

THE *Southwestern*

A SOUTHWESTERN ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE MEMBER MAGAZINE

OCTOBER 2023 • VOLUME 75 • ISSUE 10

85th ANNUAL

WORDS & PICTURES
FROM THE 2023
MEMBER MEETING

ELECTION
RESULTS

BENEFITS
OF BLINKS

MEMBERS
IN FOCUS

HARVESTING
SAFETY

ENERGY HUNGRY
APPLIANCES



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ON THE COVER

Cort Crum, son of Southwestern members Cody and Tamar Crum of Ramsey, keeps an eye on the farmers market during Southwestern



Electric's 85th Annual Meeting of Members, held Saturday, Sept. 9 at Vandalia Statehouse State Historic Site in Vandalia. See our annual meeting recap on page 6.

CO-OP REMINDERS

October 9 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 10 Offices closed in observance of Veterans Day.

November 23-24 Offices closed for Thanksgiving.



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E-BILLING PROVIDES QUICK, EASY WAY TO AVOID FEES ASSOCIATED WITH POSTAL DELAYS

Paperless billing — or e-billing — provides a simple, reliable solution to penalties associated with postal delays and late payments. An e-bill is an electronic billing statement delivered to your email address. Our e-bill looks like our paper bill. Since it's sent to your inbox instead of your mailbox, it always arrives on time.

In addition to our e-bill, we also offer electronic notifications you can use as reminders, or to confirm your payment has been made. You can receive our reminders, alerts and notifications by text, voice mail and email.

Maybe you'd prefer not to think about your bill from month to month. With our Auto-Pay service, you won't need to. Auto-Pay automatically deducts your monthly payment from your checking account, or debit card or credit card. It's safe, convenient and reliable. Like our e-billing options, Auto-Pay is free and simple to set up.

If you'd like to know more, please call Southwestern Electric's billing department at 800-637-8667, Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Our team will be happy to help you.



Hide & Seek Reader Contest

For decades we ran a reader contest we called On Account. We asked you to look for a member-account number we'd hidden in the magazine. If the account number was yours, you could contact us to win a \$25 credit on an upcoming electric bill. Account numbers were selected at random from a pool that included our entire membership. The rules were simple, but your odds were long. We retired that contest with our December 2022 issue.

This year we're offering a new contest. It isn't based on your account number, and if you're a regular reader, you'll have a much better chance of winning a \$25 bill credit.

It works like this:

Each month — with the exception of August, when we break from our traditional format to bring you Southwestern's annual report — we'll hide an image in the magazine. Your job is to find it.

The image may be a photo, illustration, icon, logo — or any other graphic that catches our eye. This month's image resembles the ears of corn pictured at right.

The actual image may be larger or smaller than what you see here. We may change the color. We may make the image black and white. Or robin's egg blue. It may be reversed. Or upside down. Or reversed and upside down. Who knows? We don't. We're making this up as we go.

If you find the image, email us or send a postcard with your name, address, phone number, and the page number where you found the image.

For instance, if you found this month's image on page 32, send an email or

postcard with your name, address, phone number, and a line or two saying you found the image on page 32. That would be an awful answer, by the way, as this issue is only 28 pages.

Please email us at thesouthwestern@sweci.com or send your postcard to The Southwestern Magazine, Southwestern Electric Cooperative, 525 US Route 40, Greenville, IL 62246.

Entries must be postmarked or in our thesouthwestern@sweci.com inbox by the first day of the month following the month of publication. For our October contest, we'll need your entries in our inbox or postmarked by November 1.

We'll choose one winner in a random drawing. Our winner will receive a \$25 credit on an upcoming electric bill. We'll publish the name of this month's contest winner in the December issue of The Southwestern.

If your magazine hasn't landed in your mailbox and the hour grows late, you can look at our online edition. You'll find PDF files of The Southwestern at sweci.com. Go to News & Information in the main menu, then click on The South-

western in the dropdown menu. We usually post the current issue of the magazine on the first day of the month, or when someone emails to say we haven't posted the current issue of the magazine.

That's a lot of information for a simple contest.

Clearly, we didn't think this through. If we had, we may have passed on the idea. But we've already told friends and family about it and asked IT to set up thesouthwestern@sweci.com as an email address, so good luck, god-speed, and mind the Rules To Play By in our sidebar at right.



RULES TO PLAY BY

- One entry per membership per month.
- A membership can only win once per calendar year.
- No phone calls, texts, social media messages, walk-in traffic, carrier pigeons, singing telegrams or other clever means of communication that may occur to you.
- Please respond *only* by emailing us at thesouthwestern@sweci.com or by sending a postcard to The Southwestern Magazine, Southwestern Electric Cooperative, 525 US Route 40, Greenville, IL 62246.
- Entries submitted by other methods will be disqualified.
- Entries emailed to other Southwestern Electric email addresses will be disqualified, deleted, then disqualified again, just to be safe.
- Entries mailed to other departments or included with other correspondence will likely never find their way to the editor. If they do, they'll be disqualified. Also, he'll add you to his list of people who can't follow instructions. It's a long list and not one you care to be part of.
- Again, entries must be postmarked or in our thesouthwestern@sweci.com inbox by the first day of the month following the month of publication. For this contest, we'll need your entries in our inbox or postmarked by November 1.
- We'll never hide the image on the front or back cover or on the page where we list the rules.
- Did we mention responding *only* by postcard or by sending email to thesouthwestern@sweci.com? Well, we have the space, so we'll bring it up one last time — just to show we're sincere.

HIDE & SEEK MAY WINNER

Congratulations to Domingo and Nona Echevarria of Edwardsville. They found the life jacket on page 9 of our July issue. Domingo and Nona will receive a \$25 credit on an upcoming electric bill. Well done, Domingo and Nona! Thanks to everyone who participated in our July Hide & Seek contest.

New Approach to Returning Member Capital Announced at 85th Annual Meeting

The changing needs of an evolving membership prompted Southwestern Electric Cooperative's board of directors to update a decades-old approach to returning member capital. Ann Schwarm, board president, explained the policy changes during Southwestern Electric Cooperative's 85th Annual Meeting of Members, held Saturday, Sept. 9, at Vandalia Statehouse State Historic Site in Vandalia, Ill. The meeting featured live line electrical safety demonstrations, reports from officers and the election of directors.

"Capital credits are your equity in the co-op. They represent your share in the ownership, maintenance, construction and success of Southwestern Electric Cooperative," Schwarm said. The cooperative's rates are designed to bring in enough money to pay operating costs and maintain an emergency reserve, she explained. When revenue exceeds expenses, that money is later returned to members as capital credits. "The capital credits assigned to you in a year are based on our annual margins — the revenue that exceeded our operating costs — and the capital you contributed



by paying your electric bills,” she said. “The more power you use, the more capital credits we assign to your account.”

Equity in the co-op is used as operating capital for maintenance and improvements, such as new substations, poles and wire. Those improvements are expected to last 30 years. Southwestern retires, or returns, capital credits to members on a 30-year schedule. The cooperative traditionally has returned capital credits during general retirements and to estates upon the death of a member.

