

MUNICIPAL POWER NEWS

Town of Rockville



IMPA
INDIANA MUNICIPAL POWER AGENCY

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Much of Jefferson Street will receive a variety of updates, including a complete upgrade to all utilities.

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Proposed Jefferson Street Upgrade

One of Rockville's heavily traveled roads, Jefferson Street, is slated to see a variety of updates aimed at upgrading all components of the road. The Town of Rockville has been working closely with American Structurepoint, an engineering, architecture and planning firm located in Indianapolis, to complete the initial design plan so that street improvements can be budgeted and scheduled for construction.

The Town wants to fix many of the unseen utility infrastructure problems that have plagued Jefferson Street, prior to repaving the surface of the road. The plan also accounts for upgrades to the drainage system, which will help prevent standing water during periods of heavy rain. The street and utilities are both aging, and the town sees this project as one that will provide an economic boost to Rockville's downtown area.

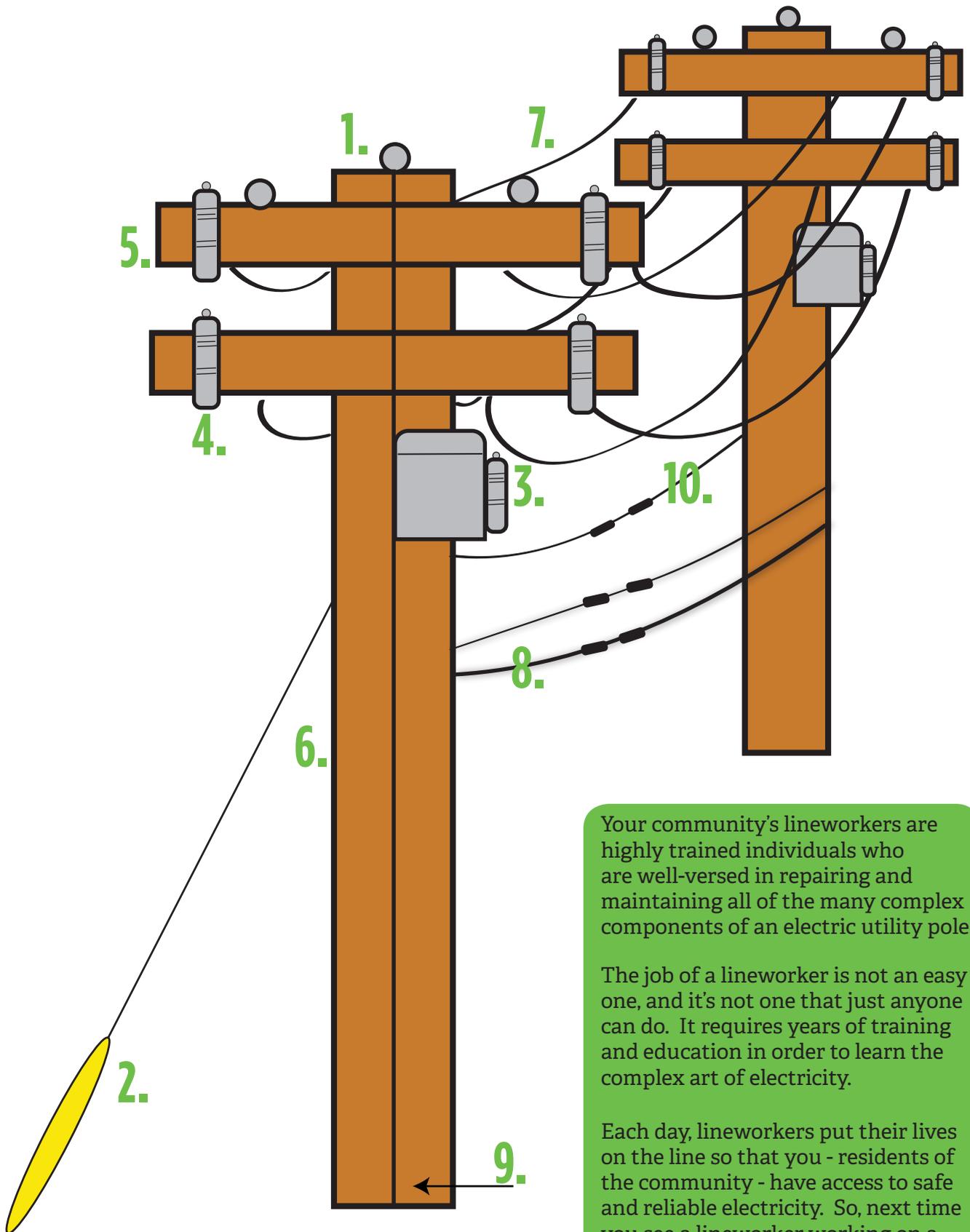
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Anatomy of an Electric Utility Pole

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.

