

# THE *Southwestern*

A SOUTHWESTERN ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE MEMBER MAGAZINE

NOVEMBER 2021 • VOLUME 73 • ISSUE 11

## 83rd Annual Meeting of Members

**SPOTLIGHT ON  
EARLY VOTING,  
RATE ADJUSTMENT  
& SYSTEM  
IMPROVEMENTS**

**PREVIEW OUR  
NEW BILL FORMAT**

**BOARD ELECTS  
OFFICERS**

**APPLY FOR A POWER  
FOR PROGRESS  
SCHOLARSHIP**

**ENERGY ASSISTANCE**

## Building A Grain Bin?

**WE'LL HELP YOU  
SELECT A SAFE SITE**



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Autumn & Awe.

**On Account:** We've hidden a member-account number in this issue (mailing label excluded). If the account number belongs to you, contact us within 30 days and we'll take \$25 off your electric bill. Good luck!

## ON THE COVER

Grain bins stand at the ready — and well away from power lines — on the Tom Roepke farm west of Altamont. Plan to build a bin? See our story on page 16. Then give us a call.

Back Cover: An homage to American agriculture adorns an autumn field south of Herrick.



### Ask The CEO

Have a question for the CEO? Send it to Bobby Williams at [bobby.williams@sweci.com](mailto:bobby.williams@sweci.com), or write to him at Southwestern Electric Cooperative, Inc., 525 US Route 40, Greenville, IL. Periodically, we'll print some of your questions with his replies in The Southwestern. Each member who submits a question will be entered in a drawing for a \$25 bill credit. We'll draw a name each time we run an "Ask The CEO" Q&A segment in the magazine.

## FROM THE CEO



525 U.S. Route 40, Greenville, IL 62246.  
Phone: (800) 637-8667. Office Hours:  
Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.  
Visit us on the Web at [www.sweci.com](http://www.sweci.com).

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Ann Schwarm, President ..... Loogootee  
Sandy Grapperhaus, Vice President .. Collinsville  
Annette Hartlieb, Secretary ..... Vandalia  
Jerry Gaffner, Treasurer ..... Greenville  
William "Bill" Jennings ..... Alhambra  
Sandy Nevinger ..... Greenville  
Jared Stine ..... St. Elmo  
Marvin Warner ..... Pocahtonas  
Ted Willman ..... Greenville

### CEO

Bobby Williams ..... Chief Executive Officer

### The Southwestern

Joe Richardson ..... Editor  
e-mail: [joe.richardson@sweci.com](mailto:joe.richardson@sweci.com)  
Mike Barns ..... Art Director  
e-mail: [mike.barns@sweci.com](mailto:mike.barns@sweci.com)  
Nathan Grimm ..... Media Specialist  
e-mail: [nathan.grimm@sweci.com](mailto:nathan.grimm@sweci.com)

### Satellite Locations:

St. Jacob Office  
10031 Ellis Road, St. Jacob, IL 62281

St. Elmo Distribution Center  
2117 East 1850 Avenue, St. Elmo, IL 62458

Southwestern Electric Cooperative reserves the right to re-print member comments and correspondence in its cooperative educational and promotional materials.

*The Southwestern* (USPS 612-500) is published monthly by Southwestern Electric Cooperative, Inc. Periodical postage paid at Greenville, IL. Subscriptions cost \$8.95 per year. Comments or questions regarding material in this publication may be mailed to Joe Richardson, editor of *The Southwestern*, c/o Southwestern Electric Cooperative, Inc., 525 US Route 40, Greenville, IL 62246, or e-mailed to [joe.richardson@sweci.com](mailto:joe.richardson@sweci.com).

Postmaster: Send address corrections to *The Southwestern*, 525 U.S. Route 40, Greenville, IL 62246.

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**T**ime to make good on a promise I made in September. In 2022, Southwestern Electric will provide you with a new, more informative bill. The new format will show you how much you pay for energy, distribution, transmission, and other expenses associated with providing safe, reliable energy to your home. Two months ago I told you we'd offer a preview of the bill in our November magazine. You'll find a sample in our article that begins on page 6.



You'll also see a nominal rate adjustment and updated fixed charges next year. The changes were prompted by findings in our 2019 cost-of-service study. The study examined our rate structure and costs associated with delivering power to the homes, businesses and industries we serve. As your board president, Ann Schwarm, pointed out in her annual meeting address, the study made two points clear:

- We can adjust our rates to more accurately reflect what it costs the co-op to provide power to our residential, commercial and industrial members.
- Our current fixed charges aren't covering the co-op's investment in materials, such as poles, transformers and power lines.

As Ann noted, the infrastructure requirements and energy demands of residential, commercial and industrial accounts vary widely from one another. Our rate adjustment and changes to our fixed charges in 2022 will reflect those differences. The adjustment is revenue neutral. In other words, Southwestern is not increasing or decreasing the revenue it receives from the membership overall.

The rate adjustment and changes in our fixed charges will become effective Jan. 1, 2022. They'll show up on your February bill. You can read more about the rate adjustment and changes in our fixed charges in the annual meeting article on page 8.

If you have a question about our rate adjustment, fixed charges, new bill, or any aspect of Southwestern Electric Cooperative, please feel free to email me at [bobby.williams@sweci.com](mailto:bobby.williams@sweci.com). If I answer your question in my column, you'll receive a \$25 credit on an upcoming bill. Thanks for reading — and stay safe out there.

Bobby Williams, CEO

[bobby.williams@sweci.com](mailto:bobby.williams@sweci.com)



Use the  
SWEC IL app  
to manage  
your account



See  
our app  
tutorial on  
YouTube!



Look for SWEC IL on Google Play or the App Store.

## Southwestern offers rebates for energy efficient technology

Our rebate program will help you save money on the replacement or new installation of air source heat pumps, geothermal systems, electric water heaters and smart thermostats.

Members are eligible for one rebate per category per year. All rebates will be applied as a bill credit upon receiving the completed rebate application and proof of purchase.

Rebate forms are available on our website at [sweci.com](http://sweci.com). You can email your completed application and proof of purchase to [julie.lowe@sweci.com](mailto:julie.lowe@sweci.com), or mail it to: Julie Lowe, 525 US Route 40, Greenville, IL 62246. You're also welcome to drop off your materials at our Greenville office.

**Questions? Contact Julie Lowe at 800-637-8667 or [julie.lowe@sweci.com](mailto:julie.lowe@sweci.com).**

## CO-OP REMINDERS

**November 8** Payment processing systems will be unavailable from midnight to 4 a.m., while we perform system maintenance. No payments will be processed during this time. We will resume processing payments at 4:01 a.m.

**November 11** Offices closed in observance of Veterans Day.

**November 25-26** Offices closed for Thanksgiving.

**December 13** Payment processing systems will be unavailable from midnight to 4 a.m., while we perform system maintenance. No payments will be processed during this time. We will resume processing payments at 4:01 a.m.



# SOUTHWESTERN ACCEPTING SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS FOR 2022



## ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- 1) The applicant (or the applicant's parent/ legal guardian) must be an active member of Southwestern Electric Cooperative. Southwestern Electric directors, employees, and their immediate families are not eligible.
- 2) The applicant must meet all academic requirements for admission to an accredited university, college or technical school, and be admitted to that institution as a full-time student in the fall of 2022.
- 3) The entire application must be completed in full, and received with the appropriate supplementary materials, in advance of the application deadline, February 11, 2022.

**S**ince 1995, Southwestern Electric Cooperative's Power For Progress Scholarship Program has provided more than \$276,000 in academic assistance to students pursuing a college degree or vocational school certificate. The tradition continues this year with Southwestern's pledge to award \$10,000 in scholarship money to 10 students in spring 2022 for use in the fall 2022 semester.

Scholarship recipients can apply the funding to tuition at any accredited university, college or technical school in the U.S.

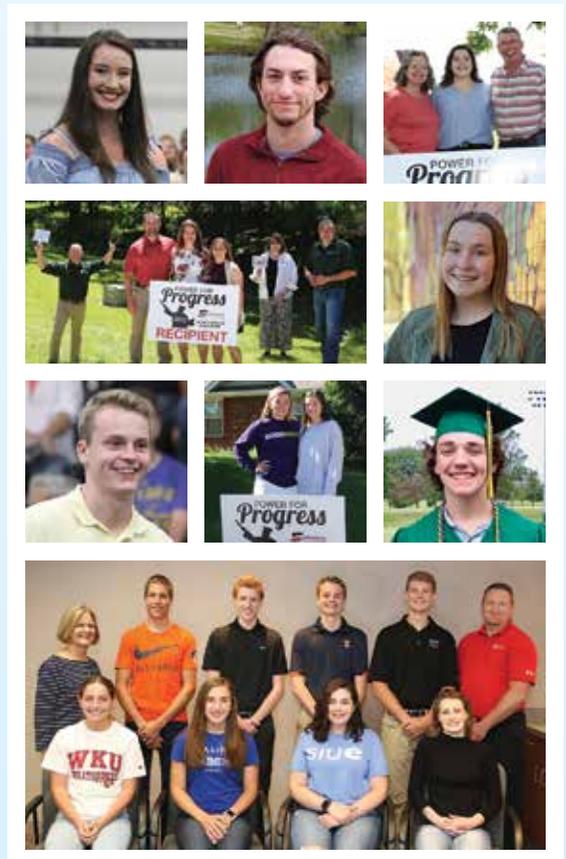
Scholarship applications may be downloaded from Southwestern Electric's website at [sweci.com](http://sweci.com). You may also request an application by calling Susan File at 800-637-8667.

Separate applications will be provided for high school seniors graduating in 2022 and students who graduated from high school in previous years.

The completed application and supplemental materials — including a cover letter, academic transcripts, attendance records and financial information — must be delivered to Southwestern Electric's headquarters (525 U.S. Route 40 in Greenville), in a single envelope, by 4:30 p.m. on **Friday, February 11, 2022.**

**Applications may be downloaded from Southwestern's website at [www.sweci.com](http://www.sweci.com) or picked up from the co-op's office at 525 US Route 40 in Greenville.**

**For more information on the Power for Progress Scholarship Program, please contact Susan File at [susan.file@sweci.com](mailto:susan.file@sweci.com) or 800-637-8667.**



# NEW YEAR, NEW FORMAT BETTER BILL COMING IN 2022

In the past, many of the costs associated with getting energy from a power plant across the grid and to your home were bundled into a single line on your bill.