Beginning Jan. 1, 2024, co-op members may apply for an adjusted early payout of capital credits if they’re terminating their membership or if they’re the executor of an estate with capital credits. “Early payouts recognize that you withdrew your capital credits before Southwestern could realize their full value. The co-op was not able to use those funds as capital for the full 30 years as planned. If you withdraw your capital credits before they fully mature — even if you are settling an estate — they will be adjusted to the net present value.”

Continued on next page ►

“Capital credits... represent your share in the ownership, maintenance, construction and success of Southwestern Electric Cooperative.”

—Ann Schwarm, Board President



TOP TO BOTTOM

Three members were elected to the board of directors. Pictured are (l-r) CEO Bobby Williams and directors Marvin Warner of Pocahontas, Brad Lurkins of Greenville and Annette Hartlieb of Vandalia.

Ann Schwarm delivers her final address as president.

The City of Vandalia set the stage for a memorable meeting on the grounds of Vandalia Statehouse State Historic Site.

Opposite: CEO Bobby Williams addresses energy supply and demand.



► *Continued from page 7*

Schwarm said the board revisited its capital credit policy to meet the needs of a changing membership. “You are far more mobile than you were when our policy was originally drafted in 1939. We have members who relocate multiple times, moving off our lines. Each change of address is an opportunity to fall out of touch. That can make it difficult to return capital credits to people who’ve earned them,” she said. “Recognizing that, your board of directors decided to offer an adjusted early payout option to our capital credit retirement policy.”

Southwestern’s board considered the update carefully, over months, Schwarm said. “We voted unanimously to update

the policy in the spirit of fairness. Fairness to people who terminate their membership when they leave our lines and fairness to those of you who have built a life here — members who want to receive safe, reliable power, from a cooperative you invested in and own.”

Schwarm also spoke about the cooperative’s Power For Progress Scholarship Program. She encouraged students considering college or trade school and members pursuing continuing education to apply for a scholarship. Since 1995, Southwestern has awarded more than 400 Power For Progress scholarships to area students. “We see our scholarship program as an investment in the future,” she said. “This year, we broadened

that investment to include a leadership element.”

In March, Southwestern sent six high school students to Springfield to tour the Capitol, meet with legislators and explore their interest in government as part of Illinois Electric and Telephone Cooperatives Youth Day. In June, two of those students — Boston Hails of St. Peter and Kylie Ketcham of Alhambra — represented Southwestern Electric in Washington, D.C., where they joined 1,800 students and chaperones to learn about government during the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association’s Electric Cooperative Youth Tour.

Southwestern’s annual meeting

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CLOCKWISE FROM TOP

Directors Ted Willman (left) and Jared Stine present outgoing board member Sandy Nevinger with gifts to celebrate her years of service to the cooperative.

Sandy Nevinger’s grandson Donovan Nevinger and his girlfriend Em Dyer, both of Greenville, applaud as Nevinger’s retirement from the board is recognized during the meeting.

Maintenance Foreman Kyle Hails addresses the crowd during a live line demonstration while Journeyman Linemen Braden Clark (left) and Adam French (right) and Foreman Polyphase Meterman & Tester Scott Fitzgerald (center right) look on.



Three Co-op Members Elected to Southwestern's Board of Directors

Three members of Southwestern Electric Cooperative were elected to the co-op's board of directors during Southwestern's 85th Annual Meeting of Members, held Saturday, Sept. 9, at Vandalia Statehouse State Historic Site in Vandalia.

In total, 2,073 Southwestern Electric members voted in the election, with 1,975 members using the early voting option offered by the co-op since 2020 and 98 members voting the morning of the meeting. Southwestern members elected one member from each of the cooperative's three voting districts to serve on the co-op's board of directors.

From District I, incumbent Marvin Warner of Pocahontas defeated challenger Mike Rehg of St. Jacob. Warner received 1,136 votes while 838 members voted for Rehg.

From District II, Brad Lurkins of Greenville defeated Jim Tarasuik of Greenville. Lurkins received 1,419 votes and 524 votes were cast for Tarasuik.

From District III, incumbent Annette Hartlieb of Vandalia ran unopposed and was elected by acclamation.

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

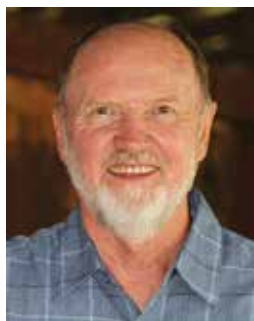
Marvin Warner

Marvin Warner sees serving on Southwestern's board as a way to give back to the members of the cooperative. Elected to his second term, Warner wants to continue the board's mission of keeping rates low, providing quality customer service and reliable power, and developing and promoting policies and practices that ensure the safety of cooperative employees.

Warner chairs Southwestern's Policy & Bylaws Committee and serves on the Scholarship Committee.

He's served on the boards of the Highland Area Christian Service Ministry, the Highland Area Community Foundation, the Highland Area Schools Alumni Association, and the Environmental Education Association of Illinois, among others. "I believe all of these experiences serving on a variety of boards have given me a clear vision of the role of boards in providing good governance," he said.

Marvin Warner has been a Southwestern Electric member for 18 years. He lives northwest of Pocahontas with his wife, Teresa. They have two children and six grandchildren. Their son Brent and his family live near St. Augustine, Fla. Their son Chad and his family live in St. Louis.



Brad Lurkins

Brad Lurkins' rural roots run deep. His ties to Bond County agriculture reach back to 1908, when his family established their farm in Pleasant Mound Township. He's been a Southwestern member for 35 years.

As a member of the Nominating Committee, Lurkins said he felt it appropriate to pursue candidacy by petition. "As I was collecting signatures for my petition, the things that were continually brought up were rates, reliability and service," Lurkins says he will continue to seek opportunities for the co-op to provide safe, reliable, cost-effective power.

Lurkins has been farming since 1980. He also works for the Illinois Department of Transportation as a Temporary Highway Maintenance Technician, a position he's held for the last 14 years. Brad and his wife, Tammy, live on their family farm southeast of Greenville. They have four children and four grandchildren.



Annette Hartlieb

One of Annette Hartlieb's primary goals is to see that Southwestern continues to offer reliable power at reasonable rates. "We need to ensure reliability in our ever-changing, technology-driven world. With that said, a lot of families are struggling to make ends meet. So while we're making decisions about finance and investments in our system, we have to keep the overall needs of members at the forefront," she said.

Having spent 25 years in education, she appreciates the value of quality training and recognizes the impact of social interaction and the exchange of ideas. "It takes a highly skilled team to build a successful organization," she said. "This is accomplished by everyone working together, contributing their strengths, recognizing areas where they can improve, and absorbing knowledge from others."

A director since 2017, Hartlieb chairs Southwestern's Business & Economic Development Committee, serves as secretary of the Executive Committee, and sits on the Member & Community Engagement Committee and the Cyber Security Committee. Annette and her husband, Dennis, live southwest of Vandalia with their children, Alexi, Bryce and Mason.



