

# Spring is Finally Here!

With the winter season in the rear view mirror, the smell of spring in the air, and thoughts of green grass comes the planting season.

As the farmers prepare to take to the fields and the gardeners, landscapers, and arborists sharpen their shovels, we are reminded that spring is a good time to plant trees.

Whether you are planting a single tree in the front yard or several thousand trees to start a plantation, it's important to consider the species of trees and the location in which you plan to plant them. This is especially important if you are planting trees near overhead power lines, says Mike Ruff, director of operations.

Many people plant trees too close to power lines for various reasons. They think that the trees will never get tall enough to grow into the power lines, or they simply forget to look up before they plant them.

The fact is that most trees will grow tall enough to touch power lines faster than you think. So take time to research your tree selection or consult with your local tree nursery for advice on which trees are appropriate for your landscaping area.

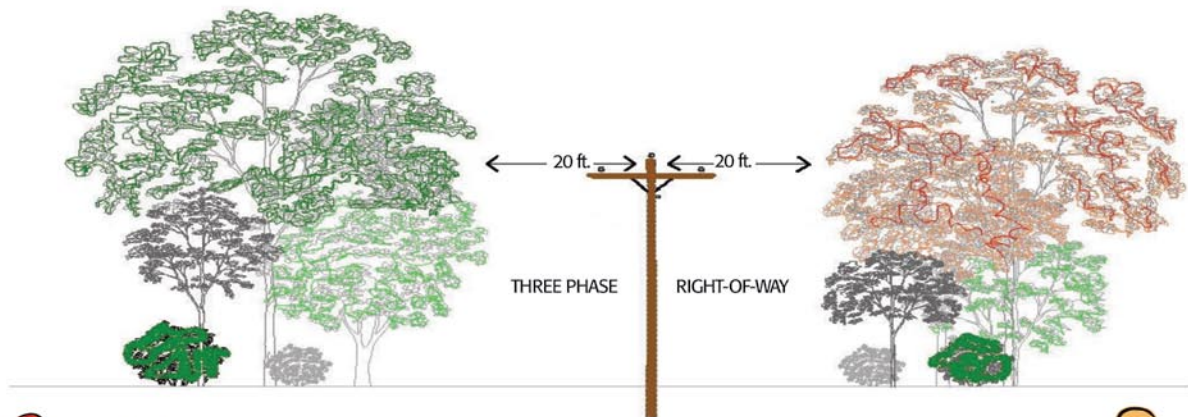
As the trees grow they can come into contact with the power lines and create power outages or momentary interruptions. However, the greatest concern is the safety risk that can be created when children climb trees near

power lines. Accidental contact with electrical wires while playing in or climbing a tree can be fatal.

As we move through the spring season and into summer, please take some time to consider a few things, especially if you plan to plant trees around power lines.

1. Clark Electric Cooperative requires 15 feet of clearance on both sides of the line for single-phase lines and 20 feet on both sides of the line for three-phase line right-of-way.
2. Be sure to plant your trees far enough away from power lines so that when the trees are fully grown, there will still be 20 feet of clearance to the power line without the need for trimming.
3. Remember, if you chose to plant trees in the right-of-way or too close to the right-of-way, your trees may need to be trimmed or cut some day, and that day may come sooner than you think.

If you have trees that appear to be growing into power lines, contact Clark Electric Cooperative at 1-800-272-6188. Never try to prune them yourself. We have skilled professionals trained to safely prune and trim trees for electric line clearance. ■



**Clark Electric Cooperative  
thanks you for your  
cooperation.**



# Be Prepared for Severe Storms

The months of April through July represent the most active months for severe storms, lightning strikes, and tornadoes. Mike Ruff, director of operations, would like to remind everyone of a few tips to stay safe before, during, and after severe storms.

“You just never know when a storm may hit, creating potential electrical hazards for you and your family,” Ruff said. “The best solution is to be prepared ahead of time. This checklist will help keep your family safe year-round.”

