

MUNICIPAL POWER NEWS

Columbia City
Electric Department



IMPA
INDIANA MUNICIPAL POWER AGENCY

Volume 22, Issue 3



Two of Columbia City's lineworkers, Jason Buckles (left) and Shane Mills (right), are entering their third year of the lineworker apprenticeship program.

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Local Lineworkers Participate in Safety and Training Courses

Two local Columbia City Electric Department lineworkers, Jason Buckles and Shane Mills, are entering their third year of the lineworker apprenticeship program. The lineworker apprenticeship program is a rigorous four-year program that provides entry-level apprentice lineworkers with the necessary skills they need to become a certified journeyman lineman. With an emphasis on the

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Public Power Lineworkers: A S

When severe weather strikes, the first instinct is often to hunker down inside and wait for the storm to pass. Lineworkers across the state and the country know that when severe weather hits, it's time to get to work. A portion of a lineworker's job demands working in inclement weather conditions for long periods of time, often during the middle of the night. These lineworkers put their lives on the line each day to ensure that everyone in their cities and towns has access to reliable electricity. Read on to meet a few lineworkers from Indiana Municipal Power Agency (IMPA) member communities across the state.

Colin Leinenbach - Huntingburg Electric Utility



"This can be a dangerous job, and my first year as an apprentice, I wasn't sure if I could do it. But, I learned to trust the other people that I work with. They keep me safe and they keep me alive, and we have a real bond. It's a dangerous job and it's a hard job, but it's worth it to know that I'm helping keep the lights on for our city."

Colin has worked for the City of Huntingburg in various capacities for six years and has been an apprentice lineworker for the last four years. Colin is in his final year in the apprenticeship program and is set to graduate and receive his certification in March 2017. Colin is also a recent graduate of the Dubois County Leadership Academy.

Myron McAlister - Crawfordsville Electric Light & Power



"The best part of this job is that I learn something new every day. Even though I've been a lineworker for basically my entire adult life, I know that I don't know everything. There are definitely some storms that I'll never forget, but it has all been worth it. I'm glad I made the choice to become a lineworker, and I would encourage others to think about this as a career."

Myron has worked for Crawfordsville Electric Light & Power (CEL&P) for 41 years and will retire on February 28, 2017. IMPA and CEL&P thank Myron for his decades of service to CEL&P as well as to public power as a whole.

A Staple in their Communities

Greg Gayler - Darlington Light & Power



"Over the past few years in Darlington, I've really tried to make the electric system more reliable for the people who live here. It's a small town, but we all care about each other. That's what makes it worth it to go out in bad weather. I see that people appreciate it, and I want to do what's right for our town."

Greg has been with the Town of Darlington for the past eight years, but has 35 years of experience as a lineworker. He is the recipient of the American Public Power Association's Larry Hobart Seven Hats Award, which is a national award that recognizes utility managers who serve in the nation's smallest public power communities.

Jeff McNew - Lebanon Utilities



"When I first started as a lineworker, I really didn't know a lot about the job, but the longer I worked, the more I liked it. I enjoy climbing the poles, being outside and working with the other lineworkers. Sometimes people will come up to us and tell us how much they appreciate what we do, which always makes you feel good. It's hard to work in the rain, ice and snow, but it's worth it."

Jeff has been a lineworker with Lebanon Utilities for four years. Jeff was recently named Apprentice Lineworker of the Year by the Indiana Municipal Electric Association and will compete this spring at the national American Public Power Association's Lineworkers Rodeo.

The Indiana Municipal Power Agency (IMPA), your community's wholesale power provider, knows just how hard these lineworkers work, each and every day. We salute lineworkers from our member communities for putting their lives on the line each day, ensuring that each resident and business across all 61 of IMPA's member communities has access to safe and reliable electricity. ●

Lineworkers

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importance of safety within the profession, the training is split into multiple phases where apprentices have a chance to learn the fundamental principles and groundwork of the profession. There are also many opportunities for hands-on training, allowing the apprentices to practice these important skills in a real life setting. After completing the multiple phases of the four-year program, an apprentice officially graduates and receives his journeyman lineman license.

During their third year, Buckles and Mills will take their final class: Advanced Construction and Maintenance. At the end of their fourth year, they will take their Apprentice Top Out Test. Once they pass the top out test, Buckles and Mills will receive their licenses and will transition from apprentices to journeymen.

In addition to the apprentice lineworker training, Buckles and Mills, along with other Columbia City lineworkers, have attended multiple training sessions at the Indiana Municipal Power Agency (IMPA), Columbia City's wholesale power provider. IMPA offers its Second Wednesday workshops, which are training sessions that are aimed at increasing the skillset of utility employees, including lineworkers. The sessions are open to staff from all of the municipal electric utilities that IMPA serves, including Columbia City.

"It's important for all of our lineworkers to receive advanced training that focuses on the importance of safety," said Columbia City Electric Superintendent Shawn Lickey. "Both the lineworker apprenticeship program and IMPA's Second Wednesday workshops allow our lineworkers to continue learning and to review important safety procedures."

The Indiana Municipal Power Agency appreciates all of Columbia City's lineworkers and their passion for continued education and safety procedures. IMPA is proud to present programs that help local lineworkers succeed in their careers and beyond. ●

"It's important for all of our lineworkers to receive advanced training that focuses on the importance of safety."

-Shawn Lickey, Columbia City Electric Department Superintendent

Various Projects Keep Electric Department Busy

The Columbia City Electric Department is busy year round with a variety of construction and maintenance projects, aimed at increasing the reliability and safety of the city's electric system. November and December are some of the utility's busiest months due to the holiday season and the amount of festive lights that are hung throughout the downtown area. The department is responsible for decorating all of the green poles downtown, as well as the courthouse square and the 60-foot pine tree with decorative and festive holiday lights. The Electric Department employees test all of the lights prior to hanging them, and after fixing any burned out bulbs, string the lights around downtown.

