

ACEC NEWS

JULY 2022 | VOLUME 25 | ISSUE 07

ACEC sends two students to DC

Economic Development Update

Staff Transitions



MEMBERS ENJOY 1st ANNUAL APPRECIATION PICNIC

Photo credit: Garrett Hamilton, Elgin



**A MESSAGE
FROM**
*Your
General
Manager*

Hollie McCormick
EVP/General Manager

SAVE A LIFE: AVOID DISTRACTIONS WHILE DRIVING

While driving, we typically hear that "ding" on our phone, alerting us to a text or call coming through, and we feel the urgent need to check it. Of course, we know we shouldn't, but we reason that we're going to make an exception—just this once. Admittedly, I'm guilty of this and am working hard on improving.

So, why do we indulge in behavior we know to be wrong, dangerous, and in many states, illegal? According to AAA research, most people feel they are better-than-average drivers. After all, we have busy lives and are accustomed to multitasking. But mounds of research and thousands of deaths every year prove otherwise.

August is Back to School Safety Month. As a new school year begins with young drivers and school buses back on the road, I thought it would be an excellent time to remind folks, including myself, of the dangers of distracted driving.

In reality, using a phone while driving creates enormous potential for injuries and fatalities. Distractions take a motorist's attention off driving, making a driver miss critical events, objects, and cues, potentially leading to a crash.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, one of every ten fatal crashes in the U.S. involves distracted driving, resulting in more than 3,000 deaths annually. I find this statistic heartbreaking, considering we could easily avoid so many of these accidents if we'd simply put down our phones while driving.



Distracted driving is considered any activity that diverts our attention, including texting or talking on the phone and adjusting the navigation or entertainment system. Texting is by far one of the most dangerous distractions. Sending or reading one text takes your eyes off the road for an average of five seconds. At 55 mph, that's like driving the length of an entire football field with your eyes closed.

In addition to refraining from texting while driving, we can help keep the roads safe by moving over for first responders and other emergency vehicles. Additionally, if you see utility crews conducting work near the roadside, we would love it if you'd move over (when possible) and give them extra space to perform their work safely.

At Allamakee-Clayton Electric Cooperative, safety is foremost in everything we do—for our employees and the members of the communities we serve. We routinely remind our crews of the dangers of distracted driving. We hope you'll take a minute to think about how you perhaps drive while distracted and have similar conversations with your teens who may be new to the roadways and susceptible to the lure of technology. Let's model the behavior we want from our young drivers.

Let us work together to keep everyone safe on the roads. Remember: A text can wait.....and waiting just might save a life. ■

BOARD BRIEFS | June 27 , 2022 Meeting

- Approved Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives 2022/2023 Dues and Fees
- Jim Pederson of STAR Energy presented to the board regarding STAR's services and offerings
- Updated and approved Harassment Policy
- Approved a new Confidentiality and Proprietary Rights Policy
- Approved a new Fiber Extension Policy
- Approved a Dairyland Power Cost Share application for Postville Industrial Park signage



PLUGGED IN: Electric Vehicle Update

Number of miles driven in past 30 days: **182 miles**
Average Temperature Per Day: **High 78°, Low 66°**
Cost to Charge: **\$4.84** (based on June ACEC residential rates)



Postville's Hometown Celebration Parade & Big Four Fair

ACEC staff partook in Postville's Hometown Celebration Parade on June 17 and also visited with people during the Big Four Fair last month in Postville.



Ready for the parade are back row, l-r: Carol Griebenow, Donna Schultz, Dave Decker, Brenda Hackman, Jenny McIntyre, Teri Wagner, and Ryan Wagner. Front row, l-r: Melanie Bauch, Jeff Cox, and Tim Bauch. Photo credit: Nadine Brock, The Herald



Jeff Cox, line crew forman, gives a wave to the camera before the start of the parade.



Jennifer and Addison pose for a photo during the Big Four Fair in Postville last month.



Donna Schultz takes her post where she threw candy to people who watched Postville's Hometown Celebration Parade.



Greenleigh, Breklyn, and Brayton enjoying time during the Big Four Fair in June.



Braxley and Layton sit in the Tesla during the Big Four Fair in Postville.



