



# The Energizer

MAY 2022 | STEUBEN RURAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

## FOR YOUR INFORMATION

### Your Board of Directors:

**James McCormick**

President  
District 1

**Robert Nichols**

Vice-President  
District 7

**Janice Hoad**

Secretary  
District 2

**Gordon Foster**

Treasurer  
District 6

**William Moss III.**

District 9

**Randy Stankey**

District 8

**Gerald Chase Jr.**

District 5

**Edward Borkowski**

District 3

**Vacant**

District 4

### Office Hours:

Monday - Friday

### Bath

9 Wilson Avenue

7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

### Cherry Creek

5966 South Rd

7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

### Services and

### Billing Questions:

(800) 843-3414

### For Outages:

(800) 843-3414

## Planning to dig? Here's what you need to know...



**BEFORE  
YOU START  
DIGGING,  
CALL 811**

Spring showers bring May flowers, but digging on your own this spring could spell big trouble. Even if you think you could get lucky or that digging one small hole (or two) won't matter, don't take for granted what lines might lurk beneath the soil in your yard.

Before you use that hole digger or other unearthing tools, STOP and call 811 to request that buried electric, gas, cable and other live lines in or near your yard be marked. The service is free, but digging in an unmarked yard may not be.

You might think you don't have time for that and ask yourself, "What's the worst that could happen?" You could die or become seriously injured. *It doesn't make that yard project quite as pressing, does it?*

There are other consequences of blindly digging and taking a chance. You could cause a power outage. You

could hit a gas line and get burned or cause an evacuation in your neighborhood. You could be fined. If you hit a telephone line or fiber-optic line, you might lose your telephone, cable TV or Internet service.

Whether you're a contractor or a homeowner doing an outdoor project, having underground utilities marked is essential to protect yourself and others from injury and prevent damage to underground utility lines.

Examples of some work involving digging are: landscaping, digging holes for fence posts or mailboxes, planting trees, installing a retainer wall, anchoring supports for decks and swing sets, or installing a swimming pool. These are just some of the many examples.

Contact UDig NY (<https://udigny.org/>) at least 2 working days (not counting the day you call) but not more than 10 working days before you plan to start your project. You can also call 811. They accept calls 24 hours a day, seven days a week, including holidays.

So tiptoe through the tulips this spring and summer, both literally and figuratively. Know what's underneath that flower bed and everywhere else in your yard.



could hit a gas line and get burned or cause an evacuation in your neighborhood. You could be fined. If you hit a telephone line or fiber-optic line, you might lose your telephone, cable TV or Internet service.

Although it all seems like "your" yard, utilities have the right of way to the live lines lurking under the ground in places where you might dig. In fact, an underground utility line is damaged once every nine minutes across the nation because someone decided to dig without getting



**UDIGNY.ORG**

## Annual Director Election

Four positions on Steuben Rural Electric's nine-member board are up for election at the 2022 Annual Meeting which is scheduled for Saturday, October 15, 2022. Districts 1, 2 & 9 will be up for a three-year term and District 4 will be up for the remaining one year of the three-year term.

To be eligible to become or remain a director, a person must be a Steuben Rural Electric member and receive electric from Steuben Rural Electric at the member's primary residence in the district he or she represents. Steuben Rural Electric's bylaws (available at [www.steubenrec.coop](http://www.steubenrec.coop), or at either of our offices) provide in-depth information on director districts, qualifications, terms, elections, meetings and officers.

## Nominating Committee

The nominating committee is tasked to find candidates who would make qualified directors. This is done through a meeting of the committee in which members of the committee discuss potential candidates that will accept the responsibilities of a board director, represent the interest of the cooperative's membership and meet the requirements outlined by Steuben Rural Electric Cooperative and its bylaws.

