

# The power of preparation

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**POWER OUTAGES**  
 To report a power outage, call 844-473-6668. We are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

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Since September is National Preparedness Month — and because severe weather events seem to be occurring more frequently — consider planning for bad weather now before storms hit.

I urge you not only to have enough food, water and supplies to last at least a few days, but to take other practical steps to keep you and your family safe. Even at a modest level, preparation can help reduce stress and anxiety, and lessen the impact of an emergency event.

Here are general guidelines recommended by the Federal Emergency Management Agency:

- Assemble a grab-and-go disaster kit. Include items like nonperishable food, water (one gallon per person, per day), diapers, batteries, flashlights, prescription medications, first-aid kit, a battery-powered radio, and phone chargers.
- Develop a plan for communicating with family and friends (i.e., via text, social media, third party, etc.).
- Have some extra cash available; during a power outage, electronic card readers and cash machines may not work.
- Store important documents (birth certificates, property deed, etc.) in a safe place away from home (for example, a bank safe deposit box).
- Keep neighbors and coworkers apprised of your emergency plans.
- Fill your car with gas.
- Organize your supplies so they are in an easily accessible location that family members know about.

## CARING FOR VULNERABLE FAMILY MEMBERS

If you have older family members or those with special needs, make sure they have enough medication and supplies for a few days. If they don't live with you, arrange for a neighbor to check in on them. If a severe weather event is expected, consider having your relatives stay with you if feasible. Otherwise, call them daily. If you have an infant or young children, make certain that you have ample formula, diapers, medication and other supplies on hand to weather an outage lasting several days or more.


## KEEPING FOUR-LEGGED FAMILY MEMBERS SAFE


For families with pets, having a plan in place in the event of a prolonged outage or an emergency will help reduce worry and stress.


- Bring pets indoors at the first sign of a storm or other emergency. Pets can become disoriented and frightened during severe weather and may wander off during an emergency.
- Microchip your pet and ensure the contact information is up to date.
- Store pet medical records on a USB drive or in an easy-to-remember location.
- Create an emergency kit for pets (include shelf-safe food, bottled water, medications and other supplies).

At Miami-Cass REMC, we care about your safety. Planning for an emergency today can make it easier for you to deal with severe weather and potential outages in the future.

**ROB SCHWARTZ**  
 CEO

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## IN THE EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

# Liz Armfield

If you been to our office since January, you have probably met our newest member service specialist, Liz Armfield.

She is a Miami County native and a 2015 graduate of North Miami High School. While she was in high school, Armfield attended Heartland Career Center in Wabash where she earned her cosmetology license. Prior to joining the REMC, Armfield worked at Great Clips. While she enjoyed what she was doing, Armfield was also looking for something that provided more steady hours and income with weekends off.

Armfield has been married to her husband, Patrick, for four years. The couple have four canine "kids" ages five, four, two and one. She enjoys reading and hanging out with her dogs and said they have the same taste in Netflix movies she does. Armfield took piano lessons for 12 years when she was a growing up and says she plays at least an hour each day.

When asked about what she wanted to be when she grew up, Armfield said that most of the time she wanted to work for Peru Utilities where her dad worked. She even dressed up as him for Halloween. Armfield also shared



Miami-Cass REMC's Liz Armfield started at the cooperative in January.

that for about eight years she wanted to be the president of the United States. She enjoys history and visiting Boston is on her bucket list. When asked about something she would like to try but hasn't, she said snorkeling.

As a member service specialist, Armfield assists members when they call or come into the office, sorts mail and accepts and processes payments. She enjoys talking with the members and also appreciates how nice everyone she works with is.

When asked about the most

difficult aspect of her job, she shared the diversity of calls that come in and knowing who the right person is to direct them to. And when asked what advice she would give to someone new to her position, she said write everything down. If she could switch jobs with anyone else at the REMC, she shared that, being an introvert, she would love to switch with anyone who is able to work from home.

We at Miami-Cass REMC are thankful to have Armfield as part of the REMC family. We are fortunate to have her on our team.



# *Congrats, Kings!*

Congrats to the team from Lewis-Cass High School for being the winners of our first-ever Bucket Truck Pull.



# Got Fiber?



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## Board meets in JULY

1. Counted five board members attending. Attorney Jeremy Fetty attended via teleconference.
2. Rob Schwartz presented the WVPA report.
3. Fetty presented the legal report.
4. Schwartz presented the monthly CEO report.
5. Minutes from the previous board meeting were approved.
6. Financial report given by Schwartz.
7. June monthly operating, member services and safety reports were reviewed and approved.
8. Set the next board meeting for Tuesday, Aug. 30, at 7:30 p.m. at the REMC headquarters.

### Energy- Efficiency *Tip*

Adding insulation to your attic can keep your home more comfortable and save energy used by your cooling system. If your attic insulation is level with or below your floor joists (meaning you can easily see your joists), you should add more. If you can't see any of the floor joists because the insulation is well above them, you likely have enough insulation. Attic insulation should be evenly distributed with no low spots. Make sure the areas along the eaves are adequately covered.

Source: Department of Energy



## CREATE AN ELECTRICAL SAFETY PLAN BEFORE YOU PLANT A TREE

**TREES AND POWER LINES OFTEN COEXIST WITHOUT PROBLEMS. HOWEVER, THERE ARE PRECAUTIONS TO TAKE WHEN PLANTING A TREE.**

### QUICK TIPS FOR SAFELY PLANTING A TREE:

**Call 811 to have underground utilities marked at least a few working days, but no less than two full working days, before digging (IC 8-1-26).** Knowing their locations helps you dig safely, and planting a safe distance away will help prevent damage from roots.

**Create a basic plan, or a sketched diagram, before you begin planting to avoid future troubles.** Using the information from the underground utility locator service will be a big help in setting some guidelines.

**Consider a tree's potential growth when choosing its location.** If it's expected to grow higher than 15 feet, choose a spot 25 to 50 feet away from utility lines and your home.

**Plant with energy savings in mind.** Not only can you upgrade your landscape, you can decrease your energy use, too. Trees can keep your home cool in the summer and warm in the winter. Just be sure you're aware of power line location and avoid structural damage.

