

# MUNICIPAL POWER NEWS

Town of Flora



**IMPA**  
INDIANA MUNICIPAL POWER AGENCY

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## Maintaining Local Electric Reliability

**K**eeping the lights on in Flora's homes and businesses is the number one priority for the town's power utility, and officials know that strengthening the local electric infrastructure is vital to improving the reliability of electric service. While Flora's electric infrastructure is in working condition, the utility determined recently that approximately 40-45 utility poles may need replacement. As a result, utility workers are analyzing the condition of the town's poles and restoring them when needed.

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# History in the Making

## A Message from IMPA



**T**hough the COVID-19 pandemic has shaken our sense of normalcy, the course of history shows us that the emergence and rapid spread of a deadly illness is anything but abnormal. Humanity has been confronted by detrimental outbreaks of contagious diseases before, such as the Bubonic Plague in Europe, the Smallpox outbreaks in the Americas, and the Spanish Flu during World War I. Each of these difficult moments in humanity's past has been paired with significant cultural and social changes, and the COVID-19 pandemic is certainly following suit.

Many of the same practices that are complicating our life today were frequently implemented to mitigate the spread of infectious diseases in years past, including self-isolation and the limiting of public gatherings. The word "quarantine" itself became popularized in 17th century Italy to describe a mandated isolation (frequently lasting 40 days) that was required of newly arrived travelers to prevent the development of foreign diseases in Italy. Since we still have no reliable treatments or vaccinations to address COVID-19, revisiting the strategies of time gone by is currently our best approach to battling the ongoing public health emergency. Regular social distancing and self-quarantine for those who show symptoms, accompanied by wearing masks, have shown to be the most effective ways to reduce the risk of the transmission of COVID-19 at the present time.

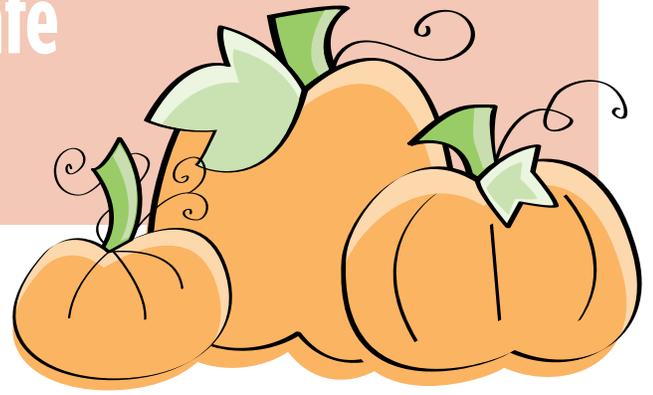
As your community's wholesale power provider, the Indiana Municipal Power Agency (IMPA) embraces its role as an essential service provider through the developing pandemic. COVID-19 is unique from past plagues and outbreaks in that our world is

now connected virtually. Through isolation and social distancing, we can still call family and friends, stream entertaining content, and attend virtual doctors' appointments, business meetings, and religious services. All these things are possible through the power of modern electricity and the country's electric distribution infrastructure. Without the hard work of utility employees on the front lines through COVID-19 to continue supplying a bit of normalcy to the world, we would truly be back in the "dark ages."

Though it was all the way back in March when the first confirmed case of COVID-19 came to Indiana, Hoosier communities are still adapting to the ever-evolving global situation. IMPA and utility personnel in all of the Agency's member communities continue to remain diligent at work and in public spaces. Maintaining the health and well-being of the community, along with a reliable electric service, is at the core of everything the Agency and your local utility are doing.

As history shows, our world has healed from disease outbreaks before, and it will certainly heal from COVID-19. As troubling as the current pandemic is to all of us, societies of the past have confronted similar obstacles and triumphed. We will surely follow in the footsteps of our predecessors, and we can learn a great deal from their actions and innovations. As we look forward in the fight against COVID-19, IMPA encourages everyone to be safe and know that we are all in this together. •

# Keep Your Information Safe This Holiday Season!



**H**ackers know that during this time of year, we are all more likely to pull out our credit cards and do some online shopping in preparation for the holidays. As a result, cybercriminals have come up with some crafty ways to ruin all your holiday fun. Whether you're buying decorations, party favors, or gifts, be sure to keep these tips in mind to make sure you can keep that carefree, festive spirit alive!

- **Only shop on reliable websites.** Use the websites of retailers you know and trust and be sure to access their webpages through a reliable search engine or by directly typing their URL into an address bar.
- **Be wary of online discounts.** If an offer is too good to be true, it probably is! Unreliable websites and fake companies attempt to bait victims by offering fake discounts that lead to fraudulent links. Only use coupon codes or discounts provided by trusted retailers.
- **Beware of seasonal frauds.** Phishing is a form of cyberattack where hackers use emails to impersonate a trustworthy source and lure victims into clicking malicious links. Around the holidays, hackers send out fake package tracking emails, e-cards, charity donation scams, and purchase confirmations. Before clicking on links in an email, always be sure that it comes from a trusted source.



