

# Coggon Municipal



# Light Plant

Since 1928

# Lines

March 1, 2023 Issue

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In Case of Emergency: 319-213-0501

### 2022 Board of Trustees

Charles Moore, Trustee

Bill Vosdinger, Trustee

Steve Hart, Chairperson

Vaughn McClelland, Treasurer

Michelle Manternach, Secretary

Meetings are held the 2nd Monday of the month at 6:00pm

### COMPLAINTS RESOLUTION PROCESS

If you have a complaint that is related to service disconnection, safety, or renewable energy, and the Coggon Municipal Light Plant does not resolve your complaint, you may request assistance from the Iowa Utilities Board by calling (515) 725-7321, or toll-free 1-877-565-4450, by writing to :

1375 E. Court Ave. Rm. 69, Des Moines, Iowa 50319, or by E-mail to [customr@iub.iowa.gov](mailto:customr@iub.iowa.gov).



### PROJECT PORCHLIGHT

CMLP is providing each of our customers with one blue LED light bulb. Additional bulbs can be purchased for 70¢ each.

Stop by the Light Plant office to pick up your **FREE blue light bulb or a Pinwheel.**

Help promote National Child Abuse Prevention Month during April.

### & Pinwheels For Prevention



APRIL IS  
NATIONAL  
CHILD ABUSE  
PREVENTION  
MONTH



National Child Abuse Prevention Month recognizes the importance of neighbors in communities working together to strengthen families to prevent child



abuse and neglect. Through this collaboration, prevention services and supports help protect children and produce thriving families.

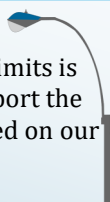
In 2020 national records note 618,000 children were victims of child abuse. Data shows 76.1% of victims were neglected, 16.5% physically abused, 9.4 % sexually abused, and 0.2 percent were sex trafficked.

Please help with getting the word out by displaying a blue light bulb on your porch or in a window for the month of April. Or display blue pinwheels in your yard. Let others know you support positive childhood experiences and raise awareness of the prevention of adversity.



### Street Lights

If you notice that a street light within Coggon city limits is not working, please call the Light Plant office to report the light. Non working street lights can also be reported on our website.



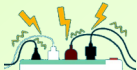
### Spring Electrical Checklist



A spring electrical checklist can help you take stock of any potential dangers and prevent damage caused by spring storms and electrical failures. According to the National Fire Protection Association, electrical failures or malfunctions were the second leading cause of U.S. home fires in 2012-2016 (behind fires caused by unattended equipment), accounting for 13% of home structure fires. Proper maintenance could have prevented many of these fires from starting. This year, make it a priority to also check and inspect your household electrical items while you're doing your yearly spring cleaning. Here's a spring electrical checklist for a safer home.

#### Indoors

- Extension cords are meant to be used temporarily. Consider hiring an electrician to install extra receptacle outlets as necessary.
- Major appliances (refrigerators, dryers, washers, stoves, air conditioners, etc.) should be plugged directly into an outlet, never an extension cord.
- Test to make sure all of your indoor GFCI (ground-fault circuit interrupter) outlets are working properly.
- If you don't have GFCI outlets in areas with high moisture (bathrooms, kitchen, outdoors, etc.) you should hire a professional electrician to install them.
- Don't overload your home's outlets. Make sure multiple heat-producing appliances (microwave, coffee maker, etc.) are not plugged into a single outlet.
- Check your fire extinguishers (s). Make sure they are still pressurized properly in case of a fire.
- Test smoke/carbon dioxide detectors. Replace batteries as necessary.
- Pull your refrigerator away from the wall and vacuum the dust behind it. Dust buildup can increase the risk of hazards around the electrical components.
- Install surge protectors to keep appliances and electronics safe during storms and power outages.
- Have your circuit panel and meter box professionally inspected after a bad spring storm.
- Change burnt-out lightbulbs and consider upgrading to LED bulbs.

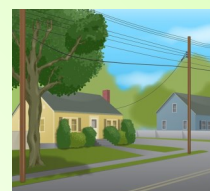


#### Outdoors

- Check outdoor lighting fixtures and bulbs for wear and tear.
- Install or update your home security system to protect your home when you're away.
- Check outdoor GFCI outlets to make sure they are working properly.
- Consider adding landscape lighting for added safety and curb appeal.
- Before digging, check with the utility companies to mark power and water lines in your yard.
- Inspect power tools for frayed power cords, broken plugs, and weathered or damaged housings.
- Prune or consider removing trees close to power lines to prevent storm damage.