**A Salute to our
Fair Participants!**
*Great job at the Big
Four Fair!*

LOCAL TEENS ATTEND YOUTH TOUR TRIP TO WASHINGTON, D.C., IN JUNE



Cadan Evanson, son of Aandi Evanson and Patty Olson, Lansing, and **Riley Troendle**, daughter of Matt and Megan Troendle, Lansing, recently participated in the National Electric Cooperative Youth Tour of Washington, D.C., sponsored by Allamakee-Clayton Electric Cooperative. They spent June 19-24 in Washington, D.C., with 33 other student leaders from Iowa.

Each year in June, this weeklong leadership development program provides high school students opportunities to gain experience first-about government, the electric cooperative business model, and today's pressing issues in the energy industry. In addition, students met their elected representatives in the U.S. House and Senate, toured historic sites, and ran their Snack Cooperative.

The Electric Cooperative Youth Tour has been a joint effort of locally owned electric cooperatives, such as Allamakee-Clayton, their statewide trade associations, and

the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) for 60 years. "Youth Tour is a major highlight for many students, and we're proud to have sent 33 of Iowa's best and brightest to our nation's capital this year to participate," said Shelly York, Youth Tour coordinator at the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives.



"These students gained a first-hand understanding of the legislative process and made connections with other student leaders from across the country that will last a lifetime."

Both students said they were grateful for the opportunity.

"The Youth Tour was so amazing," said Troendle. "I had so much fun touring the city, and I've met so many new and interesting people; thank you again for choosing me!"

In addition to taking in the sights of the nation's capital, all the state groups convened for the Rural Electric Youth Day, sponsored by NRECA, to learn from public



CADAN EVANSON



RILEY TROENDLE

figures and other inspirational speakers. This year's Youth Day agenda included Mike Schlappi, a four-time Paralympic Medalist, and two-time world Wheelchair Basketball champion. Schlappi shares his inspiring message for every American, young or old: "Just because you can't stand up, doesn't mean you can't stand out."

Since 1958, Iowa's electric cooperatives have sponsored high school students to visit their U.S. congressional delegations, energy and grassroots government education sessions, and sightseeing in Washington.



Students are selected for Youth Tour by their local electric cooperative. ACEC will begin accepting applications for the 2023 Youth Tour in December this year. For more information, visit IowaYouthTour.com.





ACEC Joins OPERATION ROUND UP

What started as a simple idea at a South Carolina electric cooperative today is fundamental to a program that touches many communities. Allamakee-Clayton is pleased to announce we have joined the Operation Roundup Program. The ACEC Board of Directors asked to implement the ORU program at ACEC for its members to help give back to the community. The Cooperative asked Brenda Hackman, manager of economic development and community relations, to plan and execute the program. As Manager of Economic Development, her role includes community relations, legislative affairs, employee relations, and economic development. She presented the ORU plan to the ACEC Board of Directors who officially launched the program in May of 2022.

"All co-ops adhere to the seven cooperative principles, including 'Concern for Community,'" said Hackman. "The Operation Roundup program perfectly embodies this core principle." The electric co-op member can opt into the program that rounds their electric bill up to the next dollar amount in this program. Collectively, we can use that small change to make a significant change in our community.

ACEC members can give back to your community through Operation Round Up. Go to acrec.com, click on the "Community" page link, and then click on "Operation Round Up". There is a sign-up form you can submit online. Please share with your friends and family that are ACEC members.

ACEC Board of Directors appointed the Operation Round Up Trustee Board of volunteers. Members of the ORU Board Andy Kelleher-Member; Julie Ahrens-Chairwoman; Betty Stiegel-Vice Chairwoman; Jane Hasek-Treasurer, and Vicky Peterson-Secretary. #H365-13C1S

JOIN TODAY!

OPERATION ROUND UP

WHAT IS OPERATION ROUND UP?
Operation Round Up supports local organizations by collecting money from members who sign up to have their electrical bill rounded up to the next dollar.

EXAMPLES OF ORGANIZATIONS THAT COULD RECEIVE FUNDS

- Fire Departments
- Libraries
- Community Projects
- Student Programs
- Community & School Support Programs

HOW MUCH IS COLLECTED?
The average account contributes \$6 a year. The most a member could contribute is \$11.88 (99¢ a month).

To round up your electric bill and support your local communities, complete the form at www.acrec.com/OperationRoundUp.

