

THE *Southwestern*

A SOUTHWESTERN ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE MEMBER MAGAZINE

OCTOBER 2024 • VOLUME 76 • ISSUE 10



Our 86th Annual!

Remembering Rich Gusewelle

COMMITTED TO THE CO-OP COMMUNITY

INDUSTRY CHALLENGES,
CO-OP OPPORTUNITIES
HEADLINE 2024 MEETING

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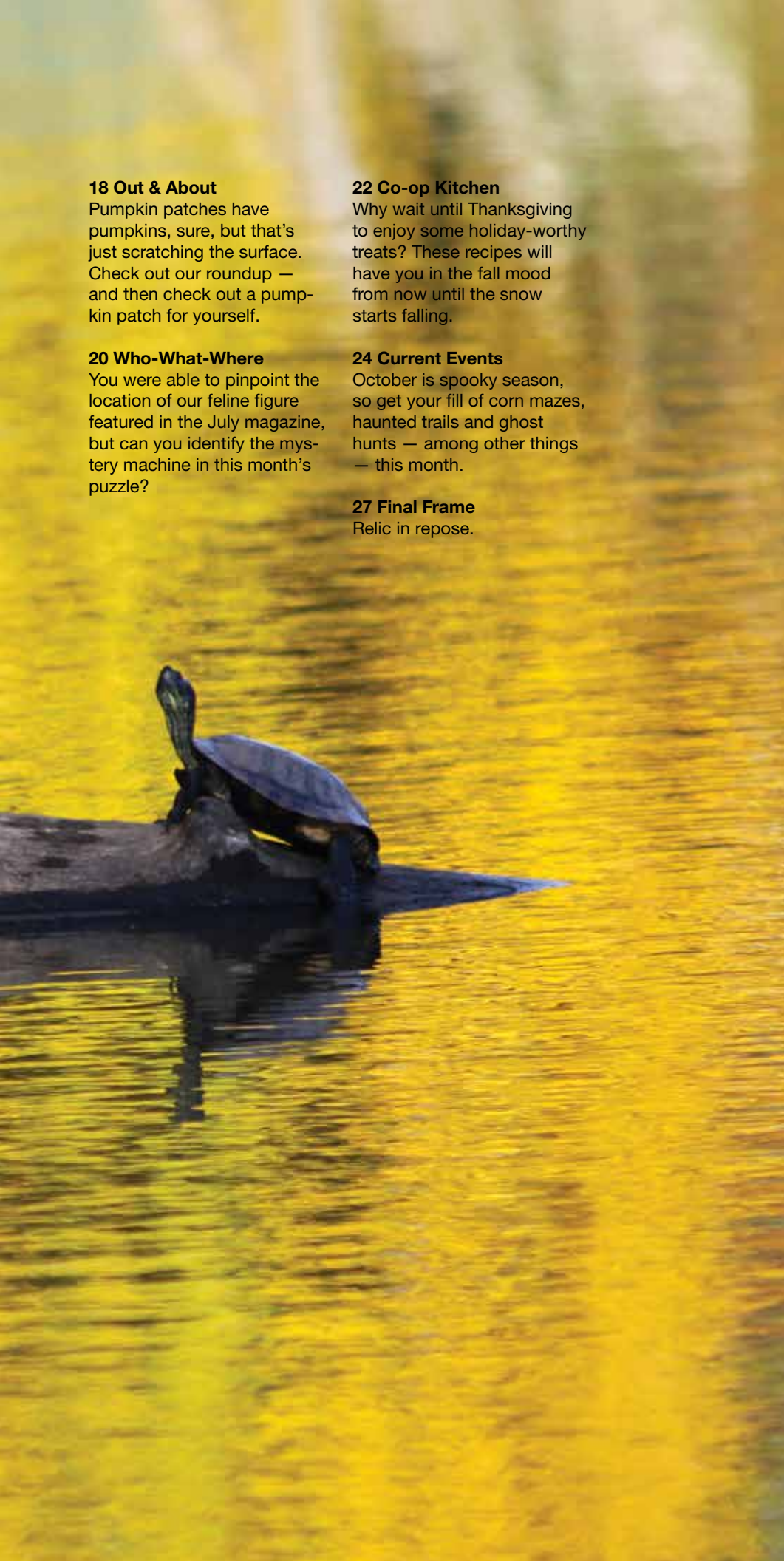
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Pumpkin patches have pumpkins, sure, but that's just scratching the surface. Check out our roundup — and then check out a pumpkin patch for yourself.

