We’d like you to meet J & J Custom Meats

The Harren Family: Joe and JoAnn Harren with their four children.

Just beyond the edge of Midland Power Cooperative’s service territory, in Whittemore, Iowa, you’ll find J & J Custom Meats. The owners, Joe and JoAnn Harren, saw a need for such a business in their local community. The family-owned meat locker opened in December 2019, and business has been booming ever since.

“I grew up on a dairy farm in Minnesota and I always knew that I wanted to own my own business in the agricultural industry,” said Joe Harren. The newly constructed business was a recipient of a revolving loan through Midland Power, which supports new and expanding local businesses. The program is part of the co-op’s commitment to community, supporting local resources and services for residents and creating jobs within the cooperative in 2020 and/or 2020, will receive their portion of the 2021 patronage retirement by billing credit in December, unless they are due $500 or more. Current members eligible to receive $500 or more will be sent a check in late November. Retired members, those no longer purchasing power from the co-op, will receive their patronage retirement by check as well.

TOTAL ELECTRIC CHARGES
GREENE COUNTY TAX 1.0%
PATRONAGE DIVIDEND RETIREMENT
CURRENT CHARGES

$182.15 $1.82 $38.13CR $145.84

ACTUAL AMOUNT WILL VARY

See Page 2 to learn more about patronage.

Lending more than $14 million since 1997

Utility-sponsored Revolving Loan Funds (RLF's) and USDA Rural Economic Development Grants and Loans (REDDG & REDL) can make a crucial difference to community infrastructure and business growth. These programs exist to promote rural economic development and support job creation, and Midland Power works hard to put that money to use to strengthen our community.

Since 1997, Midland Power Cooperative has sponsored 58 RLF loans, all of them initially funded from eight USDA grants. Recipients of the funding include medical facilities, fire and rescue organizations, manufacturers, educational projects, housing developments, speculative buildings, and industrial parks as well as many other commercial businesses and industries.

Scholarships available

Midland Power takes pride in helping develop leaders in our region. Therefore, we offer scholarships to recognize academic and community achievements made by young people in the communities we serve. Midland Power Cooperative will soon be accepting applications for three $1,000 scholarships to be awarded to 2022 college students that are dependents of members.

These scholarships are considered an investment in the economic future of rural areas. Applicants only need to apply once to be considered to win any of these scholarships.

Get to know Director Charlie Gilbert

Director Charlie Gilbert, of Iowa Falls, has accepted multiple opportunities to serve over his 23-year tenure at Midland Power Cooperative.

“Life is all about timing,” said Gilbert. When a long-time Midland Power incumbent director was retiring from the board, he was approached by a nominating committee member to see if he would be interested in running for the Midland Power board of directors. Gilbert accepted the nomination and was elected to the board. “The time was right to serve. Opportunities arose over the following years, and Charlie was elected to serve on two of Midland Power’s wholesale power providers’ boards, Corn Belt Power Cooperative in 2003 and Basin


“When serving as a director, the one thing that I ask myself, no matter what level I’m serving at (electric distribution co-op or generation and transmission co-op) is ‘Is this good for the membership?’” Gilbert noted that this is the advantage of the co-op business model. That, along with having accessible and approachable leadership and directors at the electric cooperatives, and the participation in training, education and idea sharing being encouraged at electric co-ops across the country.

Happy Holidays!

Cooperative office’s will be closed in observance of holidays on the following dates:

Nov. 25 & 26
Dec. 23, 24 & 31

See SCHOLARSHIPS, Page 2

See GILBERT, Page 4

See J & J CUSTOM MEATS, Page 2

See LOAN FUNDS, Page 3

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See SCHOLARSHIPS, Page 2

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Cooperative concern for community improves two Iowa parks

With the cooperative principle “Concern for Community” in mind, the Midland Power team took to two of Iowa’s State Parks to make improvements that benefit the community and beyond. On Nov. 7, approximately half of Midland Power’s employees contributed a day of service at Ambrose A. Call State Park near Algona. They trimmed and cleared overgrown trees and stained picnic tables and benches. The following day, the remainder of the employees gathered at Ledges State Park near Madrid. There, drainage issues were addressed along a few walking trails, including rearranging some large rock stairs and correcting some runoff issues along the stairs and other area trails. Railings were constructed, trash was collected, and overgrown trees along the park roadway were trimmed back for proper clearance.

