



# Light Reading

June 2007

South Central  
Indiana REMC

"Member owned and operated since 1939"

## What's inside ...

- Good Stewards: Right-of-Way Crew Cares
- Senior Center granted Shuttle
- Operation RoundUp Grants Given
- Director Petitions Available
- New Rate Structure Flyer



## Good Stewards: Right-of-Way Crew cares for safety and environment

South Central Indiana REMC has approximately 3,300 miles of power lines located in seven counties in the south-central part of Indiana, including Morgan, Monroe, Owen and parts of Putnam, Clay and Johnson. The service area for the cooperative is a diverse geographical area that encompasses farm ground, hilly terrain and wetlands.

Each of these areas require special considerations when managing vegetation in the right-of-way. As good stewards of the environment and in an effort to increase member sensitivity, over the years South Central Indiana REMC has developed an effective herbicide management plan that addresses these concerns while enhancing the properties with wildlife-beneficial food sources.

Before the year 2000, South Central Indiana REMC's Vegetation Management

program goals were very different than they are now. The old system was to trim back the trees from the side of the lines and cut all the growth underneath in order to maintain a five-year cycle. The herbicide program did not include stump treatment for trees removed, which allowed them to re-sprout and then required blanket-covering with herbicide the following year. This method gave the "brown out" effect, which is unpleasant to the eye and not beneficial to the wildlife. The volume of herbicide needed to cover this type of application was expensive and labor intensive.

### The New Crew

In 2000, SCI's direction for the Vegetation Management department turned a new

*continued on page 2; see Good Stewards*



**Don't forget** to look for the account number hidden in one of this month's stories. If it's yours, call us. You'll win \$50!



South Central Indiana REMC Right-of-Way Crew

# Director's Petitions

Considering a run for the SCI REMC Board? Director's petitions for Districts 2, 4, 6, and 8 are now available.

Candidates must submit the petition complete with 30 signatures from members residing in their district by the close of business on July 17, 2007.

Contact Stacey Sauer at 765-342-3344 or 800-264-7362 for more information.



**Reminder!**

## New Rate Structure to Ensure Fairness and Reliability

This month, in addition to *Light Reading*, you'll be receiving a separate flyer that discusses an upcoming rate change for SCI REMC members. Inside you'll find answers to questions you may have regarding this matter. Subjects included are:

- ◆ Your Rates Are Changing
- ◆ Understanding Your Bill
- ◆ What the New Rates Mean For You
- ◆ New Ways To Control Your Energy Costs

## Good Stewards *(continued from page 1)*

leaf. SCI now has an award-winning program and has partnered with organizations such as the National Wild Turkey Federation and Quail Forever. In 2005, REMC received the inaugural Energy for Wildlife Achievement Award for their efforts to promote wildlife food sources and nesting habitat in the rights-of-way.

Also during 2005, SCI planted 840 food source bushes and low-growing trees and seeded 13.5 tons of Timothy grass seed. The cooperative has hosted several service projects in our service area involving service organizations such as Boy Scouts of America, including the installation of blue bird and bat boxes and planting wildlife food sources. (Hidden number 535300306) The REMC continues to be active in local watershed groups and meetings. Additionally, the methods in herbicide application in use today at South Central Indiana REMC have reduced the amount of herbicide applied to the right-of-way by fifty percent.

### Certification Qualified

An arborist is a professional who practices arboriculture, the management and maintenance of trees (generally in an urban environment). While trees provide many benefits, they can also be very large, heavy, and complex organisms that require professional monitoring and treatment to ensure they are healthy and safe. An arborist's work may include some or all of the following: planting, pruning, structural support, diagnosis and treatment of diseases, insects, or abiotic disorders, lightning protection, and tree removal.

To date, SCI REMC's Vegetation Management department employs eight internationally-certified arborists, who are in charge of managing and treating these areas as needed. Those arborists include: Larry Terrell, Manager of Right-of-Way Vegetation Management Dept.; Randy Brumfield, Assistant Vegetation Management Supervisor; Tyler Hamilton, Project Manager; Sonny Miller, Notification Specialist; Brandon Hutton, Herbicide Specialist; Dewey Goss, Herbicide Applicator; Joey Jones, Top Trimmer; and Matt Bennett, Foreman.

### Impressive Statistics

In 2006, SCI's Right-of-Way crews removed 6,140 trees over 4" DBH, (Diameter-At-Breast-Height: the standard measurement of a tree's diameter, usually taken at 4.5 feet above the ground) from within the easement that was or was likely to cause further service interruption, all of which were stump treated with approved herbicide to prevent re-growth. A total of 15,252 pounds of Timothy grass seed was sowed in the mowed area, thus reducing the amount of herbicide needed to keep the right-of-way clear of unwanted species, and also to make the area a pleasant sight to the eye.

## Your Electric Meter Is Being Changed Out Soon!

As SCI REMC upgrades all electric meters to the new AMR system, a phone call and door tag reminder will let you know in advance and after your electric meter has been switched out.

