



SAFETY: A STRATEGIC INITIATIVE AND NUMBER ONE PRIORITY

By Kurt Harris, General Manager/CEO



At Jump River Electric Cooperative, we are committed to ensuring the well-being of our employees, members, and the communities we serve. This commitment is reflected in our strategic initiatives, where safety is always our number one priority.

One of the key components of our safety strategy is our participation in the Rural Electric Safety Achievement Program (RESAP). In 1965, Jump River Electric became the first RESAP accredited cooperative in the state of Wisconsin and we have continued this dedication to RESAP ever since with impressive results. RESAP is an industry-leading safety program that helps cooperatives like ours achieve and maintain the highest standards of safety.

Through RESAP, we engage in continuous improvement plans, regular safety audits, and comprehensive training programs. This rigorous approach ensures that our employees are well-equipped to handle any situation safely and effectively. By adhering to its guidelines, we have been able to reduce workplace incidents and help make the communities we serve a safer place. This not only protects our workforce but also ensures that we can provide reliable and safe electricity to our members.

We believe that safety education should start early, which is why we are passionate about our youth safety demonstrations. These interactive sessions are designed to teach children about the importance of electrical safety in a fun and engaging way. By using age-appropriate materials and hands-on activities,

we help them understand the potential hazards associated with electricity and how to stay safe.

Our demonstrations cover a range of topics, including the dangers of downed power lines, the importance of not playing near electrical equipment, and how to recognize and respond to electrical emergencies. By instilling these safety principles at a young age, we hope to foster a lifelong respect for electricity and prevent accidents before they happen.

In addition to educating the youth, we also prioritize the safety of our community through our high voltage hotline demonstrations. These demonstrations are conducted in collaboration with local emergency response teams and other groups to ensure that these first responders are well-prepared to handle electrical emergencies. During these sessions, we provide valuable training on how to safely approach and manage incidents involving electrical infrastructure. This includes identifying potential hazards, understanding the risks associated with electrical injuries, and learning the proper procedures for contacting our hotline in case of an emergency. By equipping emergency personnel with this knowledge, we enhance the overall safety of our community and ensure a swift and effective response to any electrical emergencies.

As we move forward, we will continue to prioritize safety as a strategic initiative. We are proud of the progress that has been made but will remain dedicated to achieving even higher standards of safety. Together we can create a safer future for our employees, members, and communities.



Above: Members from local fire departments, road crews, DNR Forestry groups, and Emergency Response Teams received valuable training during recent high-voltage hotline demonstrations. Right: Linemen from Ladysmith and Hayward provided electrical safety demonstrations to over 650 area students and teachers this past March and April.



MEMBERS MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Through Bill Round-up Program

Community Cents is a unique program that empowers members to pool their resources to support worthy causes in our communities. By simply rounding up their monthly energy bills to the next dollar, members contribute approximately \$6 annually. Individually, this may seem like small change, but collectively, it has the power to change lives.

Recently, 12 organizations each received \$250 from this voluntary round-up program. This marks the second year of awarding grants since the program's inception in 2020. We are grateful for the over 275 members who generously participate in Community Cents and support this good work.

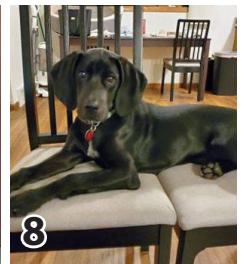
Background: Community Cents, Inc. is a charitable organization that operates independently from Jump River Electric Cooperative. It is entirely funded by the contributions of our member-owners. Members can participate in Community Cents by submitting an online enrollment form or by calling our office at 715-532-5524. For those who prefer, a one-time donation is also welcome.

This program is an incredible opportunity for our members to give back, with the assurance that 100 percent of their donations directly support local causes. However, to maximize the impact of Community Cents, we need more members to join us. Your participation, no matter how small, can make a significant difference in our community.