**AMBROSE A. CALL STATE PARK, ALGONA**

**LEDGES STATE PARK, MADRID**

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**SCHOLARSHIPS**

Continued from page 1

J & J CUSTOM MEATS

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three scholarships, as well as a fourth $1,000 scholarship, to be awarded to a dependent of a Midland Power member, or a dependent of a member at a neighboring electric cooperative.

Recipients are selected on the basis of academic record, potential to succeed, leadership and participation in school and community activities, honors, work experience, a statement of education and career goals, and an essay on a given topic.

Scholarship funds will be distributed directly to the recipients’ schools from the electric cooperative.

Find more information and the application at [www.MidlandPower.Coop](http://www.MidlandPower.Coop). If you have any questions, give us a call at (800) 833-8876.

The application deadline (postmarked or dropped at a Midland Power office or drop box) is Jan 31, 2022.

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**How Patronage Works**

Because electric co-ops operate at cost, excess revenues are returned to members in the form of patronage dividends, also known as capital credits.

1. Your co-op tracks how much money you pay for electricity throughout the year.
2. At the end of the year, your co-op completes financial matters and determines whether there are excess revenues, known as margins.
3. Your co-op allocates, or designates, the margins to members as patronage based upon how much they spent with the co-op during the year.
4. When the co-op’s financial condition permits, your board of directors decides to retire, or pay, the patronage dividends to you.
5. You receive a bill credit or check for your portion of the patronage dividends being retired.
Midland Power rebate programs

By Roger Hammem
Member Service Representative, Midland Power Cooperative

Through the years, Midland Power Cooperative has offered a variety of rebate and incentive programs to our membership to encourage the purchase of highly energy-efficient equipment. Installations such as heat pumps and LED lighting not only result in cost savings to you, our member, as well as your cooperative. Reductions in demand energy created by these types of programs ultimately help the utility with cost savings that result in stabilized rates. Lower cost, energy-efficient operation, combined with healthier home aspects, create a true benefit to you, our member, as well. Incentives and rebates are offered to help educate and offset some of the costs of installing better, more efficient systems.

As technology has evolved, some types of installations have become standard equipment especially for new construction. LED lighting, as an example, has virtually become the normal installation so there is basically no cost savings as compared to retrofitting our older incandescent or fluorescent lighting. This is a driver that moves decisions on whether a rebate is cost effective or not. Savings in energy consumption is truly the main driver and this can be achieved without a rebate that no longer has a viable return on investment.

Appliances, as another example, are now often energy efficient and do not warrant much if any type of a rebate. Again, savings in energy consumption should always be the main goal, whether a rebate is available or not.

Moving into 2022 and beyond, we will continue to evaluate and offer incentives and programs that are most beneficial to our membership and to your co-op. Likely, many of these incentives will be mainly focused on highly efficient HVAC, water heating systems, and efficient building practices. We are suddenly seeing drastic increases in propane and natural gas pricing, so electric heat pump and water heating systems are becoming more efficient.

With Midland Power’s reduced heat rate, offset of BTUs from gas to electric is much more economical and present a healthier home from less contaminant created from burning gas. Renewable energy production has also made electric even cleaner, which ultimately results in reduction of carbon emissions. Midland Power Cooperative will always be your trusted source for information and education on efficient power usage. Our goal, as always, is to offer advice and options that will enable you to make educated decisions on what is best for any individual situation.

We will continue to offer services such as free energy auditing, power monitoring, and general energy consultations that will help you with your energy consumption. As the landscape continues to evolve with introductions of electric vehicles and personal renewable energy production, it will help guide you down the path that makes the most sense for your individual needs.

