



## From the desk of Travis Mathes, Manager of Member Services

October is National Cooperative Month. It is a month for this nation's over 30,000 cooperatives to celebrate and reflect on their success. At Lewis County REC we not only reflect upon success, but also look to the future. Electricity has led to many technological innovations world-wide through the years, one of which is the advancement of EV's (all electric vehicles). If you have met me on the road in the past few months you may have noticed that I have transitioned from a mini-van to an all-electric Chevy Bolt car. The Bolt is a 100% plug in vehicle, which means you have no fossil fuel back up or engine. I simply plug the car into a charger much like you would your cordless power tools. The Bolt has an average charge that will allow me to travel 238 miles. Based on my past few months driving the car is costing between 3 and 4 cents per mile to operate. A number of members have asked questions about the cars performance and I can tell you, in my opinion, driving it is not different than any other vehicle. You can drive at any speed you are comfortable, but much like fossil fuel vehicles the faster you drive the less efficient it is. The optimal efficiency occurs at 70 mph or less. The car will generate electricity when you are braking or coasting. I actually left our office and drove to down town Canton and never lost a mile of charge! I am anxious to see how the car performs during the winter.



I don't have to worry about stopping at the filling station, I simply drive home or to the office and plug it in to the charger. There are 3 different level chargers available. There is a fast charger, level 3, that will give the car a charge of about 100 miles per hour of charge up to the max. There is a level 2, which is what I charge with, that is hard wired and gives a charge of 25 miles per hour of charge up to the maximum. There is also a level 1 charger, which comes with the car, it will plug into any outlet and will give you a charge of 3 miles per hour of charge up to the maximum. I was actually the first person to charge at the new charging station in Canton, MO, at the Ayerco Convenience store. Ayerco is being proactive and has installed 2 level 3 chargers and 2 level 2 chargers. Ayerco will also be installing these chargers at other location in Northeast Missouri. You simply drive up, plug in, swipe an AP on your smart phone and you are able to charge with the cost charged to your credit card. Wow, aren't times changing.

We believe so strongly that EV's (Electric Vehicles) are the future, that we are offering a \$1,000 rebate to any member who purchases an EV that is a 2019, 2020, or 2021 model year new or used. We will also provide a \$250 bill credit to help offset the installation of a level 2 charging station at our home. If you are interested in taking advantage of either of these rebates, please, reach out to me at the office and I will help you make it happen. If you are considering an EV go to our website and look at our GO EV section. It will help you select the model that is best for you. Ford Motor Company has an electric F-150 that will be coming out sometime in the next year or so and I plan to put one of those to the test as well. It is predicted to have a 500-driving radius on a single charge.

Next month, Knox County R-1, will break the ice here in Missouri with the first all-electric school bus. The bus is set for delivery sometime late November. We have, and will, be working with the district to gather as much data as we can to share with others throughout the Midwest.

If you would like to go for a ride or look at the EV that I drive just flag me down, or give me a call and we will make it happen. As the seasons change, I will keep you informed as to how the "little car" performs. What better way to celebrate National Cooperative Month than to celebrate the new innovations available to electric cooperative members. Let's hope that October brings us a calm and enjoyable fall month. Until next month, stay healthy and safe!



### Energy Efficiency

### *Tip of the Month*

Now is a good time to make some simple energy-efficiency improvements around the house:

- Remove window A/C units and seal the window
- Change the direction on your ceiling fan
- Replace your furnace filter
- Caulk and weatherstrip leaky doors and windows
- Replace old incandescent bulbs with LEDs

## SAFETY FIRST!

Ladders and electricity are a bad combination. That's why you should always "look up and live." Before using a ladder scout the location to ensure you won't come close to overhead power lines. The only safe way to use a ladder near power lines is to first have your electric co-op disconnect the line.



# Right of Way

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. Lewis County REC works hard to ensure that our rights of way are regularly cleared of trees and brush in order to help reduce potential outages and hazards. Trees and branches growing in or near power lines can cause interruptions in your electric service and uncontrolled brush can impede access to utility structures. Specifications can vary, but a general guideline for maintaining a safe ROW is 15 feet of clearance on either side of the primary conductors and 15 feet of overhead clearance above the highest wire on the pole.

Clearing the ROW is critical to keeping our members' lights on. An average of 25 percent of power interruptions occur when trees grow too close to power lines. If a tree encroaches on this safe distance, our lineman or contractors will trim back branches and brush using chainsaws, bucket trucks, tree climbers, brush chippers, and mowers. In some cases, it is necessary to remove a tree altogether.

ROW clearing also keeps your family safe by ensuring that tree branches do not become energized due to close contact with a power line. An energized tree branch due to close proximity or contact with a power line 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.

Another benefit to ROW clearing is that it can decrease outage restoration time. When weather strikes, every minute spent clearing a tree or branch off of a power line equals a minute in delay of restoring your power. While winds can blow downed trees into power lines, it's often those trees that were left near the power line that cause the most damage. In addition, that damage has an economic impact on the cooperative, which in turn could affect your electric rates.

Not all outages can be prevented, but investing in vegetation management has both immediate and long term benefits. By prioritizing our ROW management programs, Lewis County REC is investing in safety, outage reduction, rate stabilization, and increased reliability. As always, if you have questions or concerns, feel free to reach out to us at (573)-215-4000.

# TRICK OR TREAT

## HALLOWEEN SAFETY TIPS FOR KIDS

**STAY AS GROUP**

**STAY IN POPULATED AREA**

**DO NOT GO INTO STRANGER HOUSE**

**CROSS STREET CAREFULLY**

**DO NOT EAT CANDY UNTIL GET HOME**

**DO NOT HURT ANIMALS**

**WHAT TO CARRY**

**FLASHLIGHTS** **FLEXIBLE PROPS** **ID CARD**

**Please follow us  
on Facebook to keep  
up to date on what is going  
on at Lewis County REC,  
as well as,  
learn about safety,  
and energy efficiency.**

## TO REPORT AN OUTAGE

**CALL (TOLL FREE) 1-888-454-4485  
(LOCAL) 215-4000  
24 HOURS A DAY**

**CALL THE TOLL FREE NUMBER  
DURING REGULAR BUSINESS HOURS (7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.)  
FOR ALL OTHER SERVICES**

**Before calling:**

Check your breakers or fuses  
Check with your neighbors to see if they have power  
When calling please give the following information: