

MUNICIPAL POWER NEWS

Columbia City
Electric Department



IMPA
INDIANA MUNICIPAL POWER AGENCY

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The Columbia City Electric Department has helped in the process of converting the former Blue Bell Denim Factory into a new senior living apartment complex.

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Restoration of Former Factory Continues

The historic Blue Bell Denim Factory building will soon serve another purpose – that of a senior living apartment complex. Built in the early 1930s, the Blue Bell building, located at 307 South Whitley Street, served as a denim manufacturing factory for over 40 years. It produced everything from overalls to jackets and jeans, many of which were sold under the famous Wrangler name. During its heyday, the factory employed over 800 people, providing jobs for almost one third of Columbia City's population. The factory permanently closed its doors in 1978, and after that, the building served a variety of other purposes. It has been vacant for the last ten years after its last tenant, an electronics manufacturer, moved out, posing a question to city officials as to what should be done with the historic building.

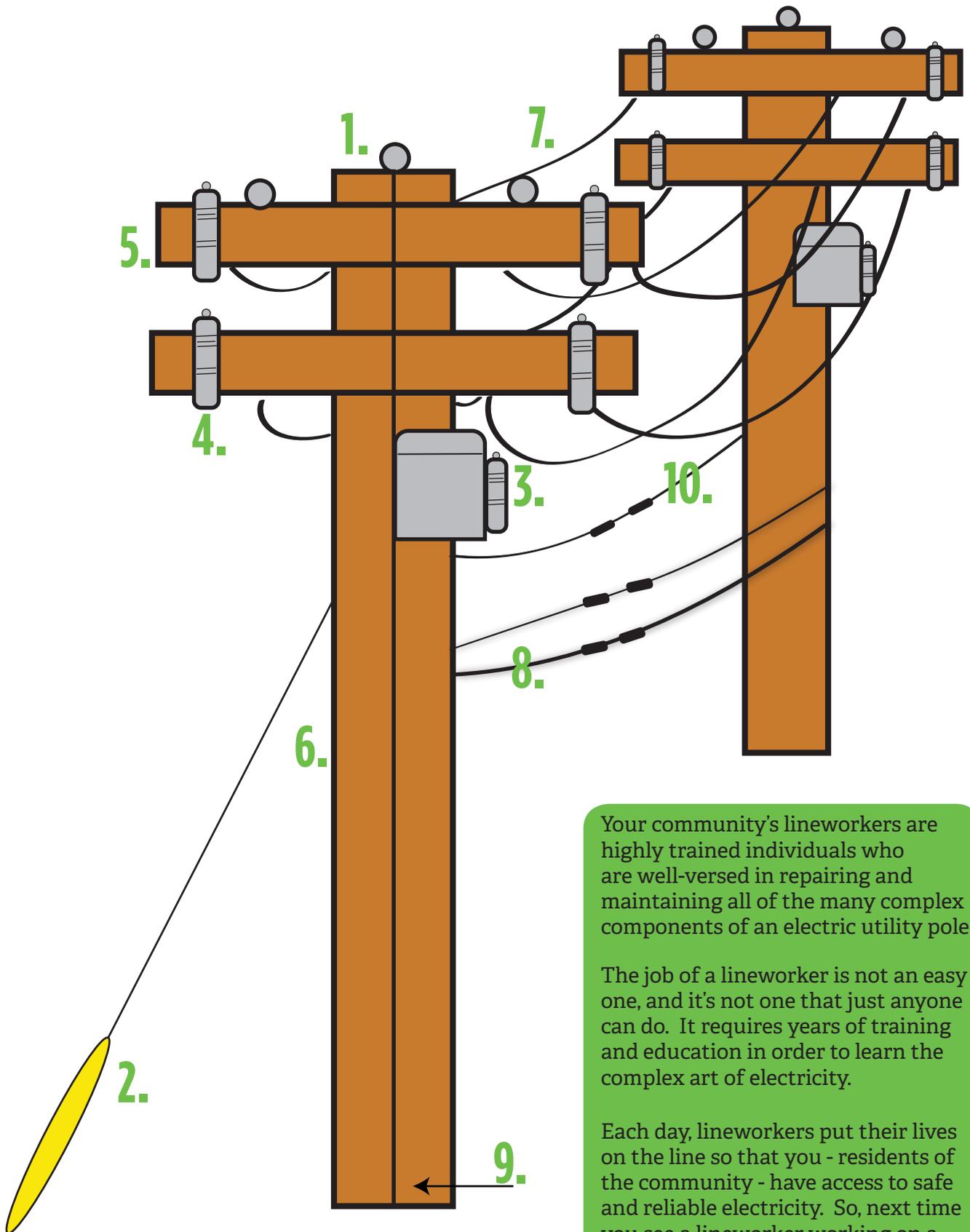
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Anatomy of an Electric Utility Pole