SMALL CHANGE THAT CHANGES LIVES
— OPERATION ROUND UP —



ACEC's



First Annual MEMBER Appreciation PICNIC



We couldn't have asked for better weather for our First Annual Member Appreciation Picnic on Monday, June 12, at the Big Four Fairgrounds in Postville. Staff served complimentary grilled hot dogs, brats, and Country View Dairy frozen yogurt, and members had an opportunity to visit with staff and directors.

"We had over 200 members come to the picnic, so we were very pleased with the turnout for a first annual event," said Hollee McCormick. "We anticipate holding this event again next year, so please watch for more information from the Cooperative."

In addition to a meal, activities included: a Tesla display, face painting, dunk tank, a guessing game, catapult, remote control Teslas, a bucket demonstration, and prize giveaways.

"We haven't had an in-person get-together for almost three years, so it was nice to host an event where we have an opportunity to visit with members," said Jeff Bradley. "Unlike other organizations, the co-op is owned and governed by its members, so it's important as directors that we listen to the concerns and suggestions of our members."



Picnic face painters were: l-r McKenzie Marting, Willow Troendle, and Haley Christensen.



Rachel, Waukon, attends ACEC's Member Appreciation Picnic with daughters Ellianna, Joanna, Briella, and Sophia.



Donna Frieden (retired ACEC employee) with her granddaughter, Celia, enjoying time at the Member Appreciation Picnic.



Caitlyn (holding Holden) and her husband Damien, Clermont, enjoyed their time talking with other members of the Cooperative.



Doyle (former ACEC lineman) and Terrie Allen enjoyed their time at the appreciation picnic.

PRIZE WINNERS!

Co-op t-shirt and Short Extension Cord

Dan Bechtel, Waukon
 Deb Burns, Harpers Ferry
 Dennis Blumhagen, Castalia
 Barbara Ashby, West Union
 Charles Hegseth, Waucoma
 Lorna Landas, Fayette
 Lanny Marting, Postville
 Thelma Keehner, Luana

50-ft. extension cord

Lloyd Billman, Castalia

Co-op caps and magnetic flashlight

Erv Bugenhagen, Luana
 Hilary Davis, McGregor
 Sheryl Struthers, West Union
 Dennis Martins, Monona
 Darwin Johnson, Postville

\$25 bill credit

Ron Lund, Waukon
 Mike Halsey, Greeley
 Dianna Gunderson, Postville

LED tower light

Anna Winnes, Postville



Master griller, Doug Moose (ACEC's warehouse coordinator) hard at work grilling brats and hot dogs.



STAFF TRANSITIONS

FAREWELL TO SONJA HILLMAN



Sonja Hillman retired from the FirstCall department of the Cooperative last month after nearly 21 years of service.

Late last month, we celebrated Sonja Hillman, who retired from the Co-op on June 30. She was a valuable member of our FirstCall program for nearly 21 years. Thank you, Sonja, for your dedication to our FirstCall clients. "My favorite part of this job is going to the clients' homes and reassuring them that help is there for them," said Sonja. "I feel that I provided a great service to them." Sonja is looking forward to increasing her volunteer time and going on motorcycle and UTV rides with family and friends. She is also a Certified Independent Health & Wellness Coach and plans to continue in that role.

We will miss you, Sonja!

Staci Malcom has assumed the customer service representative responsibilities with FirstCall. You will read about Staci in our September newsletter.



Sonja's husband, Frank, joined us for her retirement party on June 27.



WELCOME TO ACEC, TERI WAGNER!

Join us in welcoming Teri Wagner to the Co-op! Teri's first day as our Consumer Accounts Representative was Fri., June 10. Teri earned her AAS degree in business management from NICC and joined us after ten years with the NFV schools at the Valley campus, the first five years as a paraeducator and the last five years as the elementary secretary. In her free time, Teri enjoys camping, reading, baking, and spending time with family and friends. Teri and her husband, Vince, reside in rural Clermont and have two grown children; Kennedy and Isiah. Teri said, "I am happy to be here, and I hope I do a good job for the Co-op!" Teri, you already are. #4371

Welcome!



Teri Wagner joined ACEC last month as our Consumer Accounts Representative.

CHILDCARE DISCUSSION HELD APRIL 1

On Friday, April 1, 2022, Fayette County Economic Development & Tourism, Iowa Child Care Resource and Referral, and the Iowa Women's Foundation held a meeting on Child Care, Workforce, and Legislation. Discussion centered around the childcare crisis, how it directly impacts families, businesses, and communities, and how legislation can help.