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You were able to pinpoint the location of our feline figure featured in the July magazine, but can you identify the mystery machine in this month's puzzle?

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Why wait until Thanksgiving to enjoy some holiday-worthy treats? These recipes will have you in the fall mood from now until the snow starts falling.

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October is spooky season, so get your fill of corn mazes, haunted trails and ghost hunts — among other things — this month.

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Relic in repose.

Reader Contest

We've hidden an image of a jack-o-lantern in your magazine. Your job is to find it. The actual image may be larger or smaller than what you see below. We may change the color or reverse or alter the image we've hidden to make the contest more challenging. If you find the jack-o-lantern, email us or send a postcard with your name, address, phone number, and the page number where you found the image. 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, 2024.

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.

JULY WINNER

Congratulations to Dennis Howell of Worden. As the winner of our July Hide & Seek contest drawing, Dennis will receive a \$25 credit on an upcoming electric bill. Thank you to everyone who participated in our July contest. This month's image appears at left. You'll find Hide & Seek rules below.

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 posts, 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 (and growing) list and not one you care to be part of.
- October contest entries must be 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.



ON THE COVER

CEO Bobby Williams (left) joined directors Bill Jennings, Jerry Gaffner and Jared Stine for a photo at The American Farm Heritage Museum during Southwestern Electric Cooperative's 86th Annual Meeting of Members. Read our stories on pages 5 and 10.

CO-OP REMINDERS

October 14 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.



FIND US ON SOCIAL MEDIA



For the latest news and notes, follow us on Facebook and Twitter. You'll find us at facebook.com/SWECI and twitter.com/sweci. Search for Southwestern Electric on YouTube and Instagram. You can listen to our podcast, *Wireside Chat*, on Apple Music, Spotify, Audible and anywhere podcasts are found.

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

Three members of Southwestern Electric were elected to the co-op's board of directors during Southwestern's 86th Annual Meeting of Members, held Saturday, Sept. 7, at the American Farm Heritage Museum in Greenville.

All three board candidates were incumbents and ran unopposed. During the business meeting, members approved a motion to elect William "Bill" Jennings of Alhambra (District I), Jerry Gaffner of Greenville (District II), and Jared Stine of St. Elmo (District III) by acclamation. Each director will serve a three-year term on the board.

William "Bill" Jennings

Since being elected to the board in 2018, Bill Jennings has worked to identify challenges and opportunities in the energy industry as they relate to the membership. In the coming term, he intends to apply his training and experience to fulfill the key roles of a director, which he identifies as advocate, regulator and fiduciary.

Jennings noted that, at a national level, he sees a growing emphasis on renewable energy and carbon neutrality. "Most of the challenges faced by today's electric cooperatives relate to the rapid evolution of our industry," he said. "As a board, it's our responsibility to meet these challenges while offering affordable rates, reimbursing capital credits, and investing in our infrastructure to ensure safe, reliable electricity."

Bill Jennings serves on Southwestern Electric's Policy & Bylaws Committee and Cyber Security Committee. He's been a Southwestern Electric member



since 1993 and lives on a farm near Alhambra with his wife, Patty. They have two married children, Anna and Thomas.

Jerry Gaffner

Jerry Gaffner views Southwestern Electric as a vital partner to our region's farms and communities. "Rates and reliability are key to that partnership," he said. "We're constantly working to ensure the co-op offers affordable, reliable power. That requires a deep understanding of energy infrastructure, margins, operating expenses, and the power contracts which drive our rate structure."

An advocate for cooperative values and rural electrification, Gaffner plans to pursue innovative approaches to keeping costs in check and promote member-oriented programs and services, with a focus on energy efficiency and educational outreach.

