

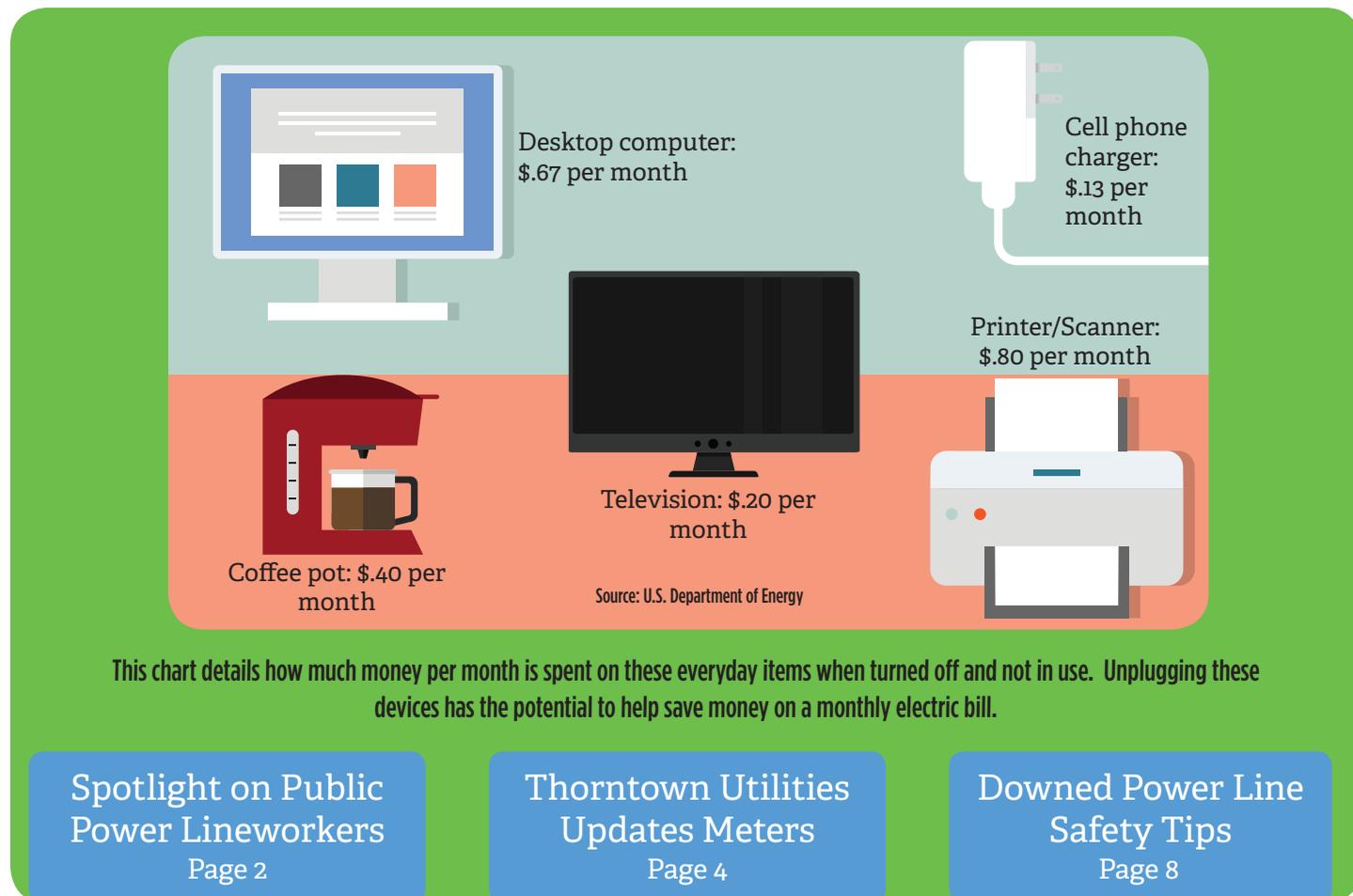
# MUNICIPAL POWER NEWS

Thorntown Utilities



**IMPA**  
INDIANA MUNICIPAL POWER AGENCY

Volume 22, Issue 3



## How to Prevent Phantom Loads

Although it sounds spooky, a phantom load has nothing to do with Halloween. Also referred to as vampire power, this describes any sort of electronic device that still uses power, even when that device is turned off. There are a variety of different electronics that produce a phantom load, and it can range anywhere from a television to a cell phone charger to a microwave. While these devices may be turned off or are not supplying a charge to another device, they are still on standby, ready to be turned on at a moment's notice. The device's readiness uses a small amount of energy that, over time, can add up to a costly electric bill.

One way to counteract this phantom load is simply to unplug items such as cell phone and laptop chargers, coffee makers and microwaves when not in use. Another easy solution is to plug all

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# Public Power Lineworkers: A S

**W**hen 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. ●

# Thorntown Utilities Makes Progress on Utility Meter Installation

**T**hroughout last year's summer and fall months, employees of Thorntown Utilities were busy installing nearly 900 new water and electric meters throughout town. These types of meters utilize automatic meter reading (AMR) technology, which transmits meter data through radio waves, which is then automatically picked up by the utility's computer.

Town employees have successfully installed all 685 of the town's water meters and approximately 200 electric meters. The installation of the water meters is much more labor intensive, so the utility wanted to install those before the start of winter. Utility employees will focus on installing the remainder of the town's 890 electric meters throughout the upcoming winter and spring months.

The new meters will not only be more efficient, but they will also give both the utility and the customer a more accurate reflection of the amount of water and electricity being used. In addition, it will be easier to catch leaks and other issues that sometimes cause high water and electric bills before the situation gets out of control. Thorntown Utilities is committed to providing excellent customer service and these meters are just another way to do that. ●

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## Community Benefits from New Fire Hydrants

**O**ver the last few years, Thorntown Utilities has worked to install roughly 75 new fire hydrants throughout town. Most of the hydrants that were replaced were over 50 years old and did not have all of the components of a modern fire hydrant. Before they were replaced, none of Thorntown's fire hydrants had valves, which made them significantly more difficult to repair and use. The new fire hydrants are all complete with valves, which allow for a safer and more efficient way to fight fires and to complete repairs. ●

# Phantom Load

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electronics such as TVs, DVD players and gaming consoles into one power strip and turn off the power strip when the devices are not in use. Examples of electronics that can produce phantom loads are:

- TVs
- DVD players and DVRs
- Clock radios
- Answering machines
- Printers
- Laptops and computers
- Cordless phones
- Audio systems
- Any other device with a clock or power light

Do a short survey of your home and see how many devices you can find that may produce a phantom load. Then, either unplug that device, or plug it into a power strip. Making these simple changes can affect your electric bill, putting you more in control over the price that you pay each month.●

## 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

**T**he 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](mailto:newsletter@impa.com)

**You'll win a prize!**

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Waynetown  
Williamsport  
Winamac

## 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 published by the Indiana  
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IMPA Commissioner: Gary Moody

## How to Stay Safe around Downed Power Lines

**T**horntown Utilities, your hometown electric utility, urges you to exercise caution as winter ice storms can sometimes spell trouble for power lines. Follow these steps to ensure the safety of yourself and others:

- If you see a downed power line, move away both from it and anything touching it. The ground around power lines – up to 35 feet – may be energized.
- Assume that all downed power lines are live.
- The proper way to move away from the power line is to shuffle with small steps, keeping your feet together and on the ground at all times. This will minimize the potential for a strong electric shock.
- If you see someone who is in direct or indirect contact with the downed line, do not touch the person. Call 911 for help. Do not attempt to move a downed power line or anything else in contact with it.●