

## Pool safety to keep your family cool and safe this summer

Hopping into the pool on a hot sunny day is a beloved summer activity for both kids and adults. We wanted to remind pool owners of electrical dangers around water, noting that water and electricity do not mix.

When using the pool this summer, avoid electric shock by using battery-operated appliances or waterproof covers for items near the pool when possible.

If someone in the pool feels electricity -- almost like a stinging feeling -- or appears to have been shocked, do not touch this person. You could be shocked, too. Instead, switch off the power and use a non-metal shepherd's hook to pull him or her out of the water to safety. Electrical shock can cause paralysis, and the victim will need assistance immediately.

When using long-handled pool cleaning equipment, always look up and around to make sure there are no low-hanging power lines connected to a home or pool house nearby.

Avoid running electric appliances with extension cords out to where you are sunbathing/swimming. They present both a shock and trip hazard.



If you see or hear thunder, you should get out of the water right away. Even if a storm looks like it's miles away, lightning can pop up anywhere as the storm gets closer or changes directions. Lightning regularly strikes water, and since water conducts electricity, a nearby lightning strike could harm or even kill you.

Staying safe while near the water is simple, but these tips can be easily forgotten. Create a checklist for your family and friends to review periodically during the summer.

Browse more helpful safety tips at [nremc.com/blog](http://nremc.com/blog)

## BOATING SAFETY

### Stay safe when setting sail

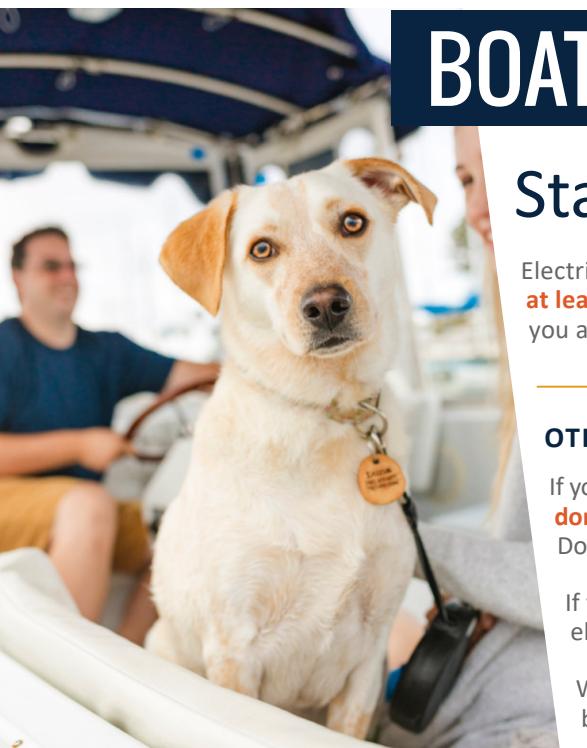
Electric safety is as important on the water as it is on land. It's important to stay **at least 10 feet away from electric power lines and other electricity sources** when you are out on a boat. Remember, water and electricity are a deadly combination.

#### OTHER MARITIME MUST-DOS

If your boat accidentally comes in contact with a power line, whatever you do, **don't jump in the water**. Stay on board and don't touch anything made of metal. Don't leave the boat until it has moved away from the power line.

If you notice a tingling sensation while swimming, the water could be electrified. **Get out quickly, avoiding metal objects like ladders.**

When fishing, **check for overhead power lines** before casting your line.



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# LIGHTPOST

May/June 2021

Published for members of  
Northeastern Rural Electric  
Membership Corporation

nremc.com

## Operation Round Up members donate \$3,500 to non-profit organizations

YOU are making an impact right in our community! Members who chose to round up their electric bills each month are helping to fund specific projects for seven area organizations.

One of the programs receiving funding this quarter is Hoosiers Feeding the Hungry's "Meat the Need Initiative," which helps provide protein to hunger relief agencies serving food-insecure residents in Allen, Huntington, Kosciusko, Noble, Wabash, and Whitley counties. These funds will cover the cost of processing 1,400 pounds of donated livestock and deer and contribute to more than 1,600 meals.

