

Municipal Power News



Town of Chalmers
Volume 28, Issue 2 | Summer 2023



Town to Celebrate Sesquicentennial

This September, community members of Chalmers are excited to celebrate the town's sesquicentennial—otherwise known as a 150th anniversary. The town was officially platted in July of 1873 after the local railway community had grown to include over 100 lots, including homes, stores, and a school. Though the community wouldn't be incorporated as a town in the State of Indiana until 1892, the strong foundation established at Chalmers' platting has led to the charming community that exists today!

In its early years, Chalmers was the hub of a train station, which became an everlasting symbol of the community. Over the course of 150 years, the community has hosted annual festivals, constructed accessible parks and recreation areas, and has consistently striven to provide a great quality of life for all residents.

Several organizations, such as the Chalmers Historical Society, the Town Council, and local businesses and volunteers, are working together to honor this sesquicentennial with a celebration on Saturday, September 9 of this year. Organizers plan for the event to include a car show, parade, a golf cart run, food, entertainment, and a special luncheon

-continued on page 4

Inside this Issue

Page 2

40 Years of IMPA

The Indiana Municipal Power Agency celebrates four decades of operation.

Page 4

Tidbits and Trivia

Give your answer for a chance to win a prize from IMPA!

Page 7

What are the Benefits of Electric Vehicles?

See how readers of the newsletter responded to this question.

40 Years of the Indiana Municipal Power Agency



The Indiana Municipal Power Agency (IMPA) began with a single idea to enable municipally-owned utilities to join and share power resources for a more reliable and cost-effective future. Before the formation of the Agency, individual municipal utilities in Indiana only had limited access to power supply options, and their small size kept them vulnerable to the changing energy market. However, the founders of IMPA believed in the adage of “strength in numbers,” and sought to withstand these challenges by working together. In 1979, representatives of 11 Indiana municipally-owned utilities organized themselves into a Joint Action Committee to investigate the feasibility of uniting into a joint action agency, which would allow them to share generation resources and bulk purchase power at a mutually beneficial low cost.

By 1980, Indiana state legislation was passed allowing the 11 representative communities to unite in the purchase of

wholesale electric power and transmission services, as well as issue bonds to pay for the cost of projects. This allowed the formation of the Indiana Municipal Power Agency, which had its first operating year in 1983—40 years ago.

In four decades, IMPA has been through a vast number of changes, but has always remained true to its strong founding mission of providing a low-cost, reliable, and environmentally-responsible power supply to its members. Through the years, the Agency’s membership has grown from 11 Hoosier communities to 61 towns, cities, and villages in Indiana and Ohio. The Agency has also grown to offer services beyond power supply, including economic development assistance, marketing and communications support, and government relations work. IMPA also formed its operations and engineering subsidiary—IMPA Service Corp—in 2001 to provide a cost-effective resource for members regarding engineering work, rate studies, and electric system management. These services continue to strengthen IMPA’s membership for the betterment of public power utility customers across the Midwest.

IMPA initially began in 1983 with 24.95% ownership in a coal-fired baseload generating facility called Gibson 5 in southwestern Indiana. As the Agency’s membership grew throughout the decades, IMPA would come to acquire additional power supply resources to support its



Some of the founders of IMPA

members and incorporate diverse fuel types into its portfolio. By 2023, IMPA has added seven combustion turbines operated primarily on natural gas, four with fuel oil backup for reliability, to its resources, as well as joint-ownership in other coal-fired power plants in Kentucky and Illinois. The Agency has also incorporated power purchase agreements of nuclear, wind, and solar power into its power supply portfolio.

Since 2014, IMPA has also developed its own solar power program—constructing 44 solar parks in member communities throughout Indiana. This solar park initiative has played an integral role in building the renewable portion of IMPA’s portfolio and diversifying resources to the benefit of all members. Moving forward, IMPA is working toward a projected energy portfolio made up of 46% no-carbon resources by 2026. As environmental regulations continually change, and as older generation units near their end-of-life expectancy, the shift is a necessity for the Agency’s future success.

Forty years ago, the founders of IMPA provided the building blocks for a resilient foundation, and this foundation remains strong. IMPA as an Agency today has truly been formed by its history — the visionaries



that created the Agency, the decisions that shaped the Agency’s operations, and the evolution of IMPA’s service and power supply over time. As the Agency embarks on its next 40 years of existence, IMPA will continue to write its own story and history as the Agency adapts for future generations. •

IMPA Adds 75 MW of Wind Power

This June, Alta Farms wind farm in DeWitt County, Illinois, announced it began operations to produce renewable wind power. IMPA previously signed a power purchase agreement with the wind farm’s developer, Enel North America, for 75 megawatts of power, which has

now been added to the Agency’s power supply portfolio.

