

Thompson named general manager



Garrett Thompson

Garrett Thompson is looking forward to all that his new position will bring as general manager of Franklin REC. “I am most looking forward to working with the employees and the board and learning the co-op world through a different lens,” he stated.

Thompson comes to Franklin REC after five years at Farmers Electric Cooperative, Inc., in Greenfield, Iowa, where he served as the chief financial officer. Prior to his tenure at Farmers, he received accounting and finance degrees from Wichita State University in Kansas. He then served in various accounting capacities for accounting firms, a trash company, and a non-profit that helped teenagers.

He credits Charlie Dunn, executive vice president and CEO of Farmers Electric, for encouraging him to consider becoming a manager and said that Dunn set a great example for him.

Welcome to Franklin REC, Garrett!



In October, Franklin REC line crews were involved in the move of a house from Swaledale onto a property on Franklin REC lines.

House moving: It's no easy task

Moving is a big job—packing and loading boxes, putting in your change of address, transferring accounts, and so on. The list is long. Imagine adding “move the house” to your to-do list.

At Franklin REC, a house move involves a lot of planning for the crews, too. As John Quasdorf, Franklin REC line superintendent, said, “When we are contacted by the mover with the height of the house and the planned route, we drive the route to see what work has to be done. The line crew will then start the prework for the move.”

The prework can consist of installing temporary guy wires or back feeding members. This work is done to limit the number of members whose power will be off during the house move and to try to ensure the actual move goes smooth.

On the day of the move, the line crew will either lift the wires for the house to pass under or remove the wires, depending on the house's height. If the wires only need to be lifted, the crew will set up on the side of the road and lift the wires as the house crosses. If wires need to be removed, one crew de-energizes the line and takes down the wires ahead of the house. A second crew then follows after the house passes, putting the wires back up. After either scenario, the line is re-energized once the house passes through. This process is repeated for every wire the house has to cross.

Although a house move may require additional planning, work, and crews, service to our members is why we are here. We are always happy to help.

Five electrical safety features to be thankful for

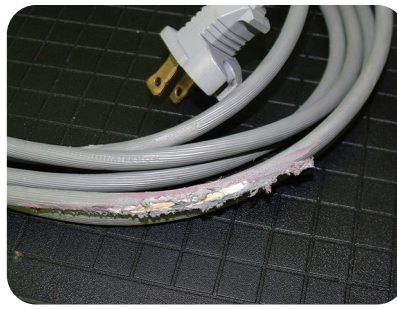
Let's take a moment to be thankful for some of the devices that help make our daily tasks safer and more convenient.

For your safety: Built-in devices

1. GFCIs: Ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) are inexpensive electrical devices installed where electrical circuits may come into contact with water.
2. AFCIs: Arc fault circuit interrupters (AFCIs) are found within your electrical panel or wall receptacles. An arc fault is a dangerous electrical problem caused by damaged, overheated, or stressed electrical wiring or devices.
3. Circuit breakers: These boxes prevent electrical injuries and fires. Each box is filled with circuit breakers designed to shut off, stopping the flow of electricity.

Use them safely: Convenience items

1. Device chargers: Treat charging components with care and use them correctly.
 - Personal electronic devices should not be placed under pillows or used on or underneath bedding.
 - Do not leave cords plugged in when not charging a device. If a child or pet put the cord in their mouth, they could be burned or shocked.
 - Do not leave cords around when not in use. A toddler might try to insert the wrong end into an electrical outlet resulting in a burn or shock.
 - Do not use charging devices near water or in damp conditions.
2. Extension cords and multi-outlet power strips: Use only as a temporary fix.
 - Plug them directly into an outlet.
 - If you are using a strip or extension cord outside, make sure it is rated for outdoor use.
 - Never use a cord that feels hot or is damaged.
 - Make sure cords and strips are approved by a reputable independent testing laboratory like Underwriters Laboratory.
 - Make sure the cord and appliance wattage ratings match.



Inspect your cords, and replace them if they are damaged.



