

Light Notes

Scenic Rivers Energy Cooperative

MAY 2025

"Monarch Butterfly", courtesy of Donna Williams-Richter from Glen Haven, WI.

SPRING DIGGING? CALL 811 FIRST!

Spring showers bring May flowers but digging on your own this spring could spell big trouble. Even if you think that digging one small hole (or two) won't matter, don't underestimate what might lie beneath.

Before you use that post hole digger or other unearthing tools, STOP and call 8-1-1 to have buried electric, gas, able, and other lines marked. The service is free but digging in an unmarked area may not be.



Digging without locating underground utilities could leave you and your neighbors in the dark, cause thousands of dollars in damages, or cause severe electrical shock. This is true regardless of how much area your project will cover or whether you consider the job to be large or small. To help stay safe, make use of the national underground utility locating service for free by calling 8-1-1.

The 8-1-1 "Call Before You Dig" number will route you to your local utility locating service. Make sure to tell

the operator where and when you plan to dig and what type of work you will be doing. From there, it takes a few business days for a professional to come mark your public utilities with flags or spray paint.

There are different colors of paint and flags that mark the underground utilities, and each color is universal to what utility is buried.

- Red** – Electric
- Orange** – Communications, Telephone/CATV
- Blue** – Potable Water
- Green** – Sewer/Drainage
- Yellow** – Gas/Petroleum Pipe Line
- Purple** – Reclaimed Water
- White** – Premark site of intended excavation

Even if you previously had utilities located by calling 8-1-1, it is best to call before every digging project. Underground utilities can shift, so it's important to know where they are before you dig.

Remember, 8-1-1 locators do not mark privately installed facilities. For private utilities like underground sprinkler systems, invisible fences, private water systems, or gas piping to a garage, you'll need to hire a private utility locator.

Once all of your underground utilities have been marked, you can start digging. For more information about 8-1-1 and digging safety, visit Call811.com or visit safeelectricity.com.



**Know what's below.
Call before you dig.**

THE PEOPLE BEHIND YOUR POWER

Jordan Wagner
Building Maintenance Technician

Years of Service - 6 years

Hobbies - Hanging out with friends and family, watching sporting events, playing golf, coaching cross country, and volunteering for sporting events and 5K runs.



YOUR ELECTRIC BILL HAS A NEW LOOK!



RIGHT-OF-WAY MAINTENANCE NOTES



Zielie's Tree Service will be trimming the Jerrett Substation (North and West circuits) in Grant County during the month of May.

Zielie's Tree Service and Scenic Rivers Energy employees will be spraying the Hurricane and Jerrett Substations in Grant County in May.

Badgerland Utility Solutions will be inspecting underground cabinets and transformers. In May, they will be in the Mt. Hope Substation inspecting underground cabinets. They will be pole testing in Scott Township in Crawford County.

On a daily basis, SREC employees and contractors may be working throughout the area, and at times on your property, to operate and maintain the electric system and our rights-of-ways. If you have questions, please contact us at 800-236-2141.

For a detailed explanation about the components that make up your statement, see your May issue of the *Wisconsin Energy Cooperative News* magazine or visit sre.coop and click "How to Read Your Bill" in the Billing & Payment menu.

Have questions about your account? We are here to help. Give us a call at 800-236-2141.

Safety Tip

Grass and brush fires can occur naturally when lightning strikes or when high winds bring down power lines. However, 85% of wildfires are caused by humans. Common causes include burning debris, using hot equipment on grass, improperly discarding cigarettes and leaving campfires unattended.



Safe Electricity.org

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Light Notes is a monthly newsletter for members of SREC. Please contact us with questions or comments at 206 County Road K, Lancaster, WI 53813, via email at srec@srec.net, via phone at (608) 723-2121 or (800) 236-2141.



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Steve Lucas CEO



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