Governor Kim Reynolds has been exploring solutions to Iowa's childcare needs by establishing the Governor's Child Care Task Force. The task force report includes recommendations for businesses, childcare providers, families, and the workforce. We also applauded the Iowa Legislature for making childcare a priority in the 2022 legislative session.



Meeting to discuss the crisis of childcare in northeast Iowa on April 1, are l-r: Kristina McBurney, District Representative for Ashley Hinson; Dawn Oliver Wiand, President/CEO of the Iowa Women's Foundation; Gene Holtz, Fayette County Economic Development and Tourism Board Chair and Maynard City Council Member; Mallory Hanson-Executive Director Fayette County Economic Development and Tourism; Representative Mike Bergan; Brenda Hackman, manager of economic development with ACEC, and Representative Chad Ingels.

"Fayette County Economic Development & Tourism works to foster and implement tourism and business development and expansion in Fayette County to make our area a thriving, desirable location for individuals to live, work, and visit.

To do so, we work with stakeholders, business owners, community residents, downtown organizations, and regional and statewide partners to develop and identify projects and initiatives that strengthen the existing businesses and resources within the county and foster new business and resource development within each community. Recently, we have identified five priority areas for focus in the short and long-term. These are:

- 1) Housing, 2) Childcare, 3) Workforce, 4) Tourism, and 5) Infrastructure Improvement.

Housing, Childcare, and Workforce are cyclical economic development issues. One cannot happen without the other. Childcare is an integral piece to sustainability and growth in our county and across the state of Iowa."

- Mallory Hanson, Fayette County Economic Development & Tourism Director

Rural Development Summit Highlights Rural Broadband, Housing, Wo

Nearly 400 rural leaders from every corner of the state descended on the Gateway Hotel and Conference Center at Iowa State University on April 12 and 13, 2022, for the 6th annual Iowa Rural Development Summit. Along with resources and networking, topics included: Growing Ag Tech, Building Broadband, Housing & Education Partnerships, Preserving Art & Culture in Rural Places, Leading Thru Innovative Efforts, Small Town Hotels-Putting Heads in Beds, Making Sense of the Census, and Aging & Living in Rural Iowa.



In January, Iowa Area Development Group (IADG) CEO and IRDC Vice-Chair Rand Fisher recently retired. Pictured with Rand at the IRDC Summit is ACEC's Brenda Hackman. IADG Foundation donated \$10,000 to the Our Postville Community Heart & Soul process.



Lieutenant Governor Adam Gregg, pictured with Brenda Hackman, manager of economic development and community relations with ACEC, spoke on Empowering Rural Iowa.



DEVELOPMENT UPDATE



This is an architectural drawing of the new River Town Dentistry opening in January in Guttenberg



Dr. Alicia Walke, DDS and Brenda Hackman, ACEC's Mgr. of Economic Dev.

Revolving Loan Fund awarded to Rivertown Dentistry in Guttenberg

Allamakee-Clayton Electric Cooperative supports the economic development efforts of area communities by awarding loans through the USDA Rural Economic Development Loan Program (REDLG) and Revolving Loan Fund (RLF). These programs improve the quality of life for members and the communities we serve.

ACEC has played vital roles in several important development projects through financial support, energy assistance, and economic development. When we work with your business or organization, we can help you by connecting you with the right people, those who are prepared to provide

the specific kind of help and resources you need to assist you. #6293

Contact us for more information about: USDA Rural Development Loan Programs and ACEC Cooperative Revolving Loan Fund



Rhonda Ungs, Office Manager and Alicia Walke, DDS

Workforce, and Childcare



The Our Postville Community Heart & Soul team also attended the Summit. Felecia DeJong (far right), Our Postville CHS Community Developer, was a speaker on a panel for "Connecting Everyone". L-e: Val Reinke, Executive Director Allamakee County Econ. Dev. & Tourism; Jason Neises-Community Developer for Dubuque Community Foundation; ACEC's Brenda Hackman, and Kristy Turner-Administrator Postville Childcare.



The ACEC Revolving Loan Fund assists with gap funding to River Town Dentistry in Guttenberg to purchase equipment for their new building. They are currently providing services to patients in their existing building and are anticipating opening their new facility in January 2023.