Jefferson Street

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“Jefferson Street directly connects with Ohio Street and the downtown square, and is adjacent to the popular Thirty Six Saloon,” stated Dr. Steven Waltz, Rockville Town Council Member. “It’s vital that this street has updated utilities and that the actual road is in good shape for the many visitors that come to Parke County each year. We also hope that updating the infrastructure will spur new businesses to locate to our downtown area.”

Construction on this project will begin sometime in 2017 or 2018. The start date is contingent upon completion prior to the Covered Bridge Festival, so once design plans are solidified, town officials will notify the public on the expected start date. ●

How to Save Money and Conserve Energy this Summer and Fall

Higher temperatures during the summer months mean the frequent use of an air conditioner, and sometimes a strain on paying electric bills. Did you know that Rockville’s wholesale power provider, the Indiana Municipal Power Agency (IMPA), along with the Town of Rockville, offer residential energy efficiency incentives that are perfect for the summer months?

IMPAs residential energy efficiency program offers residential customers of IMPA member communities, including Rockville, the opportunity to earn rebates on qualifying heating, ventilation and air conditioning installations. Heat pumps with ratings of 16 SEER or greater are eligible for a \$150 rebate, central air with 16 SEER or greater are eligible for a \$125 rebate and geothermal units are eligible for a \$175 rebate. Those interested can learn more and apply for project pre-approval for IMPAs Residential Energy Efficiency Program online at www.impa.com/energyefficiency.

If you’re not currently in the market for a new HVAC system, there are still opportunities available to help you save on your energy bill. The U.S. Department of Energy recommends setting an air conditioning thermostat to 78 degrees Fahrenheit while the home is occupied to balance comfort with

energy savings. Then, when the house is empty, turn the thermostat up a few degrees, which can save anywhere from five to 15 percent on your electric bill.

It’s also important to schedule an annual air conditioning tune-up with an HVAC expert. A tune-up brings an air conditioner back to its peak operating efficiency, which has the potential to lower your electric bill. It also extends the life of the unit and can detect any problematic issues within the system. Another money-saving alternative to a central air conditioning unit would be to purchase a window unit to cool only one room, such as a bedroom or a living room. This will cost significantly less than cooling an entire home, and depending upon the size of the house, may be adequate enough to keep you comfortable during the warm summer months.

For more tips on saving money while staying cool this summer, visit www.impa.com/energyefficiency and click on Heating & Cooling. ●

Parke County Visitors Center Receives Major Upgrades

After receiving matching grant funds totaling \$50,000 from the Indiana Office of Community & Rural Affairs (OCRA) in 2014 as well as more than \$150,000 from a variety of other community organizations, plans for an updated Parke County Visitor's Center started becoming a reality. While the historic 1883 Train Depot had served the county well for many years, Parke County leaders knew that the historic space could be better utilized if some modern updates aimed at attracting visitors to the county were made.



The Visitors Center received a major facelift, including all new paint on the outside of the building.

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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	Williamsonport
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.

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IMPA Commissioner: Dr. Steven Waltz

Visitors Center

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Updates on the depot include a new asphalt parking lot, outdoor benches, a new foundation as well as exterior paint on the depot, a bicycle trail head, a patio and lighting, among others. All of the updates aim to provide a more welcoming ADA-accessible experience to visitors of Parke County.

This depot project was truly a collaborative effort as multiple community organizations played a role in determining the updates and volunteering to help complete many projects. Most of the construction on the depot has been completed, and the rest of the updates should be finished by the fall, just in time for the Parke County Covered Bridge Festival. Once completed, this newly updated visitor's center will provide a comprehensive space to promote all Parke County businesses, furthering the economic development efforts of the county. Going forward, the property will become part of Rockville's park system, ensuring that it is cared for and maintained well into the future.●



The Visitors Center has received a fresh coat of paint as well as landscaping and other outdoor updates.