That's about to change.

Beginning January 2022, Southwestern Electric will provide you with a more informative bill. The new bill will break out the co-op's cost of service, line by line. At a glance, you'll see how much you pay for energy, distribution, transmission, and other expenses associated with moving electricity from the grid to your home. The information will help you make informed decisions about energy-related technology, and if you're considering cogeneration, assess your potential return on investment.

We've shared an example of our new bill on the opposite page and defined some of the items that may be new to you. If you have a question about the new bill layout, please feel free to call us at (800) 637-8667. We'll be happy to help you.

Member Name		Service Address			Account
MEMBER 1		2	3 23 MAIN ST		12
Meter Number	Multi-Pplier	KWH Usage	Billed Demand	Rate Description	Total
1858165	1	2293	0.000	1-RESIDENTIAL-FARM	

<b>Bill Information</b>	
Previous Amount Due	
Payment Received on 09/26/21	
<b>4 Service Availability</b>	
<b>5 Energy</b>	2293 @ 0.0377000
<b>6 Distribution</b>	2000 @ 0.0335000
	293 @ 0.0185000
	0 @ 0.0000000
<b>7 Capacity-Trans</b>	2293 @ 0.0330000
<b>8 WPCA</b>	2293 @ 0.0000000
Subtotal Current Charges	
1-70 Watt LED Security	
Annual Meeting \$50	
<b>9 State Tax</b>	
Operation Round Up	
Current Month Charges	

## TERMS TO KNOW (diagram above)

**1 Multiplier.** Meters for accounts meeting specific criteria are designed to record a fraction of the kilowatt hours consumed in a month. These meter readings are multiplied by a factor (the multiplier) to determine consumption. Most residential electric meters have a multiplier of 1.

**2 KWH Usage.** A kilowatt-hour (kWh) is the amount of energy required to run a 1,000-watt appliance for an hour. To calculate the kilowatt-hours you consumed in your current billing period, subtract your previous meter reading from your current reading.

**3 Billed Demand.** The highest kilowatt reading reported during your billing cycle. Your peak kilowatt reading is multiplied by a demand rate. Southwestern does not apply a demand charge to residential accounts.

**4 Service Availability.** Recurring fixed monthly charge that covers some of the cost associated with providing service to your location regardless of usage.

**5 Energy.** The Energy charge is calculated by multiplying the kilowatt-hours (kWh) you consumed during the billing period by your electric rate (most members are on Southwestern's residential rate).

**6 Distribution.** A charge based on kilowatt-hours consumed during the billing period. This charge helps the co-op recover costs related to right-of-way clearance, line maintenance, and equipment that serves your account.

**7 Capacity-Trans (Capacity & Transmission).** Fees Southwestern Electric pays to move electricity across long distances at high voltages.

**8 WPCA (Wholesale Power Cost Adjustment).** The WPCA reflects increases and decreases in the cost of wholesale power purchased by Southwestern.

**9 State Tax.** Taxes are applied as required.

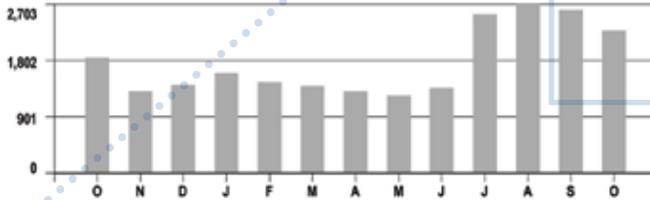
Bill Date	Member Name		Member Name		Service Address				Account Number	
10/05/21	JOHN SAMPLE		JANE M SAMPLE		123 MAIN ST				12345-001	
Service From	To	Nbr Days	Meter Reading Previous	Present	Meter Number	Multi-Plier	KWH Usage	Billed Demand	Rate Description	Total Amount
09/01/21	10/01/21	30	88578	90871	111858165	1	2293	0.000	1-RESIDENTIAL-FARM	239.00

**Message Center**  
DRAFT SCHEDULE 10/26

**Bill Information**

Previous Amount Due		332.00
Payment Received on 09/26/21		-332.00
Service Availability		35.00
Energy	2293 @ 0.0377000	86.45
Distribution	2000 @ 0.0335000	67.00
	293 @ 0.0185000	5.42
	0 @ 0.0000000	0.00
Capacity-Trans	2293 @ 0.0330000	75.67
WPCA	2293 @ 0.0000000	0.00
Subtotal Current Charges		269.54
1-70 Watt LED Security		12.00
Annual Meeting \$50		-50.00
State Tax		7.34
Operation Round Up		0.12
Current Month Charges		\$239.00

**Your Electricity Use Over the Last 13 Months**

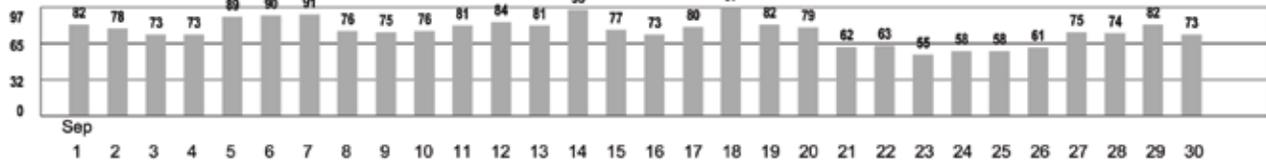


Comparisons	Days Service	Total kWh	Avg kWh/Day	Cost/Day
Current Billing	30	2293	76	7.97
Previous Billing	31	2626	85	10.71
Last Year	30	1857	62	8.67

**Total Due by 10/26/21**

**\$239.00**

**Daily kWh Usage for Billing Period**



Temperatures	
High	78 81 78 73 78 85 86 79 79 81 87 93 91 81 79 85 83 85 87 78 73 70 72 83 77 87 92 93 91 76 0
Low	62 54 58 62 64 60 63 57 55 56 64 69 66 67 66 63 65 71 68 69 59 55 48 51 56 53 67 65 64 67 0

Return this portion with payment. Keep top portion for your records.

IL01390R

**Southwestern**  
Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative  
525 US Route 40  
Greenville, IL 62246-3358  
Temp-Return Service Requested

Account Number	12345-001
Bill Date	10/05/21
Current Month Charges	\$239.00
Past Charges Due by 10/17/21	\$0.00
<b>Total Due by 10/26/21</b>	<b>\$239.00</b>
Total Due after 10/26/21	\$250.95
<b>Payment Amount Enclosed</b>	

Change of address or phone number see reverse side.

Please round my bill up for Operation Round Up

SOUTHWESTERN ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INC  
525 US ROUTE 40  
GREENVILLE IL 62246-3358



000123450010000000000000000000023900000000239001005211

# Southwestern Members Embrace Early Voting and Learn of Rate Adjustment, System Improvements

**A**n early voting option offered by Southwestern Electric Cooperative brought 2,595 members to the polls in late August and early September, marking the strongest turnout for a director election in the organization's 83-year history.

In April, the cooperative's board of directors opted to reinstitute health and safety measures implemented in 2020 to encourage early voting and curb the spread of COVID-19. Southwestern Electric members earned a \$50 bill credit by voting during the two weeks preceding the organization's annual membership meeting. Members cast their ballots at drive-through polling stations the cooperative offered at its offices in Greenville, St. Jacob and St. Elmo.

"Prior to 2020, the co-op's highest voter turnout was in 2017, when 1,451 members cast votes in the co-op election," said Ann Schwarm, president of Southwestern Electric. "That means at least 1,144 more members participated in the governance of this cooperative by casting their votes for directors. That's member engagement."

Schwarm shared the statistics with a dozen members who attended Southwestern Electric Cooperative's 83rd Annual Meeting of Members, held Saturday, Sept. 11, at the Bond County Fairgrounds in Greenville.



She also announced a membership-wide rate adjustment. Schwarm told members the board of directors' strategic plan called for a cost-of-service study, which was completed in late 2019. The study examined the cooperative's rate structure and costs associated with providing safe, reliable energy to the homes, businesses and industries served by Southwestern. "The study made two points clear," Schwarm said. "First, our fixed charges aren't covering our investment in materials, such as poles, transformers and power lines. And second, we can fine tune our rates to more accurately reflect the costs to serve residential, commercial, and industrial members."

Schwarm said the infrastructure requirements and energy demands of residential, commercial and industrial accounts vary widely from one another. "Next year, we're adjusting our rates and fixed charges to reflect those differences," she said, noting the rate adjustment will be revenue neutral, meaning the cooperative is not increasing or decreasing the revenue it receives from the membership overall.

Most residential members will see a small drop in their bill after the adjustment, she said. "Residential accounts on our standard rate using less than 887 kilowatt-hours each month will pay a little more. Residential members using more than 887 kilowatt-hours each

*Continued on next page ▶*



***“We have better data today than we did just 10 years ago. We’re in a better position to make sure what you pay for service is an accurate reflection of what it costs to serve you.”***

Ann Schwarm, Board President



Members pack the lot behind Southwestern's St. Jacob office to vote early. Below: Southwestern directors and CEO Bobby Williams address a small gathering on Sept. 11.



► *Continued from page 9*  
month will pay a little less,” she said. “To give that context, last year, our average residential member used 1,162 kilowatt-hours per month.”

More precise data gathered by the co-op’s intelligent electronic devices made the rate adjustment possible, Schwarm said. “We are in a better position to make sure what you pay for service is an accurate reflection of what it costs to serve you,” she added.

The rate adjustment and changes in fixed charges will become effective Jan. 1, 2022. They will appear on the February 2022 bill. “These changes will

be presented in such a way that you can see them,” she said. “Early next year, we are going to provide you with a more detailed, informative bill. It will break out our cost of service, line by line. At a glance, you’ll be able to see how much you pay for energy, distribution, transmission, and other expenses associated with moving electricity from the grid to your home.”