The **Indiana Municipal Power Agency**, your community's wholesale power provider, wants you and your family to have a wonderful, safe holiday season. Follow us on our social media accounts for plenty of holiday fun and safety tips!



@impapower



@ImpaPower



Indiana Municipal Power Agency

# Maintaining Local Electric Reliability

-continued from page 1

“Many of those poles have been in the ground since the early 1970’s, and they’re simply showing their age,” said Kevin Shafer, Flora’s Utility Manager and Indiana Municipal Power Agency commissioner. “Some of the poles are rotting on the inside, so we’re currently in the process of replacing the poles that are most critical and catching up on maintenance of the entire system.”

The replacement of worn out utility poles is a vital task in maintaining a healthy electric infrastructure. The ongoing work being done through this pole replacement project will allow Flora’s utility to prevent more outages, rather than reacting to unanticipated power interruptions. The heightened reliability of power supply that will result from this project will ensure that the utility is able to provide excellent service and meet the community’s power needs. The undertaking will also complement the tree trimming and vegetation management completed by utility personnel recently to ensure the safety of the town’s power system.

“We’re also working on upgrading one of our substations,” continued Shafer, referring to one of the two facilities in town that receives electric power from the transmission grid and makes the electricity suitable for homes and businesses. “We currently have one substation on the north side of town, and one on the south side. As we go through pole replacements, we’re considering refurbishing our second substation or building a new one. Either way, we’re

undertaking major electric upgrades that will benefit the community down the line.”

In addition to maintaining a healthy electric infrastructure, Flora’s utility also replaced the walking trail lights in Community Park in early August. The previous high-pressure sodium lights were only a few feet off the ground, meeting many walkers at eye level and practically blinding passersby. The new and improved lights in the park are LEDs that stand 8-feet tall, illuminating the trail without becoming an annoyance as well as being more energy efficient. Utility workers were happy to replace these lights to ensure that the park remains safe and enjoyable for the community.

Flora’s electric utility is a public power utility—a community-owned, not-for-profit utility that invests itself in the community. Public power utilities are actively responsive to customers’ needs and concerns because their primary goal is to provide efficient, reliable service to everyone in their communities. As a public power utility, Flora’s utility focuses on overall system reliability, quick restoration of power outages, and excellent customer service. Through infrastructure improvement efforts such as the pole replacement project, Flora is demonstrating what it means to be a true public power utility.

To learn more about public power and the advantages of municipally-owned electric utilities, visit [impa.com/members](http://impa.com/members). •





## Flora's Solar Park Powers Your Community

**Size:** 2,964 solar panels on 4 acres of land

**Output:** 0.81 megawatts (MW) AC

**Racking:** Single axis tracking system

**Developer:** IMPA

**Power Output Recipient:** IMPA

## Tidbits & Trivia

The **Indiana Municipal Power Agency (IMPA)** is a not-for-profit organization that provides an low-cost, reliable, and environmentally responsible power supply to its members. IMPA provides this wholesale power to 61 communities in Indiana and Ohio. IMPA member utilities purchase their power through IMPA and deliver that power to the residents and companies within your community.

**Question:** In what year was the Indiana Municipal Power Agency founded?

If you would like assistance with your answer, visit our website at **impa.com** and explore our pages for information that could help you formulate a good guess!

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! We will randomly select the winner from a pool of correct entries.

## Watt's the Word?

*Investigating power terminology*

### Energy

*noun*

The capacity to do work. In physics, it exists in potential, kinetic, thermal, **electrical**, and various other forms.

**T**he origins of the English word "energy" come from the Ancient Greek term *energeia*, meaning "activity/operation." The term was used by Aristotle in 4th century BCE to convey a force of expression in rhetoric. It wasn't until the 1800s that the word became associated with electricity, with engineer William Thomson claiming in 1867, "Electricity is a form of energy." In physics, energy is measured in various units, such as joules, watts, calories, and more!

"energy, n." OED Online, Oxford University Press, September 2020, [www.oed.com/view/Entry/62088](http://www.oed.com/view/Entry/62088).

# Cooking Corner

## For Your Holiday Hosting Needs!

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 61 communities that it serves with wholesale power.

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### Cranberry Cheesecake

Recipe submitted by Betty Bird of Paoli, Indiana

- 16 oz Philadelphia cream cheese
- 16 oz finely shredded sharp cheddar cheese
- 2 tbsp honey
- 1 small bag of chopped raisins
- finely chopped pecans

Beat cream cheese until smooth, then mix in all other ingredients except for the pecans. Use a spatula and your hands to form the mixture into a ball. Coat the ball with the finely chopped pecans to create an outer crust. Serve with crackers, vegetables, pretzels, or whatever you like!