As technology changes, we will continue to develop and update programs and incentivize those that are most effective to the membership and to your co-op. (The LED Holiday Light Rebate Deadline is January 31)

Midland Power Cooperative prepares for rate adjustment

By Bill McKim
CEO, Midland Power Cooperative

Even though I work in the energy industry, like most people, I still don’t think much about the electricity I use. I expect the lights to turn on when I flip the switch and the coffeemaker to work each morning. The only time we really think about electricity is when the power goes out or perhaps when the monthly bill arrives.

In recent months, we have all heard the news of volatile commodity markets, increasing costs of materials, and supply chain woes impacting our economy. In fact, the consumer price index (CPI) which serves as the official measure of inflation over time in the prices paid by urban consumers for goods and services rose the equivalent of 5.4 percent over the last 12 months, almost triple the 2 percent target that central banks use as a standard. The electric industry is not immune to these challenges. In fact, the US Bureau of Labor Statistics reports an overall CPI increase of 4.8 percent in the energy sector, overall. Closer to home, the US Bureau of Labor Statistics reports an overall CPI increase of 24.8 percent in the energy sector, overall. Therefore, it is important for a co-op to be part of an organization that owns generation and transmission which can help shield you, our member-owners, against having to pay high market prices during extreme weather events that impact energy prices.

We set our rates, annually, based on the cost to purchase power, the costs associated with transmitting that power (through operations and maintenance), the materials we use to maintain a resilient electric grid, and costs to support a talented and dedicated workforce that provides these services to you, our members, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year.

But, unfortunately, costs to purchase materials such as poles, wires, and transformers from our suppliers has risen. For example, just one year ago, the cost to purchase one foot of electric conductor wire was just $2.43. Today, that same foot of wire costs our co-op $3.44, an increase of 26 percent. In addition, the cost to purchase wood poles has increased 4 percent while the cost to purchase a transformer has risen 6 percent in just the past year. As we try to set budgets, which impacts our rates, we must consider these increases and adjust our rates, accordingly.

But the bottom line is this: electricity remains a good value. In fact, Midland Power members experience an average of 1.63 outages lasting less than 200 minutes per outage each year. Considering that electricity is something that we all use around the clock, I’m very proud of our track record to keep costs low and our level of service high. At the same time, we are striving to increase our service reliability, reduce those brief interruptions and reduce costs. We are continually working to improve our operations to ensure a smarter grid and exploring more renewable energy options where possible.

Midland Power provides the reliable service you expect and deserve as valued members of the co-op. And as your trusted energy advisor, we want to help you save energy and money.

We recognize that the past few months have been challenging for many of our members and we’re here to help. If you have questions about your account or are looking for ways to save energy at home, please give us a call. In the meantime, know that we are working hard to keep you informed of the decisions we are contemplating at our cooperative that may impact your energy costs in the future. Midland Power is your electric co-op and our sole purpose is to serve you and the needs of our community reliably, safely, sustainably, and affordably. That’s everyday value.

Notice: 2021 rebate items must be installed, and rebate applications submitted and postedmarked by December 20, 2021. For a complete list of 2021 rebates, go to www.midlandpower.coop.

(For additional information on Midland Power Cooperative’s Energy Insider, please visit www.midlandpower.coop.)
Green Pricing Program - Alternate Energy Sources

Midland Power Cooperative offers a green pricing program to co-op members. This program allows individual customers the ability to voluntarily contribute to a fund. All of the money collected from customers will be used for the development of alternate energy production facilities in Iowa. Alternate energy production facilities may include wind energy, biomass, solar and other nontraditional generation technologies.

Once you have signed up, your participation will continue at the same level until you notify us that you wish to change the amount of your contribution or end your participation in the program.

If you have questions, would like to sign up, or would like more information about this program, please log onto www.midlandpower.coop or call our office at (800) 833-8876 or (888) 470-4623.