## Before the Storm:

- Assemble a kit of essentials, like battery-operated flashlights and radios. Keep a list of emergency phone numbers that includes the electric utility. Be prepared for the possibility of a prolonged outage due to power line and electric equipment damage.
- Fill spare containers with water for washing, and keep a supply of bottled drinking water on hand. Maintain a supply of non-perishable food items, along with a hand opener for canned food.
- During an outage, switch off lights and appliances to prevent overloading circuits and damaging appliances when power is restored. Leave one lamp or switch on as a signal for when your power returns.
- Be sure to tune into your local weather station if you suspect severe weather is brewing. Understand the National Weather Service warning classification system. A tornado or severe storm watch means that conditions are favorable for those weather conditions forming. A warning means that dangerous weather conditions are developing and imminent.
- Consider having Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters (GFCIs) professionally installed or purchasing a portable GFCI. GFCIs can cut off power if there is a problem and are recommended for outdoor outlets and areas of the home that are prone to water exposure such as basements, bathrooms, kitchens, laundry rooms, etc.

- Lightning can travel up to 10 miles away from a storm, so seek shelter as soon as you hear thunder.

## After the Storm:

- When venturing outside after a severe storm, stay away from downed power lines and be alert to the possibility that tree limbs or debris may hide an electrical hazard. Assume that any dangling wires you encounter are electrical, and treat all downed or hanging power lines as if they are energized. Warn others to stay away, and contact Clark Electric Cooperative at 1-800-272-6188.
- If you're driving and come upon a downed power line, stay in your vehicle, warn others to stay away, and contact emergency personnel or Clark Electric Cooperative. Also, when driving, be careful at intersections where traffic lights may be out. Stop at all railroad crossings, and treat road intersections with

*(Continued on page 29 ►)*

## IT'S ANNUAL MEETING TIME



**You are invited to attend  
Clark Electric Cooperative's  
annual meeting**

**Wednesday,  
April 13, 2011**

**At the Loyal American Legion  
Meeting Starts at 9:30 a.m.**

# MORE LOCAL NEWS

## Do You Know Where These Former Members Are?

Please contact the cooperative with their current addresses so we can send them their unclaimed capital credits.