We invite you to be part of this collective effort to bring positive change to our neighborhoods. If you'd like more information about this program or would like to enroll, please call our office or visit jrec.com/community-cents. Together, we can make a difference.

2025 Recipients: How Grant Funds are Being Used

1. **Chequamegon Area Mountain Bike Assoc. (CAMBA):** Enhance safety at the Hatchery Creek Trailhead
2. **Friends of Rusk County Animal Shelter:** Add an addition to existing animal shelter
3. **Greater Hayward House of Hope:** Assist with renovation expenses
4. **Hawkins Lions Club:** Playground and park clean up
5. **Hayward Music Booster, Inc.:** Musical instrument repairs
6. **Landmark Conservancy:** Land protection and public access engagement throughout northwest Wisconsin
7. **Northwest Wisconsin Workforce Investment Board:** Assist in providing supportive services to individuals with barriers to employment
8. **Northwoods Humane Society:** Purchase much needed supplies, i.e., litter, pet food, etc.
9. **Power House Youth Center:** Help support summer/outdoor programming for area youth
10. **Seeley Trails Foundation:** Expand a novel trail for a wider audience
11. **The Lighthouse:** Help with utility and septic expenses
12. **The Salvation Army of Rusk County:** Provide assistance to more low-income clients





LET'S CELEBRATE YOU!

We're getting the grill out in anticipation of our annual Member Appreciation Days.



This three-day event is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate you, our valued members, by hosting a fun and festive picnic lunch. As always, we will kick off the celebrations in Jump River on June 25, then continue at the Hayward branch office on June 26, and conclude at the Ladysmith office on June 27. Please mark your calendars and look for more information in next month's issue.

WE NEED YOUR FEEDBACK

Randomly selected residential members were mailed a survey in late April, asking for information about their homes, appliances, energy efficiency, and opinions on various energy topics. If you receive a copy of this survey, we request that you take time to complete it and return it to our survey processor or complete it online using the provided survey link. We thank you in advance for your participation.



POLICIES CAN BE VIEWED ONLINE

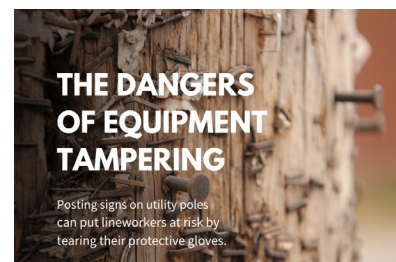
From time-to-time policies are reviewed by the board and management team and updated when needed. Updates are made to ensure that all policies are consistent with current legal requirements or standards and that they meet the current needs of the cooperative. You can view policies online at jrec.com/bylaws-policies.



MAY IS ELECTRICAL SAFETY MONTH

As we observe Electrical Safety Month this May, we want to remind you of the importance of maintaining safe practices around your home and outside. Please remember that you should never hang signs, birdhouses, tree stands, or any other object on power poles. Although it might seem harmless, these items can create significant hazards for our lineworkers. While lineworkers frequently operate from a bucket truck, they often need to climb poles, and any obstructions can pose serious risks to their safety.

We encourage you to take some time this month to review the many electrical safety tips available on our website at jrec.com or visit SafeElectricity.org. For those with children, we have fun educational activities designed to teach kids about electricity safety at jrec.com/kids-safety-zone. Thank you for helping us keep our community safe.



CAPTURING THE EXTRAORDINARY

Members who participated in the most recent photo contest did as we asked and were able to capture the extraordinary amongst the ordinary. If you missed this contest, don't worry, we will be holding another one in the next few months. Stay tuned for details and please continue to capture moments that inspire you!



