

# Norris Electric *News*

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

## Norris Electric Cooperative

8543 N St Hwy 130  
Newton, IL 62448

**Phone:** 618-783-8765  
or **Toll-Free:**  
1-877-783-8765

**Report an Outage:**  
1-877-783-3221

**Office Hours:**  
Monday – Thursday  
7 a.m. – 5 p.m.

### Chairman

Gordon McClure .....Jasper

### Vice Chairman

Justin Parcel..... Clark

### Secretary/Treasurer

Ted Helmink ..... Cumberland

### Directors

Ava Lemmon .....Crawford

Dean Dietrich..... Richland

Kurt Holscher .....Crawford

Gilbert Garbe..... Effingham

Scott Weiss.....Lawrence

Dan Strine ..... Wabash

Dave Sheppard.....Jasper

Ron Viehman.....Lawrence

### General Manager

Tamara Phillips



## Planned Outage Notification Call List

*If you depend on life support equipment, contact Norris Electric.*

Norris Electric does its best to keep the power on 24 hours a day, seven days a week and 365 days a year. Yet despite our best efforts, outages do occur. For most members, this is an inconvenience, but for those who depend on electricity to power life support equipment, an outage can present a real challenge. In storm-related incidents, Norris Electric cannot be responsible for health-related equipment. To protect yourself, be prepared by installing a generator or having some other form of backup plan.

While most outages are weather related, a few are planned in advance for maintenance and construction purposes during the day. For instances of a planned outage, Norris maintains a Planned Outage Call List for those members with a verified medical necessity. These members receive notification in the event of a scheduled power outage. Please note this notification is only when it is a planned

outage during daytime working hours.

If you or a relative depend on electrically powered life support equipment and would like to be put on the call list for medical reasons, it is necessary for the member to fill out a form and have your doctor sign off on it.

It is important to stress that by being placed on the daytime planned outage call list, Norris is in no way guaranteeing uninterrupted power supply. Members must make personal arrangements for both unplanned and planned outages.

To be placed on the daytime Planned Outage Call List for medical reasons, send an email to [billing@norriselectric.com](mailto:billing@norriselectric.com) or call 877-783-8765 and we will mail you a form to be filled out by you and your doctor.

Please note it is the member's responsibility to keep all contact information updated with Norris Electric.



## Office building update

The outside looks the same, but there is a lot going on inside! The electrical, HVAC and plumbing are roughed in, exterior walls are insulated, and drywall has started. The next two weeks will be window installation, finishing drywall and painting. It's coming together nicely!

# Clearing for reliability

There are many ways that Norris Electric provides you with safe, reliable electric service. One of the most common – and crucial – ways is referred to as right-of-way clearing (or vegetation management).

A right of way (ROW) refers to a strip of land underneath or around power lines that your electric cooperative has the right and responsibility to maintain and clear. Trees must grow at a distance far enough from conductors where they will not cause harm to individuals or disruption to electrical service. Specifications can vary, but a general guideline of maintaining a safe ROW is 15 feet of clearance on either side and above the primary conductors, and no overhanging limbs on 3-phase feeders.

Clearing the ROW is critical to keeping our members' lights on. An average of 10 percent of power interruptions occur when trees, shrubs or bushes grow too close to power lines.

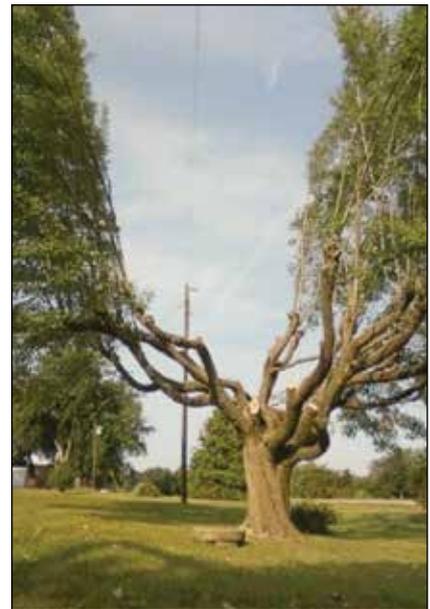
If a tree encroaches on this safe distance, our vegetation management team will trim back branches and brush using chainsaws, bucket trucks, tree climbers, brush chippers and mowers. Chemical control methods can also be used as a way to support

the growth of low-growing plant species that will outcompete the tall trees growing beneath power lines.