► *Continued from page 8*

marked the end of Schwarm's last term as president. She will continue to serve as a director, acting as a resource for the next team of officers. Standing in the shadow of the Statehouse, Schwarm referenced Abraham Lincoln, who served as a legislator in Vandalia. "Lincoln had his 'team of rivals' who propelled the country forward. I am happy to say that I was able to serve with a 'team of equals' and those who follow me are more than ready, more than capable of advancing the vision of Southwestern Electric Cooperative."

Schwarm closed her remarks by recognizing retiring director Sandy Nevinger, who joined the cooperative as a receptionist in 1977. "After taking technical classes on weekends, she was the ideal candidate to be promoted to the position of Director of Member Services, which also included public relations," Schwarm said. "Her reach at the co-op

was both deep and wide." Nevinger retired in 2008 after 31 years of service. She ran for a seat on Southwestern's governing board in 2011 and was elected to the first of four consecutive terms. During her tenure, she served as an officer, chaired the cooperative's scholarship and policy committees, and applied her unique insight and experience to help the board resolve complex industry issues facing the cooperative. "The history and background you provided cannot be replaced, nor can the warmth and fun you brought to each meeting," Schwarm said. "We will miss your wisdom and perspective."

Southwestern CEO Bobby Williams reported on cooperative projects ranging from substation construction to electric vehicle (EV) charger installations. "In Madison County, our new Maple Grove Substation is going strong, providing power to more than 1,000 members along I-55 from Troy to Edwardsville.

"We should not sacrifice reliability and our way of life by relying exclusively on technology that is not ready to replace baseload generation."

—CEO Bobby Williams



PHOTO COURTESY HOLLY THIEMS



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT

Employees of Edwardsville-based CJD E-Cycling help a member unload electronics. An e-cycling drive was part of this year's annual meeting.

Southwestern CEO Bobby Williams (top center) talks with Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives President and CEO Craig Sondgeroth (left) and Egyptian Electric Cooperative Executive Vice President and General Manager Shane Hermetz.

Southwestern Vice President of Information Technology Victor Buehler registers members to vote.



As part of that project, our crews built five miles of new transmission line along I-70 near Troy. That line connects our Maple Grove, Edwardsville and Fruit Road Substations. It allows us to reroute power and restore service quickly, as we did in July, after severe storms left some investor-owned utility customers in the St. Louis Metropolitan area without power for days,” he said.

“In Bond County, we’re planning to replace our Smithboro Substation with a larger, more robust facility, north of our current substation site,” Williams reported. The new Smithboro Substation, which is slated to go online in 2025, will include state-of-the industry technology and serve more than 600 members. “In Fayette and Effingham counties, our Vandalia Substation and expanded Altamont Sub are improving reliability and power quality for homes and businesses in our eastern district.”

Williams said that six years ago

Southwestern identified a growing member need for cooperative-specific information related to energy efficiency, renewable energy and energy-related technology. “In 2018, we created a job at the co-op to meet that need. At the time, 61 co-op members owned solar arrays. Today, 433 Southwestern Electric members generate solar energy. Cogeneration is a complex and expensive undertaking,” he said. “I strongly recommend you call us before you discuss cogeneration with a solar installer. We’ll provide you with information you’ll want to have in hand when you sit down with a solar installer’s technicians or marketing team.”

Southwestern also expanded its EV program last year. “We installed five public charging stations at the Anderson Healthcare Goshen Campus in Edwardsville,” Williams said. “These chargers join four Level 2 charging stations we installed on Anderson’s

Maryville campus in 2021, and Level 2 and Level 3 charging stations we installed in 2020 at the I-55/I-70 interchange in partnership with the City of Troy.” Williams said the co-op’s EV outreach team is discussing new siting opportunities with other businesses and communities in Southwestern’s service area.

One piece of the co-op’s EV plan hasn’t materialized as anticipated. “We promised a rate that would allow you to charge your EV at home, economically. Despite our efforts to expedite the project, the company that developed and maintains our billing system failed to integrate an EV or time-of-use rate into our overall rate schedule,” Williams said.

Next year the co-op will migrate its software systems and support to National Information Solutions Cooperative (NISC), an information technology company that serves cooperatives across the

Continued on page 24 ►



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT

A food truck from Pocahontas-based The Fainting Goat restaurant feeds meeting attendees.

Pete Burnam of Vandalia (left) and Ken Grotefendt of Edwardsville, both members of the cooperative’s Credentials & Election Committee, deliver ballots.

Members line up ahead of the annual meeting to register to vote in the board of directors election — and claim their bill credit for doing so.

DON'T



BLINK?

Brief Power Interruptions Prevent Longer Outages

Brief power interruptions — blinks, as they're commonly known — are bothersome. A flashing digital alarm clock or Wi-Fi drop-off is enough to annoy the most patient person.

But blinks are a key component of a properly operating electrical system. They save you and your cooperative time, money and trouble. They're more help than hindrance when it comes to maintaining power quality and keeping the lights on.

Blinks are usually the result of protective equipment clearing a fault. Faults occur when an object — often a tree limb — touches a power line. That's when our distribution system's self-defense mechanism kicks in and your lights blink.

On Again, Off Again

Southwestern Electric Cooperative's distribution system is equipped with protective devices known as oil circuit reclosers (OCRs). OCRs respond to faults through a series of internal switching operations.

When a fault occurs, a relay directs the OCR to open a switch, interrupting power to the fault location. This momentary interruption gives the fault an opportunity to break contact, or clear itself from the power line.

After a second or two, the OCR switch closes.

While the switch is open, homes and businesses on that circuit experience a blink.

If the interruption clears the fault, your power stays on. You don't have to call for assistance and no linemen are dispatched.

If the fault is still present, the process repeats. After three attempts, the OCR switch remains open, resulting in an outage. At this point, you're no longer dealing with a blink. You're without power. You and other members on the circuit call the cooperative and linemen are dispatched to investigate, make repairs, and restore power.

Limiting momentary outages is a high priority for Southwestern Electric. For years, the cooperative has followed a rigorous right-of-way maintenance regiment to keep trees and branches clear of power lines.

You Can Help

As a member of Southwestern Electric, you can help us keep blinks to a minimum. Please be mindful of power lines and stay clear of the right-of-way when you're planting trees. If you notice trees or limbs growing too close to our lines, please call us at (800) 637-8667.

If you're experiencing an unusual number of blinks at your home, please report the issue.

You can also take steps to avoid some of the frustration that accompanies momentary outages. Consider purchasing an alarm clock equipped with battery backup. When the power blinks, your clock won't lose its presets and you're less likely to find yourself waking late for school or work due to a momentary outage.

If the power blinks while you're operating a computer, you can lose your data. Plugging your PC into an uninterruptible power supply (UPS) will protect your work. The UPS will keep your PC running while you save your data and shut down.

IN BRIEF

What Is a blink?

A blink is a momentary power outage. It's usually caused by protective equipment in the distribution system reacting to a fault. Sources of faults vary, but can often be traced to small animals or tree limbs.

Blinks didn't happen in the old days.

They did. You just didn't see them. Many of today's electronics require a constant, uninterrupted supply of power to run properly. Back in the day, we didn't have digital clocks and coffeemaker displays flashing 12:00 when our power blinked. Today we do, making momentary outages obvious.

