

Local volunteer nominated for statewide Shine the Light contest

During June, Iowa's Touchstone Energy cooperatives sponsored the Shine the Light contest for the second year, accepting nominations of those people making a positive difference in their communities.

Franklin REC is honored to have nominated Hope Hartman of Sheffield.

Hope's commitment to community runs as deep as her hometown roots. At a young age, she was taught by her family of volunteers about the importance of volunteering and giving back to her community. The influence from her childhood has created an outstanding young adult whose dedication benefits her community.

During Hope's freshman year of high school, she began her own project to positively impact her community and help fill a void seen by many people. That spring, the city of Sheffield witnessed their empty flower pots on Main Street evolve into Hope's Sheffield Main Street Flower Planter project. Hope, with assistance from her family, filled a dozen large flower pots with beautiful, colorful floral arrangements.

The first year of Hope's project was a learning curve, as the heat and full sun took a toll on the plants. Over the years, Hope has educated herself on the species of plants able to withstand our hot Iowa summers. In the spring, Hope travels to local greenhouses in search of that year's flowers. She has received tremendous support from local businesses on or-

dering specific plants for her project. This summer marks Hope's fourth year of planting and maintaining the blooming flower pot planters lining Main Street in Sheffield.

The hours of watering and nurturing by Hope are well worth the smiles the project brings to community members' faces. Some of Hope's favorite visitors are the Sheffield Senior Center residents. "Hearing them 'ooo' and 'ahh' about them always makes my heart really warm and makes me want to keep doing this project," she commented. Likewise, Sheffield business owners enjoy the overflowing beautiful flower pots embellishing their store fronts.

Not only does Hope spend countless hours on her Sheffield Main Street Flower Planter project, but new opportunities to support fellow community members have emerged. During the day, Hope is spending time either helping at her grandparent's Christmas tree farm or working at Sheffield City Hall. On summer nights you'll find her at the ball fields umping Little League games. In Hope's spare time she assists a handful of elderly residents by caring for their landscaping and flowers.

Hope's desire to positively impact the lives around her has influenced her future plans, as well. This fall, Hope



Hope Hartman, Sheffield, pictured with one of her planters on Main Street in Sheffield.

will begin her studies for her degree in secondary education with an emphasis in family and consumer sciences. If chosen as a Shine the Light recipient, Hope will donate her \$2,000 prize money to the Coulter-Alexander-Latimer school district's greenhouse program to help further educate students on the benefits of plants.

Even at a young age Hope recognized a need for her community and acted upon it. With a few plants, Hope was able to create a dazzling downtown for all Sheffield residents and visitors to 'ooo' and 'ahh' over. Hope's initiative to give back to her community without expectation is an example of how great character is built.

Be sure to read the September issue of *Iowa Electric Cooperative Living* magazine in which the three Shine the Light contest winners will be featured.

Stop by and see us at the Iowa State Fair!

Visit our booth in the 4-H Exhibits Building on the southwest end of the fairgrounds. We'll have plastic hard hats and suckers for kids (*while supplies last*).

Try on some real lineworker gear and pose for fun photos in our safety selfie station!



IowaStateFair

OFFICIAL SPONSOR

AUG 11-21 2022

The Touchstone Energy Cooperatives of Iowa are pleased to once again sponsor the 4-H Exhibits Building at the 2022 Iowa State Fair. We are proud to be a Touchstone Energy member, which means we're part of a nationwide network of locally owned co-ops that provides resources and leverages partnerships to help member-consumers use energy wisely.

If you're planning a visit to the Iowa State Fair from August 11-21, make sure to stop by and see us in the air-conditioned 4-H Exhibits Building on the southwest corner of the fairgrounds.

Electric co-op staff from across the

state will hand out plastic hard hats and suckers for the kids while supplies last. Kids can also try on some lineworker safety gear and take fun photos in our co-op safety selfie station!

We look forward to connecting with our co-op members at the Iowa State Fair this summer. Please stop by our booth and say hello!



Marathon

WATER HEATERS

In the market for a new electric water heater?