ACEC Board and Management Team attend DPC's Annual Meeting

Early last month, ACEC's Board of Directors and management team members attended Dairyland Power Cooperative's Annual Meeting at the La Crosse Center. Every decision at Dairyland is made with a laser focus on its mission to power our communities and improve the quality of life for cooperative members.



Front row, l-r: Hollee McCormick, general manager; Jeni Kolsrud, IT manager; director Jeff Bradley; director Cindy Heffern; director Butch Fossum; director Mike Gibbs, and Brenda Hackman, econ. development and community relations manager. Back row, l-r: Ryan Wagner, member services manager; director Jerry Keleher; director Roger Arthur; director Al Steffens, and director Nelson Converse

ACEC participates in Build Your Own Business Camp

The Northeast Iowa Community College Waukon Center, in collaboration with Allamakee County Economic Development and Tourism, on July 21 and 22, held a two-day "Build Your Own Business" camp with 4th-6th grade students. These students focused on starting their businesses and creating their plans.

They participated in activities to help them develop a well-rounded picture of what it truly takes to run their business. The students also made business plans and presented them to the "Shark Tank Judges".

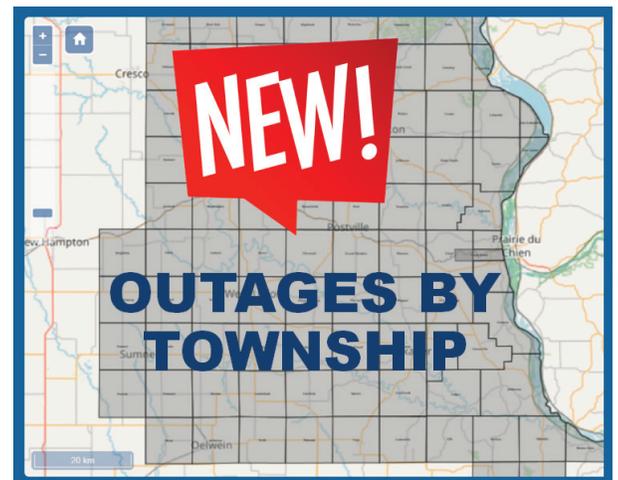
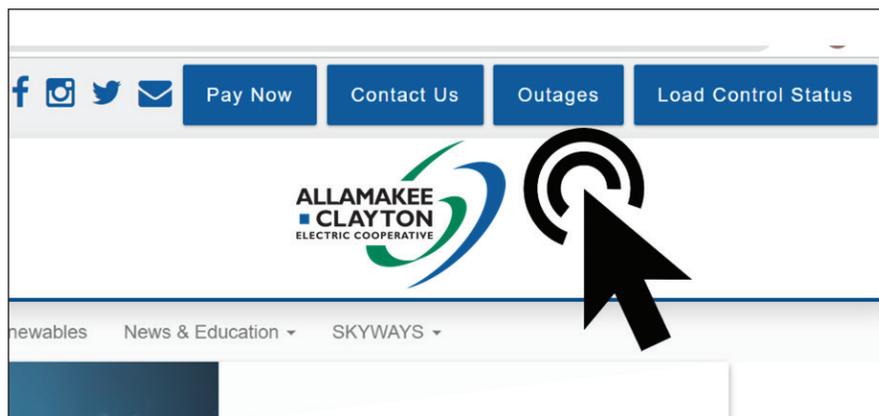
ACEC's Brenda Hackman has been one of the judges since the program began three years ago. "Economic development begins with our younger generations. It is so important," said Hackman. "It is so important to foster their ideas and dreams for the future of northeast Iowa."



Theodore Wilkes, the creator of TW's Game Wizard, is pictured here with Brenda Hackman. He was one of ten fourth – 6th graders who participated in the "Build Your Own Business" camp late last month in Waukon

POWER OUTAGE MAPS

We work hard to keep your lights on but sometimes, especially during bad weather, outages do occur. Never assume someone else has reported the outage, always call the outage in at 888-788-1551. We have recently updated our online outage maps to reflect outages by township. You can still view the statewide outage map from our outage page. Go to acrec.com and click on the blue "Outages" box on the top, and you can view outages by county and township.