Gaffner, who graduated from the University of Illinois with a Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Economics,



brings a background in agricultural business to his cooperative service.

A director since 2018, Gaffner is president of Southwestern Electric's board of directors and the Executive Committee. He serves on the Scholarship Committee and Emerging Technologies Committee. He resides on his farm northwest of Greenville with his wife, Sherri. They have five children, Jonah, Abby, Hannah, Anna and Ethan.

Jared Stine

Jared Stine joined the board in 2018 and quickly played a vital part in shaping the vision and values that guide the cooperative.

"We are our membership's accountable energy partner," Stine said. "That must be front and center during board discussions. Competitive rates, reliable service, member satisfaction — these are the core elements a board must balance."

Stine described Southwestern as a key community partner, citing Operation Round Up (ORU) and the Power for Progress scholarship program as co-op initiatives that contribute to member-communities.

Stine serves as vice president of Southwestern Electric's board of directors and the co-op's Executive Committee. He chairs Southwestern's Scholarship Committee and serves on the Emerging Technologies Committee. He's served on the boards of various civic and community organizations, including St. Elmo Christian Church, where he and his family attend.

Members since 2009, Jared Stine and his wife, Krista, live south of St. Elmo, where with their family they operate a sixth-generation family farm. They have three children, Sydney, Anna and Wade.



Youth Tour '25

WIN A TRIP TO WASHINGTON, D.C.

Applications due Jan. 1, 2025

WHAT IS YOUTH TOUR?

In spring of 2025, Southwestern Electric Cooperative will take local students to Springfield, Ill., to tour the Capitol and meet with legislators during Illinois Electric and Telephone Cooperatives Youth Day. Throughout the day, students will learn about leadership from legislators, state officers and co-op employees who've dedicated their lives to public service.

At the end of the day, two students will be selected to represent Southwestern Electric during the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's Youth to Washington Tour, June 16-23, 2025.

Expenses for both trips are covered by the cooperative.

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

Any high school student in Southwestern Electric's service area is eligible to participate in Youth Day.

WHAT'S THE PURPOSE OF YOUTH TOUR?

In Springfield and Washington, legislators and officers discuss the rewards and responsibilities of public service, while representatives from AIEC, the statewide trade association representing Illinois electric cooperatives, explore the role of grassroots organizations in government. Careers in public service can be personally fulfilling, professionally rewarding and contribute to the common good. The spring Youth Day and summer Youth to Washington experience bring these ideas to life.



PHOTO COURTESY ASSOCIATION OF ILLINOIS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES

HOW DO I APPLY?

Write an essay, no more than 275 words in length, that answers the question: What do you hope to gain from participating in the Youth Tour experience?

Submit your essay to Southwestern Electric Vice President of Member Services Susan File. Your essay can either be delivered in person at our Greenville office, mailed to Susan File, Southwestern Electric Cooperative, 525 U.S. Route 40, Greenville, IL 62246 or emailed to susan.file@sweci.com.

Essays should be submitted no later than Jan. 1, 2025. To learn more about Youth Tour, go to youthtour.coop or [Facebook.com/ILYouthTour](https://www.facebook.com/ILYouthTour).

Questions?

Call Susan File at 800-637-8667 or write to her at susan.file@sweci.com.

LIHEAP Energy Assistance

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.

The current LIHEAP application period is Oct. 1, 2024 to Aug. 15, 2025, or until funding is exhausted.

Applications in October are limited to priority groups.

Priority groups include:

- Seniors (at least one household member is age 60 or older).
- Disabled (at least one household member receives disability benefits).
- Families with children 5 years old and under.

- Members who have been disconnected or who are in imminent threat of disconnection.

All other income-eligible households can apply beginning Nov. 1, 2024.

The listings below will help you determine if you're eligible for assistance. Payment amounts are determined by income, household size, fuel type, geographic location and available funding.

Use the listing 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.