ROW clearing also keeps your family safe by ensuring that tree branches do not become energized due to close contact with a downed power line. Power lines can carry up to 69,000 volts, and an energized tree branch is incredibly dangerous – even deadly. Be mindful when around trees close to power lines, and make sure your children know that climbing trees near power lines is extremely dangerous.

ROW clearing is also critical to ensuring that we provide members with affordable electricity. Staying ahead of the game keeps us from having to come out after a storm to restore power due to fallen trees.

Norris Electric Cooperative is conducting tree trimming work in four counties this year. Those counties are Wabash, Jasper, Lawrence and Crawford. This will either be done by a Norris Electric crew or a contracted crew. We will be trimming any trees that could interfere with our electric lines. This free service is necessary to ensure delivery of safe and reliable electricity to your home.



## TRIMMED TREES = BETTER SERVICE



**When you see us trimming trees near power lines, know that we are doing so because:**

- **Tree and foliage overgrowth** can interfere with power distribution.
- **Power lines** can give off a spark or arc that may land on a nearby branch and ignite.
- The lights in your house may flicker when tree branches brush power lines during **high winds**.
- **Stormy weather** can cause nearby limbs to break off and land on power lines.
- Unobstructed power lines make it easier and **safer** for lineworkers to **maintain equipment** or **restore power**.

 Safe  
Electricity.org

# Plant the Right Tree in the Right Place

For more tips on smart tree planting in your community, contact your local electric cooperative or visit [www.ArborDay.org](http://www.ArborDay.org).

Trees beautify our neighborhoods, and when planted in the right spot, can even help lower energy bills. But the wrong tree in the wrong place can be a hazard... especially to power lines.

## LARGE TREES

Height/spread of more than 40 feet, such as:

- Maple
- Birch
- Oak
- Sweetgum
- Spruce
- Linden
- Pine

## MEDIUM TREES

Height/spread of 25 to 40 feet, such as:

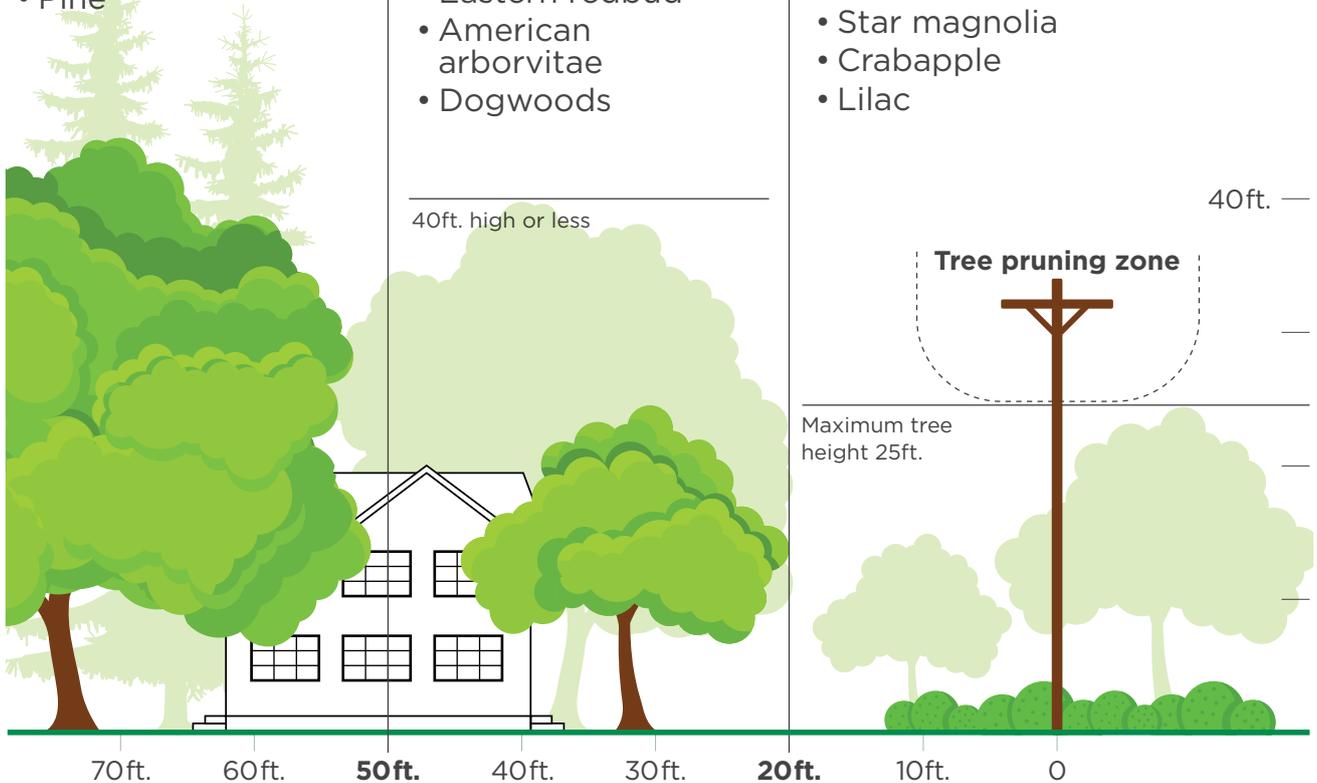
- Washington hawthorn
- Goldenraintree
- Eastern redbud
- American arborvitae
- Dogwoods