Utility poles are a common sight throughout the United States, as they are located adjacent to many roadways that are visible while driving. While you see these poles every day, have you ever thought about the function of the poles and the lines and attachments that hang onto them?

Utility poles play an important role in electrical distribution, which is a fancy term for how electricity travels to your home or business. All of the lines and attachments that sit on the utility pole play an essential role in this process. Read on to learn more about the different parts that make up your everyday electric power pole.

- 1. Insulator:** The insulator prevents wires from coming into contact with each other on the utility pole, which could cause fires, outages and other dangerous conditions.
- 2. Guy wire:** The guy wire is a tensioned wire that helps to stabilize the utility pole to the ground.
- 3. Transformer:** An electrical device, typically in a metallic enclosure, that converts high voltage electricity to a lower voltage for use in homes and businesses.
- 4. Fuse cutout:** A combination of a fuse and a switch, the fuse cutout is used to protect power lines and other equipment from surges or overloads by disconnecting the power line from a transformer.
- 5. Crossarm:** This horizontal piece of the utility pole is typically made of high-quality wood and holds power lines and other equipment, such as transformers, onto the pole.
- 6. Utility pole:** The utility pole is typically made of wood or steel, and can range in height from 30 feet to more than 100 feet. The pole serves as the backbone for the electric line and holds all of the components and equipment.
- 7. Primary wire:** These wires are on the very top of the utility pole, and usually carry high voltage electricity from a substation.
- 8. Lowest wires:** Utility poles don't just hold electric wires; other wires, such as telephone or cable wires, are also attached to these poles. Typically, these wires are found closest to the ground and are the lowest wire on the utility pole.
- 9. Ground wire:** This wire runs the entire length of the utility pole, directing any electricity on the pole safely into the ground.
- 10. Secondary wire:** Once the high voltage electricity has been converted to a lower voltage, the secondary wire carries that electricity to homes and businesses.



Your community's lineworkers are highly trained individuals who are well-versed in repairing and maintaining all of the many complex components of an electric utility pole.

The job of a lineworker is not an easy one, and it's not one that just anyone can do. It requires years of training and education in order to learn the complex art of electricity.

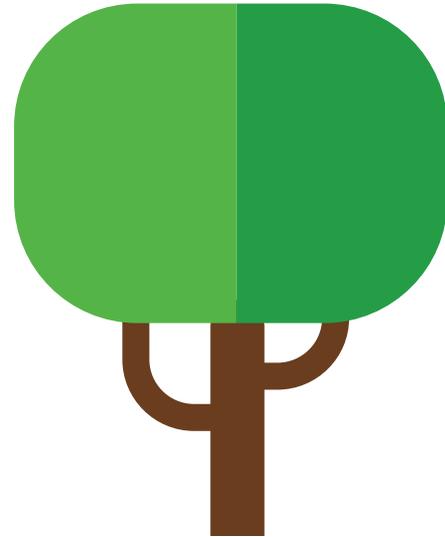
Each day, lineworkers put their lives on the line so that you - residents of the community - have access to safe and reliable electricity. So, next time you see a lineworker working on a utility pole, stop and thank them for their service to the community.