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	BCMWS Community Services, Inc.	618-532-7388
Clay	CEFS Economic Opportunity Corp.	217-342-2193
Clinton	BCMWS Community Services, Inc.	618-532-7388
Effingham	CEFS Economic Opportunity Corp.	217-342-2193
Fayette	CEFS Economic Opportunity Corp.	217-342-2193
Macoupin	Illinois Valley Economic Development Corp.	217-839-4431
Madison	Madison County Community Development	618-692-8940
Marion	BCMWS Community Services, Inc.	618-532-7388
Montgomery	CEFS Economic Opportunity Corp.	217-342-2193
Shelby	CEFS Economic Opportunity Corp.	217-342-2193
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 at right, 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	\$2,510
2	\$3,407
3	\$4,303
4	\$5,200
5	\$6,097
6	\$6,993
7	\$7,890
8	\$8,427



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

Committed to Our Community

A GENEROUS SPIRIT AND DEEP APPRECIATION FOR SOUTHWESTERN MEMBERS WERE HALLMARKS OF DIRECTOR RICH GUSEWELLE

Soft spoken and thoughtful with his words, Rich Gusewelle made a practice of putting other people first. It's a quality which made him ideally suited to represent the members of Southwestern Electric Cooperative. Gusewelle, who retired from the board in 2020, passed away on June 26, but his kindness, generosity of spirit, and commitment to the co-op community continue to serve as touchstones for Southwestern's board and employees.

Seven months after his retirement and nearly four decades after he was first elected, Gusewelle remained grateful for the steadfast support he'd received over the years. "I want our members and employees to know how much I appreciate everything they've done for me through the years," he said in an April 2021 interview. "Working with our members, getting to know so many employees, thinking about all we accomplished together, I have a lot to be thankful for."

PLANNING & PREPARATION

Gusewelle's early years on the board coincided with a turbulent era for Illinois electric cooperatives. As a member of Soyland Power Cooperative, the co-op's wholesale energy provider at the time, Southwestern Electric was part-owner of the Clinton nuclear plant — a regional



power project dogged by delays and escalating construction costs.

Gusewelle was keenly aware of Soyland's likely long-term economic impact on Southwestern. A member since 1975, he also understood the potential for Southwestern Electric to improve the quality of life for residents of rural Southwestern Illinois.

Gusewelle made a bid for the board in 1983. He lost to the incumbent, but

the election experience — meeting members, discussing issues — was overwhelmingly positive. He ran again in 1984 and won a seat he held until retiring in September 2020.

Upon being elected, Gusewelle became part of a team that pressed for new approaches to resolving the Soyland issue. He made clear and consistent communications a priority, acting as both member advocate and board liaison, carrying messages from the board to the membership, and relaying words of support or concern from the membership to management and the board.

The early, difficult days of searching for solutions to Soyland forged a bond among board members that grew into decades of open, pointed discussion. "We didn't always agree, but we did always listen. We worked together," he recalled. "Everybody had a chance to voice their opinion."

Through years of planning, preparation and persistence, the board

“Being part of the co-op changed my life. It was a good time. Even in the bad times, it was good. I will always be grateful.”

positioned Southwestern to dissolve ties with Soyland Power Cooperative and enter a new wholesale power agreement with Cincinnati, Ohio-based Cinergy Corp., laying the foundation for a sound financial future.

LEARNING & LEADING

From day one, Gusewelle made education a priority. “In the utility business, things are always changing. It seemed like every month at the board meeting, we were discussing something new. You needed to know what was coming.”

Gusewelle participated in industry seminars, workshops and summits at the state, regional and national levels, all the while sharing Southwestern’s position on legislative and regulatory issues with co-op and national association delegates, and making sure Southwestern members had a voice in decisions that could affect them. He built bridges between Southwestern and professional associations, cultivated relationships with other co-ops, and kept in touch with directors and trade association employees who served as a source of support and inspiration — people he called on for insight and information, and people who called on him for the same.

In 2001 and 2003 respectively, he received high honors from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, earning Credentialed Cooperative Director and Board Leadership certifications.

From every meeting, workshop or interaction, Gusewelle brought back ideas he shared with the board, management



Rich Gusewelle greets members outside Greenville High School at Southwestern Electric Cooperative’s 46th Annual Meeting of Members on Sept. 8, 1984. He was elected to the board of directors for the first time later that morning.

and members. His experience served the co-op community well.