## SMALL TREES

Avoid planting within 20 feet of power lines. When planting within 20 feet is unavoidable, use only shrubs and small trees.

Height/spread of no more than 25 feet such as:

- Star magnolia
- Crabapple
- Lilac



**Be safe! Always call 811 before you dig to locate any buried utility lines.**

Source: The Arbor Day Foundation and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association

## Area Banks Accepting Norris Electric Payments

Please remember when you take your payment to the bank it is mailed to us and not directly posted to your account until Norris Electric receives it. This could take several days due to the mail service. Please note these banks are not allowed to take payments if your payment is past due.

### Bridgeport

- Peoples State Bank

### Casey

- First Neighbor Bank

### Dieterich

- Dieterich Bank

### Effingham

- Crossroads Bank
- Dieterich Bank: Effingham Main Branch
- Dieterich Bank: Lake Sara Branch

### Greenup

- First Neighbor Bank

### Hutsonville

- Farmers & Merchants Bank

### Lawrenceville

- First Financial Bank
- First Bank
- Peoples State Bank

### Newton

- First Financial Bank
- Dieterich Bank: IGA Branch
- Peoples State Bank

### Olney

- First Financial Bank

### Robinson

- First Financial Bank

### St. Francisville

- Peoples State Bank

### Ste. Marie

- Ste. Marie State Bank

### Sigal

- Teutopolis State Bank

### Sumner

- Peoples State Bank

### Teutopolis

- Teutopolis State Bank
- Dieterich Bank: National Trail Banking Center

If you are thinking of a career as a lineman, this scholarship is for you.



The LaVern and Nola McEntire Lineworker's Scholarship is a \$2,000 scholarship to help pay for costs to attend the lineworker's school conducted by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives in conjunction with Lincoln Land Community College in Springfield, Ill.

One scholarship a year will be awarded to an individual who is related to a rural electric cooperative employee or director in the State of Illinois; or is the son or daughter of an electric cooperative member in Illinois; or is enrolled in the Lincoln Land Lineworker's School; or has served or is serving in the U.S. Armed Forces or National Guard.

If interested in a lineman career, check out the official rules and regulations at [norriselectric.com](http://norriselectric.com). Application deadline is April 30, 2023.

## Average Prices for Residential Electricity

2021 figures, in cents per kWh