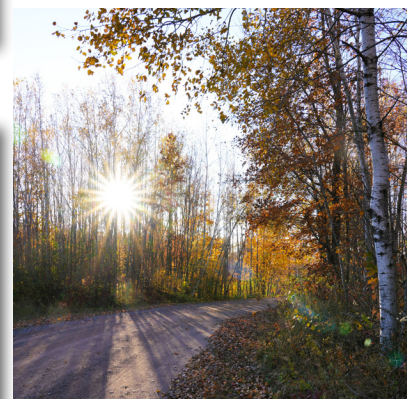
First place: Pat Nehring, Hayward



Third place (tie): Marcia Suchy, Couderay



Second place: Mary Johannesen, Hayward



Third place (tie): Amy Krumenauer, Ladysmith

CLEARING THE PATH TO SAFETY & RELIABILITY

Trees contribute significantly to the beauty of our communities. However, when trees and vegetation grow too close to power lines, both reliability and safety can be compromised. With over 1,830 miles of distribution lines and more than 8,900 members relying on JREC for power, focusing on vegetation management is essential.



Proactive tree trimming and brush control reduce the risk of outages, improve system reliability, and help us restore power effectively when outages do occur. Keeping power lines clear isn't just about preventing outages, it's also about ensuring the safety of our crews and the community. Trees touching power lines can pose a grave danger to children who might unknowingly be playing in a hazardous area.

Our contractor, Zielies Tree Service, Inc., is continuing to do tree clearing, trimming, and brush control in the towns of Aurora, Colbern, Pershing, and Taft this month and until done. In June, they will begin performing the individual herbicide treatment of brush under the primary overhead power lines in the right-of-way. A postcard will be mailed to members who this will affect in the towns of Big Falls, Dewey, Flambeau, Grant, Hubbard, and Thornapple.

Preventive vegetation maintenance is far more cost-effective than emergency repairs after a storm. Managing tree and brush growth year-round helps keep costs down for everyone. You can help, too. When planting new trees or shrubs, be mindful of their distance from power lines or underground transformers. Refer to our tree planting guide at jrec.com to see how far from the power lines you need to be. Always contact Diggers Hotline by dialing 811 before beginning any project that requires digging. If you spot a tree or branch growing dangerously close to a power line, please call our office.

Together, we can maintain the beauty of our surroundings while ensuring safe, reliable, and affordable power for all. Please call if you have any questions.

NEW CONSTRUCTION SEASON HAS ARRIVED



If you are planning to build a new home, remodel, or make changes to your existing service, we request that you contact us four to six weeks prior to your anticipated start date. To initiate this process, please email your contact information, location address, and a copy of the property's Warranty Deed to jrec@jrec.com. Our operations team will contact you once this information has been received. You can also find more information on this process, a helpful checklist, and the new service/service change price guide at jrec.com/new-construction. These fees remain the same as the previous year.



DO YOU NEED A BACK UP PLAN?

It's impossible for JREC to guarantee uninterrupted power as outages occur due to a variety of reasons, summer storms being just one of them. We all need to have a backup plan when the power goes out, but it is especially important for those who depend on life-support equipment. Your backup plan should include the following:

- Have a backup source of power recommended by the manufacturer of any critical care equipment.
- Keep battery-operated devices fully charged or have extra batteries on hand.
- Be sure JREC's after-hours emergency number of 866-273-5111 is saved to your contacts.
- Notify us if you depend on life-support equipment and make sure our information is up to date.
- Have a plan of where you can go in the event of a long-term outage.

PREPARE YOUR HOME FOR VACATION



Consider these tips from Safe Electricity before you leave on vacation. These small steps will help keep your electric bill low and your home safe while you are away.

- Unplug small appliances and electronic devices.
- Use programmable timers for household lights left on for security reasons.
- If on a lengthy trip, turn off your electric water heater.
- Shut all curtains and blinds.
- Make sure your sump pump is operational.

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715-532-5524 (Ladysmith); 715-634-4575 (Hayward) • www.jrec.com



Scan the QR code to find us on Facebook (left) and Instagram (right).

After-hour emergency service, call 866-273-5111
Pay by Phone: 844-967-2320

Find us on Facebook, X, and Instagram



Jump River Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Since 1938

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



JREC is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

JREC will be closed on May 26 for Memorial Day