During his tenure, he was active on Southwestern’s Policies & Bylaws Committee, the Business Development & Marketing Committee, and the co-op’s Scholarship Committee, and served as vice president of the board of directors from 1996 to 2009. He also assumed leadership roles in co-op community organizations, serving on the governing boards of Alhambra Hitz Home, Eden Village, Hamel Co-op Grain Co., and the Northeast Central County Public Water District, and as a trustee for Hamel Township and for the Quercus Grove Cemetery Association.

His roles in different organizations equipped him to compare and contrast issues and approaches, applying lessons learned in one area to obstacles in another. “Everybody’s got their own way of looking at things,” he said. “You learn how people are different, how they’re alike, when to speak up and when to listen.” Relationships he built with other co-ops provided instruction as well. “Different co-ops do things different ways,” he noted. “When we talk, we can learn from each other.”

PRINCIPLES & PROGRESS

The senior board member at the time of his retirement, Gusewelle guided the co-op through three CEO and management team transitions. During his time on the board, he saw subdivisions take shape, commercial and industrial parks flourish, and hospitals and schools rise from fields where corn once grew.

He noted the evolution of electric vehicles and rise of cogeneration as changes that would have a lasting impact on the co-op.

Technology had made the co-op more efficient and responsive, Gusewelle said, but it also allowed people to fall out of

Continued on page 25 ▶

Rich and Joyce Gusewelle pause for a photo in 2020.

Opposite page: Gusewelle thanks members for their support during his farewell address at Southwestern Electric Cooperative’s 82nd Annual Meeting of Members in September 2020.



PHOTO COURTESY SANDY GRAPPERHAUS

Southwestern Spotlights Industry Challenges, Co-op Opportunities at 86th Annual Meeting

Story by Joe Richardson | Photos by Mike Barns & Joe Richardson

The region's reliance on intermittent energy, a member-oriented strategic plan, and a member-based virtual power plant were among the challenges and opportunities addressed during Southwestern Electric Cooperative's 86th Annual Meeting of Members, held Saturday, Sept. 7, at the American Farm Heritage Museum in Greenville, Ill.

Jerry Gaffner, board president, said early next year Southwestern Electric directors will draft a new strategic plan for the cooperative. The new plan will include a cost-of-service study that ensures the co-op's billing structure and charges are fair and equitable, an outline

for an integrated resource plan that serves the co-op's growing membership, and a comprehensive review of Southwestern Electric's energy portfolio. "One part of our strategic plan will not change," Gaffner said. "We will continue to build on the foundation of service, rates and reliability."

In January 2025, Southwestern will adjust its service availability charge to reflect higher costs the co-op is paying to build and maintain its distribution system. For residential accounts, the monthly charge will go from \$35 to \$44. Gaffner said the service availability charge is an investment in poles, wires, transformers, substations, meters, fleet

vehicles, office facilities, technology upgrades, and systems that address meter reading, billing, outage management and cyber security.

In total, the investment is responsible for the resiliency of a multimillion-dollar distribution system that includes 3,500 miles of power line, including the lines, transformers and substations that serve each member's home.

Gaffner commended the cooperative's employees for their dedication to the membership and their ability to respond to the demands of a rapidly changing power market, and expressed his gratitude to Southwestern Electric members for "building a vibrant,





Board President Jerry Gaffner tells members about a strategic planning session slated for February 2025. Right: Director Sandy Grapperhaus (right) greets members at the American Farm Heritage Museum.



engaged co-op community, 24,000 members strong.”

Southwestern CEO Bobby Williams expressed concerns regarding the availability of baseload, or always-on, energy in the region. On August 26-27, the cooperative asked members to conserve energy during hours of peak demand. “We posted those requests in response to warnings issued by MISO, the Midcontinent Independent System Operator,” Williams said, referencing the organization responsible for managing power supply and demand in much of the Midwest.

“MISO issued those warnings because temperatures were high and the demand

for power was coming uncomfortably close to outstripping supply. Our region had to import electricity from other areas to meet demand,” he said. “Wind and solar energy did relatively little to keep the lights on. The vast majority of that responsibility fell on energy generated by natural gas and coal.”