IMPA continues to build upon its historic foundation with wise investments in the Agency’s power supply portfolio, ensuring that its members will always have their everchanging electric needs met.

Tidbits & Trivia

The **Indiana Municipal Power Agency** (IMPA) is a not-for-profit organization that provides a low-cost, reliable, and environmentally-responsible power supply to its members. IMPA provides this wholesale power to 61 communities in Indiana and Ohio, who collectively make up the Agency's membership.

What are some of the benefits of solar energy?



Send your answer to newsletter@impa.com, along with your name, e-mail address, and address for a chance to win an energy efficiency prize pack!

Reader Survey

Is there more about your community that you would like to know? Do you have questions about how public power or your municipally-owned utility works? Would you like to learn more tips and tricks as to how you can improve your home's energy efficiency?

Reach out to newsletter@impa.com to suggest topics for future *Municipal Power News* newsletters and let us know what articles you enjoy most, and what you'd like to see next!



Sesquicentennial

-continued from page 1

recognizing the Chalmers High School Alumni. This main event will coincide with the annual Chalmers Festival Day that the town observes with the community each year.

"There are a lot of exciting things happening in Chalmers, from our recently installed splash pad to several community events, and we want to highlight these achievements while honoring our past," said Town Council member Pam Brown, who is helping to arrange the upcoming event. "As the town continues to grow and change, we're proud that it's maintained its small town, community-centered atmosphere. It's certainly something to celebrate."

As planning continues for the sesquicentennial celebration, the team of committed community members who



Town Launches New Website

This May, the town of Chalmers launched its new website at chalmers.in.gov. The website provides a digital resource for citizens and visitors of Chalmers to access a variety of information and news about the community. The updated site is a vast improvement from the town's prior web page, presenting a much more intuitive layout and updated information.

-continued on page 8

are putting together the event could always use more help. If you would like to participate in the day's parade, assist as a volunteer, or contribute monetarily to the celebration, you can leave your contact information at the Town Hall or message the town's staff through their Facebook page at www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100083016295068. You may also attend a Chalmers Sesquicentennial

Celebration Committee meeting to provide your help or comment with your ideas and suggestions. Dates and times for the committee meetings are regularly posted on the town's Facebook page.

Help your community mark this important milestone and save the date for September 9, 2023! •



What's the Word?

Circuit Breaker

A circuit breaker is a safety device typically used in homes to interrupt the flow of electricity whenever the current level gets too high. These devices are vital in preventing house fires or other electrical hazards caused by wiring problems or equipment failures.

Typically, homes have a circuit breaker panel, which acts as the control system for the electricity in a house. Here, you can use switch controls to alter the distribution of power around your home.

While circuit breaker panels are intentionally built for easy access and use, always call a professional if you need breaker modifications, or if you are in doubt about anything. It's always best to prioritize safety when it comes to electricity!

For a chance to be featured in the newsletter and win a prize, send your recipe to:

MPN Recipes
11610 N. College Ave.
Carmel, IN 46032
or
newsletter@impa.com

The MUNICIPAL POWER NEWS is a periodic publication of the Indiana Municipal Power Agency and the 61 communities that it serves with wholesale power.

Editor: Niki Dick
Senior Director of
Marketing Communications

Correspondent:
Whitney Hicks
Communications
Coordinator

MEMBERS

Advance
Anderson
Argos
Bainbridge
Bargersville
Blanchester, OH
Bremen
Brooklyn
Brookston
Centerville
Chalmers
Coatesville
Columbia City

Covington
Crawfordsville
Darlington
Dublin
Dunreith
Edinburgh
Etna Green
Flora
Frankfort
Frankton
Gas City
Greendale
Greenfield

Huntingburg
Jamestown
Jasper
Kingsford Heights
Knightstown
Ladoga
Lawrenceburg
Lebanon
Lewisville
Linton
Middletown
Montezuma
New Ross

Paoli
Pendleton
Peru
Pittsboro
Rensselaer
Richmond
Rising Sun
Rockville
Scottsburg
South Whitley
Spiceland
Straughn
Tell City

Thorntown
Tipton
Troy
Veedersburg
Walkerton
Washington
Waynetown
Williamsport
Winamac

Cooking Corner

Darlington High School Pizza Burgers

Recipe submitted by Martha of New Ross, Indiana

- 1 lb hamburger
- 1/2 lb bologna
- 1 1/2 cups pizza sauce
- Italian seasoning to taste
- Salt and Pepper
- 1/2 tsp garlic powder
- 4-8 oz pizza cheese
- 1 dozen hamburger buns

Mix hamburger and bologna. Chop bologna in food processor. Brown until hamburger is no longer pink. Add salt, pepper, garlic, and italian seasoning. Stir in pizza sauce. Should not be too wet. Let cool slightly. Add cheese and spoon onto half of a bun. Bake 350 until hot. May add more cheese on top. Makes 2 dozen.

