



Franklin REC Holiday Hours

We will be closed:
Thursday, Dec. 24
Friday, Dec. 25
Friday, Jan. 1

Our phones are
answered 24/7:
641-456-2557

SPARKS of news

Scholarships available

Dependents of Franklin REC members are encouraged to apply for scholarships to be used for college in the fall of 2021 (including two-year and four-year schools and vocational and technical schools). Visit franklinrec.coop for details and see the inside pages of this newsletter for information on each scholarship.

SAVE THE DATE: YOUR 2021 ANNUAL MEETING WILL BE HELD TUESDAY, APRIL 6, 2021

We love hearing great news from our members!

"Wow! My electric bill really went down! Guess I needed that new Marathon water heater! It owes me nothing! Can you believe it made it 30 years? Thanks again. Love my REC."

From Franklin REC member,
Mary Jackson



Heat pumps: They do more than heat

What are heat pumps and how do they work?

In general, a heat pump extracts heat from one place and transfers it to another (similar to how an air conditioner or refrigerator cools). In warmer months, it takes heat from inside a home and relocates it outdoors, helping to make your home cooler. In the cooler months, it produces heat energy from the outside and moves it inside, which helps to warm your home.

Do they save energy?

Energy.gov estimates that heat pumps can reduce a home's electricity use for heating by approximately 50 percent compared to furnaces and baseboard heaters.

Is there more than one type?

- **Air-to-air or air-source:** The most common and powered by electricity. With an outdoor compressor/condenser unit that warms or cools the coils inside the air handler, it then circulates the warmed or cooled air through the system and pushes the air through ducts back into rooms.
- **Air-to-water:** Called a "reverse cycle chiller," which generates hot and cold water rather than air, allowing it to be used with radiant floor heating systems.
- **Geothermal:** Also known as ground-source or water-source heat pumps, can heat, cool, and even supply hot water to a home by transferring heat to or from the ground (or nearby water source). They cost more to install than other versions but have lower operating costs and are typically more efficient.
- **Absorption:** Similar to air-source heat pumps except instead of using electricity to operate, they use alternative energy sources such as natural gas, propane, or solar- or geothermal-heated water.



Contact us to discuss your best heat pump option.

Four ways Santa saves energy in his workshop

The holiday season is upon us, and Santa and his elves have been especially busy as they gear up for their biggest night of the year.

Here are four ways Santa saves energy in his workshop.

1. Santa uses LED holiday light strands, so he's able to save on his energy bills. LED holiday strands can last up to 40 seasons, which make them a great option for any festive home.
2. Santa requires several power tools to make a year's worth of new toys. That's why he insists on using cordless power tools with the ENERGY STAR® rating. According to energystar.gov, if all power tools in the U.S. used ENERGY STAR®-rated battery chargers, 2 billion kWh hours of electricity could be saved—equivalent to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 1.7 million tons!
3. Mrs. Claus loves to keep warm by the fire in the evenings, and Santa knows one of the best tricks to ensure fireplace efficiency. While a fireplace can keep a small area of your home cozy and warm, it can also pull heated air from the room through the chimney. That's why Santa always closes the fireplace flue when a fire isn't burning.
4. Santa also saves energy by using power strips. Power strips are ideal for workshops, craft nooks, game rooms, and other spaces in your home. With one simple switch, you can conveniently control several devices and electronics plugged into the power strip.

This holiday season, let's follow Santa's lead and remember to save energy when possible.



SMART TIPS



SPACE HEATER SAFETY

Space heaters can be a cost effective option when heating no more than one or two small areas.



Review and follow all manufacturer directions.

Place them out of high-traffic areas and on a hard, level floor surface.



Keep them at least 3 feet away from flammable items.



Plug them directly into outlets. Avoid using an extension cord.



Turn them off before you leave the room or go to sleep.

Learn more at:

Safe Electricity.org



LED holiday lighting rebate

When you purchase new LED holiday lights and decorations, you are eligible for a rebate of up to \$2 per each item (not to exceed purchase price).

Contact us for more information and a rebate form.

Scholarships Available



- Dependents of cooperative members are eligible to apply for a \$1,000 **Basin Electric Power Cooperative** scholarship for tuition at a two-year or four-year college. Contact your electric cooperative for an application form.
- Corn Belt Power Cooperative partners with **Northwest Iowa Community College** (NCC) in Sheldon, Iowa, to offer four \$500 scholarships. Recipients must be students at NCC studying Electrical Technology, Powerline, or Powerline Technology. Contact Sheila Van Engen, 800-352-4907 ext. 246 or svanengen@nwicc.edu.
- Corn Belt Power also partners with **Iowa Lakes Community College** to offer one \$500 scholarship for students enrolled in the Wind Energy and Turbine Technology program. For more information, contact Alison Mason, 712-362-0491 ext. 4491 or amason@iowalakes.edu.