"Proper nutrition is vital to the health of all Hoosiers. That is why protein is so important and sadly, it is also the hardest commodity for food banks to obtain, especially now," said Amber Zecca, Fund Development Director of Hoosiers Feeding the Hungry.

Debra Treesh, Executive Director of Hoosiers Feeding the Hungry, added, "We are so grateful for the continued support of our efforts in responding to the needs of those in the community facing hunger. A meal provided to a person in need means reduced hunger and increased disposable income because they can spend less on food."

This is one of the many programs you are supporting by participating in Operation Round Up. To read more about the worthy causes selected this quarter, go to page 4. If you haven't enrolled to begin rounding up your electric bill, you can do so at [nremc.com/roundup](http://nremc.com/roundup).



Above: Whitney Shahlut, co-owner of Integrity Meats and Amber Zecca, Fund Development Director of Hoosiers Feeding the Hungry.  
Below: Workers at Integrity Meats process some of the meat donated to help contribute 1,600 meals.

## Get involved and sign up to round up!

[nremc.com/roundup](http://nremc.com/roundup)

Read more about your local impact on page 4

# LIGHTPOST

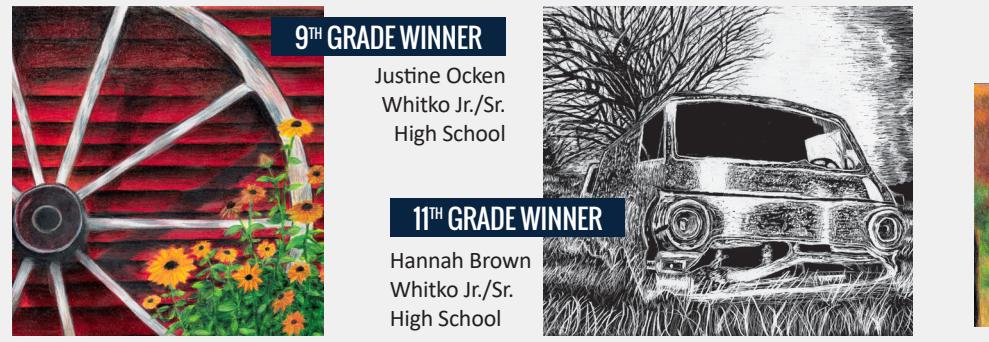
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888-413-6111 [nremc.com](http://nremc.com)

## Whitko student artists recognized in state-wide art contest

Congratulations to the 2021 Cooperative Calendar of Student Art Contest winners! Their award-winning artwork will be featured in the upcoming Cooperative Calendar of Student Art. Winning artists received a \$200 cash prize and honorable mentions received \$75 awards. Notably, students from Whitko have been chosen as winners each year since 2000.



**SAVE THE DATE:** Our annual meeting is Saturday, September 11 at Columbia City High School

## Two \$1,000 scholarships awarded to local high school students

We are pleased to announce the recipients of two 2021 NREMC Scholarships.

**Katherine Bernard, daughter of Scott and Karin Bernard,** is a senior at Carroll High School. Katherine has balanced her time and academics with the band program (marching, concert, jazz, and pep band) at her high school while also working part-time at Panera Bread. She is also involved in her youth group at Pine Hills Church and volunteers at a local food bank. In a letter of recommendation, her band director describes her as having "a kind and gentle spirit that demonstrates her selflessness and is always doing what she can to make her environment warm, caring and inviting." Katherine plans to study business at Taylor University next fall.

