you keep your family and friends safe:



- Inspect all small appliances and electric cords to make sure they're in good condition before using them. Don't use appliances if cords are cracked or frayed.
- Read the operating instructions of any new appliance before use.
- When purchasing new kitchen appliances, look for UL listed appliances with automatic shutoff features.
- Never plug more than one high-wattage appliance, such as a microwave or toaster oven, into a single outlet.
- Keep young children away from cooking appliances and supervise them closely in food-preparation areas.
- Stay focused and attentive to baking, boiling and simmering foods.
- Make sure outlets near sinks are equipped with properly tested ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) to prevent shocks.
- Always know the location of a working fire extinguisher – and know how to operate it.

To learn more about electrical safety, visit [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org).

## Office Closing

**Guthrie County REC will be closed Friday, Nov. 11, for Veterans Day and Thursday, Nov. 24, for Thanksgiving.**

## Financial Matters

# Capital credit checks will be sent to members next month

One of the benefits of being served by an electric cooperative like Guthrie County REC is something called “capital credits,” or margins. As a not-for-profit utility, when Guthrie County REC makes more money than it needs for operating costs, capital improvements and cash reserves, we return that money to you, our member-owners, in the form of capital credits.

Watch your mailbox in December for a capital credits check. This year, the total amount to be divided among all member-owners is \$850,000, approved by the Guthrie County REC Board of Directors at its August meeting.

How much you receive in capital credits is based on how much you paid the cooperative for electricity during the year in which the cooperative earned margins. This payout represents margins from years 2000, 2002-2003 and a portion of 2015. More than 90 percent of members will receive a patronage check. Money will be dispersed on a first-in-first-out/last-in-first-out hybrid method, which means both longtime members *and* the newest members



will be paid until funds are depleted.

Since the amount of capital credits is based on prior years of operation, it's quite possible that members who are entitled to them have moved. Please keep us updated with your current mailing address, so we can send you your capital credit check if you're no longer an active member. If the member of record has passed away, the capital credit amount is paid to the estate.

You might not receive a capital credit check every year, since it's dependent upon the financial forecast of the cooperative and is given only if it's in the best interest of the membership. Call us at 888-747-2206 if you have any questions. ⚡

## THANK YOU.

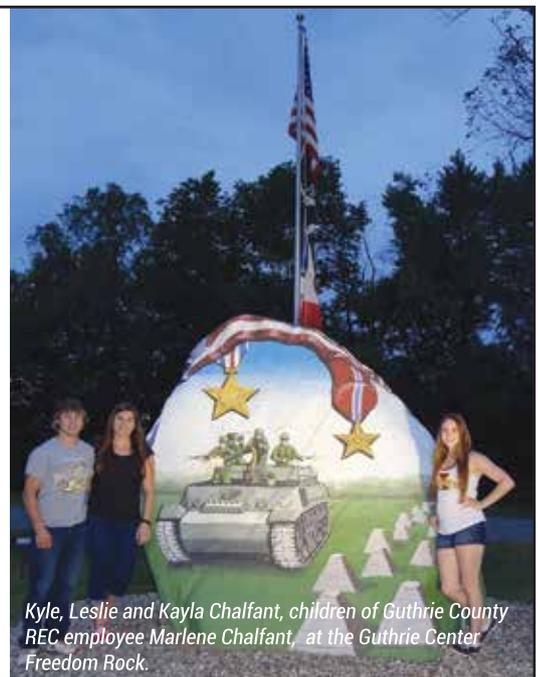
Every year we set aside Veterans Day to honor the men and women who have served our country in uniform. We celebrate veterans from generations past, and welcome a new generation of veterans home from war. And we thank our future veterans, still serving at home and abroad.

To all our veterans, thank you.



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Kyle, Leslie and Kayla Chalfant, children of Guthrie County REC employee Marlene Chalfant, at the Guthrie Center Freedom Rock.