

POWERLINE

NEWSLETTER FOR CO-OP MEMBERS OF CORN BELT ENERGY



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Two sisters' dreams brew local success

After their favorite local coffee shop closed due to a building fire, sisters Kylie Hubrich and Brynn Girdler were dismayed about the lack of a coffee shop in their hometown. Thus, the two sisters crafted a plan to open their own coffee shop in the same community.

"I had always wanted to own and run my own business and Brynn always wanted to have a coffee shop," said Kylie. Starting a coffee shop business was a natural fit for the two sisters given Kylie's background in bookkeeping and accounting and Brynn's experience as a barista.

Coffee Corner

Beginning as a love for coffee and an entrepreneurial spirit, Coffee Corner (59 Cedar Square, Clinton) opened in May of 2016.

Coffee Corner specializes in handcrafted gourmet coffee, lattes, smoothies, cold brew, tea and other specialty beverages. The coffee is handcrafted by top-trained baristas

who are passionate about making the perfect cup of coffee.

Featuring a laid-back, atmosphere for customers to gather while they drink their

favorite handcrafted beverage, eat baked goods or enjoy lunch. Like many small-town businesses, regular customers sit, hang out and often get to know the employees personally.

In addition to Coffee Corner's handcrafted coffee and baked goods, the business also sells locally sourced items from women owned businesses.

Some of these businesses include PrepZelz by AnZee, Inc., and candles by Twin Moon Candle Co.

Coffee Corner is open daily, recently expanding their hours to be open on Sundays, and includes a drive thru as well as the indoor café area.

CRAFTED Coffee Brews

Coffee Corner was simply the beginning of the sisters' business ventures. Four years after opening Coffee Corner, the sisters were approached to bring their business to the Bloomington-Normal area and CRAFTED Coffee Brews was established.



CRAFTED Coffee Brews, a part of CRAFTED Commons in Bloomington, is open daily and features a café setting with both indoor and outdoor seating as well as a convenient drive thru.

CRAFTED Coffee Brews specializes in the same handcrafted specialty drinks as Coffee Corner such as gourmet coffee, lattes, smoothies, tea and cold brew, but also offers bubble tea and nitro.

Watch for more exciting news as the CRAFTED Coffee Brews brand expands to other locations including inside Four Seasons II Health Club.





A FEW FUN FACTS

Both locations serve baked goods from Common Grounds and coffee from Gridley, Illinois. They also rotate coffee and tea flavors daily and serve many seasonal brews.



In addition to a love for coffee, Kylie and Brynn have a passion for supporting local businesses, schools and the community. They employ approximately 40 people at CRAFTED Coffee Brews and 10 people at Coffee Corner and have a desire for making their businesses a great place to work for all of their employees.

CRAFTED Commons offers industrial design elements with exposed brick and modern fixtures while the outside includes a patio and mezzanine seating. "It offers more of an exclusive experience. Many people come in and visit all three businesses and are looking for something special or different on the menu," said Brynn.

There have been many exciting additions to CRAFTED Commons over the past few years as it has become a great location to work and use the free Wi-Fi, meet with friends to grab a meal or a drink, or participate in one of the fun activities such as volleyball, live music or another event such as canvas painting.

CRAFTED Commons

The CRAFTED Commons location (1101 Airport Road, Bloomington) which is owned by Jason Dunn, Kraig Garber, Joey DiMichelle, Ron Hayward, Matt Caslow and Mitch Wade, and includes Pokeworks, CRAFTED Bar and CRAFTED Coffee Brews received the 2021 McLean County Chamber of Commerce New and Emerging Business Excellence Award.



For more information and a complete list of upcoming specials and events, visit:

Coffee Corner

www.coffeecorneril.com
Facebook @CoffeeCornerLLC

CRAFTED Coffee Brews

craftedcommons.com
Facebook @craftedcoffeebrews
Instagram @crafted_coffeebrews

Know what's below: steps for safe digging

Spring is just around the corner, and there's never been a better time to get outside and enjoy the fresh air. Perhaps you're making plans for a new garden or a lawn makeover. However you're planning to revamp your backyard oasis, remember to keep safety in mind for all projects—especially those that require digging near underground utility lines.

Most of us never think about the electric, gas, water and other utility lines buried below the ground, but hitting one of these lines while digging is not the reminder you'll want—trust us! Corn Belt Energy reminds all members who are planning a digging project to call 811 at least three business days before you start. Or you can submit a request online by visiting <http://newtina.julie1call.com/erequest/>

Here's how the process works: After you call 811 or submit your request online, all affected utilities will be notified of your intent to dig. It may take the utilities a few days to get to your request, so



**Know what's below.
Call before you dig.**

please be patient. The affected utilities will send someone out to mark the buried lines with paint or flags. Before you break ground, confirm that all the utilities have responded to your request. If you placed your request by phone, use the process explained by your 811 call center representative. If you submitted your request online, refer to your 811 center ticket to confirm everything.