Bobby Williams, CEO of Southwestern Electric Cooperative, offered members an overview of infrastructure improvements — past, present and future. “In the last five years we have built two new substations, one

in Madison County and one in Fayette, to accommodate our residential and commercial growth. They will allow us to balance energy demands on our system and enable us to perform vital maintenance on surrounding substations without interrupting power to the members they serve,” he said.

“In Madison County, we installed new diagnostic and protection technology in our New Douglas Substation and made improvements to our Bethalto Substation. In Bond County, we expanded our Hookdale Substation and upgraded our substation at Reno, installing new

*Continued on page 12* ►



***“In the midst of making major improvements, we continued to install new services, exchange old poles and power lines for new, and maintain the 3,500 miles of overhead and underground line that serve you.”***

Bobby Williams, CEO



Top: President Ann Schwarm leads the Pledge of the Allegiance at Southwestern Electric Cooperative’s 83rd Annual Meeting of Members. Above: CEO Bobby Williams offers WGEL Radio’s John Kennedy a preview of his annual meeting address.

# Co-op Board Elects Officers

During the board meeting held Thursday, Sept. 23, Southwestern Electric directors elected four members to serve as officers. The board of directors elected Ann Schwarm as president, Sandy Grapperhaus as vice president, Annette Hartlieb as secretary, and Jerry Gaffner as treasurer. The board conducts an annual election of officers during the first board meeting following the Annual Meeting of Members. This year's annual meeting was held Saturday, Sept. 11, at the Bond County Fairgrounds in Greenville.



## **Ann Schwarm, President**

Ann Schwarm has served as a director since 1993 and acted as vice president of the board from 2010-2016. September marked the beginning of her fifth year as president. Schwarm brings to her role on the board a diverse professional background, including positions in agricultural communications, program

development, education and small-business management.

Schwarm recently retired after 21 years with the Regional Office of Education. She's gained additional board experience by serving on the First National Bank of Vandalia board of directors for 21 years and for four years on the Brownstown Community Unit School District Board. Schwarm is a 1979 graduate of the University of Missouri-School of Journalism.

Ann and her husband, Gene, live in rural Loogootee.



## **Sandy Grapperhaus, Vice President**

A lifelong local resident, Sandy Grapperhaus has been a member of Southwestern Electric for more than 30 years. She's served as a director since 2011 and acted as board secretary from 2013-2018. During her tenure, she's pursued an aggressive regimen of coursework, earning Credentialed

Cooperative Director designation from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

"There is still a lot of work to do in regards to our aging infrastructure," Grapperhaus said. "My goal is to guide the co-op's growth and system improvements while remaining watchful of our budget."

Sandy Grapperhaus is the executive assistant at Korte Construction Co. in Highland. She also helps her husband, Dan, with their small farm between Troy and Collinsville.



## **Annette Hartlieb, Secretary**

For Annette Hartlieb, being involved in Southwestern Electric Cooperative is a family tradition. Hartlieb, who grew up on a farm north of New Douglas, was raised on Southwestern Electric lines and started attending co-op annual meetings as a child with her parents.

Hartlieb is the assistant regional superintendent of schools for the Regional Office of Education (ROE) #3, which serves Bond, Christian, Effingham, Fayette and Montgomery counties. Prior to serving as assistant regional superintendent, she was division administrator for ROE #3. Hartlieb was principal of Mulberry Grove Elementary School for six years and taught third grade at Mulberry for 11 years before accepting the principal's position.

She has served as a director since 2017.



## **Jerry Gaffner, Treasurer**

A Southwestern Electric member for more than 20 years, Jerry Gaffner served on the cooperative's Nominating Committee for three years before being elected to the board of directors in 2018.

Gaffner served as president of the Illinois Milk Producers' Association from 2002-2008, and as an elder on the Greenville First Christian Church board from 2003 to 2010.

Gaffner has also chaired the board of HSHS Holy Family Hospital in Greenville, and served on strategic planning committees at the University of Illinois and at Bond County Community Unit School District #2.

He resides on his farm northwest of Greenville with his wife, Sherri. They have three children, Jonah, Abby and Hannah.



► *Continued from page 10*  
 technology to help us diagnose mechanical issues and troubleshoot outages. And in the eastern portion of our territory, we upgraded our Edgewood, Confidence and Altamont Substations, installed 17,000 feet of high-performance line outside Beecher City, made significant upgrades to Freedom Power Station, and constructed a new communications tower at our St. Elmo facility,” Williams said.

“In the midst of making major improvements, we continued to install new services, exchange old poles and power lines for new, and maintain the 3,500 miles of overhead and underground line that serve you,” he added.

Williams noted that Southwestern launched a residential EV program in fall of 2020, offering free chargers to members who shared their charging data. “We also partnered with the city of Troy, the Troy, Maryville, St. Jacob and Marine regional chamber of commerce, and Holiday Inn Express Troy, to install two new EV charging stations near Exit 18 off I-55/70. These public charging stations are drawing travelers off the

interstate and bringing commerce into our co-op communities,” he said.

This summer, Southwestern partnered with Anderson Hospital to install four new EV charging stations at the hospital’s Maryville campus. In coming months, the cooperative plans to install five additional charging stations at Anderson Hospital’s new Edwardsville campus on Goshen Road.

Southwestern will also begin building five miles of transmission line near Troy in early fall, Williams said. The line will connect the cooperative’s Maple Grove, Edwardsville and Fruit substations, enabling operations and engineering

personnel to reroute power and restore service quickly during a transmission outage or storm.

In 2023, the co-op will build a new, larger substation outside Smithboro. “Our Smithboro Substation will accommodate member growth and enable crews to reduce outage times to hundreds of members in Bond and Fayette counties,” Williams said.

“Perhaps the most ambitious part of our plan involves assessing and addressing aging distribution lines,” said Williams. “Over the next five years, we’ll make a system-wide push to

*Continued on page 26* ►

***“If we find that the course has changed, that the energy landscape has changed, or that you have changed, we’ll replot our path with our goals, our objectives, and you, our members, in mind.”***

Bobby Williams, CEO



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4

1) Director Sandy Grapperhaus (left) and Patty Jennings, wife of director Bill Jennings, arrive at the annual meeting. 2) Directors Jerry Gaffner and Marvin Warner and CEO Bobby Williams talk with director candidate Bruce Unterbrink. 3) A member pauses for a photo while casting his vote. 4) Andrew Jones, vice president of business development & marketing, and Becky Spratt, member services representative, collect ballots at the St. Jacob office.



1



2



3



4

1) A member receives a little navigational assistance from a friend. 2) Dispatchers Natalie Goestenkors and Kim Jackson greet members at the south gate of the fairgrounds on the morning of the meeting. 3) A member casts his vote in St. Elmo. 4) Director Ted Willman spoke with members and employees prior to the business meeting. 5) Ashley Towler, accounting clerk, collects ballots at the Greenville office. 6) Members take a moment to collect their voting pompoms before returning to their vehicles. 7) Many members carpooled to cast their votes. 8) Julie Lowe, energy manager, and Brooke Scott, executive assistant, park Southwestern's electric vehicle near the stage. 9) Chandra Williams, wife of CEO Bobby Williams, and Southwestern director Bill Jennings discuss the 2021 annual meeting.



5



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8



9

## ENERGY & EFFICIENCY



# 7 STEPS TO AN ENERGY CONSCIOUS KITCHEN

by Julie Lowe, Energy Manager

**T**here's nothing quite like the aroma of a kitchen with a holiday dinner in the oven. If you've prepared a holiday meal, you know it takes a lot of energy to set the table with those savory dishes. In addition to taxing your personal reserves, holiday preparations take a toll on your household energy budget—and your kitchen consumes more than its usual share during the holidays.

But there are simple ways to keep energy in check during the holidays and throughout the year. These tips from Southwestern Electric and the Department of Energy will help you get the most out of your kitchen kilowatt-hours.

### KEEP YOUR COOL

Today's kitchen appliances use about half as much energy as their counterparts from a decade ago. Even so, your refrigerator has a healthy appetite, consuming up to 15 percent of your energy budget. Feed it less by keeping the door closed. The exception to this rule: When you're putting together ingredients for a big dinner you'll lose less cool air by leaving the door open. Repeatedly opening and closing the door will force cool air out. You want air to circulate around items in your refrigerator, but a full fridge is an efficient fridge—chilled food helps to maintain the internal environment.

### MINUTE MEALS

When it comes to quick and efficient heating, your microwave is your best friend. It uses about half the energy of a conventional oven. It's the go-to appliance for cooking vegetables and warming leftovers in the days to come.

### PLOT WITH PANS

When you're cooking on a stovetop, find a pan that fits your element. A 6-inch pan on an 8-inch burner will send more than 40 percent of your cooking energy up in smoke.

On an electric range, use flat-bottomed pans that make full contact with the element. You also want clean burners and reflectors. They direct heat more effectively.

### WINDOW WATCHER

While it's tempting to open the oven door for a peek at your holiday dish, you'll save time and money if you don't. Opening your oven vents valuable heat into your kitchen. You're lowering your oven's internal temperature by as much as 25 degrees each time you open the door. Use your oven window. It may not leave you basking in the steam of a roasting ham, but you'll be able to eat a little sooner.

### SMART STACKING

Your meal will cook more quickly and efficiently if air can circulate freely around the food. Avoid stretching sheets of foil over the oven racks. If you have room, stagger pans on the upper and lower racks to evenly distribute heat. When recipes permit, bake several batches of cookies at once. The same strategy works for pies.

### TRUE BLUE

If you're cooking with a gas range-top burner, use moderate flame settings to conserve fuel. Your flame should be blue. A yellow-tinged flame suggests the gas is burning inefficiently and that your appliance needs an adjustment.

### CLEAN-UP

A load of dishes cleaned in the dishwasher uses 37 percent less water than the same dishes done by hand. If you're a dish-towel and elbow grease advocate, the same load cleaned in a basin rather than under running water uses half as much water as the dishwasher.

If you opt for the dishwasher, overnight or air-dry settings can reduce your dishwashing energy costs by up to 10 percent.

### STAR PERFORMANCE

You can cut down on energy expenditures by purchasing ENERGY STAR rated appliances. Appliances with an ENERGY STAR designation meet energy efficiency guidelines set by the Environmental Protection Agency and DOE. ENERGY STAR products perform just like other appliances on the market but trim dollars from your annual energy budget.