Stay safe as you go over the river and through the woods this holiday season

The winter holiday season is a busy time of year. Along with putting out decorations and baking cookies, we often spend more time in our cars than usual, which can mean facing extreme weather conditions that can make safe driving difficult.

Along with risk of injury, possible damage to your vehicle, and plain inconvenience, collisions may also involve downed power lines or other electrical hazards. Knowing what to do in this situation can save lives.

If you are in an accident involving a downed power line:

- Call 9-1-1, and tell the dispatcher a downed power line or other electrical equipment is involved.
- Put your window down and alert others not to approach the scene.
- Never attempt to drive over a power line or through water, snow, or other debris that could be hiding one.
- Do not exit the vehicle UNLESS the vehicle is on fire or you see smoke.
- If you MUST exit the vehicle, cross your arms across your chest, put your feet together, and make a clean jump from the vehicle. Then hop with feet together as far as you can— at least 50 feet away. Once a power line is in contact with a car or truck, the ground, or other objects, it energizes the area. The electrical current spreads to the vehicle and ground, and it ripples out. Each “ring” of the ripple represents a different voltage. Stepping from one voltage to the next can cause your body to become a path for electricity and electrocute you.
- If a power line is inside the vehicle due to damage or an open window, stay in the vehicle. DO NOT touch or try to move the wire.
- If your vehicle collides with a pad-mounted transformer, which houses electrical equipment connected to underground power lines, the same safety precautions apply.

Keep your family safe while on the road this holiday season!



*May you and your family have a safe and merry Christmas filled with making happy memories!
Thank you for being our valued member.*

Need a recipe?

Looking for a new recipe for the holidays? Visit the *Living with Energy in Iowa* website at livingwithenergyiniowa.com and click on Recipe Archive at the top and search by main ingredient and/or category.



Have a recipe everyone loves? *Living with Energy in Iowa* is always looking for recipes for the magazine. If yours is chosen, you will earn a \$25 power bill credit! Take a look at Page 9 in any issue of the magazine to learn how to submit your recipe either by email or by mailing to the magazine's headquarters.

UNCLAIMED PROPERTY – IT COULD BE YOURS!



FRANKLIN RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Franklin Rural Electric Cooperative (FREC), located at 1560 Highway 65, PO Box 437, Hampton, Iowa, 50441, is holding unclaimed property resulting from a refund due to the persons listed below.

Please take a moment to look at the list. Those listed have had checks mailed out that were not cashed or their checks were returned to the FREC office. If you are in possession of an uncashed check or see your name or the name of a family member or friend, contact us at the address above, email kringleb@franklinrec.coop, or call Karen at 641-456-2557.

If the cooperative is not contacted by the owner within six (6) months, the cooperative is allowed to retain this property in accordance with Iowa law or deliver this property to the State Treasurer's Office for disposition as abandoned property.

(If no state is listed, the town is in Iowa.)

AGWEB LLC; Akron
Angel, Roger D; Mason City
Arndt, Kyle A/Jackie;
Rochester, MN
Ayers, Jamey; Bristow
Banger, Tim; Farmington MO
Barkela, Dennis; Sheffield
Barkema, DuWayne; Cedar Falls
Barker, Harlan; Clear Lake
Behrhorst, Dennis; New Hartford
Bertram, Robert E/Della M;
Janesville
Blanchard, Jill M; New Hartford
Blomker, Catherine J; Sheffield
Blomker, Dennis; Sheffield
Borcherding, Sylvia A; Latimer
Brighton, Sandra; Iowa Falls
Buseman, Anika; Alexander
Calles, Jose; Alexander
Campbell, Donald S; Eldora
Campbell, Lynne; Woodward
Carr, Ken/Rosemary Blau Carr;
Sheffield
Cates, Robert; Mason City
Christensen, Greg M; Savage, MN
Crawford, David W; Belmond
Daugherty, Nicholas M/Susan K;
Dougherty
Dean, James D; Cedar Falls
Despenas, Regina/Aaron; Sheffield
Dodd, Donald L; Hampton
Dunn, Roger & Sons; Alden
Engels, Mat; Swaledale
Evans, Marti J; Iowa Falls
Faris, Doris H/Robert D;
New Providence
Fitz, Allan; Granger
Fitz, Jeanette K; Latimer
Floy, Chris; Weslaco, TX
Frimml, Betty; Gibson City, IL
Froning, Laura; Albert Lea, MN