Know what's below.  
Call before you dig.



- If you have or possibly know of a tree that may interfere with the power lines, please contact the light plant office to report it.

### Talk About Electrical Safety With Your Children

Children often do not understand the danger of electricity and electrical equipment. In their innocent and imaginative minds, what can be potentially dangerous may go unnoticed or even appear enticing and fun. Take an opportunity to point out overhead power lines and any other electrical equipment to children and explain what they are.

Safe Electricity recommends teaching children to follow these rules:

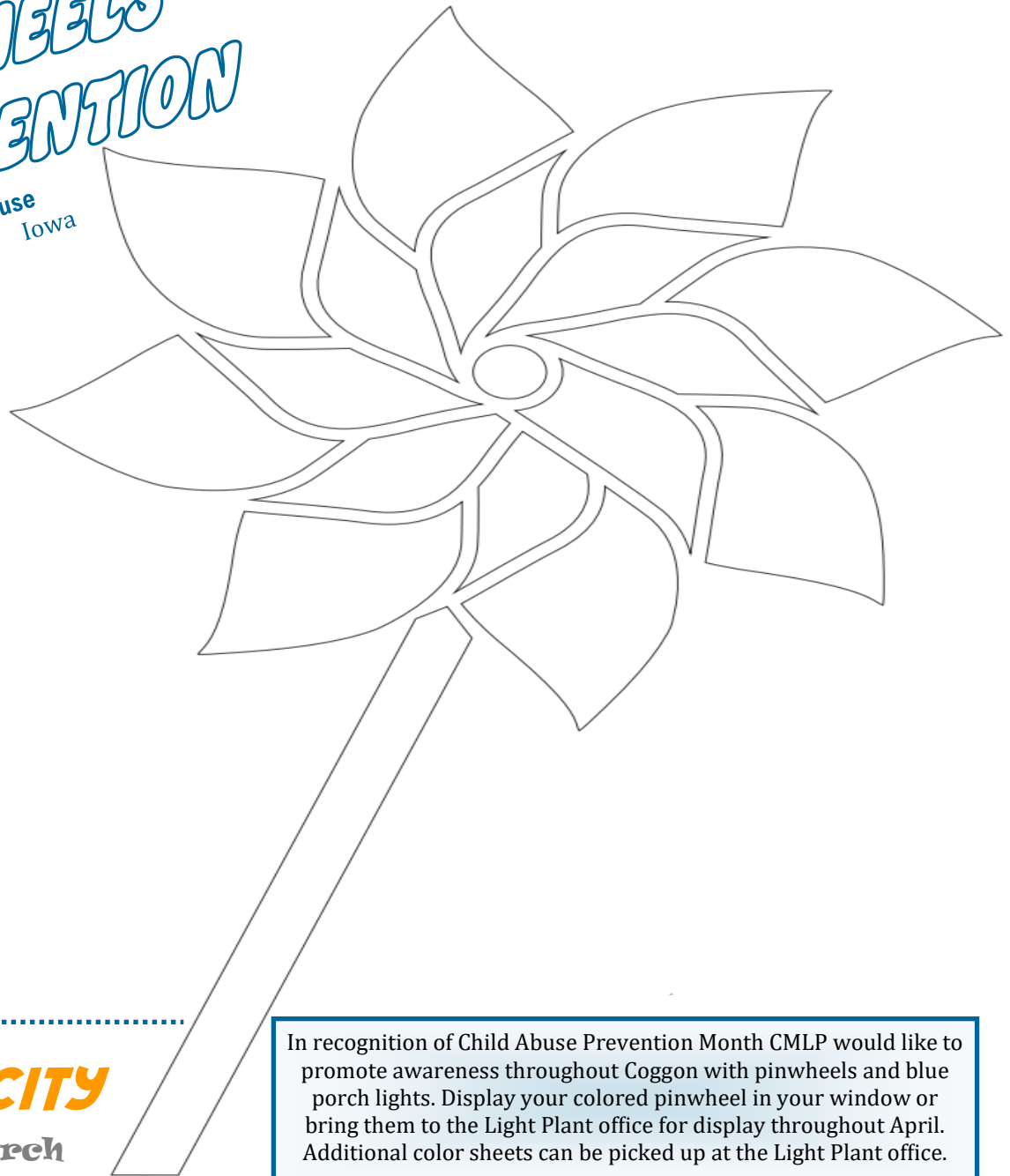
- Never climb trees near power lines. Even if the power lines are not touching the tree, they could touch when more weight is added to the branch.
- Kites and model airplanes should be flown only during good weather conditions in large open areas, like an open park or a wide field. Keep kites away from overhead power lines or other electrical equipment, such as substations. If a kite gets stuck in a tree near power lines, do not climb up to get it. Electricity can travel down kite strings or wires. Contact your electric utility for assistance.
- Never climb a utility pole or tower. The electricity carried through this equipment is high voltage and could kill you.