# Energy Bill Payment Assistance Available

The State of Illinois offers assistance to low-income families who struggle to pay their energy bills. Applications for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis until funds are exhausted.

Please review the income guidelines listed at left to see if you qualify. The amount of the payment is determined by income, household size, fuel type, geographic location, and the amount of funding available.

Use the listing at left to find the agency that serves the county you live in, then contact the agency and tell them you'd like to apply for assistance through LIHEAP. The customer service representative who takes your application will explain the requirements, the type of assistance available, and your rights under the program.

### When you apply for assistance, please bring the following items:

- Proof of gross income from all household members for the 30-day period prior to application date.
- A copy of your heating and electric bills issued within the last 30 days (if energy paid for directly).
- A copy of your rental agreement (if your heating costs are included in the rent) showing the monthly rental amount, landlord's contact information, and proof that utilities are included in the rent.
- Proof of Social Security numbers for all household members.
- Proof that the household receives TANF or other benefits—such as Medical Eligibility or SNAP—if you are receiving assistance from the Illinois Department of Human Services.

The agency will determine your eligibility based on information you provide and will notify you within 30 days of receiving a completed application.

If your application is accepted, the local agency will make the appropriate payment to your energy provider(s) on your behalf, or in some cases, directly to you. All client and vendor payments will be made by the local agency within 15 days of the application's approval. Electric cooperative members, if approved, will receive assistance in the form of a one-time payment.

*Members using Pay-As-You-Go may also qualify for LIHEAP funds. Contact your local community action agency to find out if you qualify for energy assistance.*

## To apply for assistance through LIHEAP, please contact the community action agency serving your county.

County	Community Action Agency	Phone Number
Bond	BCMW Community Services, Inc.	(618) 664-3309
Clay	CEFS Economic Opportunity Corp.	(618) 662-4024
Clinton	BCMW Community Services, Inc.	(618) 526-7123
Effingham	CEFS Economic Opportunity Corp.	(217) 347-7514
Fayette	CEFS Economic Opportunity Corp.	(618) 283-2631
Macoupin	Illinois Valley Economic Development Corp.	(217) 839-4431
Madison	Madison County Community Development	(618) 296-6485
Marion	BCMW Community Services, Inc.	(618) 532-7388
Montgomery	CEFS Economic Opportunity Corp.	(217) 532-5971
Shelby	CEFS Economic Opportunity Corp.	(217) 774-4541
St. Clair	St. Clair Community Action Agency	(618) 277-6790

### Income Guidelines

If your household's combined income for the 30 days prior to application (gross income for all household members, before taxes are deducted) is at or below 200% of the federal poverty level as shown in the chart below, you may be eligible to receive assistance. If you rent, and your heat and/or electric is included in the rent, your rent must be greater than 30% of your income in order to be eligible to receive assistance.

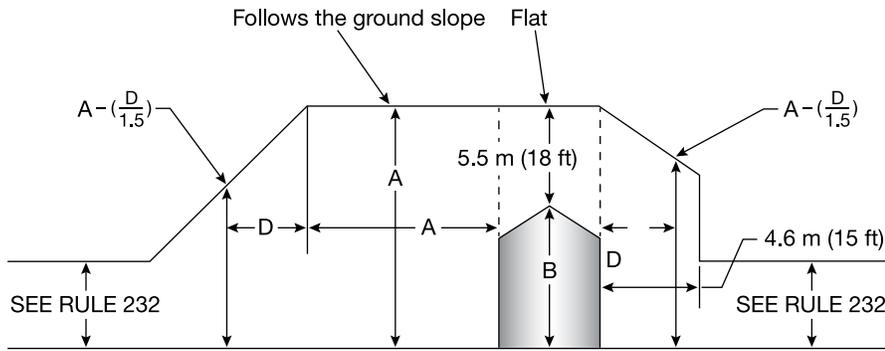
Family Size	30-Day Income
1.....	\$2,147
2.....	\$2,903
3.....	\$3,660
4.....	\$4,417
5.....	\$5,173
6.....	\$5,930

\*For households larger than 6 members, please contact your county agency.



For more information on this program, visit [IllinoisLIHEAP.com](http://IllinoisLIHEAP.com) or call the toll-free hotline, (877) 411-WARM.

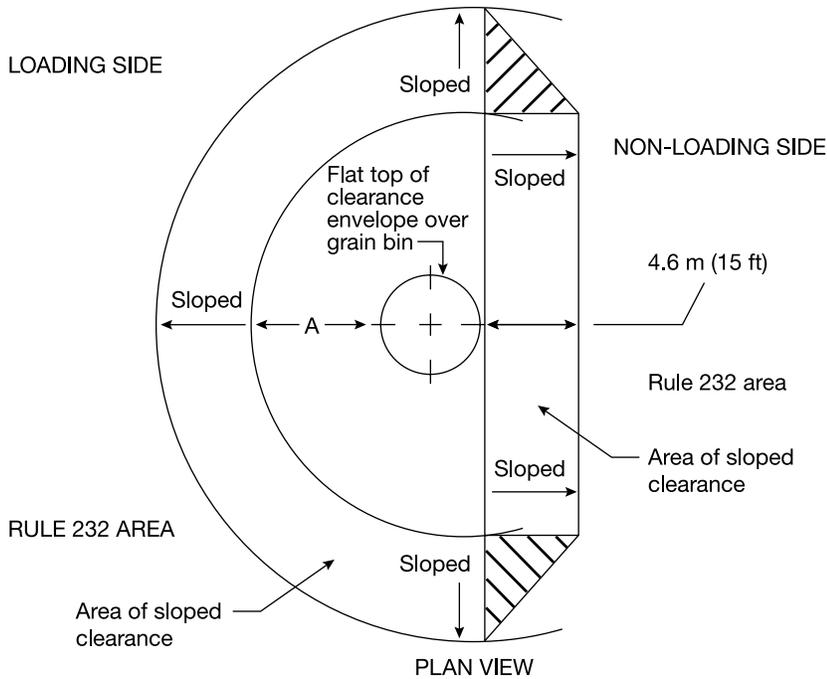
## HEALTH & SAFETY



B = Height of highest filling or probing port on grain bin  
 A = B + 5.5 m (18 ft)  
 D = Variable horizontal dimension

### ELEVATION

In the area of sloped clearance, the vertical clearance is reduced by 300 mm (1 ft) for each additional 450 mm (1.5 ft) of horizontal distance from the grain bin.



**Figure 234-4(b) — Clearance envelope for grain bins filled by portable augers, conveyors, or elevators**

# Building a grain bin?

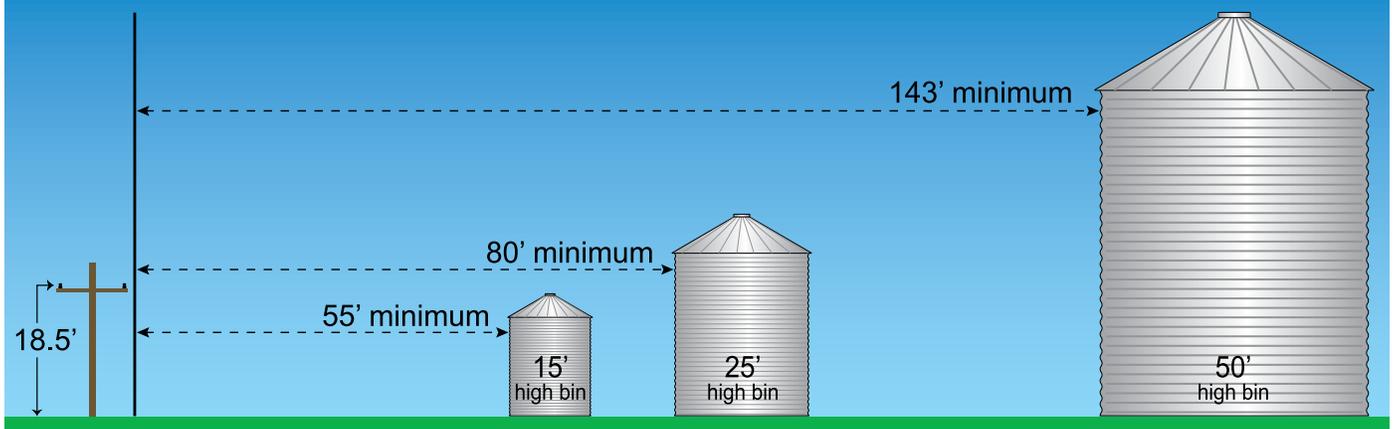
## Call us first!

**PLANNING TODAY COULD SAVE LIVES TOMORROW**

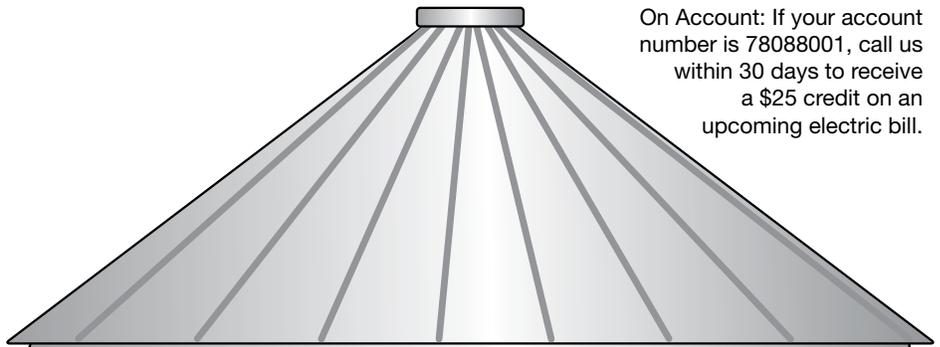
While safety is usually a matter of being in tune with your environment at any given moment, there are instances when forethought on your part can prevent accidents for years to come. Grain bin construction is a perfect example. Just as

Left: Clearance envelope for grain bins filled by portable augers, conveyors, or elevators, as printed on page 139 of the 2017 edition of the National Electrical Safety Code. Appears courtesy of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Inc.