My power blinked. Do I need to reprogram my television or DVR?

It depends. If your electronics are equipped with a battery back-up or uninterruptible power supply, your settings should be safe. If not, a blink may mean you need to reprogram your TV and reset the clocks on your appliances. If you're working on a computer and your power blinks, you may lose your work. Save often. And consider investing in an uninterruptible power supply.

MEMBERS IN FOCUS

Photos allow us to capture and recall a moment. In pictures, we relive a laugh, a smile, a winter snow or summer sun.

Members In Focus is your invitation to share those saved moments with members of Southwestern Electric.

In these pages, you can open our eyes to the people and places that mean the most to you. This is your opportunity to introduce Southwestern readers to everything that makes your corner of the world an exceptional place to live, work and play.

Send us your shots of life in Southwestern Illinois. We'll publish some of our favorite photos from time to time in our Members In Focus section. Your subject needn't be on Southwestern's

lines. If you've taken a great photo and you shot it on the Highland town square instead of the Brownstown back forty, send it. We'd love to see it.

Submission Guidelines

Please include your name, address, phone number or e-mail address, and a brief description of the photo. We'd like to know when and where it was taken, what we're seeing, and the names of any people in your shot. Digital images must be taken in high-resolution JPG or TIF format (300 DPI or greater) — and make sure the date/time stamp is turned off before you shoot.

Digital images may be sent as e-mail attachments or on a CD. Prints are also welcome. Send photos by e-mail to joe.

richardson@sweci.com or by mail to The Southwestern, 525 US Route 40, Greenville, IL 62246.

If you're sending prints, please make sure they're copies you don't mind parting with, as we won't be returning them.

Southwestern Electric Cooperative interprets all submissions as unconditional permission to use the photos provided. We also reserve the right to not use photos.

Finally, if you're submitting a shot, it needs to be *your* photo — shot by you. Questions? Contact Joe Richardson at joe.richardson@sweci.com or Mike Barns at mike.barns@sweci.com, or call 800-637-8667.



Nicole Sterkis of Pocahontas snapped this shot of a praying mantis on the prowl in her shed.



William Craft of Edwardsville sent this stunning shot. "I'm a long time member (40 years) and thought I'd share this photo for the magazine," he wrote. "I took it in late summer, around 6 a.m., when the sun was just rising above the trees and the mist. The little spider was busy—the web was not there the previous night!"

Carolyn Likins of O'Fallon shared a double rainbow caught by her grandson, Jacob Byrkit, at University of Illinois South Farm in Urbana, Ill.



Bill Malec of O'Fallon photographed a summer sun settling in for the night.



Clay Snyder, 1st Class Mechanic for Southwestern Electric, framed this image of a co-op truck against evening light.



Sharon Young of Greenville grew this sunflower with color rich and vibrant as an oil painting.



Stephen and Lugene Miller, owners of Liberty Apple Orchard in Edwardsville, have caught many a lovely moment in bloom.

AN APPETITE FOR ENERGY

This month we identify five power-hungry household items and share ways to feed them without emptying your wallet.

by Julie Lowe, Energy Manager

When it comes to comfort, there's no place like home. With the help of household appliances and home environmental systems, we can dial in data and create conditions to suit our personal preferences, morning, noon and night.

But that same technology can make us uncomfortable when it's time to pay our energy bills — particularly in winter and summer months.

If you notice spikes in your electric bills as temperatures rise and fall, here are five common culprits, and ways to offset that expense without sacrificing comfort.

HEATING SYSTEMS

We couldn't weather Illinois' cold without an effective home heating system. But from December through February, the same system or appliance that takes the edge off winter is likely consuming more energy than any other system or appliance in your home. The



Use a programmable or smart thermostat to reduce your heating bills by lowering the temperature when you are away from home, and bumping it up to the temperature you're comfortable with shortly before you return home.

kilowatt-hour (kWh) range for running a heating system can be broad, with energy consumption varying widely by the type of system, size, manufacturer, and efficiency rating. Regardless of where your system lands on that scale, you can take steps to optimize its efficiency.

- Use a programmable or smart thermostat to reduce your heating bills by lowering the temperature when you are away from home, and bumping it up to the temperature you're comfortable with shortly before you return home.
- Schedule regular maintenance for your heating system to ensure that it is running at optimal efficiency.
- Consider replacing an older system with a new, high efficiency system, such as a heat pump.

SPACE HEATERS

Space heaters can be a helpful supplement to your primary heating system. They allow you to save money



Don't rely on space heaters to warm your entire home. It is never more efficient to run more than one space heater, rather than your main heating system.

by setting your household thermostat at a lower temperature, while you rely on your space heater to make a smaller, more frequently used area warmer and more comfortable.

But don't rely on space heaters to warm your entire home. It is never more efficient to run more than one space heater, rather than your main heating system. If you opt to use space heaters, be aware of how much energy they use. A 1,500-watt space heater will consume 1.5 kWh for each hour that it runs. If used frequently, that energy will add up quickly.

Additionally, keep in mind that space heaters are fire hazards. They should never be left unattended. Read the manufacturer's guide, make sure you understand the appliance's limitations, and observe the safety precautions.

WATER HEATERS

According to the Department of Energy, water heating can account for up to 18 percent of your home's energy use. The amount of energy your water heater consumes will vary by brand, size, and efficiency rating. The number of people in your home, your water temperature

preferences, and your appliances also impact water heater energy use.

You can reduce water heater energy use by:

- Running your clothes washer on the cold setting whenever possible.
- Keeping showers short.
- Setting the temperature on your water heater no higher than 120 degrees F.

COOLING SYSTEMS

We've just stepped into autumn, so the summer cooling season is months away — but these items are worth noting now as you review your 2023 energy bills and plan for 2024.

Like your heating system, the efficiency of your air conditioning unit will vary greatly by the make, model and size of the system or appliance. And just as your heating system probably consumes the lion's share of your energy budget in winter, your cooling system is probably the dominant factor in your summer electric bills. You can take simple steps to improve the efficiency of your cooling system.

- Schedule routine maintenance for your cooling system.
- Close vents in rooms that are not used frequently.



According to the Department of Energy, water heating can account for up to 18 percent of your home's energy use.

With most units ranging from 1,000 to 1,500 watts, a dehumidifier can consume a large amount of power.

- Use a programmable or smart thermostat to keep temperatures higher during hours you are away from home, and to lower the temperature shortly before you return home.
- Consider checking insulation levels in your attic. Adequate insulation will keep more of the sun's heat out of your home, so your cooling system will not have to work as hard.

DEHUMIDIFIERS

A dehumidifier can be a valuable asset for keeping your home's humidity level in check. It can prevent the growth of mildew, eliminate odors, and make your living area more comfortable. But with most units ranging from 1,000 to 1,500 watts, a dehumidifier can consume a large amount of power. Here are steps you can take to reduce the operating costs.

