

HIGHLINES

NEWS FOR THE MEMBERS OF PELLA COOPERATIVE ELECTRIC

How Fast Is Your Internet?

Take the Central Iowa Broadband Survey to Help Your Community



Pella, Knoxville, Marion County, Jasper County, Poweshiek County and others are collaborating with the Greater Des Moines Partnership to map Internet speeds throughout an 11-county Central Iowa Region.

Whether you are within the city limits or live in a rural area, your input will help measure broadband internet availability and identify areas that do not currently meet consumer needs and expectations. Please take a quick survey on a landline or device connected to wifi –not a cellular connection.

The data gathered from these surveys will help local leaders in accessing funding and service providers to develop broadband solutions. This is every resident’s opportunity to help with this effort. The residential survey will identify gaps and limiting factors such as reliability and affordability. The business and employer survey will also identify gaps and quantify the impact of current broadband internet service on business operations and growth.

Take the Survey! Deadline ends May 14.
www.pella-cea.org/how-fast-your-internet

Pella Cooperative Electric

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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www.pella-cea.org
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Open weekdays: 7:30 am - 4:30 pm;
excluding holidays

Board of Directors

President Duane Ver Ploeg	Asst. Secretary/Treasurer Darrell Boot
Vice President Steve Inskeep	Director Carroll Hoksbergen
Secretary Bryce Arkema	Director Jon Van Woerkom
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Pella Cooperative Electric is a not-for-profit, member-owned electric cooperative, governed by an elected Board of Directors. This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer. See pella-cea.org > Non-discrimination Statement for more information.



Howell Substation Goes Live

PCEA line crews “flipped the switch” on April 19, 2021 to energize the new Howell Substation. The existing Howell Substation, which is located southeast of the new substation, was originally constructed in 1981. PCEA purchased land for a new location so the substation can be expanded and serve load growth - specifically Lely North America whose new headquarters is currently under construction just east of the substation.

PCEA will begin working on another new substation, Thunder Creek located north of Pella, this summer. Groundwork and concrete work has already started.

Pictured above, from left to right: PCEA Member Relations Manager Stan Eysink, Lead Lineman Shawn Williams, Journeyman Lineman Lance Freml, Lead Lineman Randy Reineke, Journeyman Lineman Matt Ainsworth and Line Foreman Rob Burton.

What’s in the Sub?

15.7	tons of steel
92	cubic yards of concrete
677	tons of gravel
46'	height of the tallest structure in the sub - equivalent to a 3 story building!

PCEA Welcomes New Employees



Cassie Cason, Senior Accountant
 PCEA welcomes Cassie to the team as a Senior Accountant. Cassie holds a Bachelor’s and Master’s degree in Accounting from the University of Northern Iowa. She grew up in Albia, and interned during college breaks at Chariton Valley REC.



Owen Ellingson, Apprentice Lineman
 PCEA welcomes Owen to the team as an Apprentice Lineman. Owen received a Diploma and Associate’s degree from Northwest Iowa Community College for Power Line Technology. He grew up in Cresco, Iowa. Owen will work toward becoming a Journeyman Lineman by completing a certain number of hours as an apprentice, along with bookwork.



- Held the reorganization meeting on April 1, 2021. The board voted to maintain the same officer positions.
- Reviewed and approved the Form 990 tax return.
- Attended the Wapello Solar Farm ribbon cutting on April 9.
- Met with legislators during the Virtual NRECA Legislative Conference April 19-23.

Wapello Solar Energized

The largest solar farm in Iowa, Wapello Solar sitting at 100 MWAC, is now operating and sending electrons down the line to CIPCO members. Representatives from Pella Cooperative Electric's power provider, Central Iowa Power Cooperative (CIPCO), Clēnera, LLC, and RES (Renewable Energy Systems), marked the official opening of Wapello Solar, LLC, with a ribbon cutting ceremony on April 9.

PCEA Board Members Duane Ver Ploeg, Bryce Arkema, Carroll Hoksbergen, Bob Van Soelen, Darrell Boot and CEO Jon Miles attended the ceremony. Also in attendance were Iowa Lt. Governor Adam Gregg, Senator Joni Ernst, and Representative Mariannette Miller-Meeks, landowners, local officials, and energy industry leaders. PCEA Board President Ver Ploeg represents PCEA on the CIPCO Board of Directors as the Asst. Secretary-Treasurer.