Gamble, Greg/Shelia; Alexander
Gamm, Blake W; Mason City
Garza, Juan; Britt
Gibbs, Lisa M/Delwin;
Rawlins, WY
Gjetley, Kim; Tama
Glover, Larry; Jefferson, SD
Greiner, Matt S; Ely
Greve, Donald; Rockwell
Gualke, Roger; Dows
Hackbarth, Dale; Iowa Falls
Hackbarth, Don J;
West Des Moines
Haller Farm Account;
Jamestown, OH
Hansen Brothers Farms;
Vienna, VA
Harms, Troy L; Ackley
Hartkopp, Cheryl; Amarillo, TX
Hartson, Daryl; Fredericksburg
Hartwig, Stacy; Amarillo, TX
Heeren, Alan; Northwood
Heitland, Jerald; Iowa Falls
Henke Farm; Waterloo
Hofsommer, Earl; Hampton
Holland Ron; Rockwell
Holzwarth, David/Rachel;
Ivanhoe, MN
Hovenga, Jody; Clarksville
Hooversten, Sherri; Alden
Isaacson, Ruth/Kevin;
Big Lake, MN
Jackson, Brad; Iowa Falls
Jackson, Charles R Jr; Rockwell
James, Laura; Rockwell
Johnson, Thomas E; Winona, MN
Jost Inc.; Vermillion, SD
G B Keister Farm Trust;
Minneapolis, MN
Kelleher, Diana; Harrison, ID
Ketchum, Karen; Mason City
Kintzel, Cindy; Ackley
Klaver, Adam; Iowa Falls
Koch, Edward, c/o Jeff Koch;

Nora Springs
Koppen, Peggy H; San Diego, CA
Kothenbeutel, Daryl F; Clear Lake
Kothenbeutel, Janice; Rockwell
Kovarna, David/Susan; Mason City
Krumm, Jerry E Sr; Mason City
Kruse, T J; Iowa Falls
Larson, Susan; Alden
Lindstrom, Cindy; Kamrar
Loomis Farms Inc.;
New Braunfels, TX
Madore, Michael; Waterville, ME
Marsh, Ralph E Jr; Phillips, WI
McCright, Scott A/Debbie;
Colorado Springs, CO
McGrane, Ray; Hampton
McManus Ltd; New Braunfels, TX
McPherson, Tracey; Alden
Mericom Corp.; Lake Forest, CA
Meyer, Merlin D; Bartow, FL
Miller, Donald R; Bella Vista, AR
Moore, Jeff; Radcliffe
Mueller, Margaret L; Iowa Falls
Mulford Concrete Inc.; Hampton
Mulford, Jeremy; West Des Moines
Mulford, Stephanie; Latimer
Murphy, John; Mason City
Myers, Steve; Latimer
Nachazel, Goldie;
Overland Park, KS
Nix, Timothy; Waterloo
Nuehring, Lester; Mason City
Oltmann, Arnold H; Hampton
Oudekerk, Gordon; Hampton
Petersburg, David A/Michelle;
Fairfield
Petersen, Ralph R; Falkville, AL
Peterson, Wade; Dows
Point Builders Inc; Charles City
Polzin, Jim; Hubbard
Pope, Jodie; Mason City
Ramaekers, Thomas; Mason City
Rasmus, Lonnie D; Marble Rock
Renken, Ardith; Iowa Falls

Rieck, Terry/Julie; Surprise, AZ
Rocha, Penny K; Alexander
Rodriguez, Martin; Hampton
Rust, Roger; Hampton
Ryken, James D; West Des Moines
Saunders, Robert C Jr/Prima C;
Keaau, HI
SBA Inc, IA04381; Boca Raton, FL
Schmidt, Justin D; Dumont
Schulte, Derrick; Dows
Schulte, Engelina; St. Paul, MN
Shipp, Chris A/Emily; Waverly
Schreckengost, Jennifer; Meservey
Smith, Pennie; Iowa Falls
Steenhard, LaVerne; Sanborn
Stockdale, Verle Lynn;
Okeechobee, FL
Storr, Shenna R/James; Alexander
Taylor, Donald R; Mason City
Thompson, W O; Hampton
Toillion, Mark; Ruthven
Uhlenhpp, Jason/Jones, Christina;
Dumont
Unger, Chris; Dows
Van Dyke, Mark R; Hampton
Vande Voort, Jim; Dalhart, TX
Vaughn, Sharalene/L H; Clarion
Waldron, Douglas; Clarion
Wallace, Tina; Iowa Falls
Walsh, John L; Katy, TX
Watt, Marjorie; Sheffield
Weideman, Harold E; Iowa Falls
Weidemann, Mark; Kingwood, TX
Weiss, Dan; Victoria BC, Canada
Werstein, Glenn/Patricia;
Los Angeles, CA
White, Susan M; Brownsdale, MN
Wiedeman, Elizabeth/Brandon;
Lansing, MN
Williamson, Robert J; Jewell
Wiseman, Coleman; Swaledale
Zimmerman, Linda; Sheffield

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