(Continued on back side)

# PINWHEELS FOR PREVENTION

Prevent Child Abuse Iowa



In recognition of Child Abuse Prevention Month CMLP would like to promote awareness throughout Coggon with pinwheels and blue porch lights. Display your colored pinwheel in your window or bring them to the Light Plant office for display throughout April. Additional color sheets can be picked up at the Light Plant office.



## ELECTRICITY

### Word Search

AMPERES	CONDUCTOR	JOULE	SOCKET
BLACKOUT	CURRENT	KILOWATT	SOLAR PANEL
BREAKER	ELECTRON	NEUTRON	SURGE
CHARGE	ENERGY	POWER	SWITCH
CIRCUIT	ELECTRON	PROTON	TERMINAL
COMPONENT	ENERGY	RESISTANCE	VOLTAGE
	WATTAGE	WIRES	

U P R O T O N V U O C T Y N I M R  
R Q W Q G J T F X L I G W B Y A E  
K I L O W A T T E O R Z W L N O S  
K K M X S T M N P E C P N A E L I  
F D T E D H A P N S U X C C U V S  
F Y R H N P U E E U I F U K T B T  
P I N S R S C E T R T W R O R Y A  
W V W A Z W P E H G E H R U O Y N  
E C L K H H K X T E U S E T N V C  
E O Q Y C C S T E R M I N A L O E  
S E D T O U E M L C Z W T J X L K  
R V I S E L E C T R O N Q I U T C  
S W B I E E B S K H B L Q O R A H  
S L L H U B X Y L F H B J C U G A  
C O M P O N E N T P B R E A K E R  
K R X S V P P J X K J P O W E R G  
C O N D U C T O R W A T T A G E E

### Talk About Electrical Safety With Your Children

*(Continued from front side)*

- Don't play on or around pad-mounted electrical equipment. These are often green metal "boxes" on cement pads and contain transformers.
- Never go into an electric substation. Electric substations contain high-voltage equipment; even raising your hand inside one can cause an arc that may cause an electric shock.
- Never attempt to retrieve a pet, ball, or any toy from these areas. Call your electric utility instead.
- Immediately seek shelter if lightning or thunder is present while playing outdoors.
- When designing a tree house or outdoor play area for children, take preventive precautions before starting your project. Do not install playground equipment or swimming pools underneath or near power lines. Installation of either will require digging; call your local underground utility locating service to have buried lines marked, so you can avoid serious injury and damage.
- Protect all family members from serious shock and injuries by installing ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) on outdoor outlets and in interior rooms where water is present. A GFCI shuts off power instantly if it detects a problem. Use portable GFCIs for outdoor outlets that don't have them. GFCIs are affordably priced and found at hardware stores.
- Be careful using electrical appliances outdoors, even if plugged into GFCI-equipped outlets. Never use appliances with frayed or damaged extension cords and always be sure the ground prong is intact.
- Teach kids never touch an electric appliance while in a pool or hot tub, to keep all electrical appliances at least ten feet away from pools, ponds, and wet surfaces, and that it is never safe to swim in a pool or lake when a storm is brewing.
- Teach older children to exercise caution before plugging in a radio, CD player, or any electrical gadget outdoors and never leave any electrical appliance outside. If it rains, the device could get wet and cause an electrical shock when used later.
- Flooded areas are never safe spots to wade or play in, and if there has been severe weather, may be in contact with energized electrical equipment or fallen power lines left behind.
- Make sure your family members know to stay away from downed power lines and wires and tell children to report any fallen or dangling wires to an adult. Downed power lines are dangerous; always assume any power line is energized and stay far away. Call your local utility immediately if you or your child encounters a downed power line and include this number with other posted emergency phone numbers.

