

# Municipal Power News



Gas City Municipal Utilities

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## Lineworkers Work Hard to Keep Your Community Powered

When the weather is at its worst, your municipal electric community's lineworkers are there, restoring power and safety in the community. When your city seeks residential, commercial, or industrial growth, your local lineworkers are there, ensuring developments have access to electricity. When it seems like a normal day, your city's lineworkers are there, performing preventative maintenance and trimming trees to ensure reliability of Gas City's electric system. When your community needs them most, your lineworkers are there.

Every day, your utility's committed lineworkers risk their lives to provide Gas City homes and businesses with power. Working on power lines requires the upmost skill, expertise, teamwork, and patience. With frequent exposure to hazardous heights, high voltages, and a heavily trafficked work environment, the job is consistently ranked as one of the most hazardous in the United States. Despite this, Gas City's electric crew remains committed to the essential duty of power delivery.

"Linemen have to be true entrepreneurs who can independently think on their feet and come up with solutions without looking for someone to give them the answer," said Dick

-continued on page 4

## Inside this Issue

### Page 2

*Holiday Safety with IMPA!*

Learn how you can have a safe holiday season with your friends and family.

### Page 4

*Tidbits and Trivia*

Respond to the question featured on this page for a chance to win a prize!

### Page 7

*Saving Energy in Cold Weather*

Read the various ways that readers of this newsletter save energy in the cold.

# Holiday Safety with IMPA!

The holiday season is just around the corner, and preparing for this hectic time of year can help things go over a bit more smoothly. Safety precautions are always important but can often be forgotten in the midst of holiday chaos. Use this time to remind yourself and your loved ones about the following safety tips that will help everyone enjoy the time to come.

## Decorative Lights

- Check all electrical wiring before you install decorations, and throw away any damaged wiring.
- Using miniature lights or LED lights on a Christmas tree can produce less heat, decreasing the chances of mishap.
- All lights should be labeled as approved by a nationally recognized testing laboratory, such as the Underwriters Laboratory (UL).
- Always unplug any lights before leaving your home.



## Candles

- Imitation electric candles are always safer than traditional candles that burn with fire.
- Keep all candles away from window dressings, furniture, and greenery.
- Never leave a burning candle unattended.

## Cooking

- Never leave food cooking on the stove unattended.
- Keep handles on pots turned in, so they won't be bumped or in reach of small children.
- Extinguish a cooking fire by putting a lid, or even a plate, on the pot or pan. If a fire breaks out in the oven, keep the door shut and turn off the appliance.

## Toys

- When buying electrical toys, purchase only those approved by the UL, and those that meet fire and shock hazard standards.
- Make sure toys that are given as gifts are always suitable to the receiver's age.



## How Does Public Power Work?

The transmission lines stretching across the country carry electricity to households and businesses nationwide. However, some of the electricity travels to customers served by investor-owned utilities (IOUs) or rural electric cooperatives (REMCs), while other households like yours are served by a public power utility. Your community, as a member of the Indiana Municipal Power Agency (IMPA), buys its electricity from the Agency before selling it to you and bringing it to your door. The electricity that your community purchases is called wholesale power—it is supplied to your local public power utility for resale to retail customers of the utility. By purchasing wholesale power in bulk, the member utilities of IMPA are able to provide electricity with the economic advantages than if they were to individually generate the power themselves or purchase it elsewhere. Your community takes advantage of this benefit, since all 61 member communities of IMPA work together to purchase power in bulk through the Agency.

Member utilities of IMPA have contracts with the Agency to ensure that all the electric needs of the community are met. IMPA, by either generating power at a

generation facility or purchasing it from other utilities, places the power on the electric grid through transmission lines.

The high voltage electricity travels across the grid on these transmission lines to your community. Before the electricity gets to your residence, a substation transformer is used to lower the voltage of the electricity to make it safer to travel across shorter distances than the transmission lines cover. This lower voltage also makes it safer for the electricity to be in closer proximity to traffic and people. Once electricity goes through the transformer in the substation, it moves through distribution lines in your local community to a transformer at homes and businesses. It then arrives at your home and allows you to turn on the lights, heat your home, and watch tv.