- Be sure your dehumidifier is sized properly for the area it's serving.
- Close off the room in which you've placed your dehumidifier, so it isn't trying to serve a larger area than it can effectively accommodate.
- Set the timer on your appliance or set it to shut off at the desired humidity level.
- Replace older models with newer, more efficient models.

Household appliances and home environmental systems bring comfort and convenience to our lives. Being aware of your home's most power-hungry appliances and systems, and how to use those items effectively, will help you save valuable energy while lowering your monthly power bills.

Have a question about energy efficiency? Contact Julie Lowe, energy manager, at julie.lowe@sweci.com.

Harvesting Safety

Farming ranks among the most dangerous occupations in America. Harvest season can be especially hazardous. Long hours, lack of sleep, and mental fatigue can lead to serious injuries. Here are a few suggestions to help you make it through the season safely.

ELECTRICAL SAFETY

Just as you'd survey a field before planting, take a minute to look around your work site. Are there power lines nearby? They don't have to be directly overhead to pose a danger. Plot the movement of your equipment around your farm. How many times are you passing near power lines? You can avoid electrical contact accidents by rerouting traffic in ways that will keep you and other workers far from potential points of contact.



PHOTO COURTESY SCOTT FITZGERALD, FOREMAN/POLYPHASE METERMAN & TESTER

When a farmer brought down a pole in August, he immediately called Southwestern Electric at 800-637-8667. Crews isolated the site and safely cleared the pole and lines. At the end of the day, everyone went home safe and sound.

Additional tips to keep in mind:

- When you're moving equipment, use a spotter — someone with a broader view of the equipment and its surroundings.
- Familiarize your coworkers with the location of overhead power lines on or near your property.
- Keep in mind that non-metallic materials — lumber, tree limbs, tires, ropes and hay — will conduct electricity.
- Plot your route in and out of fields, to and from bins and elevators, and down public roads to avoid power lines. If someone transports equipment for you, specify a safe route and explain why certain routes are necessary.
- Use ladders with caution.
- Be aware of power lines and cords during construction projects.

IN CASE OF CONTACT

If you're driving a tractor, combine, or other onboard machinery and it comes into contact with a power line, stay onboard. Call Southwestern Electric at (800) 637-8667. We'll dispatch a crew to de-energize the line so you can safely move your machinery.

ALERT TODAY, ALIVE TOMORROW: HEADS UP FOR FARM SAFETY



Stay safe around downed power lines. Consider all lines, equipment and conductors to be live and dangerous.



If the vehicle is on fire, or you must exit for other safety reasons, follow these steps:

1. Jump clear of the vehicle. Do not let any part of your body or clothes touch the ground and the machinery at the same time.
2. Land with feet together and hop away in small steps to minimize the path of electric current and avoid electric shock.
3. Keep going until you are at least 40 ft. away.
4. Call for help. Make sure no one gets within 40 ft. of the downed line.
5. Do not re-enter the area or vehicle until emergency responders and your electric co-op crews determine it is safe.

If your equipment catches on fire and forces you to abandon the vehicle, leap as far as possible from the machinery. Don't allow your body to come into contact with the equipment and the ground at the same time.

If you realize your machinery is touching a power line after you've left the vehicle, don't attempt to move it. Call Southwestern Electric Cooperative at 800-637-8667. We'll dispatch a crew to de-energize the line so you can safely move the equipment.

CALL 811 BEFORE YOU DIG

If you're planning a project that requires digging, call JULIE (Joint Utility Locating Information for Excavators) at 811 before you dig. Tell the operator where you're planning to dig and what type of work you'll be doing. JULIE will notify the necessary utilities. The utilities will send a locator to mark the approximate location of their underground lines, pipes and cables, so you'll know what's below and be able to dig safely.



WHO • WHAT • WHERE

Every now and then we pitch a puzzle that confounds every last one of you. We never come up with our toughest challenges alone. In most cases, a Southwestern reader uncovers an artifact in an attic or runs across an intriguing item at an estate sale, and uncertain of its purpose or provenance, shares it with us, so we can share it with you.

So it was with our July puzzle. Jr. and Sandra Abert of Alhambra bought an antique at a farm auction in Troy. They dropped by our offices, wondering if we could identify it. At the time, we couldn't. Nor could our readers. An internet image search turned up two potential solutions. The item resembles containers used to organize steel stamping tools. The more likely solution is far more interesting.

The block bears a *remarkable* resemblance to an antique wooden shotgun loading block made by Bridgeport Gun Implement Company in the late 1800s.

Founded in 1878 by Marcellus Hartley, the Bridgeport Gun Implement Company was known for making quality bird call devices and hunting-related tools. The company closed in 1902 shortly after Hartley's death.

Bridgeport's blocks were crafted from a single piece of wood. They were made with 50 holes in a five by 10 arrangement, with beveled bores and two wooden pegs that fit the block into an adjoining piece. Pegs in the Bridgeport model were positioned precisely as those in the block presented by Jr. and Sandra Abert.

We didn't find the telltale B. G. I. Co. stamp in the wood, but after a century-plus, the impression may have worn away.

Thank you, Jr. and Sandra, for providing a perplexing puzzle and leading us on a merry chase. Now on to the next challenge.

If the person in the portrait on the opposite were here today, here's what he might say:

I was born in Paducah, Ky., in the year 1900. My family relocated to Danville, Ill. In 1917, I later moved to Salem, Ill., where I graduated from Salem High School in 1919.

I briefly attended the University of Illinois but ultimately graduated from the University of Kentucky.

I coached high school football in Dayton, Tenn.

In 1925, I was tried for violating the Butler Act.

Journalist H. L. Mencken coined the name for my trial while reporting for the Baltimore Sun.

My trial was broadcast live over radio.

The jury deliberated for nine minutes before reaching a verdict.

I was found guilty and fined \$100.

On appeal, the Supreme Court of Tennessee overturned my conviction on a technicality but found the Butler Act constitutional.

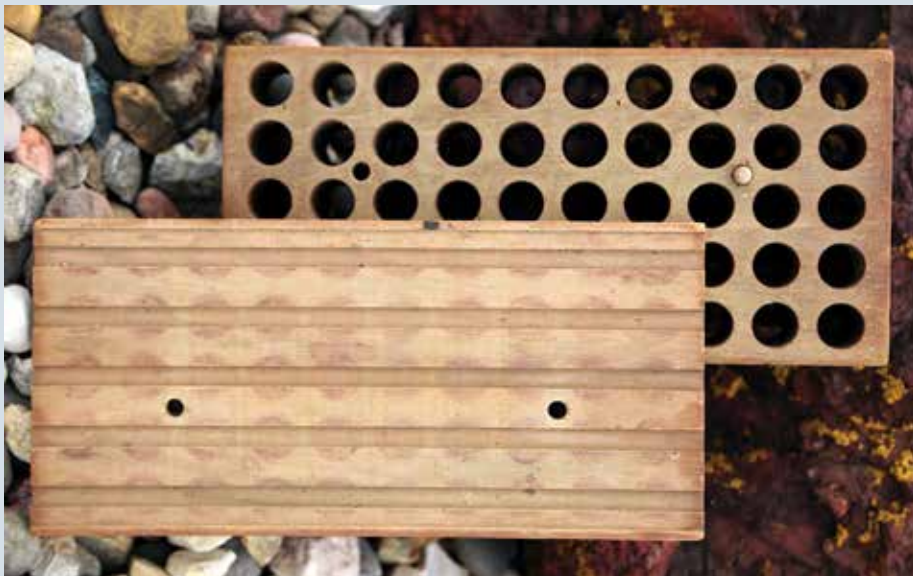
Upon my conviction, I reportedly told that judge that "I feel that I have been convicted of violating an unjust statute. I will continue in the future, as I have in the past, to oppose this law in any way I can."