### Minimum Required Distances from Loading Side of Grain Bin



On Account: If your account number is 78088001, call us within 30 days to receive a \$25 credit on an upcoming electric bill.



you'd survey a new field before planting, you should also take a minute to survey your grain bin site.

First, look up. Are there power lines nearby? They don't have to be directly overhead to pose a problem. Plot the movement of your equipment around the field. How many times do you pass near or beneath power lines? Can you re-route traffic in ways that will keep you farther from them?

Perhaps you know precisely where the lines are and always use extreme caution when working near them. But what about the people who work with you? Are they just as diligent? Will a distraction or lapse in judgment place them in danger of electrocution?

You can cut down on the danger significantly by building your bin far from power lines.

How far is far enough?

We've included diagrams and a table that illustrate requirements established by the National Electrical Safety Code (NESC). Keep these distances in mind when you search for a bin site, and then call Southwestern Electric Cooperative. We'll send a staking engineer to survey your site. It's the best way to make sure your bin will meet NESC guidelines.

While safety is certainly your first concern, there are also financial penalties for violating the NESC. If grain bins are constructed too close to power lines, Southwestern Electric is obligated to alter the path of the electrical system and bring the site into compliance. The member who violated the code by constructing the bin too close to a line is liable for the cost. In other words, if you build a bin too close to a power line, you'll have to pay the cost of relocating our facilities.

The easiest way to avoid such a problem is to call Southwestern Electric Cooperative before building. Our staking engineers will be happy to visit your site and help you plot a safe and efficient solution. For assistance, please call (800) 637-8667 and ask for the engineering department.

**Minimum Phase and Neutral Clearances from Grain Bin**  
Adapted from NESC Rule 234F

Voltages 12.47/7.2 kV through 34.5/19.9 kV						
Height of Bin (ft)	Loading Side of Bin			No-Loading Side of Bin		
	Horizontal Distance from Bin (ft)	Minimum Conductor Height (ft)	Minimum Conductor Height (ft-in)	Horizontal Distance from Bin (ft)	Minimum Conductor Height (ft)	Minimum Conductor Height (ft-in)
15	0	33.0	33' 0"	0	33.0	33' 0"
	33	33.0	33' 0"	10	26.3	26' 4"
	40	28.3	28' 4"	15	18.5	18' 6"
	50	21.7	21' 8"			
	54.75	18.5	18' 6"			
20	0	38.0	38' 0"	0	38.0	38' 0"
	38	38.0	38' 0"	10	31.3	31' 4"
	50	30.0	30' 0"	15	18.5	18' 6"
	60	23.3	23' 4"			
	67.25	18.5	18' 6"			
25	0	43.0	43' 0"	0	43.0	43' 0"
	43	43.0	43' 0"	10	36.3	36' 4"
	50	38.3	38' 4"	15	18.5	18' 6"
	60	31.7	31' 8"			
	70	25.0	25' 0"			
	79.75	18.5	18' 6"			
30	0	48.0	48' 0"	0	48.0	48' 0"
	48	48.0	48' 0"	10	41.3	41' 4"
	60	40.0	40' 0"	15	18.5	18' 6"
	70	33.3	33' 4"			
	80	26.7	26' 8"			
	90	20.0	20' 0"			
	92.25	18.5	18' 6"			
35	0	53.0	53' 0"	0	53.0	53' 0"
	53	53.0	53' 0"	10	46.3	46' 4"
	60	48.3	48' 4"	15	18.5	18' 6"
	70	41.7	41' 8"			
	80	35.0	35' 0"			
	90	28.3	28' 4"			
	100	21.7	21' 8"			
	104.75	18.5	18' 6"			

NOTE: Vertical clearances, however, must be met using the worst-case sag conditions, as described in rule 234A of the NESC.

# INSTITUTIONAL KNOWLEDGE

Story by Nathan Grimm | Photos by Mike Barns

**B**e prepared. I was not a Boy Scout, but I know that’s the motto by which they operate. In his 1908 tome that would become the “Scouts BSA Handbook,” Robert Baden-Powell said, “Be Prepared in Mind by having disciplined yourself to be obedient to every order, and also by having thought out beforehand any accident or situation that might occur, so that you know the right thing to do at the right moment, and are willing to do it.”

If I had read Baden-Powell’s book, or had been a Scout myself, I might have been better prepared to tackle the trails at The Nature Institute in Godfrey. There on an overcast early fall afternoon in October, I was prepared only to leisurely walk the 0.5-mile, beginner-level Frog Trail. Wearing shorts and slip-on sneakers, and without a hint of bug repellent, I breezed around the paved loop without issue, venturing off the path only to take in the breathtaking view of the Mississippi River from the Olin skeet range.

With the trail providing little resistance – as intended; it’s TNI’s easiest trail to traverse – I decided that I could handle seeing a few more sights on one of their more challenging paths. The issue, in hind-sight, is that I wasn’t more selective about *which* trail I wandered onto, and didn’t know more about where it went or how long it might take.

An hour later, I was still wandering around TNI’s expansive 293 acres, hopping from trail to trail – Rock Trail, Beaver

Trail, Deer Trail – without any idea which way led me back to the welcome reprieve of the paved loop. The sights along the way – a monument dedicated to the Hop Hollow valley’s history as an entry point for the Underground Railroad, small natural waterfalls trickling off large slabs of rock, a path cut through restored prairie grass as tall as I am – did not go unappreciated, though, and made for a peaceful backdrop for my wandering.

The prepared hiker could spend a day seeing everything there is to see on the institute’s various trails, which range in difficulty from the aforementioned Frog Trail to the three-mile, rugged-terrain Deer Trail. The property also has a Hutchinson Bird Sanctuary trail and an interpretive trail through the Heartland Prairie, and the Talahi Lodge serves as a welcoming and education center at the entrance to the property.

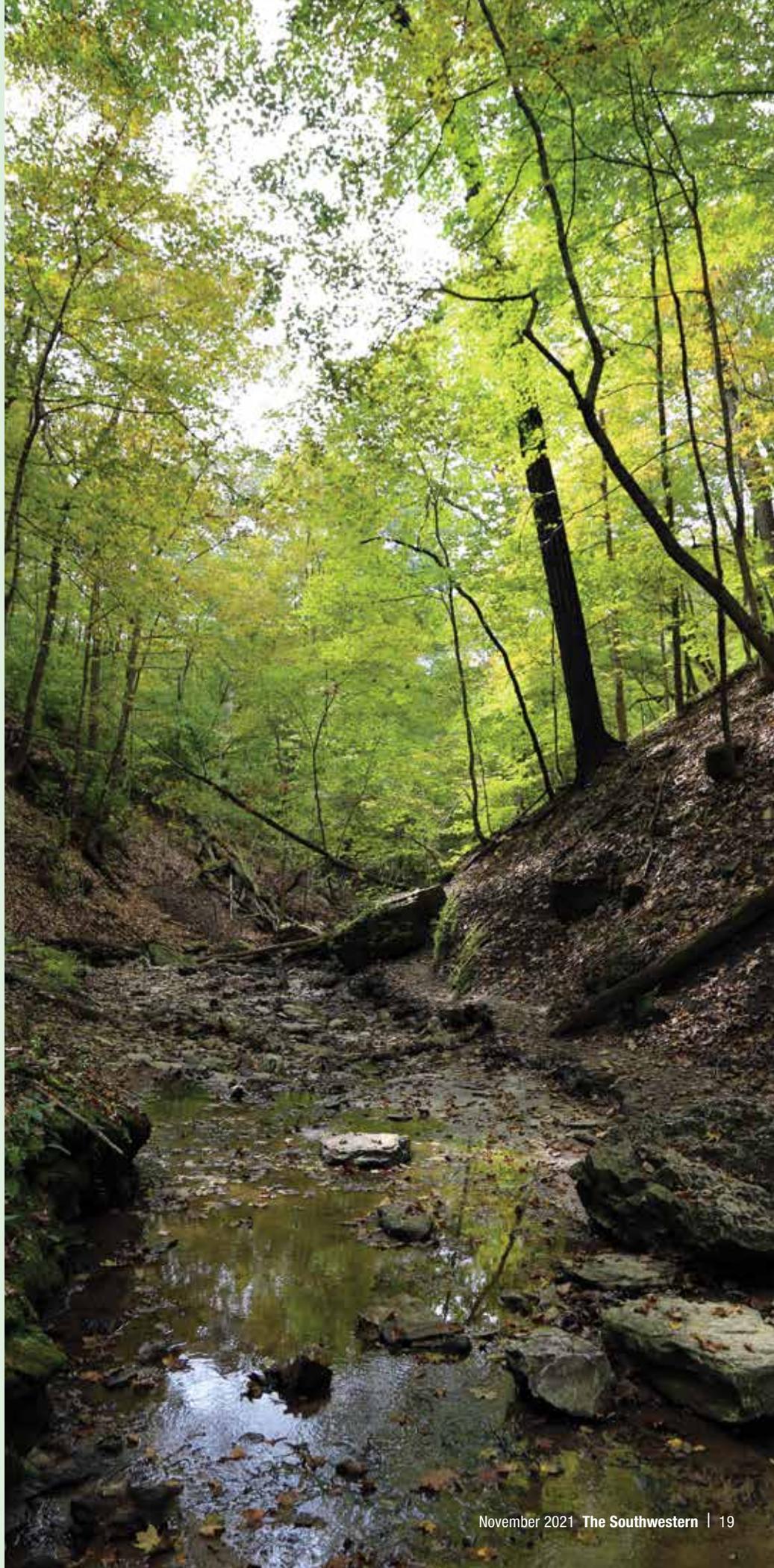
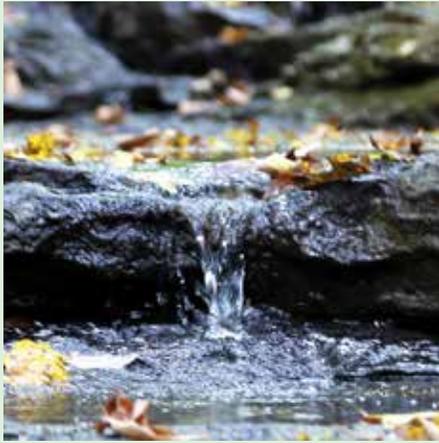
The trails are open to the public for free from dawn to dusk seven days per week, closing only during the winter months. The site’s public restrooms are typically only open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., though. Dogs, bikes and horses are not permitted on the trails.