Public power utilities are not just there to provide power – they work for the betterment of the community, too. These utilities are embedded in the fabric of their communities—boosting community investment, supporting local education, and getting involved with beautification and charitable programs. As a result, public power customers benefit from affordable energy, better service, local control, and a utility that cares about the overall well-being and growth of your community. •



*At IMPA Board Meetings, a representative from your community helps guide the direction and decisions of the Agency.*

# Tidbits & Trivia

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 provides this wholesale power to 61 communities in Indiana and Ohio, who collectively make up the Agency's membership.

What are some of the benefits of public power?



Send your answer to [newsletter@impa.com](mailto:newsletter@impa.com), along with your name, e-mail address, and address for a chance to win an energy efficiency prize pack!

## Reader Survey

Is there more about your community that you would like to know? Do you have questions about how public power or your municipally-owned utility works? Would you like to learn more tips and tricks as to how you can improve your home's energy efficiency?

Reach out to [newsletter@impa.com](mailto:newsletter@impa.com) to suggest topics for future *Municipal Power News* newsletters and let us know what articles you enjoy most, and what you'd like to see next!



## Lineworkers Keep Community Powered

-continued from page 1

Justice, Gas City Electric Utility Supervisor. "To even become a lineman, you have to go through four years or 4,000 hours of training, climbing school, and get to understand the dangers that you'll be working with on a daily basis. More than anything, I always stress that you need to learn every day to become a lineman. From the time a lineman begins their career to the time they retire, each day gives you a learning opportunity in the field. It takes someone who isn't afraid to learn new things, as long as they're doing it safely."

Not only do Gas City lineworkers work on electric infrastructure to deliver exceptional value, but they help with other tasks to improve the community, from assisting with projects involving the parks department to decorating for the holidays.



## Follow IMPA on Social Media!



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Indiana Municipal Power Agency

“All of our linemen are invested in our community and live in the city,” said Justice. “I even have several linemen who are on the local Fire Department, so from one day to the next, they’re in constant service of Gas City citizens. We even carry some medical equipment on our utility trucks just so we can respond to medical emergencies if we happen to encounter them. If we’re there, we’re meant to help.”

Since Gas City’s utility employees are

members of the community themselves, they are enthusiastic about serving everyone in the city. This is a prime benefit of living in a public power community—those that manage and operate your utility truly care for electric customers because they are their neighbors, friends, and family members.

Even amongst public power utilities, Gas City’s electric utility is uniquely devoted. Many thanks to the community’s line crews who work so hard to help Gas City thrive! •

## What’s the Word?

*Investigating Power Terminology*

### Distribution Lines

Utilities use distribution lines to transport electricity from the larger transmission system to individual customer homes and businesses. While transmission lines carry electricity across long distances at a high

voltage, distribution lines carry electricity over shorter distances at a lower voltage. You may see transmission lines while driving on a highway, but the utility lines you see on the streets of your community are distribution lines.

Distribution lines bring electricity to its final stage of delivery. As a member of a public power utility, your town or city owns and operates the distribution lines in your community.

# Cooking Corner

## Eggnog Bread

Recipe submitted by Susan of Richmond, Indiana

For a chance to be featured in the newsletter and win a prize, send your recipe to:

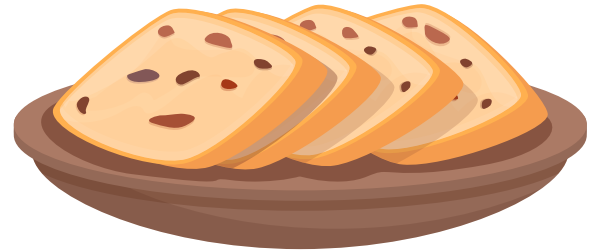
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11610 N. College Ave.  
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or  
[newsletter@impa.com](mailto:newsletter@impa.com)

- 2 large eggs
- $\frac{3}{4}$  cup skim milk
- $\frac{1}{4}$  cup orange juice
- 1  $\frac{3}{4}$  cups eggnog
- $\frac{1}{2}$  cup canola oil
- 1 tbsp grated orange zest
- 4  $\frac{3}{4}$  cups all-purpose flour
- $\frac{3}{4}$  cup sugar
- 2 tbsp baking powder
- $\frac{1}{2}$  tsp salt
- 1 tsp ground cinnamon
- 1 tsp ground nutmeg
- $\frac{3}{4}$  cup dried cranberries
- $\frac{3}{4}$  cup chopped macadamia nuts

Preheat oven to 350°F. Whisk wet ingredients together with orange zest in a bowl. In another bowl, combine all dry ingredients except for cranberries and macadamia nuts. Add the liquid mixture to the dry mixture, carefully stirring until the flour is moistened. Fold in cranberries and nuts. Grease and flour 2 loaf pans and pour in batter. Bake for 50-60 minutes, or until a toothpick inserted comes out clean. Cool in pans for 10 minutes, then remove wire racks to cool completely. Slice and serve with orange marmalade. Or, to serve without a spread, use the glaze below.