In 1955, my trial inspired a play named "Inherit The Wind." In 1960, a movie based on the play starred Spencer Tracy and Fredric March.

I worked as an oil expert for a company that merged with Pennzoil.

I died in Shreveport, La., in October 1970.

Any thoughts on our mystery figure? We look forward to hearing from you. We'll share the solution to this month's puzzle in our December issue. Until then, thanks for spending time with The Southwestern.



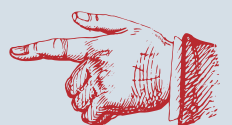
Who-What-Where is a contest that challenges your knowledge of people, places and objects in and around Southwestern Electric Cooperative's service area. Here's how it works: Each month, we run a photo. Your job is to tell us who's pictured, what we've photographed, or where we shot the photo. You can email your response to joe.richardson@sweci.com 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.



Smithsonian Institution Archives, Record Unit 7091, Science Service Records, Image No. SIA2008-1121



Who Am I?



CO-OP KITCHEN

OUT OF OUR GOURD



PUMPKIN BARS

Bar Ingredients

- 4 eggs
- 2 cups sugar
- 1 cup oil
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 2 cups flour
- 2 teaspoons cinnamon
- 2 (15 ounce) cans pumpkin

Icing Ingredients

- 3 ounces cream cheese
- 3 cups powdered sugar
- 6 tablespoons buttermilk
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1 small package nuts (optional)

Directions

1. Mix together all bar ingredients and pour into greased cookie sheet.
2. Bake at 350° for 20 - 25 minutes. The bars are done when a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean. Let cake cool before icing.
3. Combine icing ingredients and spread onto bars.

PUMPKIN CRISP

Bar Ingredients

- 1 (29 ounce) can pumpkin
- 1 (12 ounce) can evaporated milk
- 4 eggs
- 1½ cups sugar
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon ginger
- 2 teaspoons cinnamon
- ½ teaspoon ground cloves
- 1 package yellow cake mix
- 1 cup butter melted
- 1 cup chopped pecans
- whipped cream (optional)

Directions

1. Mix together pumpkin, evaporated milk, eggs, sugar, salt, ginger, cinnamon, and cloves. Blend well.
2. Pour mixture into greased 9 x 13 inch baking dish.
3. Sprinkle on yellow cake mix and drizzle butter over cake mix.
3. Top with pecans.
4. Bake at 375° for 45 minutes or until top is golden brown.
5. Serve hot or cool topped with whipped cream.

Frozen
Pumpkin Dessert

Prepared &
photographed by
Mike Barns

FROZEN PUMPKIN DESSERT

Crust Ingredients

- 1½ cups graham crackers crushed
- ¼ cup butter melted
- ¼ cup sugar

Crust Directions

1. Mix crackers, sugar and butter together.
2. Press into 9 x 9 inch pan with fork.

Filling Ingredients

- 1½ cups pumpkin
- 1½ cups brown sugar
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- ½ teaspoon ground cloves
- ½ teaspoon ginger
- ½ teaspoon vanilla
- 1 quart butter pecan ice cream softened
- whipped cream (optional)

Directions

1. Mix together pumpkin, brown sugar, cinnamon, cloves, ginger and vanilla.
2. Fold in butter pecan ice cream and spread over crust mixture.
3. Cover and freeze overnight. Remove from the freezer 10 minutes before serving. Cut into squares and serve topped with whipped cream.

► *Continued from page 11*
country, many of which offer time-of-use rates. “We’ll complete our migration to NISC in 2025. At that time, we’ll offer a time-of-use rate, as well as tools all of you can use to monitor your energy use and analyze your bills,” he said.

Williams also issued a cautionary note regarding the region’s baseload or always-on energy. “Last year we discussed regional power supply and demand, and the possibility of preventative or prescribed power outages — they’re usually called rolling blackouts

— in the Midwest. The 2023 Summer Reliability Assessment issued by the North American Electric Reliability Corporation in May was less troubling than last year’s report, but it still warrants your attention,” he told members.

“The report said our region should have sufficient resources to meet normal summer peak demand. But it went on to say wind generator performance would be a key variable in meeting peak demand. The report noted that our region has over 30,300 MW of installed wind capacity, but that the historically-based

on-peak capacity contribution is 5,488 MW. That’s a significant gap between potential and actual energy pushed to the grid,” he said.

“Our industry is evolving. We’re shifting from coal-fired power plants to green energy. In our region, coal historically has provided us with baseload or always-on energy. The always-on energy in our region is diminishing. Green energy is growing in the Midwest, but it takes a lot of wind and solar to make up for baseload energy losses. I encourage you to contact your legislators and express your



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT

Vandalia Statehouse volunteer Rich Bauer (top center) chats with Southwestern members during the annual meeting.

Members cast their ballots early during drive-through voting (right side).

CEO Bobby Williams (lower left) and Ashley Towler, accounting clerk, share a laugh with a member during drive-through voting.

Vice President of Human Resources Carrie Knebel shuttles a member from the parking lot to the annual meeting grounds.



concerns. Let your representatives know this issue has your attention. Ensure that our voice is heard on the state and federal level,” Williams said.

“Green energy has a place in our future, and our children’s and grandchildren’s future,” Williams noted, echoing a message he delivered in 2022. “But in my opinion, we should not sacrifice reliability and our way of life by relying exclusively on technology that is not ready to replace baseload generation. At Southwestern Electric, we will continue to do our part to stay ahead of these

issues, and you can help, by contacting your federal, state and local legislators. Together we will ensure your cooperative, *our* cooperative, is here for another 85 years.”

Williams closed his comments by acknowledging President Ann Schwarm’s contributions to Southwestern Electric. “I became Southwestern’s CEO six years ago. I accepted the role, in part, because of Ann Schwarm,” Williams said. “Ann exemplified responsive leadership. She carefully considered the insights and ideas of your board of directors. She

reflected on those perspectives. And she invited them to inform her own point of view. Ann will tell you she believes in building consensus. What I saw was someone who believed in building a team. I have worked to follow her example, and I will continue to follow her example, for as long as you folks keep me around as your CEO,” Williams said. “Thank you, Ann. Thank you for everything you’ve done for the organization, for the members, and for me. Congratulations on a job well done.” *S*



The Vandalia Farmers Market gave meeting attendees even more to explore.