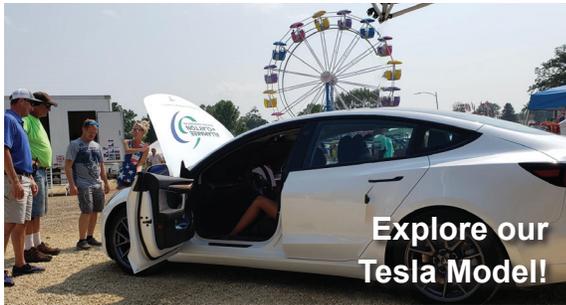


FAIR BOUND THIS SUMMER?

Skyways is offering **FREE Wi-Fi** at the **Fayette County Fair July 19 - 23** and the **Allamakee County Fair July 20-24**. Enjoy fast, reliable internet on us!



VISIT US AT THE COUNTY FAIRS!



Explore our Tesla Model!

Ryan Wagner and Brenda Hackman will be at the county fairs on these dates:

- Allamakee County Fair | July 21, Noon – 4**
- Fayette County Fair | July 22, Noon – 4**
- Clayton County Fair | Aug. 4, Noon – 4**

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MEMBER RECIPES

EASY NO-CHURN HOMEMADE ICE CREAM

- 1-14 oz. Can sweetened condensed milk
- 2 tsp. Pure vanilla extract or vanilla bean paste
- Pinch fine salt
- 2 c. Heavy cream, cold

Whisk together the condensed milk, vanilla, and salt in a large bowl; set aside. Whip the cream with a mixer on medium-high speed until firm peak form, about 2 minutes. Fold about 1 cup of the whipped cream into the condensed milk mixture with a rubber spatula until combined, then fold the lightened mixture into the whipped cream until well blended. Pour into a chilled 9-by-5-by-3-inch metal loaf pan, and freeze, covered, until thick and creamy, like soft-serve, about 2 hours. Swirl in any desired mix-ins with a spoon. Continue to freeze, covered, until solid and scoopable, about 3 hours more.

Mix in options:

- Cookies and Cream: 12 chocolate sandwich cookies, crushed
- Crunchy Cereal: 1 1/2 cups cinnamon crunch cereal, crushed
- Cookies and Lemon: 1/2 cup jarred lemon curd and 1 cup shortbread cookies, crushed

Favorite fruits (including Strawberries!) and favorite syrups.

Carol Griebenow, AC Skyways customer service representative, came across this recipe. This recipe offers a simple way to make homemade ice cream with just three ingredients, and it's delicious!

Looking for a PAST newsletter recipe?

We've uploaded every recipe that we have printed in our newsletters to acrec.com/member-recipes. Search through hundreds of recipes by a specific name or by category.

Send your favorite recipes and/or recipe topics to Jenny McIntyre, ACEC, PO Box 715, Postville, IA 52162 or email jmcintyre@acrec.coop.

You'll receive a \$5 bill credit if your recipe is printed. Please note – recipes must be received by the 25th day of the month before intended publication.

September–COLESLAW October–APPLES

FIND YOUR SERVICE NUMBER

ACEC has **hidden three Service Location numbers** within this newsletter. The numbers are from three different regions of our service area – all three are worth a \$5 bill credit each if found. The Service Location number must be yours to claim the bill credit, and you need to notify us when you find it.



CONTACT ACEC

HEADQUARTERS

229 Highway 51 • PO Box 715
Postville, IA 52162

PHONE NUMBERS

LOCAL 563-864-7611

TOLL-FREE 888-788-1551

PAYMENT LINE 24/7 833-284-5051

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ELECTRICAL SURGE PROTECTION

Allamakee-Clayton Electric Cooperative has selected HomeServe as the trusted provider of surge damage protection programs in your area. HomeServe's authorized, locally-based network of contractors will promptly repair your covered electrical products in the event of a surge, with up to \$3,000 annually with multiple service calls (a 30-day waiting period includes a money-back guarantee) for covered repairs. Covered appliances, electronics, and electrical devices are protected, no matter how old they are.

While surge damage protection is not required,

you can now protect yourself against potentially sudden and significant out-of-pocket expenses.

For the low cost of only \$4.99 per month, you can avoid the costs of potentially hundreds of dollars if your electrical products need repair, plus enjoy greater peace of mind as a homeowner. Complete the form you received in the mail, or contact HomeServe at 833-334-1874.

If you are a contractor and want HomeServe to list your business on their contractor list, contact HomeServe at 833-334-1874 or the Co-op at 888-788-1551.

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