Members interested in being nominated for one of the districts listed below should contact the Bath office at 1-607-776-4161 for more information regarding the committee, nominations and qualifications of directors. 882200

### District 1

Wayland, Cohocton, Fremont, Avoca, Hornellsville, Hartsville, Greenwood and West Union

Incumbent Director: James McCormick  
Committee Member: Curt Williamson

### District 2

Cameron, Howard

Incumbent Director: Janice Hoad  
Committee Member: Robert Spears

### District 4

Bath

Incumbent Director: Vacant  
Committee Member: Walt Longwell

### District 9

Chautauqua County

Incumbent Director: William Moss III  
Committee Member: Nicholas France

# SREC Cooperative News

## Operations Update

The Cooperative's commitment to infrastructure upgrades will continue for 2022! Beginning in mid-May, we will have contractors working in the Towns of Hornby and Orange to rebuild a 30-mile section of line. This line section provides electric service to 198 members, east of Meads Creek Road. In total, the 30-mile rebuild will include 260 pole replacements and 16-miles of reconductoring. In the Cherry Creek District, internal crews will be working to

replace several off-road poles scattered throughout the system and a line relocation in the Town of New Albion. We will also continue to provide updates on other major capital projects that are planned for future years. At Steuben Rural Electric Cooperative, reliability is a top priority. We will continue our efforts in updating the infrastructure to provide the best service possible. If you have any questions, please call our office at (607)776-4161 or (800)843-3414.

## Integrated Vegetation Management (IVM)

It is that time of year again when the Cooperative's vegetation management program is kicking off its routine system maintenance. As such, we thought it would be a great time to provide some additional information on the strategy for the first few months of the 2022 year. At the beginning of the program year, crews will be primarily focused on vegetation management in the Towns of Bath, Urbana, Bradford, Thurston and Cameron. It is also anticipated, that vegetation management crews will transition

to the Cherry Creek District in the summer months. Clearing in the Cherry Creek District will be concentrated in the Towns of Villenova and Hanover. The IVM program implements a combination of management strategies tailored to the specific needs of the Cooperative's members and infrastructure. The result is the most cost effective, safe and environmentally friendly approach to utility vegetation management. If you have any questions, please contact our office at (607)776-4161 or (800)843-3414.

## Rate Increase

The Cooperative will be implementing a rate increase that will be effective on the July 2022 billing statements, after the traditional heating season. This increase is being implemented in accordance with Policy 218 of the Cooperative. As such, this increase will be less than 2.00% of the average 1,000 kWh residential bill.

The rate increase will be assessed on both the customer and distribution charge. The distribution charge is to recover the variable costs associated with maintaining and operating the Cooperative's distribution system to ensure reliable electricity is delivered to your home or business. The customer charge is designed to recover some of the fixed costs associated with the same. Since all our members need the distribution system available, even if they have little or no usage, we charge a base customer charge to help cover the costs of maintaining the Cooperative's system, so it is there when you need it. If a member has little to no usage, there are still costs associated with

operating and maintaining their line (i.e. property taxes, interest, customer service, billing etc.). A customer charge ensures that these costs are shared as equitably as possible. The overall impact of the rate increase on an average 1,000 kWh residential monthly bill will result in a \$2.58 increase.

The Cooperative would like to avoid large rate increases, especially for those that are living on a fixed income. Due to recent inflation, the Cooperative's costs have escalated significantly. Several steps have been taken to address the current inflation, which has also mitigated the need for a substantial rate increase. Our Board of Directors is continuously evaluating costs and rate adjustments to ensure that each member is receiving the best possible service at the least cost. As always, if you have any questions, concerns or comments please feel free to contact us anytime. We will continue to work hard to improve the quality of rural life by providing our members with low cost, reliable electricity and related services in a safe manner.