The new AMR system will use wireless radio transmitters to remotely read customer meters and then transfer the data to our office. Call if you have questions.

# Driving toward improved quality of life

## Senior Center granted Senior Shuttle

You wouldn't think the purchase of a new van would warrant such an exciting gathering as the one recently celebrated at the Sycamore Senior Center in Brown County. However, if you asked the more than 40 attendees who gathered to celebrate their new van, they would tell you it's the most important day of the year.

The center gives seniors the opportunity to socialize, which improves the quality of their lives. However, many seniors have a hard time getting to activities because they don't have any transportation. The center's previous van—a 15-year-old version giving only eight miles to the gallon—had been retired. Additionally, the van required a driver with a CDL license, all of which meant the center was no longer able to offer reliable transportation.

Skip Wood, Site Director for Sycamore, began a search for funding a new vehicle. Through some creative funding the dream of a new van was realized. "I wrote a grant to the Community Foundation of Brown County and we received \$17,000; then another request brought in \$1,000 from the VFW Post 1987 and a \$100 from the Corvette Club I belong to," said Wood. "Then John Rudd, who used to be on the REMC board, suggested I apply for an Operation RoundUp grant."

Sadly, the application was still under review when John Rudd passed away. When the Center received the word that South Central Indiana REMC members supported the request and were granting \$10,000 for the van, Wood's emotions were high. "It was a bittersweet moment," said Wood. "I cried; I know John would be proud."

The Center is available to pick up seniors



*SCI REMC's Operation RoundUp assisted the Sycamore Senior Center with the purchase of a new shuttle van via a \$10,000 grant.*

60 and older that may have medical appointments. Others who want to coordinate a ride to area retail stores for groceries and other errands can meet at the Sycamore Senior Center Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The Center provides nutrition transportation by delivering meals to homebound seniors, as well as transportation to doctor's appointments, grocery shopping and other errands. The center also takes field trips. A few of their upcoming trips include going to the Honey Farm, T.C. Steel, Eiteljorg Museum in Indianapolis, the Spaghetti Factory, and to see Christmas lights.

The new van holds eleven persons and is wheelchair accessible, has flip seats, wider doors, and special steps for easier access. Ruth Whiteside is the main driver and Leanna Bond is the substitute driver. "We are so excited to have reliable transportation again for our seniors," said Bond.

"You can only have so many ice cream socials and dinners to raise money," said Wood. "We are so grateful for the grants we received from the Community Foundation and South Central Indiana REMC's Operation RoundUp."



### No Cost Tip

During hot months, keep window coverings closed on the south, east, and west windows. In winter, let the sun in.

### Low Cost Tip

Consider weather stripping to prevent warm air leaking into your home during the summer and out of your home during the winter. A handy homeowner can seal up holes to the outside by weather stripping doors and sealing windows and other gaps along the home's foundation. A combination of air sealing and adding insulation to attics, basements, and crawlspaces provides tremendous energy savings and increased comfort.

### Some Cost Tip

Trees that lose their leaves in the fall give protection from the summer sun and permit winter sunlight to reach and warm your home. Plant trees on the south, east, and/or west sides of your home. Be sure to shade the AC unit. Create a windbreak with evergreen trees and shrubs to stop chilling winds.

Thank you, participating members!

## Operation RoundUp Grants Given

In addition to the grant provided to the Sycamore Senior Center in Brown County (profiled on page 3), other Operation RoundUp recipients for the first quarter 2007 include:

**Monroe County Poultry** for a new barn: \$2,500

**New Beginnings Pregnancy Center** (Spencer) for a storage barn: \$2,736

**Coal City Community VFD** for various equipment: \$1,000

**Martinsville High School "Rosie" Reading Program** for books: \$900

**McCormick's Creek Elementary PTO** for new entrance sign: \$1,000

**Smith Elementary PTO** for a walking path: \$1,900

**Morgan County Center** for Women's Ministries for a computer: \$1,228

**Indiana Dream Team** for a heating/cooling System: \$6,000

**Owen County Emergency Management** for installation of outdoor emergency notification: \$3,985.41

**Martinsville Academic Decathlon Team** for national championship expenses: \$3,000

**Owen County Sheriff's Department K-9 Unit** toward purchase of new K-9: \$3,000

**Poland Community VFD** for various items: \$2,500

**Owen County Heritage and Culture Center** toward purchase of a computer network, video Camera, TV: \$1,000

*Congratulations to these recipients and to our participating members for their ongoing dedication to improving our communities.*

# Here when you need US ...

## South Central Indiana REMC

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### REPORT A POWER OUTAGE

1. Call 1-800-264-7362, available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
2. Provide the address and telephone number of the outage location.
3. Tell us, if you know, how the outage occurred: tree or line down, ice, etc.
4. Don't hang up! If you reach an automated answering service, please leave a message.