

# MUNICIPAL POWER NEWS

Crawfordsville Electric  
Light & Power



**IMPA**  
INDIANA MUNICIPAL POWER AGENCY

Volume 22, Issue 2 | Summer 2016



These six CEL&P employees traveled to assist the community of Brookston, IN after it declared a state of emergency due to a town-wide power outage. Top row, left to right: Reuben Dark, Gary Fishero, Cody Glenn. Bottom row, left to right: Myron McAlister, Robert Stephens and Thad Wilhite.

The Anatomy of a  
Utility Pole  
Page 2

People Behind the  
Power: Carrie Coon  
Page 4

IMPA Solar Park  
Updates  
Page 6

## Crawfordsville Electric Light & Power Assists Community in Need

**A**fter powerful storms and straight line winds swept through parts of north central Indiana late in the evening on Wednesday, June 22nd, Crawfordsville Electric Light & Power (CEL&P) employees sprang into action to ensure that power was restored as quickly as possible. Crawfordsville is a public power community, meaning it owns its own electric utility, and is one of only 72 such communities within the State of Indiana. This tight knit group of electric utilities often assists one another during severe power outages, and this summer's wind storm was no different.

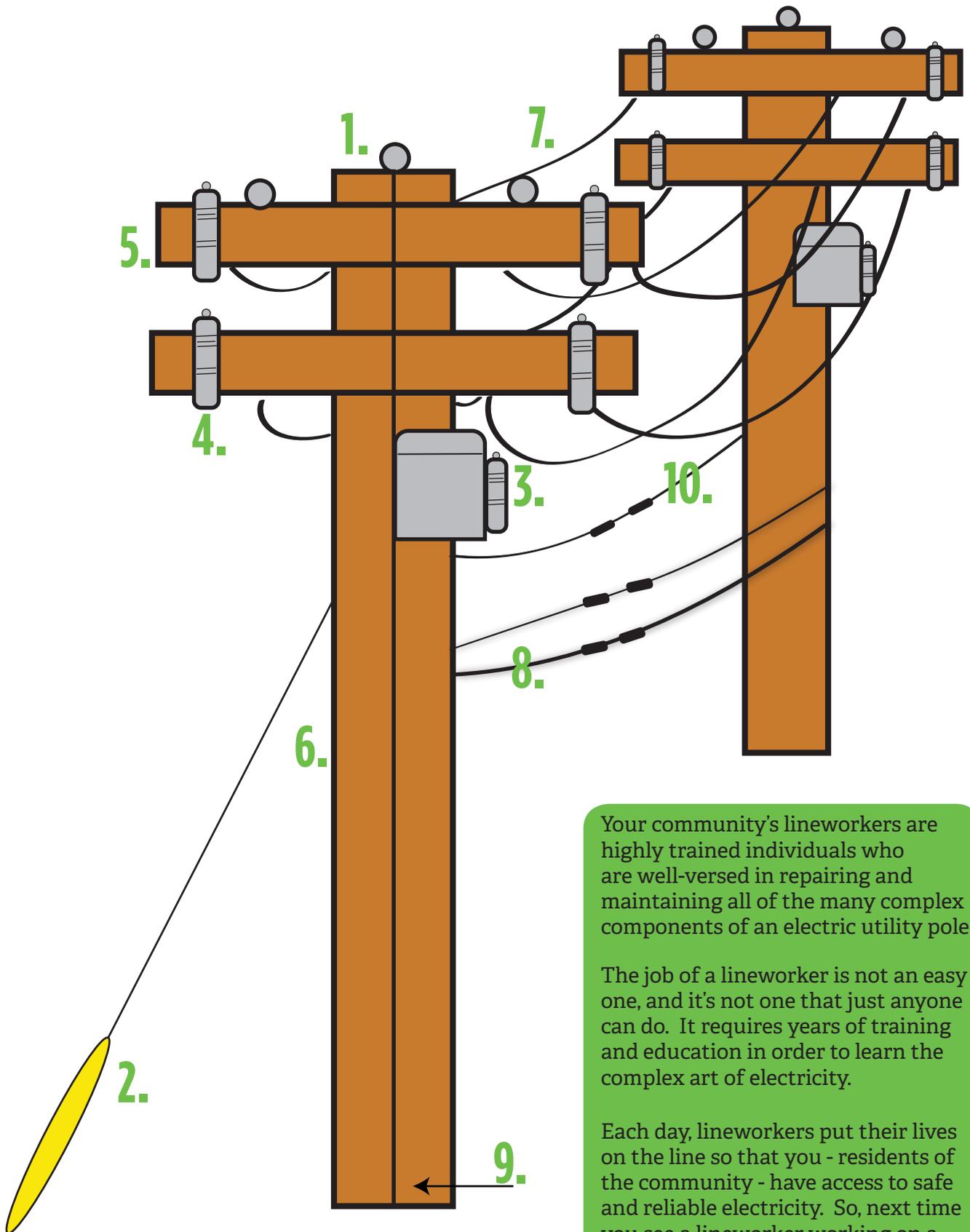
-continued on page 4

# 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.

# Community in Need

-continued from page 1

CEL&P Assistant Manager Robert Stephens received a call from Brookston, Indiana in the middle of the night requesting help, as their entire town was without power due to 100 mph straight line winds that had swept through town. Stephens arrived in Brookston at 3:00 a.m., and was the first person on the scene. He evaluated the town's condition, and made the decision to call for more backup once he realized how severe the situation really was.