ABLES CHARLES G.	CLARK LINDA	HAYDEN ELSA	LAVALLE DONALD	PAINÉ JOSEPH	STRONACH NANCY
ADRIAN RON	CLARK JOHN J.	HEDERER RANDY	JOSEPH JR	PASZKIEWICZ LINDA	STUMPF THOMAS
ADRIAN PATRICIA	CLARK ELISABETH	HELMER DANIEL	LENZEN LAWRENCE G	PENNEY DARRELL	STUMPF MARY
ALEXANDRU THOMA	COBLENTZ JOHN D.	HENDERSON DON I.	LENZEN ROSE MARY	PETERSON MARY ELLEN	SUIDAK CHESTER A.
ANDERSON ANDREW	COCHRAN FLOYD	HENDERSON CAROL J.	LIESKE JOHN	PETERSON STEVEN	SUIDAK MARJORIE M
ANDERSON JOAN	SCHEEL HENRY	HENSEL RICHARD E	LOBACZ ERNEST	PETERSON PATRICIA L.	SULLIVAN JEANNE
ANDERSON MIKE	COLE FARM	HENSEL MARY E	LOEFFELHOLZ	PFLUGHOEFT THERESA	SZYMEMSKI RONALD
ANDERSON WALTER	CONRO JAMES L.	HENSLER MARTHA	CHARLES	MARIE	SZYMEMSKI BETTY J.
ANDRICK W. WAYNE	CONRO LE RAE J.	HOLOZSI JOHN	LOEFFELHOLZ	POLZIN BRIAN	TETZLOFF CHARLES
ANDRICK LINDA	CONTER CRAIG	HOLOZSI LAVONNE	ELIZABETH	POLZIN LYNN D.	THIEL REGINA A
AVCO FINANCIAL	CUDAHY JOHN E.	HOLUM MARTIN	LOHRMON DARREL	PSCHEIDT ROMAN	THOMS ALLEN R.
SERVICES	DANGREMOND R.V.	HONEYAGER GERALD	LOOS WILLIAM	QUINN R. T.	THOMS GLORIA J.
BALDYS LARRY	DANGREMOND	HONEYAGER	JLOUKES ROGER B	QUINN JOYCE E.	TINBERG WARREN C.
BALL ESTATE	PHILLIPA	CHRISTINE	LUDWIG JEFFERY	RAMM DONALD	TOMKUS CHARLES A.
NICHOLAS	DETTMANN ALMA	HORN DANIEL S.	LUDWIG JULIE	RASMUSSEN HAROLD	TOMKUS VERONICA
BEDINI LANCE	DUDA AN TONI	HORN SUSAN	LUEPHE MARY ANN	RASMUSSEN CINDY	TROYER LAVERN
BEDINI DENIESE	DUDA STEFANIE	HOWARD JODY R.	MAHL WILLIAM J J JR.	READ GLEN M.	TYSON JOSEPH E
BEIERLE SCOTT	DUNCAN MARION G.	HOWARD & TOW FARM	MAITA JAN	READ ADELINE E.	TYZNIK JOE
BERG JAMES B.	EDWARDS CHARLES D.	HOYT RUTH A.	MALASZUK JOHN S.	RIEMER THOMAS	UNDERWOOD
BERG CYNTHIA J.	ELMHORST PAUL SR	HUNT ALFRED E.	MALASZUK APRIL C.	ROCHESTER SILO	MICHAEL A.
BERGER BRYAN	FAGAN CYRIL T.	IRWIN CLIFFORD J. JR.	MARTIN DEE	RODRIGUEZ JAMES	UNDERWOOD BRENDA
BIGALL WAYNE J.	FASETTI MARIE	IRWIN BARBARA	MARTINOVICH BABBE	RODRIGUEZ	THOMAS
BIGALL SHIRLEY	FASETTI MARIE	JACOBS KENNETH E.	JOE	ROJICEK ILENE	ROONEY DALE P.
BJORDAHL NANCY J.	FEDERAL LAND BANK	JACOBS KAY K.	MATZ STEVEN L.	ROONEY MRS.DALE	ROONEY MRS.DALE
BLUE CHIP ELEVATO	ST. PAUL	JANKOWSKI ROBERT J	MATZ CONNIE	ROTAR GREGORY P.	ROYCE LILIANE M.
R INC	FINLEY PATRICIA	JANKOWSKI STANL	MC KIBBIN RONALD	RUETH PAUL R	SAYLES DEAN A.
BOHMAN GARY	FINLEY WAYNE	JOHN HYNES	MCPHERON LAMONT	SANDOR JILL N.	SAYLES SUSAN A.
BOHN CURTIS W.	FLEMING KENT	JOHNSON CARL M.	MCPHERON TERESA	SCHAFFER GERALD	SCHAEFER GERALD
BONNAR JAMES A.	FLEMING CHRISTINE	JOHNSON JOAN	MENARD RICHARD	SCHESSEL PEARL	SCHESSEL PEARL
BONNAR SHARON M.	FORMILLER RICHARD	JOHNSON DEWEY A.	MENARD KIMBERELY	SCHINI THOMAS W.	SCHINI THOMAS W.
BORES RUSSELL	FRITZLER STEPHEN	JOHNSON MARTHA V.	MILLS ALLEN	SCHINI SHIRLEY R.	SCHINI SHIRLEY R.
BORES ROSEANNE	GAFFNEY PATRICK	JOHNSON STEVEN W.	MOLASH BARBARA	SCHLEGEL KEN E.	SCHLEGEL KEN E.
BORGESON ALBIN E.	GAGE EARL	JOHNSON STEVEN W.	MOON MARK	SCHLEGEL PATRICIA L.	SCHLEGEL PATRICIA L.
BORGESON MARSHA M.	GLOTFFETTY EDWIN H.	KARAU ALAN	MOTOROLA INC	SCHMIDT RUTH	SCHMIDT RUTH
BOURGEOIS THELMA	GOESSL DONALD P.	KARAU SANDRA	NEAL BARBARA J.	SCHMIDT WAYNE E.	SCHMIDT WAYNE E.
BROESKE DONALD	GOESSL RONDA K.	KING MICHAEL	NEAL LARRY L.	SCHMIDT CINDY A.	SCHMIDT CINDY A.
BROESKE CAROL	GRADE ALBERT	KING MARJI L.	NEUENS DANIEL A.	SCHULTZ STEPHEN	SCHULTZ STEPHEN
BROOKS J W	GRANT STAN	KLEIN KIM	NEUENS EVELYN M.	SCHULTZ MICHELLE R	SCHULTZ MICHELLE R
BROST ROMAN	GROESSEL PAUL T.	KLEIN DONNA	NEWMANN MICHAEL	SCHWANTES DOROTHY	SCHWANTES DOROTHY
BROWN DEBORAH	GUSTUM KIM	KLINGBIEL ANN	NEWMANN RENEE	SEEFELD VALERIE	SEEFELD VALERIE
BRUKSCH ELMER R	GUSTUM JEAN	KNUTH DONALD	NICHOLS RUBY	SHINKLE ALBERT L.	SHINKLE ALBERT L.
BUNDICK RAYMOND E.	HAAS RICKY B	KONEY VERONICA	NICHOLS-THOMPSON	SHULL MAX A.	SHULL MAX A.
BUSSE JIM	HABHEGGER WAYNE	KRALL MARY E	PENNY M	SISSON RICHARD	SISSON RICHARD
CALDWELL MERRY	HABHEGGER YVONNE	KUDRNA EDWARD S.	NICOLAISEN JENS	SISSON JEANNINE	SISSON JEANNINE
CARNAHAN VIDA M	HANSON ESTATE ELLEN	KUDRNA DOROTHY M	NISIEWICZ MICHAEL	SLACHETKA JOHN	SLACHETKA JOHN
CHAMBERS W WAYN	JHARALSON DEAN	KUH N CHERYL LEE	NISIEWICZ SHERRI	SMITH CHARLOTTE	SMITH CHARLOTTE
CHRISTENSEN CARL W.	HARDER'S COUNTRY	KUNKEL DORIS M	NOBLE JOHN H	SMOCZYK YVONNE	SMOCZYK YVONNE
CHRISTENSEN CECELIA	SUPPLY	KUNTZ DAMIAN	NORTH OLIVE G.	SONHEIM JOHN H.	SONHEIM JOHN H.
CHRISTENSEN ELLE-	HARNACK REBECCA J.	KUNTZ ELLIE	NOVAKOVIC ESTHER	SOWINSKI JAMES R.	SOWINSKI JAMES R.
NORA M.	HARNACK MARK	KUNZE DAVID M	NOWACZYK VIRGINIA	SOWINSKI LINDA	SOWINSKI LINDA
CIRCLE J RANCH	HARRIS LEO R.	KUNZE JOYCE M	O'BRYANT JERRY	STERENBERG LONA J.	STERENBERG LONA J.
CLARK D.	HAVENS JULIE	KUSKE ROBERT	O'BRYANT ANN	STODDARD ED	STODDARD ED
			O'DELL RALPH E SR.	STRONACH GARY	STRONACH GARY
			OERTWIG ANNA		
			OLDHAM GENE A.		
			OLDHAM KIMBERLY J.		
			OLDHAM MARGARET		
			OLSON STANLEY R.		