In addition to the holiday lights, the Electric Department is once again assisting the city with its tree removal program. This year, the department will remove and grind between 50 and 75 trees and stumps. Once the trees are removed, the department will replace the stump with top soil and

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Tidbits & Trivia

Question: How many peregrine falcon chicks hatched at IMPA's co-owned generating unit, Trimble County Station, in 2016?

- a) 38 chicks
- b) 5 chicks
- c) 10 chicks
- d) 3 chicks

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.

Generation

The actual creation of electricity at power plants or a generating station.

IMPA's generation portfolio includes seven coal-fired units, seven combustion turbine units and 13 solar parks.

Trimble County Station's Wildlife Preserve Helps Save Endangered Species

The Indiana Municipal Power Agency (IMPA), your community's wholesale power provider, is passionate about providing affordable and reliable electricity, but is equally passionate about environmental responsibility and preserving our country's natural resources. One of IMPA's co-owned generating stations, Trimble County Station, is a great example of how the two seemingly opposite services – power production and environmental responsibility – can merge together as one.

Trimble County Station is a two-unit station located in Kentucky that generates a total of 1,274 Megawatts (MW) of power of which IMPA owns 162 MW. Trimble County Station, a baseload generating station whose mission is to operate 24 hours a day, seven days a week, is an integral component of IMPA's power portfolio. It provides a steady and consistent stream of electricity, which serves to power your homes and businesses. In addition to generating power in a reliable manner, Trimble County Station also boasts its own 114-acre wildlife preserve, which includes both wetlands and forest areas. This nature preserve is home to a variety of wildlife, including American bald eagles, peregrine falcons, fox, deer, wild turkeys and many other species of birds and mammals.

Trimble County Station's wildlife preserve has been instrumental in preserving the peregrine falcon population, which was considered an endangered species as recently as the 1970s. As a participating power generation station in Kentucky's peregrine falcon nesting program, Trimble County Station's wildlife preserve contains a nesting box where falcons can breed each year. 2016 was successful for the Station as a male falcon, Favre, and his female falcon companion once again nested at Trimble County, producing three peregrine falcon chicks. In 2016, the entire Kentucky peregrine falcon nesting program produced a total of 38 chicks throughout a variety of participating locations.

Trimble County Station and IMPA are proud to be a part of this resurgence in the peregrine falcon population and are also proud of the efforts made to maintain our country's natural resources. Going forward, IMPA will continue to remain vigilant in providing low cost, reliable electricity in an environmentally responsible manner. ●



One of IMPA's generating stations, Trimble County Station, is home to a 114-acre wildlife preserve (pictured above). Trimble County Station (pictured below) provides a steady stream of electricity, which helps to power IMPA's 61 member communities.



Cooking Corner

We need more recipes!

Send your favorites to:
MPN Recipes
11610 N. College Ave.
Carmel, IN 46032
or
newsletter@impa.com

You'll win a prize!

Potato Soup

Recipe submitted by Penny Cox of Montezuma, Indiana.

- 2 tbsp. olive oil
- 1/2 cup chopped onion
- 1/2 cup chopped carrots
- 1 cup sliced celery
- 3 cups cubed potatoes
- 1/4 cup flour
- 2 tbsp. parsley
- 3/4 tsp. salt
- 1/8 tsp. pepper
- 1 tbsp. chopped pimento
- 4 cup milk (1/2 reserved)
- 1 can chicken broth

Heat olive oil in a 3-quart saucepan over medium-high heat and saute onion until tender, about five minutes. Add carrots, celery, potatoes, parsley, chicken broth, salt and pepper. Cover and simmer until vegetables are tender, about 15 minutes. Reduce heat; add pimento and 3 1/2 cups milk. Heat soup until milk is scalded only - do not boil. Blend flour with 1/2 cup of milk and add to soup, stirring constantly. Cook until bubbly and slightly thickened.

Easy Corn Casserole

- 1 8.5 oz. package cornbread mix
- 1 cup sour cream
- 1 stick unsalted butter, melted
- 1 15-oz. can creamed style corn (not drained)
- 1 15-oz. can corn (drained)
- 2 eggs, beaten
- 1/8 tsp. pepper
- 1/4 tsp. salt

Preheat oven to 350 degrees and grease a 2 1/2-quart baking dish. In a bowl, mix together sour cream, corn, creamed corn, melted butter and eggs. Add cornbread mix, salt and pepper and stir. Pour into greased baking dish and bake for 45-60 minutes until sides are golden and the middle doesn't jiggle when you shake it.

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

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IMPA Commissioner: Shawn Lickey

Electric Department

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then replant a new tree in the old tree's place. The Electric Department works closely with the Street Department to execute and complete this project.

Finally, between these various projects, the Electric Department works hard to continue with its tree trimming efforts. Trimming trees near live power lines is important for a variety of reasons. When trees touch power lines, they can drain electricity from the electrical system, resulting in voltage loss and power outages. Tree limbs touching power lines also put constant stress on live wires and can cause the branches to catch fire and fall to the ground, possibly catching the entire tree on fire. And, during storms, branches may fall onto the lines, which can tear down energized lines, transformers and poles, causing a prolonged power outage.

While the Columbia City Electric Department works hard to ensure that its customers have access to safe and reliable electricity, that is not the department's only responsibility. Assisting with hanging holiday lights, tree removal, tree planting and tree trimming are just a few of the other projects that the department assists with to ensure that Columbia City is a pleasant place to live and work.●