"I can't thank Robert Stephens enough for his hard work and outstanding leadership skills in this situation," stated Max Eldridge, Superintendent of Brookston Utilities. "I was out of town when the storm hit, so Robert really took my place and coordinated the entire power restoration effort."

Phil Goode, CEL&P General Manager, said that Crawfordsville tries to send out crews to assist other communities when possible, as "it's just the right thing to do". In this case, the Town of Brookston was completely without power, and was declared in a state of emergency, meaning all hands on deck were needed.

CEL&P lineworkers who assisted Brookston in their time of need included Reuben Dark, Gary Fishero, Cody Glenn, Myron McAlister, Robert Stephens and Thad Wilhite. These men worked more than 12 hour shifts each day for multiple days in a row to ensure that Brookston residents' power was restored as quickly as possible.

Whenever there is a power outage, lineworkers and other utility personnel are typically the first people on the scene. These individuals put their lives on the line each time they go to work, especially during extreme weather conditions. CEL&P is extremely appreciative of all of its employees, but especially the lineworkers who worked diligently through inclement conditions to care for the Brookston community. •

---

## People Behind the Power: Carrie Coon

Carrie Coon is a familiar face at Crawfordsville Electric Light & Power (CEL&P), having worked at the utility for 19 years. Over her almost two decade tenure at CEL&P, Coon has amassed a wealth of knowledge pertaining to the utility, but especially in her specific department and position as the Engineering Technician. While her role within the utility has evolved over the years and her responsibilities have varied on a day-to-day basis, she has always assisted with tasks related to mapping, AutoCAD and Geographic Information Systems (GIS).

For the last few years, Coon has been in charge of managing Think GIS, a software program that the utility uses to virtually map all of CEL&P's infrastructure, inventory and equipment. CEL&P's goal is to have all of its components mapped into the system so that lineworkers and other utility

-continued on page 5



# Coon

-continued from page 4

personnel who work in the field can use maps on computers and tablets, as opposed to paper maps that can easily become outdated. In order for this to become a reality, Coon works tirelessly to input precise information into the system, ensuring that utility poles, transformers, street lights, meter, substation and fiber lines are accurately accounted for within the software program. In addition to her management of Think GIS, Coon is also responsible for all AutoCAD drawings, which include substations, system maps and neighborhood subdivisions, just to name a few.

“Carrie’s depth of knowledge and skillset is absolutely vital to our daily operations,” stated Phil Goode, General Manager of CEL&P. “Her attention to detail ensures that our infrastructure is accurately accounted for at all times.”

Coon was born and raised in Crawfordsville, graduated from Crawfordsville High School, and studied drafting and architecture at Ivy Tech Community College. In addition to her daily responsibilities at CEL&P, Coon also has a landscaping business and helps with work on her family farm. She is married and has three sons, ranging in age from college to first grade. “My favorite part of my job is that each day is different,” stated Coon. “Technology has evolved quite a bit since I first began with CEL&P, but it’s exciting to keep learning and advancing our utility forward.”

## 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](http://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](mailto:newsletter@impa.com)

The **MUNICIPAL POWER NEWS** is a periodic publication of the Indiana Municipal Power Agency and the 60 communities that it serves with wholesale power.

**Editor:** Niki Dick  
Manager of Marketing Communications  
[niki@impa.com](mailto:niki@impa.com)

**Correspondent:**  
Meredith Sauter  
Communications Specialist  
[meredith@impa.com](mailto:meredith@impa.com)

Send submissions and comments to:  
11610 N. College Ave.  
Carmel, IN 46032 or  
[newsletter@impa.com](mailto:newsletter@impa.com).

IMPA  
Members

Advance	Columbia City	Greendale	Middletown	South Whitley
Anderson	Covington	Greenfield	Montezuma	Spiceland
Argos	Crawfordsville	Huntingburg	New Ross	Straughn
Bainbridge	Darlington	Jamestown	Paoli	Tell City
Bargersville	Dublin	Jasper	Pendleton	Thorntown
Blanchester, OH	Dunreith	Kingsford Heights	Peru	Tipton
Bremen	Edinburgh	Knightstown	Pittsboro	Veedersburg
Brooklyn	Etna Green	Ladoga	Rensselaer	Walkerton
Brookston	Flora	Lawrenceburg	Richmond	Washington
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 <sup>1/3</sup> 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 Indiana Municipal Power Agency and the Crawfordsville Electric Light & Power.

IMPA Commissioner: Phil Goode

# IMPA Crawfordsville Solar Park Data Available Online

In 2015, the Indiana Municipal Power Agency (IMPA) built a three megawatt solar park in Crawfordsville, located on 22 acres of land on Memorial Drive. This solar park has been generating electricity for almost one year and has powered over 200 homes and reduced carbon dioxide emissions by 2,269 tons. In addition to Crawfordsville, IMPA also owns and operates solar parks throughout Indiana in Argos, Bainbridge, Frankton, Rensselaer, Pendleton, Peru, Richmond and Tell City. The Agency is currently in the midst of constructing new solar parks in the communities of Anderson, Huntingburg, Washington and Waynetown.

IMPA provides real-time data on each of its solar parks on its website, allowing website visitors to see how much power the solar parks are generating at any given time. To find out how much power the IMPA Crawfordsville solar park is generating, visit [www.impa.com](http://www.impa.com), click on the "Spotlight IMPA Solar Parks" on the homepage, and choose IMPA Crawfordsville. ●