CLOCKWISE FROM RIGHT

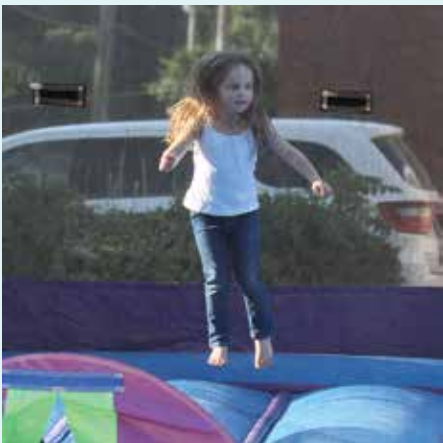
Co-op members mark their ballot.

Members enjoy coffee and donuts during the meeting.

A Southwestern mini-member enjoys the perks of membership.

Member Services Representative Barb Frerker registers a member.

Staking Engineer Nathan Hermetz collects axes — the foam kind — at an inflatable axe-throwing game.



CURRENT EVENTS

October 5-29 MOURNING COL. STEPHENSON, Edwardsville. Each room of Stephenson's federal style home portrays a different aspect of the days leading up to and following the Colonel's untimely death on October 10, 1822. Uncover the mysteries surrounding the Colonel's death and the aftermath for his young widow and orphaned children. The site is short-handed. Please make reservations in advance to ensure a docent is available to conduct your tour. This exhibit is not suitable for small children. Thursday - Saturday 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.; Sunday noon - 3 p.m. Colonel Benjamin Stephenson House, 409 S. Buchanan Street. Call (618) 692-1818 or visit stephenson-house.org.

October 6 & 7 CHILI COOK-OFF, Belleville. Features the culinary creations of individuals, local organizations and area businesses. Event includes more than 60 food vendors, live music and adult beverages for purchase. Friday 11 a.m. - 10:30 p.m.; Saturday 9:30 a.m. - 10:30 p.m. Admission is free. Veterans Memorial Fountain and along Main Street. Visit bellevillechili.com.

October 6-8 TOUCHSTONE ENERGY BALLOON FESTIVAL, Shelbyville. See balloon flights on Friday night, and Saturday and Sunday at sunrise, as well as balloon glows Friday and Saturday evenings (weather permitting). Friday 4 - 9 p.m.; Saturday 6:30 a.m. - 8 p.m.; Sunday 6:30 - 8 a.m. For a full schedule of events, visit lakeshelbyville.com.

October 6-28 GREAT GODFREY MAZE, Godfrey. The theme for 2023 is Family Game Night - weave your way through board game themes and try to make your way to the end. Other activities include the cow train, corn crib, hay wagon rides, giant jumping pillow and the vortex machine. Flashlights are required after dark. Open Fridays and Saturdays, Labor Day and Columbus Day. 6 - 10 p.m. Admission varies by activity. Robert E. Glazebrook Park, 1401 Stamper Lane. Call (618) 466-1483, ext. 3 or visit godfreyil.org.

October 7 CELEBRATE CENTRALIA, Centralia. A festival of local artisans, musicians, crafters, wineries, craft brewers, and food vendors. 2 - 8 p.m. At Centralia's Downtown Event Space, the 100 & 200 Blocks of Broadway and 100 Block of South Locust Street. Visit seecentralia.com.

October 7 FALL FARM DAY, Collinsville. Event will feature craft vendors, demonstrations, wagon rides, face painting, food and drinks, animals and petting zoo. 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Admission is \$3; children 2 years of age and younger are free. Willoughby Heritage, 631 Willoughby Lane. Visit willoughbyfarm.org.

October 7 HISTORY OF AMERICAN PIES, Hartford. Illinois Humanities Road Scholar Speaker Catherine Lambrecht will present the history of pies in America and the state. She will explore Illinois' contribution to the country's pie culture including areas on the evolution

of pies over the years, pumpkin pies (and their fillings), connection to pecan pies, Johnny Appleseed's role and heirloom state fair recipes. Attendees are encouraged to bring their own pie recipes to share. 2 p.m. Admission is free. Lewis & Clark State Historic Site, One Lewis & Clark Trail. Call (618) 251-5811 or visit campdubois.com.

October 7 KID'S DAY, Collinsville. This event exposes kids of all ages to Native American cultures, archaeology, cultural preservation, and conservation preservation through hands-on activities including chunky games, corn-grinding, fiber finger-weaving, ISAS (Illinois State Archaeological Survey) drone demonstrations, kid's nature/culture hike, make your own t-shirt, Native American music and dance and pinch-pot making. 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site, 30 Ramey Street. Visit cahokiamounds.org.

October 7 OWL PROWL & WIENER ROAST, Hillsboro. Join Bremer looking for creatures of the night on an owl prowl followed by a fall wiener roast with owl activities and a program presented by the TreeHouse Wildlife Center. 4 - 7 p.m. Admission is free. H & B Bremer Wildlife Sanctuary, 194 Bremer Lane. Visit bremersanctuary.com.

October 7 TRIVIA NIGHT, Godfrey. Community Hope Center is having a Trivia Night to raise funds to support their ongoing efforts to provide food and clothing to those in need. Event includes 50/50, raffles

and mulligans. Bring your own snacks; soda and tea provided; cash bar available. Doors open at 6 p.m.; trivia starts at 7 p.m. \$20 per person; up to 8 people per table. Godfrey Knights of Columbus Hall, 1713 Stamper Lane. To register, email hopecenters@gmail.com or call (618) 259-0959.

October 7 & 8, 14 & 15 VINTAGE VOICES, Alton. Step back in time on these guided, gentle-walking tours and meet a controversial publisher, war heroes, and prominent persons from Alton's rich history portrayed by local actors. Noon - 2:30 p.m. Tours will leave from the main gate of the City Cemetery at 5th and Vine Streets. For tickets, call (618) 531-6641 or visit facebook.com/vintagevoicestours.

October 8 CONCERT IN THE PARK, Troy. Come listen to the Saxophonics as they provide a variety of music from across the ages. 2 - 3 p.m. At the Gazebo in Tri-Township Park, 410 Wickliffe Street. Visit vil.maryville.il.us.

October 13 CLASSIC FLICKS FOR CONSERVATION, Godfrey. Bring your lawn chair or blanket and watch Night of the Living Dead on our giant inflatable screen. No alcohol is permitted. No pre-registration required. Limited parking is available, so arrive early to grab your seat. 7 - 10 p.m. While this event is free, donations are welcome. The Nature Institute, 2213 South Levis Lane. Visit thenatureinstitute.org.

October 14-15 ART IN THE PARK, Highland. This juried exhibit shows the works of nearly 60 artists in nine mediums. A total of nearly \$8,000 in cash prizes will be awarded. Event includes art demonstrations, live music, hands-on Kids Kreation area, art gallery... Just for Kids where they can

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. 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.

purchase art donated by exhibitors for \$5, youth art exhibit and fantastic food. Saturday 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sunday 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. Lindendale Park, Park Hill Drive & Lindenthal Avenue. Visit highlandartscouncil.org.