CIPCO's board members pose with CIPCO Executive Vice President & CEO Bill Cherrier. PCEA Board President Duane Ver Ploeg serves as the CIPCO Board Asst. Secretary-Treasurer - he is pictured fifth from the left.



A Day in May

May is Electrical Safety Month - and Cody's story is one that highlights why PCEA spotlights electrical safety throughout the year, and in May for Electrical Safety Month.

It was an average day in Illinois in May — one that started like any other, when Cody Conrady was at work for an ag fertilizer company.

He was an assistant manager, and it was his next-to-last day on the job. They were understaffed that day, and Cody was filling in wherever he was needed.

He jumped in the truck to try and get ahead of the sprayer. Once the sprayer was in position, he hopped out to fill the tank with fertilizer.

He and his coworker inside the cab were unaware that the sprayer boom had either made contact or gotten too close to a power line.

7,400 volts of electricity traveled through the boom and electrified the equipment and ground where Cody was standing. Unfortunately, the unyielding

voltage considered Cody's body as part of its electrical path to ground. Since that day, Cody and Bailey began a tough road of recovery, together. Cody lost two limbs, and had to learn how to walk again. For him, it was true grit, determination and living the ups and downs that come with this type of recovery. For her, it was emotional strength and fortitude — witnessing Cody's setbacks and victories and supporting him through them all.

Cody took his first steps as part of his recovery four months later — days before their September wedding.

Cody and Bailey share their experiences to increase awareness about power line safety. Electricity can travel through anything in its path. Unintended contact can happen in an instant. Learn more at: safeelectricity.org

Annual Meeting Wrap-up

Over 150 viewers tuned in online to watch PCEA's 85th Virtual Annual Meeting. Elections were held by mail-in balloting. Two positions on the Board of Directors were elected: incumbent Darrell Boot, representing District 2, and incumbent Carroll Hoksbergen, serving at-large.

PCEA hopes to resume an in-person Annual Meeting next April.



PCEA Board President Duane Ver Ploeg draws the Grand Prize winner with the help of Adaline Blunck, daughter of employee Amy Blunck, and Mariah Hartson, daughter of employee Jolyn Hartson.

Prize Winners:

GRAND PRIZE - \$1,000 Appliance Package from Bruxvoort's Decorating Center - Randy Van Essen

50" LED TV - Paula Collins

(4) \$100 Gift Certificates to Wanders Farms Meat Locker - Warren Van Wyngarden, Jim Richards, Jeffrey J. Johnson, Michael & Deborah Cardin

(2) \$25 Gift Certificates to Liberty Street Kitchen - Ronald Van Roekel, Bob & Twyla De Haan

(2) \$25 Gift Certificates to the Checkerboard - Dan Milledge, Ron Childerston

(2) \$25 Gift Certificates to Val's Fine Dining - Jane Mozena-Fetty, Amy Silk

(2) \$25 Gift Certificates to 111 Public House - Sharon Dahm, Gordon Foster

(2) \$25 Gift Certificates to Int' Veld's - Gerald T. Dowell, Stan Dykstra

(2) Sets of 4 Iowa State Fair Tickets - Emily Boone, Henry Zuidema

Tree Trimming Starting

Trimming trees around power lines is a top safety priority at PCEA. Tom's Tree Service out of Albia is starting trimming trees in the Lynnville, Sully, Searsboro, and the east of Pella areas.

Trees add beauty to our landscape, provide oxygen and help conserve energy. When they grow too close to power lines, however, they can cause service disruptions or even outages. That is why branches and limbs that grow into or near lines need to be trimmed and sometimes even removed.

If you notice your trees starting to crowd power lines, do not trim them yourself. Contact Pella Cooperative Electric to help determine the next recommended step.

Pole inspections by SBS Inspections

were also recently completed. PCEA tests poles every year for proactive maintenance - we work to replace poles as needed before they become damaged in a storm.



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

A dirty filter causes your air conditioner to work harder than necessary. Remember to change your air filter every month (or every two months) to prevent dust buildup, which can lead to even bigger problems.

Source: www.energy.gov