Columbia City Offers Tree Limb Retrieval Program

In order to help assist residents with the disposal of tree limbs from storm-related events or small pruning projects, Columbia City is offering a free limb pick-up program for anyone that lives within the city limits. The city began picking up the tree limbs in April 2016, and there are still two dates left before the program wraps up for 2016: the week of September 5th and the week of October 3rd.

In order for the tree limbs to be picked up, limbs must be placed along the curb in front of a household or residence. Any limbs placed in the road or in alleys will not be picked up by the city. The limbs must be placed outside by 7:00 a.m. on the first day of limb pickup, as the city will only drive by each residence once during the pickup week.

The city will accept limb piles that do not exceed a pickup truck size load, limbs and branches up to 4" in diameter and bushes without roots. Unacceptable materials include brush from fence-row clearing, whole trees, logs and limbs, branches left from contractor-provided tree removal, bushes with roots attached, grass clippings and leaves. For more information about this free city service, visit www.columbiacity.net/events/2016-limb-pick-up-program/.



New Hotel Coming to Columbia City

Announced at the end of 2015, a Holiday Inn Express is in the process of being built on the north side of Columbia City in the Park 30 Business Center. Located at the intersection of Connexion Way and Opportunity Drive, construction on the hotel began in March and is expected to be completed by the summer of 2017.

In order to aid in the construction, the Columbia City Electric Department has completed much of the initial electric work, both for the hotel and for the Park 30 Business Center in general. The department installed 300 feet of underground three phase electric wire all along Connexion Way, which provides a more reliable service than traditional above-ground electric wire. When the wire is buried, there is less of a chance of a power outage due to inclement weather, as trees and wind would not be able to knock down a power line. In addition to the underground wiring, the department has run electric wire to the hotel's junction box, ensuring that the Holiday Inn Express will have access to reliable electricity.

Factory

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Then in 2015, the Commonwealth Company, an affordable housing developer out of Wisconsin, proposed renovating the historic building into a senior housing unit. The company must retain much of the Blue Bell building's historic charm, but will be able to update it with modern amenities. Once completed, the Historic Blue Bell Lofts will be composed of 52 separate senior living apartments with a mixture of one and two bedroom units.

In order to prepare for the construction and renovation, the Columbia City Electric Department has been actively involved in the project, ensuring that the building has an updated electric infrastructure. The department has installed new electric wiring to the building as well as a 1200 amp service, which will ensure that the building can handle the electric needs of every tenant. In addition, the electric department also removed old electric infrastructure and wiring that was present from the building's previous life as a factory. Shawn Lickey, Electric Superintendent for Columbia City, expects that he and his department will begin installing electric service in each individual unit sometime in September. It's the hope that the Historic Blue Bell Lofts will be finished and ready for residents by spring of 2017. ●

Tidbits & Trivia

Question: Which type of wire on a utility pole carries the high voltage electricity from a substation?

- a) Secondary wire
- b) Primary wire
- c) Ground wire
- d) None of the above

Send your answer to the question to IMPA, and we will randomly select winners from all of the correct entries to receive an energy efficiency prize pack. Please send your name, e-mail address and address with your answer to:

newsletter@impa.com

OR

MPN Energy Efficiency Quiz
11610 North College Avenue
Carmel, IN 46032

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 member utilities purchase their power from IMPA and deliver that power to the residents and companies within the community.

Substation

noun.

A facility used for switching and/or changing or regulating the voltage of electric energy. A substation may tie generating stations to transmission systems or transmission systems to distribution systems.

IMPA Continues Building Solar Parks in Local Communities

Throughout the last two years, the Indiana Municipal Power Agency (IMPA) has constructed nine solar parks in large and small IMPA communities throughout Indiana. This year, the Agency is in the midst of constructing four additional solar parks in the communities of Anderson, Huntingburg, Waynetown and Washington. These solar parks are all aimed at adding more renewable and economical energy resources to IMPA's power portfolio.