October 14 CHILI COOK-OFF, Alton. Event encourages local chili chefs (amateur and professional) to match their favorite recipe with others in similar categories. \$100 prize awarded to winners in 4 categories. The team chosen as "People's Choice" will receive the coveted silver ladle and bragging rights. Live music from Big George Jr. and the NGK Band. Funds to support beautification and economic development efforts in downtown. Noon - 3 p.m. Adult \$10; children 12 years of age and younger \$5. Argosy Casino Valet Parking Lot, #1 Piasa Street. For more information, email sara@alton-mainstreet.org or visit downtownalton.com.

October 14 CRAFT BEER FEST, Collinsville. Enjoy local beer from regional breweries like Old Herald, Old Bakery Beer Company, Mississippi Culture, Opera House Brewery, and Red Rooster Brewery & Distillery, plus live music, shopping and food. Ticket includes commemorative glass, unlimited beer samplings from local breweries, coffee from local roasters, local vendors and live music. Herald Square, 115 East Clay Street. Noon - 5 p.m. Visit oldheraldbrewing.com.

October 14 NATURE/CULTURE HIKE, Collinsville. Join an archeologist for a hike where you will learn about native plants and animals and how the Mississippian culture interacted with them and the environment. You'll hike some of the less commonly traveled trails, so make sure to wear appropriate clothing, sturdy shoes for hiking, and to bring water. Sunscreen, bug spray, and snacks are also advised. 1 - 4 p.m. Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site, 30 Ramey Street. Visit cahokiamounds.org.

October 14 WITCHES & WIZARDS FESTIVAL, O'Fallon. A fun festival celebrating all that is dark and spooky in the fall season. Artistic performances, music, vendors, food and a one of a kind Witches Market. 6 - 9 p.m. Downtown District, 116 East 1st Street. Visit ofallon-downtowndistrict.com.

October 14 & 15 QUE & BREW FESTIVAL, Edwardsville. A Pro-series and backyard BBQ competition as well as a craft beer festival offering 40+ craft and domestic beer options. Event will also feature kid's activities and bounce houses, live music, 50/50 raffle and more. \$12,000 in total prize money will be up for grabs as participants compete in multiple categories and also ancillary competitions for best chicken wings and best bloody Mary. Proceeds benefit the Que & Brew Festival fund at the Edwardsville Community Foundation, a local 501 (c)3 organization. Saturday 11 a.m. - 11 p.m.; Sunday 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. Edwardsville City Park, 101 S. Buchanan Street. Visit edwqueandbrew.com

October 15 LECLAIRE PARK-FEST, Edwardsville. The event offers live music, wine and beer garden, and festival food provided by local non-profit organizations. Local artisans and crafters will display and sell their work. The festival features games, pet adoptions, vintage cars and tractors and other family activities. Our book sale offers thousands of books at bargain prices. Exhibits of historic photos and narrated trolley tours will tell the story of the Leclaire. 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. Admission is free. Leclaire Lake Park, 900 Hale Avenue. Visit historic-leclaire.org.

October 20 & 21 HAUNTED TRAIL, Carlyle. Brave souls embark on a hayride from Dam West Boat Ramp to the Little Prairie Nature Trail, located on U.S. Army Corps grounds near the Lake Spillway, where your hike on the Haunted Trail will begin with ghosts, goblins and ghouls awaiting you. Food

trucks will be located at the Dam West Boat Ramp. 6:30 - 10 p.m. Admission is \$10. Visit carlylelake.com.

October 21 HISTORIC CRAFT FAIR Hartford. Purchase finely crafted goods made by local artisans, including baskets, shawls, pottery and more. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Free admission. Lewis & Clark State Historic Site, One Lewis & Clark Trail. Visit campdubois.com.

October 27 BOOT SCOOTIN BOOGIE BARN DANCE, Collinsville. Event will include a Mexican food truck and cash bar. Doors open at 6 p.m.; dance lessons at 6:30 p.m.; barn dance at 7 p.m. Admission is \$10. Willoughby Heritage, 631 Willoughby Lane. Visit willoughbyfarm.org.

October 28 ALTON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA: THE MUSICAL LANDSCAPES OF EUROPEAN MINDS, Godfrey. Featuring work from English Folk Song Suite, Moldau, Night on Bald Mountain and Shostakovich Concerto No. 2 with Brett Klaus. 7 p.m. Adult \$10; age 18 and younger \$5. Lewis & Clark Community College, Ann Whitney Olin Theater, Hatheway Cultural Center, 5800 Godfrey Road. Visit altonsymphonyorchestra.org.

November 2 WINE AND WHISKEY FOR THE WATER-SHED, Edwardsville. Join in for an unforgettable evening of indulgence as everyone celebrates the exquisite flavors of wine and whiskey while raising awareness and funds for the preservation of local green spaces. Tasting options from 40+ wines, 15+ spirits and 10+ beers/seltzers. Food from seven different local restaurants, signature cocktails and event wine glass. Live music by Mike Sonderegge. 6:30 - 9:30 p.m. The Ink House, 117 North Second Street. For tickets, visit naturepreservefoundation.org.

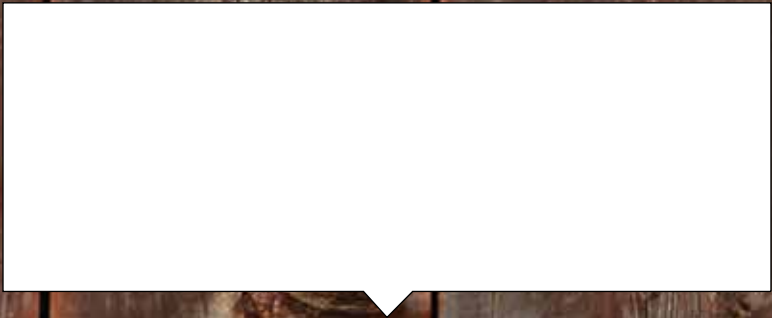
November 4 GREENVILLE OPTIMIST CLUB PANCAKE/SAUSAGE BREAKFAST, Greenville.

All you can eat whole hog sausage breakfast. 7 a.m. - 1 p.m. Adult \$10; children 6 - 12 years of age \$5; children 5 years of age and younger are free. Bulk sausage available for sale. St. Lawrence Church, 512 South Prairie Street, Greenville. Email greenvillioptimist@gmail.com.

November 4 & 5 ART & CRAFT FAIR, O'Fallon. The O'Fallon Panther Band Boosters Art and Craft Fair features over 225 talented artists and crafters from across the region. All proceeds directly benefit our award-winning band and color guard programs. Be sure to stop by our bistro and bake sale to sustain your strength while shopping for unique holiday gifts. Saturday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sunday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Adult \$5; children 3 - 10 years of age \$2; weekend pass \$6. O'Fallon Township High School, 600 South Smiley Street. Visit oths-band.com.

November 5 SAUSAGE & PANCAKE BREAKFAST, New Douglas. Sausage also available for purchase in 5# bags, bulk or link. 7 a.m. - 1 p.m. New Douglas Fire Department, 105 Allen Street. To place orders, call (217) 456-6621 before October 30 or text (618) 779-8939.

November 9-19 MURDER ON THE ORIENT EXPRESS, 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. Visit lookingglassplayhouse.com.



H EASTMAN 1876