Apple Dumplings

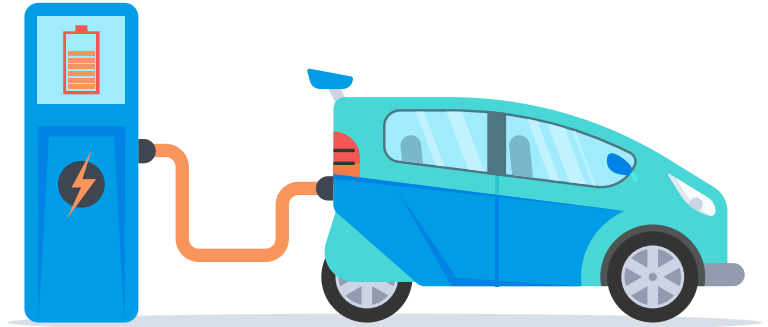
Recipe submitted by Jamie of Linton, Indiana

- 2 cans crescent rolls
- 2 large Granny Smith apples
- 1 1/2 sticks butter
- 1 1/2 cups sugar
- 1 tsp cinnamon
- 1 cup Mountain Dew

Cut apples into 8 slices each and wrap each slice into a crescent roll. Mix butter, sugar and cinnamon; bring to a boil then spoon over rolls. Pour on Mountain Dew next. Some people will add the Mountain Dew in with the butter, sugar and cinnamon. Bring to a boil. Bake at 350 degrees for 45 minutes.

The Benefits of Electric Vehicles

In the last issue of the Municipal Power News, we asked readers to share some of the advantages of driving an electric car rather than a traditional gas powered vehicle. We received a number of great comments from our readers—check out what some of you said!



“One significant benefit of driving an electric vehicle (EV) over a gas-powered car is the cost savings associated with fuel and maintenance. Electric vehicles are more energy-efficient, allowing drivers to cover more miles per unit of energy compared to internal combustion engine vehicles. With electricity generally being cheaper than gasoline, EV owners can save significantly on fuel costs over time. Furthermore, electric vehicles have fewer moving parts and require less frequent maintenance. They don’t need oil changes, spark plug replacements, or timing belt adjustments, reducing ongoing maintenance expenses. This combination of lower fuel costs and reduced maintenance requirements makes electric vehicles a cost-effective choice for environmentally conscious drivers.” – Mario, Richmond

Spot on answer! The energy efficiency of EVs, as well as their low maintenance needs, make these vehicles remarkably safe and dependable. Like Mario, many of our other readers mentioned the environmental benefits of EVs:

“A benefit of driving an electric car is zero tailpipe emissions.” – Sue, Bremen

“Electric vehicles are better for the environment by having a lesser carbon footprint.” – Todd, Winamac

“Lower carbon footprint.” – Charlie, Bainbridge

This is also a great observation—No power source is completely benign environmentally. While the mining and production of the battery components causes emissions, EVs may have an edge when considering lifetime emissions of EVs versus conventional gas powered cars. As renewable energy generation becomes more popular, the electricity that fuels EVs is also becoming cleaner. This reduction in emissions improves the air quality of your community and supports renewable resource integration.

The popularity of electric vehicles steadily rises as consumers learn about the numerous benefits that they provide as compared to gas powered cars. While EVs may not be for everyone, their use is expected to grow in the coming decade. As a member of a public power utility, EVs also benefit your entire community as their fuel supply comes from your local utility. The energy purchased to charge an electric vehicle helps to support infrastructure upgrades, hometown jobs, and steady electric rates that are provided by public power utilities. Next time you’re in the market for a new vehicle, consider going electric!

Indiana Municipal Power Agency
11610 N. College Ave.
Carmel, IN 46032

PRE-SORTED
STANDARD
U.S. Postage
PAID
Indianapolis, IN
Permit # 9555

The *Municipal Power News* is published by the Indiana Municipal Power Agency and the Town of Chalmers.

IMPA Commissioner: Pam Brown

Town Launches New Website

-continued from page 5

At chalmers.in.gov, users can read about the town's history, peruse utility conservation tips, check for upcoming town events, and more. Moving forward, town staff plan to share Chalmers ordinances, council meeting minutes, and water quality reports on the site as well. The webpage even provides information on local weather and gives visitors an option to sign up for news alerts via email and text.

Be sure to look up the new Chalmers website and see what your community is up to!