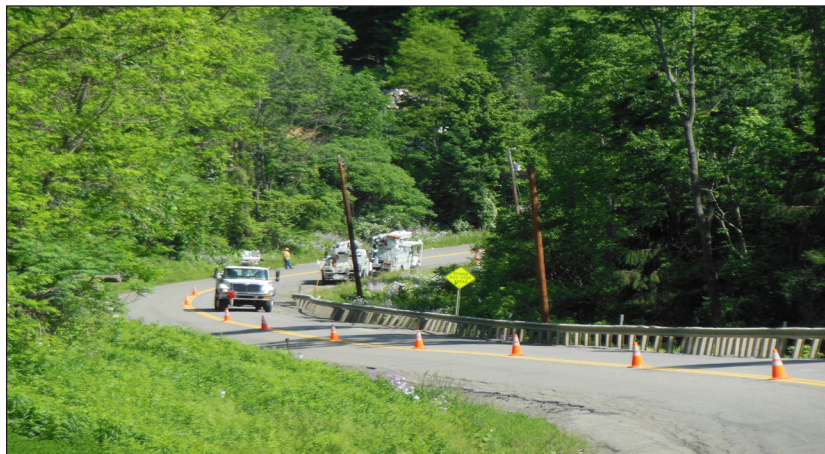
<u>Rate Schedule</u>	<u>Charge</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Before</u>	<u>After</u>
Rate Schedule 1	Customer Charge	Fixed Charge	\$ 26.95	\$ 27.95
Rate Schedule 1	Distribution Charge	Per kWh Charge	\$ 0.069310	\$ 0.070892
Rate Schedule 1A	Customer Charge	Fixed Charge	\$ 20.33	\$ 21.08
Rate Schedule 1A	Distribution Charge - Peak	Per kWh Charge	\$ 0.100523	\$ 0.102818
Rate Schedule 1A	Distribution Charge - Off Peak	Per kWh Charge	\$ 0.026281	\$ 0.026881
Rate Schedule 1B	Customer Charge	Fixed Charge	\$ 26.95	\$ 27.95
Rate Schedule 1B	Distribution Charge	Per kWh Charge	\$ 0.069310	\$ 0.070892
Rate Schedule 2	Customer Charge	Fixed Charge	\$ 50.56	\$ 52.44
Rate Schedule 2	Distribution Charge	Per kWh Charge	\$ 0.047353	\$ 0.048434
Rate Schedule 3	Customer Charge	Fixed Charge	\$ 145.75	\$ 151.16
Rate Schedule 3	Distribution Charge	Per kWh Charge	\$ 0.005310	\$ 0.005431

# Lineworker Appreciation Day

CELEBRATING Steuben Rural linemen on April 11th, 2022



Richard Pendle, SREC Lineman - Bath District



The next time you see a lineworker, please thank them for the work they do to keep the power flowing, regardless of the time of day or weather conditions. After all lineworkers are the power behind your power. Please join us as we recognize them on April 11th.

## Thank A Lineworker

It's no secret that a lineworker's job is tough but it is a job that's essential and must be done, often in challenging conditions. SREC celebrated Lineworker Appreciation Day on April 11 to honor the hard working co-op employees who keep the lights on 365 days a year. Lineworkers are committed to their career - it's not just a job, it's a lifestyle with long hours and ever-present danger. Lineworkers often work non-traditional hours, outdoors in difficult conditions.



Evan Wightman, SREC Lineman - Cherry Creek District

## MAY IS ELECTRICAL SAFETY MONTH

We use electricity every day. This invisible force has become so commonplace that it can be all too easy to overlook possible electrical hazards, even in the safety of our own homes. May is Electrical Safety Month, and it's a good time to put the most important safety tool you have - your brain - to work.

### *Know the difference between electrical* **FACT AND MYTH**

#### **Myth #1: Once a line is down, it's dead.**

**Fact:** The electric current does not always turn off when a power line is down. Even if lines do not show signs of life (arcing, smoking, popping), they can still hold dangerous electrical current. Always treat a downed wire as energized because there is no way for you to know by looking whether it is hot or not.

#### **Myth #2: All power lines are insulated.**

**Fact:** Most power lines are actually not insulated. The coating on the lines is actually for weatherproofing and will not offer any protection from the electrical current. Even if a power line is insulated, it can crack due to weather, reducing its safety. No matter the case, it is never safe to touch a power line.

#### **Myth #3: Tires insulate my car from electrical dangers.**

**Fact:** If a wire falls on your car while you are in it, the tires do not keep you from being injured by the electricity. The vehicle is the path to ground for the electrical current, so while you remain in the car, you are safe. The moment you step out of the car, you are the path to ground and in danger. If you find yourself in a situation where your car has hit a utility pole or power lines have fallen, stay in the car. Wait for a utility crew to cut the power. Only exit the car if it is on fire. Make sure to not touch the ground and the car at the same time. Jump from the car, keeping your feet together, and hop away from the scene.

# THE TRADING POST

**For Sale:** 20-22 ft. wooden extension ladder. Always stored inside, very good condition - \$40.00. Call 607-382-9492.

**For Sale:** Wen 9" band saw, 2 years old; Craftsman 7 1/4" saw; Craftsman drill & drill master drill - \$125.00 for all. Call 607-382-9492.