In a small bowl, mix:

- 1 tbsp eggnog
- $\frac{3}{8}$  cup confectioner's sugar



Drizzle mixture over the cooled loaves

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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# How Do I Save Energy in Cold Weather?

Last year, we asked readers of the *Municipal Power News* some of the methods they use to reduce energy consumption in cold weather. Here is what some of you said!

“I have reduced my energy consumption due to my purchase of long cloth door tubes that resemble snakes. They are the draft prevention cloth tubes approximately 36” x 3 1/2” filled with beans or double tubes with center strips. They can be placed in the home at the bottom of outside doors or where drafts enter under doors inside a home. The double tube style can slide under

the storm door outside the house door---one tube outside the storm door and the other tube set between the storm door and the inside house door. These can also be used on doors in cold rooms with closed doors to stop drafts. This is really great in blocking cold air at the floor level that cause cold feet and drafts.”

- Jean

“I often use an infrared/radiant space heater that is thermostat-controlled. During the day I close off unused rooms so my living room/kitchenette is comfortably warm. The glow of the radiant heater is pleasing like a fireplace. You definitely need to wear insulated slippers or plush socks indoors in

addition to layered clothing. Wearing indoor weather-appropriate clothing, I can keep my heater set on a lower temperature—generally less than 65 degrees. My furnace, in comparison, needs to be set at 70+ degrees to maintain satisfactory room warmth.”

- Penny

“During the cold weather months, the most effective method for reducing my energy consumption is by closing off rooms that do not necessarily have to be heated all day. I also put plastic on any drafty windows and use draft stoppers for my doors. I’ve replaced

most of my home’s light bulbs with energy efficient LED bulbs and I change my furnace filter often. Room darkening curtains help keep the heat in and as the famous saying goes, I never let the water run!”

- Tiffany

“The method that I use most is to wear warmer clothes in the house. I know that there are people who want to sit around the house in shorts and t-shirts, and run around the house in bare feet, all the while having

their thermostat turned way up. That makes no sense to me. Today, for instance, it’s 14° outside. The thermostat is set at 68° inside. I’m wearing a flannel shirt with a puffy vest, long pants, and shoes.”

- Bruce

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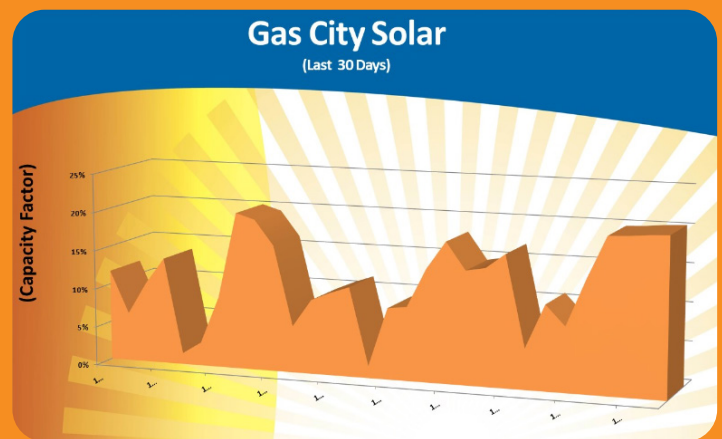
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IMPA Commissioner: Dick Justice

## Gas City Solar Parks Power Your Community

While the Gas City solar parks provide electricity to the community each day, the generation facilities are still subject to weather and time of day. The Indiana Municipal Power Agency (IMPA) tracks the amount of power generated by each of its 50 facilities on its website, where users can view the 1-day, 5-day, and 30-day graph of generated solar power in each town or city. With winter right around the corner, the amount of daylight hours per day continues to decrease, meaning the city's solar parks see less sunlight each day. However, these solar parks still generate power no matter the season. The corresponding graph shows how much power one of the city's solar parks was able to generate through the month of November, even as we lost daylight each day.



To learn more about IMPA and the organization's solar parks, visit [www.impa.com/solar](http://www.impa.com/solar).