Wind and solar power are intermittent energy, Williams said. “Sometimes they’re robust resources. Sometimes they’re not. Which makes relying on them during periods of peak demand a gamble. That’s a gamble many legislators are willing to make,” he said. “I am not comfortable gambling with our

Continued on next page ▶

“One part of our strategic plan will not change. We will continue to build on the foundation of service, rates and reliability.”

—Jerry Gaffner, Board President



Lisa Emig of Greenville (right) and her daughter, Phoebe, register to vote with help from Southwestern Member Services Representative Allissa Bohlen (seated) while Holly Thiems, IT Technical Support, offers assistance.

Opposite page: Retired Director Ron Schaufelberger (in blue) and other members listen to CEO Bobby Williams discuss power supply challenges facing our region of the Midwest.

► *Continued from page 11*
reliability, our economy, and our future. I don't think you should be, either."

Williams told members about the growing possibility of preventative or prescribed power outages — often called rolling blackouts — in the Midwest. "We're shifting from coal-fired, always-on energy to intermittent, green energy. Older coal plants are closing and energy companies aren't investing in new plants to take their place. They can't. Legislation has eliminated coal as an option."

It's becoming more likely MISO will require utilities — Southwestern included — to interrupt service during periods of extreme heat or cold, Williams said, when the demand for power promises to outpace supply. "We shouldn't sacrifice reliability and our way of life by relying heavily, or exclusively, on technology that isn't

ready to replace baseload generation," he said, encouraging members to share their concerns with legislators. "You have a voice. We have a voice. That voice becomes much louder and the message more clear when we speak as a cooperative."

Acting as a cooperative "is also key to keeping our costs in check," Williams said, noting that Southwestern had recently decommissioned Freedom Power Station, a natural-gas-fired peaking unit that offset heavy tariffs levied by MISO. "We can mitigate those fees by managing our demand. We can manage our demand with help from you."

Williams said that as a whole, co-op members manage several megawatts of generation and energy-saving home-based systems. "By strategically timing the use of that technology, we can reduce Southwestern's impact on the grid.

"Rather than paying MISO more for our co-op's demand, we'd prefer to pay you for lowering it. That's what we intend to do."

—CEO Bobby Williams



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT

Gina Meskil of Greenville reads about Hidden Springs State Forest in the September issue of *The Southwestern*.

Southwestern employees and members of the Credentials and Elections Committee record ballots before the business meeting.


Elayne Cripe of Greenville (left) tours the grounds of the American Farm Heritage Museum with her grandchildren Jacey Cripe, Kimber Paul and Sawyer Paul, and her daughter, Renee Paul of Greenville, via the American Heritage Railroad.

Rather than paying MISO more for our co-op's demand, we'd prefer to pay you for lowering it," he said. "That's what we intend to do."

Beginning in 2028, Southwestern will offer an incentive rate to members who help the co-op offset its energy requirements during periods of peak demand. "Co-ops employed the same strategy to conserve energy 20 years ago," he said. "We called it demand-side management. Today we're addressing the same idea with new terms and technology. In the industry it's referred to as building a Virtual Power Plant."

Williams said Southwestern will develop incentive rates that make participating in the program worthwhile for members. "This approach to lowering our demand on the grid will mean hundreds of thousands of dollars in annual savings for Southwestern, and lower rates for those of you who choose

to participate. It's an opportunity for us to achieve together what we can't accomplish alone," he said. "But we need your participation to make it a success."

Southwestern members also elected one member from each of the cooperative's three voting districts to serve on the co-op's board of directors. In total, 1,931 Southwestern Electric members registered to vote in the election. All three board candidates were incumbents and ran unopposed. During the business meeting, members approved a motion to elect William "Bill" Jennings of Alhambra (District I), Jerry Gaffner of Greenville (District II), and Jared Stine of St. Elmo (District III) by acclamation. Each director will serve a three-year term on the board. 



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP

Vice President of Member Services Susan File greets a member.

A Southwestern member casts his ballot.