Contact us for information on the Marathon--offering durability, lightweight design, and a limited lifetime tank warranty for original purchaser.

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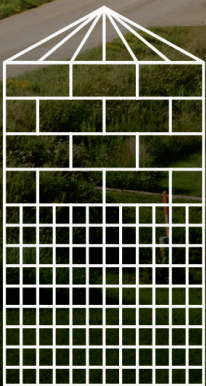
Water heating saving ideas

- For households of 1-2 members, a setting of 115 degrees F may work.
- Install a water heater blanket.
- Drain 1-2 gallons from bottom of water heater each year to reduce sediment build up.
- Install heat traps on hot and cold water lines when it's time to replace your water heater.
- Insulate exposed hot water lines.
- Limit shower length to 5-7 minutes.
- Install water saving shower heads.
- Fix dripping faucets.
- Don't let the water run while brushing your teeth or shaving.



Play it safe near grain bins.

When moving equipment, be aware of power lines and maintain at least a 10-foot clearance to ensure safety. Follow all guidelines set by the National Electrical Safety Code.



Fundraiser held for Light Up the Night 2022

On July 1, Fareway Stores in Hampton hosted a steak sandwich grill out fundraiser benefiting Franklin REC's Light Up the Night 2022. With assistance from Franklin REC staff and the Franklin County Cattlemen Association, over 500 steak meals were served during the lunch hours.

Fareway donated all proceeds from the grill out, totaling \$1,331, toward Light Up the Night. Thank you to Fareway for hosting the fundraiser and contributing to this year's event- we can't wait to spread our holiday cheer!

A huge THANK YOU to all the individuals and business who supported and helped create a successful fundraiser. We would also like to recognize the Franklin County Cattlemen Association for grilling.

In addition to the grill out fundraiser, Franklin REC has received a \$1,500 grant from Franklin County Tourism. This is the second year Franklin REC has received funds from Franklin County Tourism, the grant funds received for Light Up the Night 2021 were used to purchase power inverters for the lighted parade and lights displayed at the Band Shell Park.

Franklin REC would like to thank everyone helping to promote the event. Mark your calendars for Saturday, Nov. 26 at Band Shell Park, Hampton, for Light Up the Night 2022!



Fareway, Hampton, donated proceeds of \$1,331 from the grilling fundraiser to Light Up the Night 2022. L to R: Fareway Meat Manager Walt Mason, Franklin REC General Manager/CEO Garrett Thompson, and Fareway Grocery Manager Rick Schall

Leave air conditioner on during vacations

If you're thinking about saving a few bucks by turning off your central air conditioning while you escape for summer vacation, consider what you might need to keep cool in your home while you're gone.

At the top of that list is your refrigerator.

In a kitchen that's too warm, your refrigerator has to work at least twice as hard to keep its interior cold. It will put in that double duty whether there's food inside of it or not, as long as it's plugged in.

That can counteract any energy savings you might see when you shut down the a/c for a week. And it could stress your refrigerator out enough to damage or even ruin it.

Best bet: *Nudge the thermostat up four to five degrees higher than usual* before you leave for vacation. That way, your house won't be as cool as it would be to keep people comfortable, but it won't get so warm that your refrigerator is overworked.

Plus, keeping the a/c on could prevent other problems that can occur in a home that is too humid because of a lack of air conditioning, like mold and mildew growth and even damage to electronics.



Our Touchstone Energy Values

Integrity | Accountability | Innovation | Commitment to Community | Teamwork



Franklin REC at the 2022 Franklin County Fair

Congratulations to Fair Prize Winners

Ed Hert - Franklin REC Community Solar Subscription

Scot Horner - Franklin REC Community Solar Subscription

Duane Barkema - Two 2023 Franklin County Fair POP Passes

Diane Paine - Basin Electric Power Cooperative Tool Bag



SPARKS of news

Board room highlights

At their June meeting, Franklin REC directors:

- Approved RESCO director
- Approved 2022/2023 IAEC fees
- Approved Revolving Loan Fund committee members
- Approved estate patronage retirements
- Approved NRECA regional voting delegates
- Reviewed financial reports

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