**For Sale:** Fencing Supplies for sheep, goat, cattle, etc. Rolled wire, panels, round pens, gates, etc. Handling Equipment. All in stock. Good prices! Good people! Ridge View Agriculture in Conewango Valley. Call 716-640-1330.

**For Sale:** Open pollinated corn seed. Silage, grain and wildlife plots. Early varieties. Hullless oats. Green Haven open pollinated seed. Call 607-566-9253 or visit [www.openpollinated.com](http://www.openpollinated.com).

**For Sale:** (34) 6ft. T posts - \$3.00 each; (63) 5ft. T posts - \$3.00 each; (117) electric posts - \$1.00 each; big roll of electric wire - \$30.00; (2) 12ft.

gates - \$40.00 each; (1) 10ft. gate - \$35.00. Call 585-213-0171 anytime.

**For Sale:** Animal lures & baits, deer lures & cover scents, hunting/trapping supplies. Supply catalog - \$1.00. Bill Russ Trading Post Store, 25 William St in Addison.

**For Sale:** Pair of CJ7 Wrangler Jeep doors, good condition - \$300; Circa 1918 antique record player Columbia Grafonola - \$300; (8) wooden porch posts, 9' long - 5 1/2" on top & bottom, rugged - \$65 each; fender brand model 1201 amplifier - \$100; hunter ceiling fan, 5 blades - \$35; 20" Kink BMX bike (Mission) - \$200. Call 607-661-6348.

**For Sale:** Trapping supplies. Grandview Fur Center in Bradford. Call Bill at 607-583-4600.

**Wanted:** Flat deck hay wagon or bare running gear for hay wagons; six foot bush hog mower. Call 607-382-6358.

## Can you spot a utility payment scam?

Paying your monthly electric bill is an important task. Steuben Rural Electric offers multiple payment methods for convenience to its members. But scammers will always find ways to try to defraud our members out of their hard-earned money.

A utility payment scam occurs when a member receives a phone call from someone who pretends to be from a utility provider. The caller will tell the member they have an unpaid balance and threaten to disconnect service if an immediate payment is not received. The caller will then usually offer several options to transmit the payment quickly such as a pre-paid debit card.

No matter who the caller claims to represent or how much information they seem to have

about your account there are several important things to remember. At Steuben Rural Electric:

» We do not disconnect accounts over the weekend/holiday.

» We do not accept live payments over the phone.

» To pay by phone you must call (607)776-4161 or (800)843-3414 and select option 2 for our Secure Payment IVR System.

If you have concerns about the legitimacy of a call, hang up right away and call Steuben Rural Electric. The scammer may encourage you to call a specific phone number to verify their claim that you owe money. Do not call any number provided by the caller. Instead call the phone number on your electric bill.

**The Trading Post Rules:** Only members of SREC may submit ads. Ads must be submitted by the 26th of July in order to be published in the August newsletter. You can submit ads by mailing them to Steuben Rural Electric Cooperative, 9 Wilson Ave, Bath, NY 14810 or by email to [kleveland@steubenrec.com](mailto:kleveland@steubenrec.com). All ads must be typed or printed clearly. Include your name and account number on all submissions. Ads are not allowed to be automatically repeated. They must be resubmitted for each issue. The cooperative reserves the right to edit material for content and/or space as necessary. Ads are published on a first-received basis with no guarantee your ad will appear. 727301

**Disclaimer:** Items in the Trading Post are published at the request of our members. SREC does not endorse, recommend or assume any responsibility for the products advertised.

# HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

May 30 - Memorial Day  
July 4 - Independence Day  
September 5 - Labor Day  
October 10 - Columbus Day  
November 11 - Veterans Day

## THIRD PARTY NOTIFICATION

In accordance with the provisions of the New York Codes, Rules and Regulations, Steuben Rural Electric Cooperative is required to permit a residential member to designate, in writing a third party to receive a copy of every notice of disconnectinuance of service to the member, provided that such third party indicated in writing a willingness to receive these notices, please contact the main office at (607) 776-4161 for a copy of the applicable paperwork.



## \$10 IS HIDING IN THIS ISSUE

Please read your newsletter carefully. If you spot your account number hidden in this newsletter, please contact Steuben Rural Electric Cooperative immediately to claim a \$10 credit on your bill!