Beautiful and serene, The Nature Institute is certainly a trip worth making, whether soon before the weather turns or when the trails open back up in spring. Just remember, proper attire and footwear are advised, and bug repellent doesn’t hurt either. You know, be prepared.



**Getting there:** Head west on Interstate 70, continuing onto Interstate 270 west. Take Exit 7B to merge onto Illinois Route 255 north toward Alton, then take Exit 10 for Illinois Route 111/Illinois Route 140 toward Alton/Bethalto. Follow the route for 3.5 miles before merging right onto Illinois Route 3/North Homer M. Adams Parkway. At West Delmar Avenue, turn right, then about half a mile down turn left onto Levis Lane. Follow the directions to The Nature Institute from there.

When exploring, please observe CDC and local health and safety guidelines. Be mindful of your health and the well-being of those around you.



## WHO • WHAT • WHERE

Signs similar to the marquee that served as our September puzzle were once common across Southwestern Illinois. I can remember several free-standing marquees in our area that, over the last few decades, have fallen to time, weather or development.

As it turns out, you remember them as well.

Several of you offered solutions that identified marquees belonging to drive-ins from days past. Tim Bennett of Holiday Shores was the sole reader to correctly identify the location of the sign in our shot. Well done, Tim.

That said, we appreciated the entries that called other marquees to mind. They sent us scouring the internet for images and bits of history, and kindled memories of speakers clasped to car windows, the crunch of popcorn, and the hush that fell across a hundred cars as a giant screen lit up a darkening sky.

Ergo, we're running solutions sent by Bill Malec of O'Fallon and Harry Volberg of Pocahontas. The drive-ins they named may stir thoughts of distant days, pleasant evenings, and good friends.

If you haven't been to a drive-in recently — or ever — you needn't drive far to find one. Belleville and Litchfield are home to drive-in theaters, both named Sky View. Since we're deep into autumn, you may have to wait a few months to see a movie under the stars.

In the meantime, can you name the historical figure immortalized in bronze on the opposite page? Sculpted by Gutzon Borglum, this statue stood in Washington, D.C., before finding a new home in one of the counties Southwestern serves.

If Borglum's name sounds familiar, you may have noted it while you were admiring another sculpture he designed: Mt. Rushmore.

We'll run some of your responses to this month's challenge in our first issue of 2022. Until then, here's what you had to say about our September puzzle.

The answer to the question "Where Are We?" is: 1950N and Colt Road, Carlinville, IL 62626. These are the remains of the Diane Drive-In theatre marquee. The large theatre screen is also still standing. The Diane Drive-In opened on May 24, 1952 and could originally accommodate 300 cars. Diane Drive-In closed in 1981.

It was owned by the same family which operated the indoor Marvel Theater, also in Carlinville. After being damaged in a 1978 fire, the original screen was replaced by a smaller and less elaborate one.

Thanks for another great challenge.  
—Tim Bennett, *Holiday Shores*

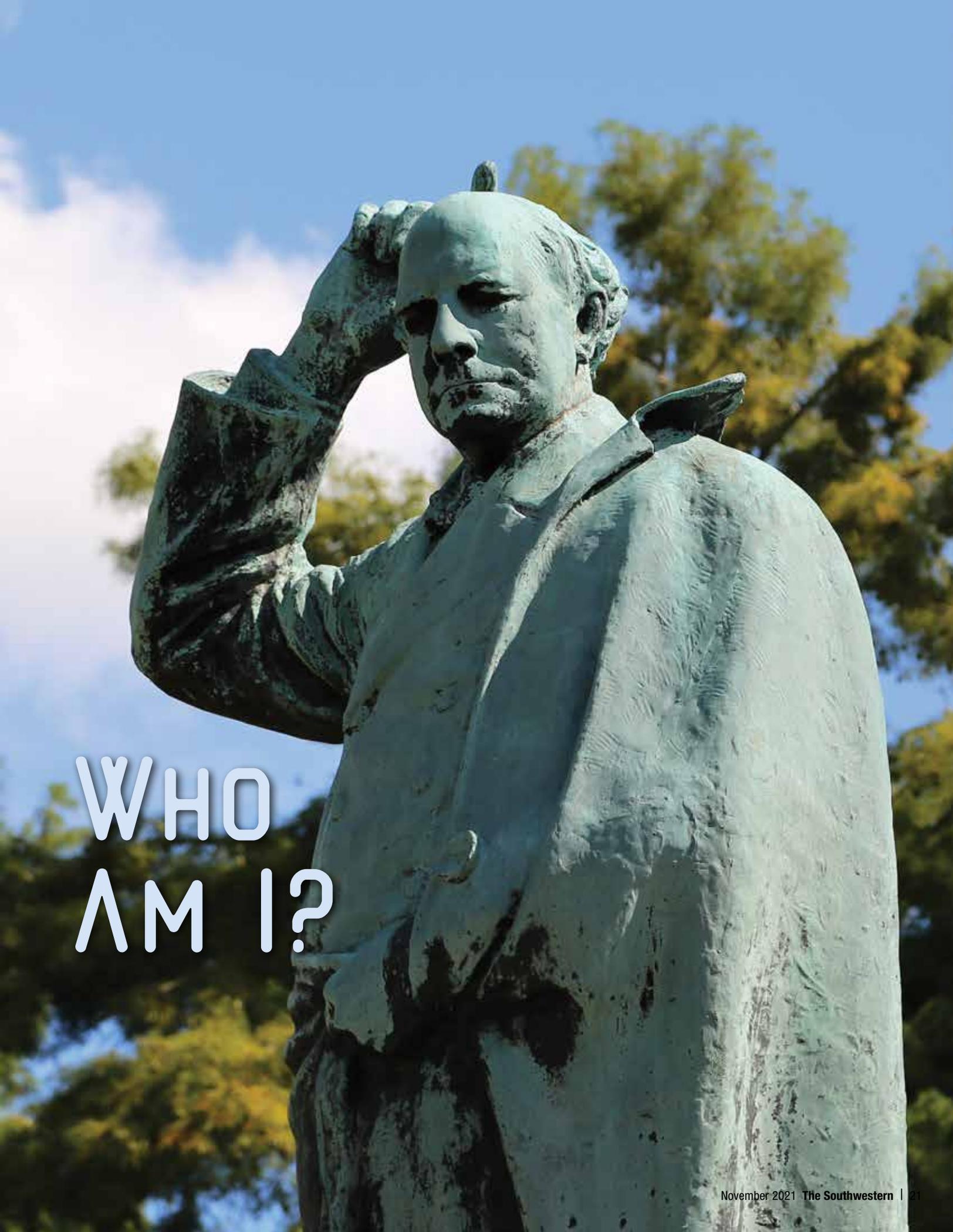
The drive-in sign is on Route 50 just east of Beckemeyer, Ill., on the north side going east toward Carlyle, Ill. There hasn't been a movie shown there in years and the sign now graces an empty field.  
—Harry Volberg, *Pocahontas*

The abandoned drive-in theater sign pictured in the September 2021 "Where are we?" is one of the last remaining remnants of the Tanner Drive-In located in Vandalia, Ill. The drive-in could be found at 1900 West Fillmore Street and was owned by the Tanner family, which also ran the indoor Liberty Theater in Vandalia. The drive-in could accommodate about 300 cars. It was closed in the 1990s and demolished in 1999.

—Bill Malec, *O'Fallon*



**Who-What-Where** is a contest that challenges your knowledge of people, places and objects in and around Southwestern Electric Cooperative's service area. Here's how it works: Each month, we run a photo. Your job is to tell us who's pictured, what we've photographed, or where we shot the photo. You can email your response to [joe.richardson@sweci.com](mailto:joe.richardson@sweci.com) or send it by mail to Joe Richardson, Southwestern Electric Cooperative, 525 U.S. Route 40, Greenville, IL 62246. Please include your name, mailing address, and hometown. If you have a story about our photo topic, include that as well — we love these! The puzzle solution — possibly accompanied by a few words from you — will appear in a future issue of *The Southwestern*.



# WHO AM I?

CO-OP KITCHEN

# Bright Sides

This month's recipes are courtesy of 4-H House Alumni Association's *Nurture the Future @ 805 4-H House Anniversary Cookbook* (carrot and apple casserole), Edwardsville Garden Club's *Favorite Recipes* (sweet potato casserole), and Greenville Regional Hospital Auxiliary's *Home Town Favorites* cookbook (baked mashed potatoes, glazed carrots with bacon & onion, and vegetable & corn salad).

## CARROT & APPLE CASSEROLE

### Ingredients

- 4 large apples
- 1 pound carrots
- ½ cup sugar
- 3 tablespoons flour
- 2 tablespoons butter
- 1 cup orange juice
- nutmeg

### Directions

1. Peel and slice apples. Boil for 5 minutes or until barely tender and drain.
2. Slice carrots and boil for 5 minutes or until tender and drain.
3. Layer apples and carrots in greased 2-quart casserole dish.
4. Mix sugar, flour, butter, and orange juice together in small saucepan. Cook until well blended and beginning to thicken.
5. Pour sugar mixture apples and carrots.
6. Sprinkle with nutmeg.
7. Bake at 350° for 30 minutes.

## VEGETABLE & CORN SALAD

### Ingredients

- 1 can shoepeg corn drained
- 1 can yellow corn drained
- 1 can French style green beans drained
- 1 jar diced pimentos drained
- 1 small onion diced
- ½ cup green pepper diced
- 3 ribs celery diced

### Marinade Ingredients

- ½ teaspoon salt
- ½ cup sugar
- ¾ cup oil
- ½ cup vinegar

### Directions

1. Place vegetables in large bowl.
2. Mix marinade ingredients together until completely combined.
3. Pour marinade over vegetables and mix together.