Scholarships Available

Corn Belt Power Cooperative partners with **Northwest Iowa Community College** in Sheldon, Iowa, to offer four \$500 scholarships. Recipients may be either first- or second-year students at Northwest Iowa Community College studying in the programs of Electrical Technology, Powerline, or Powerline Technology. Students must maintain a 2.5 minimum GPA. Applications must be filed with Northwest Iowa Community College Foundation by March 1, 2021. For an application or more information, contact Sheila Van Engen, foundation secretary, 800-352-4907 ext. 246 or svanengen@nwicc.edu.

Corn Belt Power also partners with **Iowa Lakes Community College** to offer one \$500 scholarship. To qualify, the recipient must be enrolled in the Wind Energy and Turbine Technology program, a first- or second-year student at Iowa Lakes Community College, maintain 2.5 minimum GPA, and be an Iowa resident. For an application or more information, contact Alison Mason, Institutional Advancement manager, 712-362-0491 ext. 4491 or amazon@iowalakes.edu. Applications are due by March 1, 2021.



**Our office will be closed
Thursday, Nov. 26, and Friday, Nov. 27,
for the Thanksgiving holiday.
If you have an emergency or an outage,
don't hesitate to call us.
Our phones are answered 24/7.**



Touchstone Energy[®]
Cooperatives

The power of human connections[®]

Giving back to our community

Over the years, you've probably heard or read about our concern for our community. This is one of the core principles that sets cooperatives apart from other types of utilities and businesses. We've always taken this mission and responsibility to heart.

While our purpose is to provide safe and reliable energy to you, the members we serve, we have a greater mission—to be a catalyst for good.

You're probably aware of our Youth Tour program, where we take our community's brightest young people to Washington, D.C. for a week-long immersion to experience democracy in action.

We also have a strong commitment to safety—not just for our employees, but for our community as well. We visit schools to teach children of all ages how to stay safe around electricity. Our newsletter and social media channels frequently include safety information.

In addition, your cooperative invests in the economic development of our communities through our United States Department of Agriculture loan and grant programs.

You'll also see our employees serving on local boards, coaching youth sports, and volunteering at charitable events. Because when you work at a co-op, you understand the importance of a strong community.

We know that our core job is to keep the lights on; but our passion is our community. We live and work here too, and we want to make it a better place for all.

If there's anything we can do to help you—whether to provide energy-saving advice to help lower your monthly bill or to discuss payment plan options—please reach out to us.



Brighten your holidays

It's time to deck the halls with LED holiday lights and decorations! Receive \$2 for each LED-lighted item you purchase (not to exceed purchase price).

Contact us for more information and a rebate form.

Don't bake up high energy bills

Avoid high energy bills and long cook times by following a few oven-efficiency guidelines this holiday season:

- Prepare and chop all ingredients before you turn on your oven.
- Consider using a smaller appliance to reheat or cook small portions.
- Preheat the oven to the exact temperature required. Preheating is not necessary for foods that cook for several hours.
- Leave the oven door shut as much as possible.
- When picking out cookware, brass, glass, and ceramic versions conduct heat more efficiently than other materials, reducing cooking times.
- Regularly clean and maintain your kitchen appliances and cookware.
- More is less. If possible, prepare extra portions of your meal and cook them together. Reheating leftovers uses much less energy than cooking from scratch!

Be a Smart Cookie Holiday Baking Tips

If you're planning to cook feasts or create treats this holiday season, follow these basic safety tips:

