



# *People and Places*



## *Insider*

### ***The History of Rensselaer: Rensselaer Electric Utility***

Rensselaer Electric Utility was established in 1896 and currently serves 3,212 electric customers and purchases their power from Indiana Municipal Power Agency (IMPA). Rensselaer is originally platted as a town, bearing the name Newton, on June 12, 1839. The site was known among the Indians and trappers as the - Rapids of the Rockwise - and the waters were famous for the abundance of fish and waterfowl they attracted. The wildlife in the region gave it the reputation of the "Hunter's El Dorado". The name was changed to Rensselaer by a special Act of the legislature on February 18, 1840. On March 8, 1849, the village was incorporated as the Town of Rensselaer, and on April 13, 1896, it was incorporated as a city.

### ***Interim Manager of Operations: Lenny Larson***

Lenny Larson will be celebrating 32 years with the Rensselaer Electric Line Department May 1, 2021. Lenny and his employees strive to maintain personal relations collectively as a team and with their customers. As a team, they work well together on the job and off the job and they keep the lines of communication open which is extremely important in our industry and common within our Public Power families.



***Lenny Larson - 2021 Board President of Indiana Municipal Electric Association (IMEA)***

### ***Utility Safety Practices***

The utility continuously strives to provide the safest workplace they can and meets regularly with outside organizations to stay abreast of best safety practices, policies and procedures. During their day-to-day operations, Lenny shares his many years of experience with his team. He knows that every job present's unique challenges and it's best to focus on safety first and efficiency will follow.

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## Current Projects

The City of Rensselaer and Rensselaer Utilities has a few new projects underway. The City Electric Department will be rebuilding four city blocks of overhead for back up and switching two substations combined. The City Gas Department is installing a gas trunk line six miles on the east side of the City. This extension will be used as a secondary back feed for the City Gas Department. The City Water Department is looking at installing a new water tower for future development at the intersection of I-65 and State Road 114.

## Thankful for the IMEA Organization

Lenny feels that the IMEA's Safety and Training program is 'top notch'. He believes the IMEA's focus on the safety and well-being of the members is undoubtedly sincere. Lenny also believes that the training team trains every utility apprentice to be the best lineman that they can be.



Rensselaer, Indiana City Hall

Thank you to our Featured Associate Member for February!

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