*Can be made 3-4 days ahead of time, stirring at intervals.*

## SWEET POTATO CASSEROLE

### Ingredients

- 3 large sweet potatoes
- ¼ cup orange juice
- ¼ cup heavy cream
- 3 tablespoons light brown sugar
- 2 tablespoons butter melted
- ¼ teaspoon nutmeg
- ⅛ teaspoon cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon salt
- ½ teaspoon pepper
- 6 tablespoons butter
- 6 apples peeled, cored, and sliced
- 6 tablespoons brown sugar

### Directions

1. Scrub potatoes, poke with fork, bake at 375° for 1 hour, and let cool.
2. Combine orange juice, cream, butter, brown sugar, nutmeg, cinnamon, salt and pepper.
3. Remove sweet potato skins and place in food processor or mixer.
4. Add orange juice mixture to food processor and mix well with sweet potatoes.
5. Place sweet potato mixture in greased 9 x 13 inch baking dish.
6. Melt butter and brown sugar in skillet over medium heat.
7. Add apple slices and sauté until lightly browned.
8. Top sweet potatoes with apple slices and bake at 350° for 30 minutes.

## BAKED MASHED POTATOES

### Ingredients

- 4 large potatoes (about 2 pounds) peeled and quartered
- ¼ cup milk
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 2 tablespoons butter melted and divided
- 1 egg beaten
- 8 ounces sour cream
- 1 cup small curd cottage cheese
- 5 green onions finely chopped
- ½ cup butter-flavored crackers crushed

### Directions

1. Boil potatoes until tender (about 15-20 minutes).
2. Place potatoes in large bowl. Add milk, salt, 1 tablespoon of butter and beat until light and fluffy.
3. Fold in egg, sour cream, cottage cheese, and onions.
4. Place potato mixture in greased 1½ quart baking dish.
5. Combine crackers and remaining butter and sprinkle over potato mixture.
6. Bake, uncovered at 350° for 20-30 minutes or until cracker crumbs are lightly browned.

*May be made ahead and refrigerated. Sprinkle on crackers just before baking.*

## GLAZED CARROTS WITH BACON & ONION

### Ingredients

- 1 pound package baby carrots
- 3 bacon slices
- 1 small onion chopped
- 3 tablespoons honey
- 2 tablespoons brown sugar
- 1 teaspoon lemon juice
- ¼ teaspoon pepper

### Directions

1. Boil carrots for 15 minutes or until tender, drain, and set aside.
2. Cook bacon in skillet until crisp, drain on paper towels, and then crumble and set aside. Reserve 1 tablespoon of bacon drippings in skillet.
3. Sauté onion in reserved drippings over medium heat 3 minutes or until tender.
4. Stir in honey, brown sugar, lemon juice, pepper, and carrots.
5. Cook, stirring often, 5 minutes or until carrots are glazed and heated well.
6. Transfer to serving dish and top with crumbled bacon.

## CURRENT EVENTS

**November 6** GREENVILLE OPTIMIST CLUB PANCAKE AND SAUSAGE BREAKFAST, Greenville. Our famous whole sausage will be available for purchase. 7 a.m. - 1 p.m. St. Lawrence Catholic Church, 512 South Prairie Street. Call Ruth at (256) 509-6110.

**November 6** MEET RON CLEMENTS, Litchfield. Ron Clements, author of *Roadtrip America: A Sports Fan's Guide To Route 66!*, will be talking about Route 66 Sports History at the Litchfield Museum and Route 66 Welcome Center. 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Admission is free. 334 Historic Old Route 66 North. Call (217) 324-3510 or visit [litchfieldmuseum.org](http://litchfieldmuseum.org).

**November 6 & 13** UNDERGROUND RAILROAD SHUTTLE TOUR, Alton. Alton's riverfront location played a vital role in helping slaves make connections to the freedom of the northern U.S. Learn about local, Underground Railroad sites on a shuttle tour with J.E. Robinson. The two-hour guided shuttle tours will stop at some of these sites including Rocky Fork Church, Enos Apartments and more. Tours leave at 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. Admission is \$27.50. Each tour will begin and end at the Alton Visitor Center, 200 Piassa Street. For more information or tickets, call (800) 258-6645 or visit [riversandroutes.com](http://riversandroutes.com).

**November 7** CITY OF THE SUN 5K, Collinsville. Event held rain or shine. Registration begins 8 a.m., race begins at 9 a.m. in front of the building. Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site, 30 Ramey Street. Call (618) 344-7316 or visit [cahokiamounts.org](http://cahokiamounts.org).

**November 11-21** LEND ME A TENOR, Lebanon. A theatrical performance by the Looking Glass Playhouse. All performances begin at 7:30 p.m.,

except for Sunday shows, which begin at 2 p.m. \$10 on Thursday and \$12 Friday - Sunday for adults; \$9 on Thursday and \$11 Friday - Sunday for students, senior citizens and active military personnel (with valid identification). Looking Glass Playhouse, 301 West Saint Louis Street. Call (618) 537-4962 or visit [lookingglass-playhouse.com](http://lookingglass-playhouse.com).

**November 12** BIRDING 101, Godfrey. This beginner friendly workshop will go over the basics of birding. Binoculars are provided during the program. Prepare for roughly 1 - 2 miles of hiking on easy to moderate terrain. 9 - 11 a.m. Free for members; \$5 for non-members. Registration is required. The Nature Institute, 2213 South Levis Lane. Call (618) 466-9930 or visit [thenatureinstitute.org](http://thenatureinstitute.org).

**November 13** OLD SALT UNION CONCERT, Lebanon. Performance by modern Bluegrass band Old Salt Union from Belleville, Ill. 7:30 p.m. Adult \$25; senior \$23; students and children \$10; McKendree University Students free. The Hett Center for the Arts, 400 North Alton Street. Call (618) 537-6863 or visit [thehett.com](http://thehett.com).

**November 13** SAUSAGE SUPPER, Grantfork. The Grantfork United Church of Christ Men's Fellowship will host its annual Sausage Supper, featuring the best sausage, sauerkraut, mashed potatoes and green beans around. This year's fundraiser will be drive-through only from 2 - 7 p.m. \$11 per plate. 206 South Locust Street,

Highland. For more information, visit [grantforkucc.org](http://grantforkucc.org), [facebook.com/GrantforkILUCC](https://facebook.com/GrantforkILUCC), call (618) 675-2595, or email [grantforkucc@gmail.com](mailto:grantforkucc@gmail.com).

**November 13** TURKEY TROT, Maryville. 5K race and 1 mile walk/run. 9 a.m. Entry fee applies. Drost Park, #8 Schiber Court. Visit [vil.maryville.il.us](http://vil.maryville.il.us) or call (618) 772-8555.

**November 13 & 14** TIGER BAND ART & CRAFT FAIR, Edwardsville. Arts and craft fair with handcrafted items from over 200 vendors. All proceeds from this show benefit the Edwardsville High School band program. Concessions will serve breakfast and lunch. Edwardsville High School, 6161 Center Grove Road. Saturday 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.; Sunday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Visit [edwardsvillebands.com](http://edwardsvillebands.com).

**November 14** WINE FESTIVAL, Grafton. Participants will have the opportunity to sample dozens of wines from around the world. Noon - 4 p.m. Tickets are \$25 and include a souvenir wine glass, appetizers, live music, and seven wine tasting tickets. Additional wine tasting tickets are 2 for \$1. Event is for those 21 years of age and up. Pere Marquette Lodge & Conference Center, 13653 Lodge Blvd. Call (618) 786-2331 or visit [pmlodge.net](http://pmlodge.net).

**November 19; December 18** MOONLIGHT HIKE, Godfrey. Join us on a night hike through the woods on the trails of the Mississippi Sanctuary and Olin Nature Preserve. The terrain

is light to moderate and is appropriate for families. The hike will be about 2 miles with stops along the way. 7:30 - 8:45 p.m. Meet at the Talahi Lodge and be on time, as the hike leaves promptly at 7:30 p.m. Admission is free for members; non-members \$5. Registration is required. The Nature Institute, 2213 South Levis Lane. Call (618) 466-9930 or visit [thenatureinstitute.org](http://thenatureinstitute.org).

**November 19 - December 31** WINTER WONDERLAND, Lebanon. A drive-through display of holiday lights. Sunday - Thursday 5 - 9 p.m.; Friday - Saturday 5 - 10 p.m. Donations accepted. Horner Park, 11113 Widicus Road. Visit [hornerparklights.com](http://hornerparklights.com).

**November 20; December 4 & 18**, GLEN CARBON. The Metro East Model Railroad Club will host free holiday open houses from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at their club house. Visitors are welcome to view the club's trains running on their 18 x 27 foot HO Scale model railroad. Admission is free. The old Glen Carbon Firehouse/City Hall, 180 Summit Street. For more information, please call Bob at (618) 476-9228; or Bill at (618) 531-1589; or check the web site at: <http://www.trainweb.org/memrc/openhouse.html>.

**November 20; December 19** TELESCOPE NIGHT, Godfrey. Want to look at the universe through a telescope, but don't own one? Come out to the Talahi Lodge on the night after a full moon and we will have some set up. Bring your own

### Call to Confirm

Listings are provided by event organizers or taken from community websites. We recommend calling to confirm dates, times and details before you make plans. All are subject to change.

### Submissions

To submit an event for consideration in our calendar, email your event information to [joe.richardson@sweci.com](mailto:joe.richardson@sweci.com), or mail your info to *The Southwestern*, Southwestern Electric Cooperative, 525 US Route 40, Greenville, IL 62246. Please use our Current Events format (as seen on these pages) to write your submission. Include a contact number or email and submit your listing at least two months prior to your event.

telescope and we can help you use it. We will talk about how telescopes work and look at the moon and other night sky objects. 7:30 - 9:30 p.m. Free for members; \$5 for non-members. Space is limited, registration required. The Nature Institute, 2213 South Levis Lane. Call (618) 466-9930 or visit [thenatureinstitute.org](http://thenatureinstitute.org).

**November 25 - January 1** WONDERLAND IN LIGHTS, Effingham. Tune into Christmas music on 90.7 FM while you drive through the holiday light display. Sunday - Thursday 5 - 9 p.m.; Friday & Saturday 5 - 10 p.m. The tour is free, but donations are welcome. Community Park, East Temple Avenue. Call (217) 342-5310 or visit [visiteffinghamil.com](http://visiteffinghamil.com).