By taking this important step before you break ground on your project, you can help protect not only yourself but our community. Disrupting an underground utility line can interrupt service, cause injuries and cost money to repair, so remember to call 811 first and know what's below.

Using energy wisely

Corn Belt Energy is here to help our co-op members improve overall comfort in their home or business while using energy efficiently. Our website contains helpful videos, tools and tips that can help you save energy and money.

In addition, we offer a variety

of energy efficiency rebates and incentives that may apply to your home, business, farm or school.

Visit us online at cornbeltenergy.com/rebates or contact us at 309-662-5330 to see which incentives and rebates are currently available.

Interested in solar?

If you are considering a solar installation, we ask that you contact us at the beginning of the process to ensure you can speak with our staff about what to anticipate from your cooperative

and expectations you may have regarding interconnection and future electric bills.

Call us today at 309-662-5330.



Sonya Weber
Executive Assistant

How long have you worked at Corn Belt Energy?
2 years

What is your role at Corn Belt Energy?
I support the President/CEO and Board of Directors in all day to day activities that impact our members and the service Corn Belt Energy provides. I am also heavily involved in Employee engagement activity planning.

What aspect of your role do you enjoy the most?
I greatly appreciate the opportunity to learn about the electric cooperative culture through field visits and board meetings. Electric Cooperatives put their members first and I am continuously impressed how that principle remains the focus.

If there is one piece of advice that you could share with our members, what would it be?
Enjoy the moments! If we all slow down and look around there are amazing things happening around us everyday.

Corn Belt Energy puts SAFETY FIRST. What safety tip would you share with our members?
Never go near down power lines. If you see lines down, call your cooperative but never get out of your vehicle or approach the scene.

What are your hobbies and outside interests?
I have two daughters that I enjoy spending time with ever day. If I am not with them I love going to St. Louis Cardinals games, watching the Green Bay Packers games and traveling with my husband or friends.

Who or what inspires you?
Always be a leader. I have had so many mentors over the years and the theme is always the same. Be an authentic servant leader. Be inspired to be better and always learn something new from the people around you.

If you had to select a hashtag to describe yourself, what would it be?
#alwayslaughing

Is there anything else that you would like to share with our members?
I am very grateful for the opportunity to work for Corn Belt Energy and serve the membership.

Lineworker Appreciation Day is April 11.

The power behind your power

You've likely noticed Corn Belt Energy's crews out and about, working on power lines and other electrical equipment in our community. It's no secret that a lineworker's job is tough—but it's a job that's essential and must be done, often in challenging conditions. This month, as we celebrate Lineworker Appreciation Day on April 11, we thought we'd share some interesting facts about electric lineworkers with you.

The work can be heavy, in more ways than one. Did you know the equipment and tools that a lineworker carries while climbing a utility pole can weigh up to 50 pounds? That's the same as carrying six gallons of water. Speaking of utility poles, lineworkers are required to climb poles ranging anywhere from 30 to 120 feet tall. Needless to say, if you have a fear of heights, this likely isn't the career path for you.

Lineworkers must be committed to their career—because it's not just a job, it's a lifestyle. The long

hours and ever-present danger can truly take a toll. In fact, being a lineworker is listed in the top 10 most dangerous jobs in the United States.

Lineworkers often work non-traditional hours, outdoors in difficult conditions. While the job does not require a college degree, it does require technical skills, years of training and hands-on learning. Did you know that to become a journeyman lineworker can take more than 7,000 hours of training (or about four years)? That's because working with high-voltage equipment requires specialized skills, experience and an ongoing mental toughness. Shortcuts are not an option, and there is no room for error in this line or work.

Despite the many challenges, Corn Belt Energy's lineworkers are committed to powering our local community. During severe weather events that bring major power outages, lineworkers are among the first ones called. They must be ready to leave the comfort of their

home and families unexpectedly, and they don't return until the job is done, often days later. That's why the lineworker's family is also dedicated to service. They understand the importance of the job to the community.

Being a lineworker may not seem like a glamorous job, but it is absolutely essential to the life of our community. Without the exceptional dedication and commitment of these hardworking men and women, we simply would not have the reliable electricity that we need for everyday life.

So, the next time you see a lineworker, please thank them for the work they do to keep power flowing, regardless of the time of day or weather conditions. After all, lineworkers are the power behind your power. Please join us as we recognize them on April 11, and follow "#ThankALineworker" on social media to see how others are recognizing lineworkers.

CONTACT US

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