When energy is created by the solar parks, it is then placed onto the local distribution system in whichever town or city the solar park is located in. As the solar power is produced, it becomes a part of all of the electric generation that is supplying the system, which is typically a mixture of power produced via coal, natural gas, solar, wind and nuclear.

The process of generating electricity from the sun may seem to be a complex one, but in reality, is really quite simple. When sunlight

hits the solar panels, the panels convert that energy into direct current electricity. That electricity is transferred to an inverter, located within the solar park. The inverter then takes the direct current electricity and converts it into alternating current (AC) electricity. Once converted to AC, the transformer steps-up the voltage to the proper level, and is then transferred to the interconnection point on the distribution system. The AC meter measures the energy from the solar park prior to its connection to the distribution system and ultimately the customer.

IMPA plans to add approximately 10 megawatts of solar capacity into its overall power portfolio each year, meaning more and more IMPA member communities will have solar parks within the coming years. For more information on IMPA's solar parks, visit www.impa.com.

How does solar generate electricity?



Cooking Corner

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

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Centerville	Frankfort	Lebanon	Rising Sun	Waynetown
Chalmers	Frankton	Lewisville	Rockville	Williamsport
Coatesville	Gas City	Linton	Scottsburg	Winamac

Chicken and Dumpling Casserole

Recipe submitted by Vicky Hicks-Spear of Tell City, Indiana.

- 1 pound chicken breasts
- 2 cups chicken broth
- 1/4 cup butter
- 2 cups Bisquick
- 2 cups whole milk
- 1 can cream of chicken soup
- 3 tsp. chicken bouillon
- 1/2 tsp. sage
- 1 tsp. black pepper
- 1/2 stick butter

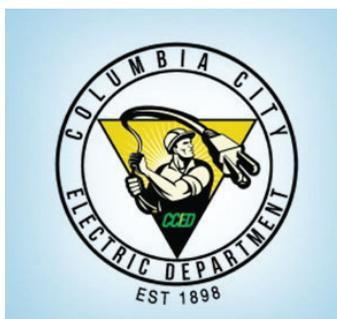
Preheat oven to 350 degrees. In a 9x13 baking pan, melt 1/2 stick butter. Shred chicken and spread over butter. Sprinkle black pepper and sage over the chicken. Do not stir. In a small bowl, mix milk and Bisquick. Slowly pour over chicken. In another medium bowl, whisk together 2 cups of chicken broth, chicken bouillon and soup. Once blended, slowly pour over the Bisquick layer. Bake casserole for 30 to 40 minutes, or until golden brown.

Strawberry Delight

Recipe submitted by Burdett Parsons of Washington, Indiana.

- 1 pre-made angel food cake
- 8 oz. cream cheese
- 16 oz. strawberry glaze
- 16 oz. tub whipped cream
- 1 ^{1/3} cup sugar
- 1 qt. fresh strawberries

Tear angel food cake into pieces and mix with 1/3 of the tub of whipped cream. Put whipped cream mixture into the bottom of a serving dish. Mix the rest of the whipped cream with the cream cheese and the sugar and place on top of the cake. Slice strawberries into quarters and mix with the strawberry glaze. Then, spread the strawberry mixture over the top of the cake.



The Municipal Power News is published by the
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IMPA Commissioner: Shawn Lickey

Save Energy This Fall!

As the summer months wrap up and temperatures begin to cool, take action to ensure that your house and habits are as energy efficient as possible. Read on for helpful tips to save money this fall:

- Schedule regular maintenance for your heating system.
- Take shorter showers. This can save hundreds of gallons of hot water and also reduce water heating costs.
- Replace the air filter in a furnace on a monthly basis. A dirty air filter makes the heating and cooling system work harder, causing wear and tear on the equipment.
- Turn off kitchen and bath ventilation fans after use. If left on, the fans can blow hot air to the outside.

The best way to reduce your electric bill is to do everything you can to make your home more energy efficient. ●