**James Langmaid, son of John and Shannon Langmaid,** resides in South Whitley and attends Canterbury School. James achieved the Eagle Scout rank in the Boy Scouts of America while also participating in choir, soccer, baseball, and swimming. A letter of recommendation by his college counselor at Canterbury describes James as someone who elevates class discussions and is an active member of the



Scholarship recipients Katherine Bernard and James Langmaid

**Cooperative CALENDAR of STUDENT ART**

**ART CONTEST**

**INDIANA IEC NORTHEASTERN REMC**

**11TH GRADE HONORABLE MENTION**  
Kaitlin Anderson  
Whitko Jr./Sr.  
High School

**9TH GRADE WINNER**  
Justine Ocken  
Whitko Jr./Sr.  
High School

**11TH GRADE WINNER**  
Hannah Brown  
Whitko Jr./Sr.  
High School

**9TH GRADE HONORABLE MENTION**  
Justine Ocken  
Whitko Jr./Sr.  
High School

## Rounding up (continued from cover)

The seven organizations below have received funding from Operation Round Up to fund various programs to help meet local needs. Each quarter, we'll donate to different local non-profit organizations to support additional projects in our community.

If you are an organization seeking funding, please apply at [nremc.com/roundup](http://nremc.com/roundup). The next round of giving will be announced in early July.



## You could have unclaimed funds

Have you checked the list of unclaimed patronage capital? If you were a member of Northeastern REMC in 2019, you might have unclaimed funds.



**Check the unclaimed funds list at [nremc.com/unclaimed](http://nremc.com/unclaimed)**

Funds will help with residential services for men recovering from substance addiction.

Funding will help replace 135 devices used during blood collection to help collect more blood more efficiently.

These funds will help replace ten year-old computers and technology for the Executive Director and Assistant Director.

**Enroll now to start rounding up your electric bill each month.**

[nremc.com/roundup](http://nremc.com/roundup)

Funding will help provide homework help, art classes, equipment, and mentoring for 150+ middle and high school teens.

Funding will support programs that allow students to explore critical topics like suicide, mental health, stress, social media, diversity, bullying, etc.

Funding will help process 1,400 pounds of donated large game and livestock to help families combat food insecurity in the NREMC service area.

This funding will help replenish food items at the pantry for individuals and families who need assistance in Whitley County.

**What is Patronage Capital?** Northeastern is a not-for-profit organization; we operate at cost, not to grow profits. Each member invests money in the co-op as part of their monthly electric bill. This money is used for substations, poles, wire, transformers, and other equipment to keep the lights on.

At the end of each year, your NREMC Board of Directors calculates the co-op's operating margin. This margin may be used to improve or expand the co-op's electric system or to meet other capital needs. Using the margin to pay for these necessary expenses means we don't need to borrow money to ensure that we can continue to provide safe, reliable, and affordable service.

If there is excess revenue after these necessary expenses are paid, it is allocated back to you as capital credits. When the co-op's financial strength permits, the board issues those credits right back to you. Learn more at [nremc.com/unclaimed](http://nremc.com/unclaimed).

## Your bill looks a little different!

You may have noticed that your monthly bill has been updated. We've listened to your feedback and added the following features:

- Graphs and charts that can be easily compared to analyze your energy usage
- More detailed information about charges and payments
- Notices and alerts about your account displayed front and center on your bill

Don't forget that you can always view your bill through your online account at [nremc.com](http://nremc.com).

## Board of Directors Election

This year's board of directors election candidates will be announced at the end of June. Watch our Facebook page for more information and to get to know your candidates. More information on how to vote will also be coming soon.

## Our office will be closed on July 5

Our office will be closed on Monday, **July 5** in observance of Independence Day. Please remember you can always manage your account online, report power outages and more at [nremc.com](http://nremc.com).

Follow us on Facebook to stay up to date on all things co-op related!

[facebook.com/nremc](https://facebook.com/nremc)

## Contact Us

memberservices@nremc.com  
**1-888-413-6111**  
**nremc.com**  
Call 811 before you dig

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**Learn more at [nremc.com/peak](http://nremc.com/peak)**

**Don't let this interrupt your summer.**

Electric Bill DUE TODAY

Sign up and spend your time where it matters most | [nremc.com/autopay](http://nremc.com/autopay)



**FW CHILDREN'S ZOO  
NREMC DISCOUNT**



BUY TICKETS

Tickets must be purchased online and through a specific link to verify you are a member of NREMC. Scan the QR code above or go to the ENTERTAINMENT tab at [nremc.com/coopcard](http://nremc.com/coopcard) to purchase your tickets.