## Severe Storms

(Continued from page 5)

traffic signals as a four-way stop before proceeding with caution.

- Before re-entering storm-damaged buildings or rooms, be sure all electric and gas services are turned off. Never attempt to turn off power at the breaker box if you must stand in water to do so. If you can't reach your breaker box safely, call Clark Electric Cooperative to send someone out to shut off power at the meter.
- Never step into a flooded basement or other area if water is covering electrical outlets, appliances, or cords. Be alert to any electrical equipment that could be energized and in contact with water. Never touch electrical appliances, cords, or wires while you are wet or standing in water.
- Cleaning up and using water-damaged appliances also carry safety risks. Electric motors in appliances that have been drenched or submerged should be thoroughly cleaned and reconditioned before they are put back into service. It may be necessary to repair or replace electrical appliances or tools that have been in contact with water. Do not use any water-damaged appliance until a professional has checked it out.
- When using a generator, follow all manufacturers' recommendations to avoid tragedy. Keep the generator dry and never plug it into a wall outlet or directly into the home's wiring. This could inadvertently energize the utility lines and injure yourself or others working to restore power. ■

## Easter Holiday Hours

Clark Electric Cooperative's office will be closed Friday, April 22, to observe Good Friday. The Appliance & Satellite department will be open Saturday, April 23, for normal Saturday hours.

## Electric Office Hours

### SUMMER HOURS:

April 1 – October 31  
Monday – Friday  
8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

### WINTER HOURS:

November 1 – March 31  
Monday – Friday  
8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

## Call Before You Dig

**DIGGERS HOTLINE**  
is your one-stop  
source for locating  
underground  
wires or cables.



**Call 811 or (800) 242-8511 at least three working days before doing any excavation work this summer.**



## Clark Electric Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner



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