### Salted Peanut Chews

Recipe submitted by Roleen Pickard of Rockville, Indiana

- 3 cups mini marshmallows
- 2 cups Rice Krispies
- 2 cups salted peanuts
- 12 oz peanut butter chips
- 1 1/2 cups flour
- 2/3 cup brown sugar
- 3/4 cup margarine
- 2/3 cup corn syrup
- 2 egg yolks
- 1/2 tsp baking powder
- 1/4 tsp baking soda
- 3 tsp vanilla

Mix flour, brown sugar, baking powder, baking soda, egg yolks, 1/2 cup margarine, and 1 tsp vanilla, and press mixture into a greased 9"x13" pan. Bake for 10-15 minutes at 350° until golden brown. Sprinkle 3 cups mini marshmallows on top and return to oven for 2 minutes, or until marshmallows look puffy. Let cool.

In a sauce pan, heat corn syrup, remaining margarine, remaining vanilla, and peanut butter chips just until melted. Remove the sauce pan from heat, and add Rice Krispies and salted peanuts.

Spoon mixture from sauce pan over marshmallow crust. Chill, cut into bars, and serve!

Advance	Covington	Huntingburg	Paoli	Thorntown
Anderson	Crawfordsville	Jamestown	Pendleton	Tipton
Argos	Darlington	Jasper	Peru	Troy
Bainbridge	Dublin	Kingsford Heights	Pittsboro	Veedersburg
Bargersville	Dunreith	Knightstown	Rensselaer	Walkerton
Blanchester, OH	Edinburgh	Ladoga	Richmond	Washington
Bremen	Etna Green	Lawrenceburg	Rising Sun	Waynetown
Brooklyn	Flora	Lebanon	Rockville	WilliamSPORT
Brookston	Frankfort	Lewisville	Scottsburg	Winamac
Centerville	Frankton	Linton	South Whitley	
Chalmers	Gas City	Middletown	Spiceland	
Coatesville	Greendale	Montezuma	Straughn	
Columbia City	Greenfield	New Ross	Tell City	

**PRACTICE  
ELECTRICAL  
SAFETY:**

**DON'T**

**OVERLOAD**

**YOUR HOME**



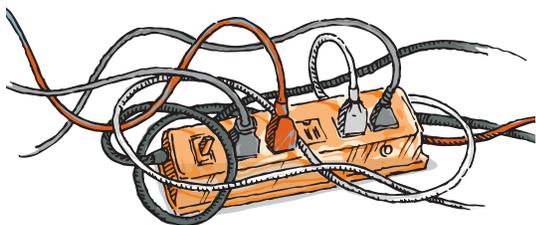
Annually, nearly 50,000 fires in the United States are caused by electrical failures or malfunctions. This results in more than 400 deaths, 1,500 injuries, and \$1.4 billion in property damage each year. Help lower your risk of electrical fires.

Here's how:

## Space Heater Safety

- Never leave a space heater unattended
- Locate space heaters out of high traffic areas and doorways where they may pose a tripping hazard
- Always unplug and safely store the heater when it is not in use
- Never use an extension cord with your space heater.
- Make sure your space heater is listed by a recognized testing laboratory
- Read the manufacturer's instructions and warning labels before using a space heater
- Space heaters are only meant to provide supplemental heat and should never be used to warm bedding, cook food, dry clothes, or thaw pipes

## Overload Warning Signs



Flickering, blinking, or dimming lights



Cracking, sizzling, or buzzing from receptacles



Mild shock or tingle from appliances or switches



Frequently tripped circuit breakers or blown fuses



Burning odor coming from receptacles or switches



Warm or discolored wall plates

## Prevent Overloads

Never use extension cords or multi-outlet converters for appliances



Only plug one heat producing appliance into a receptacle outlet at a time



If you have too few outlets in your home, have a qualified electrician inspect your home and add new outlets



Power strips only add additional outlets; they do not change the amount of power being received from the outlet



Use appropriate watt bulbs for lighting fixtures



\*information from the American Public Power Association

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IMPA Commissioner: Kevin Shafer

## Online Utility Bill Pay

**F**or a fast, contactless way to pay your utility bills, Flora Utilities offers an online pay option. Visit the town's utility website and follow the provided link to access utility bill pay through their official, secure system. You can also download the PAYGOV mobile app on your phone through the Apple or Google Play Store to pay utility bills on the go.

As a reminder—NEVER pay utility bills on unauthorized websites, or sites that are not associated with Flora. If you are unsure whether you are on an authorized site, give the town a call at (574) 967-4844. •

### Can I pay my utility deposit and monthly bill online?

Yes. By visiting the web site

 , you can make

online payments. You will need your account number and the amount due.

A processing fee will be added when you pay on line.

Found on [www.townofflora.org/flora-utilities](http://www.townofflora.org/flora-utilities).