**November 26** CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING, Grafton. Start your holiday season with the lighting of Grafton's Christmas Tree. Santa and Mrs. Claus will be on hand. Hot chocolate and treats will be ready for you to enjoy. Stop in at the Loading Dock's ice rink for some skating or ride the sky tour and enjoy the holiday lights and atmosphere. 6 p.m. The Grove Memorial Park, corner of Market and Main Street. Visit [graftonilchamber.com](http://graftonilchamber.com).

**November 26 & 27** CHRISTMAS CANDLELIGHT TOURS, Edwardsville. Experience an 1820s Christmas during this candlelight event. Historically garbed docents discuss the rich history of the house as

guests take a self-guided tour through the festively adorned rooms. Enjoy a cup of hot was-sail, a sweet treat, a story or two, and a warm fire. 6 - 9 p.m. Adult \$10; children 6 - 12 years of age \$5; children five years of age and younger are free. Colonel Benjamin Stephenson House, 409 South Buchanan Street. Call (618) 692-1818 or visit [stephensonhouse.org](http://stephensonhouse.org).

**November 26-31** CHRISTMAS LIGHTS WONDERLAND, Greenville. See our unique and extensive collection of light boxes, Christmas displays, Christmas lights, and holiday scenes. 5 - 9 p.m. Free will donation. American Farm Heritage Museum, 1395 Museum Avenue. Call (618) 664-9733 or visit [americanfarmheritagemuseum.org](http://americanfarmheritagemuseum.org).

**November 26 - January 9** CHRISTMAS LIGHTS IN THE PARK, Carlyle. Take a drive through the park to view the lights and tune your radio to 90.1 FM to hear the dancing trees music. 5 - 11 p.m. Admission is free. Carlyle City Park, 1090 Lake Road. Visit [carlylelake.com](http://carlylelake.com).

**November 27** WINTER VILLAGE MARKET, Maryville. Enjoy shopping from many vendors with handmade crafts, farm-fresh goods, and a variety of gifts. Food and beverages will also be available. 5 - 8 p.m. Firemen's Park. 300 North Donk Avenue. Visit [vil.maryville.il.us](http://vil.maryville.il.us).

**November 27 & 28** GREAT TRAIN EXPO, Collinsville. This show is the nation's only coast-to-coast model train show and is designed for the general public, modelers, hobbyists, and families. Each show features hundreds of tables of trains and accessories for sale, huge operating exhibits, and activities for kids. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Saturday admission is \$11 and is good for both days; Sunday is \$10; children 11 years of age and younger are free. Gateway Center, One Gateway Drive. Visit [trainshow.com](http://trainshow.com).

**December 3-5, 10-12** YES VIRGINIA THERE IS A SANTA CLAUS, Breese. A theatrical presentation by Clinton County Showcase. All performances begin at 8 p.m. except for the last Sunday showing, which is at 2 p.m. \$12 for adults; \$10 for students, senior citizens and active military personnel (with valid identification). All seats are open seating. Your ticket purchase guarantees you a seat, but please arrive early to choose your seat. Historic Avon Theatre, 535 North 2<sup>nd</sup> Street. For reservations, call (618) 526-2866 or visit [clintoncountytshowcase.com](http://clintoncountytshowcase.com).

**December 3-6, 11-12** ALTON LITTLE THEATER: CALENDAR GIRLS, Alton. A theatrical presentation by the Alton Little Theater Company. Thursday - Saturday at 7:30 p.m.; Sunday at 2 p.m. Alton Little Theater, 2450 North Henry Street. For tickets, call (618) 462-3205 or visit [altonlittletheater.org](http://altonlittletheater.org).

**December 4** HOLIDAY CELEBRATIONS FROM AROUND THE WORLD, Godfrey. Adults \$10; seniors 62 years of age and older \$5; children grades 12 and younger free; Lewis & Clark Community College faculty, staff, and students free. Alton Symphony Orchestra, Lewis & Clark Community College, Hatheway Cultural Center, 5800 Godfrey Road. Call (618) 792-4002 or visit [altonsymphonyorchestra.org](http://altonsymphonyorchestra.org).

**December 4** HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS HOUSE TOUR, Elsah. Your ticket includes a self-guided house tour, musical entertainment at the two churches, and a ride in a horse drawn carriage. Noon - 4 p.m. Tickets are \$15 in advance and \$18 the day of event (cash only). Village of Elsah Museum, 26 LaSalle Street. For more information, call (314) 308-0931. For tickets, visit [historicelsah.org/tour](http://historicelsah.org/tour).

**December 4 & 5** OLDE ALTON ART & CRAFT FAIR, Alton. Craft fair featuring a variety of crafters from Illinois and surrounding states. Breakfast and lunch will be available. All proceeds benefit the Alton Band and Orchestra programs at Alton Community School District. 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Alton High School, 4200 Humbert Road. Call (618) 474-6996 or visit [abob.net](http://abob.net).

#### Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation

The *Southwestern* (publication #612-500) is published 12 times per year by Southwestern Electric Cooperative, Inc (SWECl). Publisher & owner: SWECl. General business offices of the owner/publisher are located at 525 US Route 40; Greenville, IL 62246-3358. Editor: Joe Richardson. Annual subscription rate: \$8.95 (included in Southwestern Electric infrastructure and operations cost). Contact person: Joe Richardson, (800) 637-8667. Known bondholders, mortgagees, and other security holders owning or holding one percent or more of the total amount of bonds, mortgages, or other securities: CoBank; 5500 S. Quebec St.; Greenwood Village, CO 80111.

The purpose, function, and nonprofit status of this organization, and the exempt status for federal income tax purposes, have not changed during the preceding twelve months. Extent and nature of circulation: the 24,000 members of SWECl. Issue date for circulation data below: September 2021.

For paid circulation (by mail and outside the mail), the following information pertains to the single issue published nearest to the filing date. Mailed outside-county paid subscriptions on PS Form 3541: 18049. Mailed in-county paid subscriptions stated on PS Form 3541: 1932. Paid distribution outside the mails, including sales through dealers and carriers, street vendors, counter sales, and other paid distribution outside USPS: 0 copies. Paid distribution by other classes of mail through the USPS: 0. Total paid distribution of this kind: 19981 copies.

For paid circulation (by mail and outside the mail), the following information reflects the average of the issues published during the preceding twelve months. Mailed outside-county paid subscriptions on PS Form 3541: 18162. Mailed in-county paid subscriptions stated on PS Form 3541: 1796. Paid distribution outside the mails, including sales through dealers and

carriers, street vendors, counter sales, and other paid distribution outside USPS: 0 copies. Paid distribution by other classes of mail through the USPS: 0 copies. Total paid distribution of this kind: 19958 copies.

For free or nominal rate distribution (by mail and outside mail), the following information pertains to the single issue published nearest to the filing date. Free or nominal rate outside-county copies included on PS Form 3541: 0. Free or nominal rate in-county copies included on PS Form 3541: 0. Free or nominal rate copies mailed at other classes through the USPS: 0. Free or nominal rate distribution outside the mail: 0 copies. Total free or nominal rate distribution of this kind: 0 copies.

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The following information pertains to the issue published nearest to the filing date. Total distribution: 19981 copies. Copies not distributed: 96. Total: 20077 copies. Percent paid: 100. The following information reflects the average of the issues published during the preceding twelve months. Total distribution: 19958 copies. Copies not distributed: 25. Total: 19983 copies. Percent paid: 100.

The information contained within the Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation will be printed in the Nov. 2021 issue of *The Southwestern*. This information was certified by the editor, Joe Richardson, and filed with the Greenville (IL) Post Office on Sept. 27, 2021.

► *Continued from page 12*

replace hundreds of miles of old copper line with new steel-reinforced aluminum conductor. The new conductor will better withstand storms and deliver power more efficiently and effectively than our existing copper line. Ultimately, that translates into time and money saved and fewer outages.”

Williams said the cooperative’s blueprint for the future resembles a road map. “The map is not the terrain,” he noted. “If we find that the course has

changed, that the energy landscape has changed, or that you have changed, we’ll replot our path with our goals, our objectives, and you, our members, in mind.”

Following addresses by Schwarm and Williams, members received election results. Southwestern Electric members elected one member from each of the cooperative’s three voting districts to serve on the board of directors.

From District I, incumbent William “Bill” Jennings of Alhambra defeated challenger Phil Hocher of Collinsville.

Jennings received 1,791 votes, while 593 members voted for Hocher. From District II, incumbent Jerry Gaffner defeated challenger Bruce Unterbrink. Gaffner received 1,220 votes, while 1,147 members cast ballots for Unterbrink. Both District II candidates were from Greenville. From District III, incumbent Jared Stine of St. Elmo ran unopposed and was elected by acclamation.

Each director will serve a three-year term on the board. **S**



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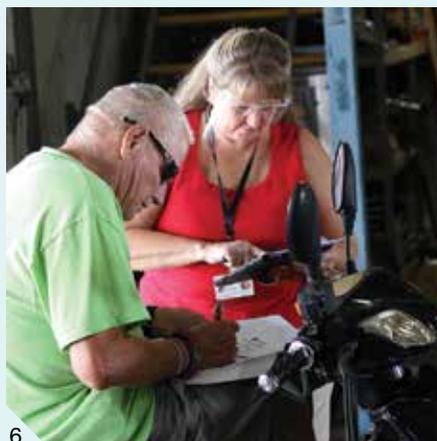
1) From left: Susan File, vice president of member services, Renee Harnetiaux, work order coordinator, and Mary Curry, staking engineer, registered members at the St. Jacob office. 2) Members shared smiles and words of gratitude for the opportunity to vote early in this year’s election. 3) Sonny Lampe, Sr. warehouseman, groundman and truck driver, directs traffic at St. Jacob. 4) Southwestern members enjoyed meeting employees from different departments as they registered to vote. 5) Leslie Frandsen, vice president of billing, expedites registration at the St. Jacob office. 6) Jo Ellen Wharton (right), member services representative, registers a member in Greenville. 7) A future member smiles for the camera in Greenville.



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Crops turn to gold under the spire of St. Paul United Church of Christ in Dollville, Ill.



## THE FINAL FRAME



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