Test Smoke Detectors

Make sure they're working properly



Watch Your Sleeves

This is not a good time for loose sleeves

Put a Lid on it

Have lids handy in case of a grease fire



How the Cookie Crumbles

Consider having a fire extinguisher on hand



Where There's Heat There Could Be Fire

Keep flammables such as pot holders away from the stove

Not Child's Play

Keep children and pets away from cooking areas



Keeping Time

Use a timer when the oven or stove is on

Stay With it

Don't leave the room if you are broiling, frying or simmering food

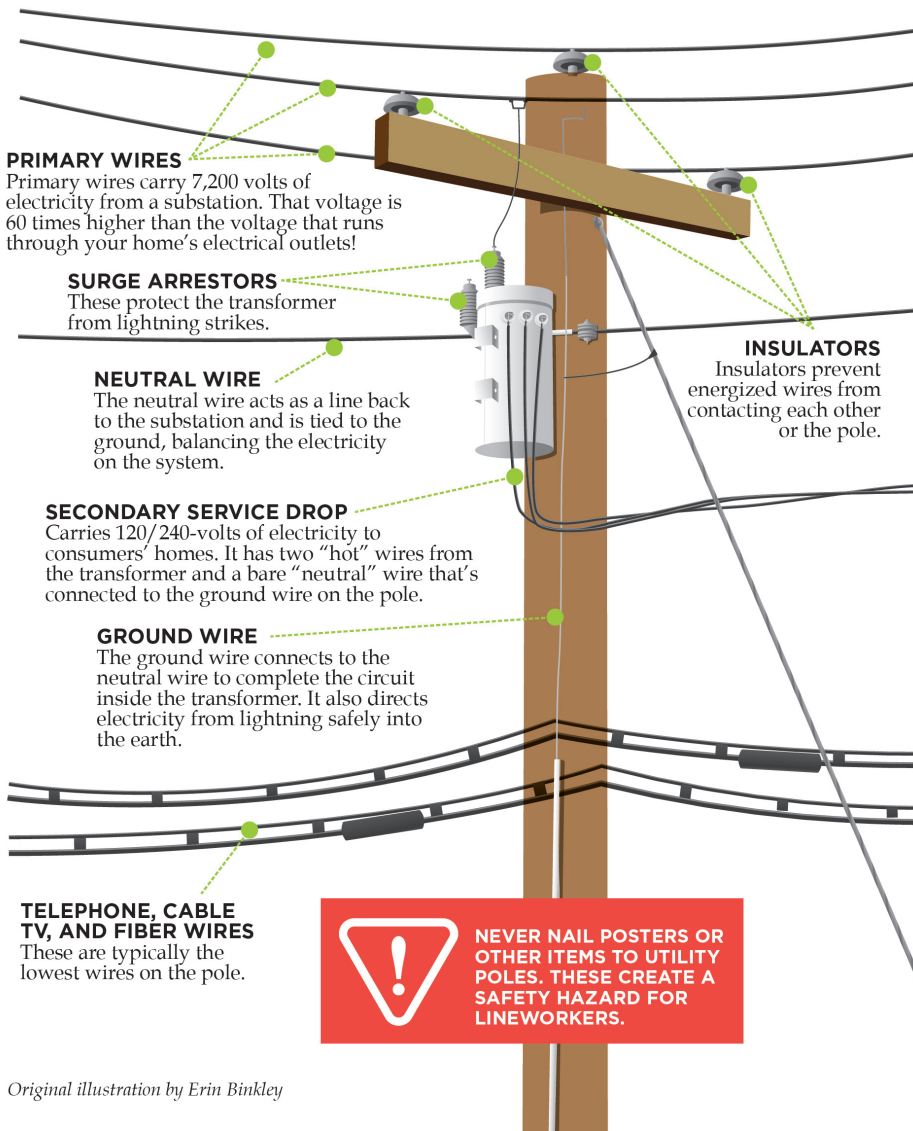


Pay Attention

Take a nap after the feast

WHAT'S ON THAT POLE?

This illustration shows the basic equipment found on electric utility poles. The equipment varies according to the location and the service they provide.



Original illustration by Erin Binkley



Fight back

Scammers are targeting energy consumers, often calling to threaten to shut off power unless payment is made immediately. Or they may call saying you overpaid and ask for credit card or bank info to provide a credit.

Never give out personal information to anyone who calls claiming to be from your utility!

Franklin REC will never call demanding immediate payment over the phone. If you get such a call, or have questions about your bill, call us.

Attempts have also been made in person and via email. If we need to replace or service equipment in your home, we will contact you in advance. Never respond to an email that claims to be from your utility that provides a link for payment or asks for personal information.

If you suspect someone is trying to scam you, hang up, delete the email, or shut the door. If you ever feel that you are in physical danger, call 911.

Contact local law enforcement if you suspect that you have been a victim of fraud.

SPARKS of news

Board room highlights

At their most recent meeting, Franklin REC directors:

- Took action to add the new manager on to the cooperative accounts.
- Examined the 2021 Load Forecast Review.
- Discussed the installation of fencing and additional security cameras for the pole yard.
- Set the annual meeting date.
- Updated the patronage discount percentage for estates.
- Reviewed and accepted the yearly tax returns.
- Approved workers' compensation insurance.

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