Passengers pause for a photo on the American Heritage Railroad.

Southwestern linemen demonstrate the dangers of electricity.

Nancy Nowlin of Greenville talks with Craig Jennings (center), Vice President of Engineering, and Casey Eberlin, GIS Technician.



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 2024 energy bills and plan for 2025.

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, 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 you are inside farm machinery that makes contact with a downed power line, know what to do!

If you can drive safely away from the power source without bringing down the utility pole and lines, travel at least 40 ft. before exiting.

If you are unable to drive the machinery due to injury, obstacles or it is inoperable, do NOT exit. Call for help and warn anyone nearby NOT to approach.

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.



Take Your Pick



Pumpkin patches, like pumpkins, come in all shapes and sizes

Story by Nathan Grimm | Photos by Nathan Grimm & Joe Richardson

Every year, roughly 150,000 people flock to Louisville for the Kentucky Derby. For most of those 150,000 people, the race itself — affectionately called “the most exciting two minutes in sports” — isn’t the main attraction. They show up to drink mint juleps and wear fancy suits or dresses with big hats, unable to name many, if any, of the 20 horses running in the race. They simply know that it’s the first Saturday in May, and on the first Saturday in May they should be at Churchill Downs.

That’s how my family approaches pumpkin patches. As I thought about my relationship with them — pumpkin patches, not my family — I couldn’t help but notice that even though we go to multiple pumpkin patches every fall, we almost never leave with actual pumpkins. Even those casual racegoers probably pick a horse to bet on before the race starts, but we leave the pumpkin picking for someone else.

I have nothing against the act itself. We have, more than once, ridden a tractor-pulled trailer out to the fields to pick our own gourds. It’s a fun family activity, with each member of

the group falling in love with a different pumpkin’s shape or color or other unique attribute — much like picking out a live Christmas tree, which my family does not do but which I did with my brothers and sister when I was younger — and feeling proud to take it home at the end of the day.

No, we have no beef with picking pumpkins. Rather, we just love pumpkin patches for all the things they offer beyond the vine.

Bouncing on a giant pillow. Shooting pumpkins out of a cannon. Feeding barnyard animals out of your hand. Going down a big slide on a burlap sack. And these are just a few of the things my boys look forward to every year at the pumpkin patch.

Like the activities themselves, a great thing about pumpkin patches is that there’s something for everyone. The list on the opposite page has pumpkin patches on the east side of the state, the west side of the state and everywhere in between. Not sure if there’s one near you? Check out the rundown and find out. You might be pleasantly surprised.



TAKE YOUR PICK

There are no shortages of options when it comes to pumpkin picking in the Southwestern Electric area. Check out these local spots the next time you're looking to gather some gourds.

Boonies Farm, 8863 Dustman Road, Worden. Call (618) 888-2422 or visit booniesfarm.com.

Braeutigam Orchards, 2765 Turkey Hill Lane, Belleville. Call (618) 233-4059 or visit braeutigamorchards.com.

Broom Orchard, 12803 Broom Road, Carlinville. Call (217) 854-3514 or visit broomorchard.com.

Eckert's Farms, 951 South Green Mount Road, Belleville; 20995 Eckert Orchard Road, Grafton; 2719 Eckert Orchard Lane, Millstadt. Call (800) 745-0513 or visit eckerts.com.

Happy Hollow Farm, 1697 South 2250th Street, St. Elmo. Call (618) 367-2798 or visit facebook.com/happyhollowfarm.

Heritage Farm, 1821 Winter Lane, Godfrey. Go to visitheritagefarm.com.

Mills Apple Farm, 11477 Pocahontas Road, Marine. Call (618) 887-4732 or visit millsapplefarm.com.

Relleke Pumpkin Patch, 519 Sand Prairie Road, Pontoon Beach. Call (618) 797-6858 or visit rellekepumpkinpatch.com.

Schaefer Pumpkin Patch, 2934 North 2200 Street, Beecher City. Call (217) 690-1986 or visit schaeferpumpkinpatchil.com.

Streif's Country Market, 500 US Route 45, Louisville. Call (618) 665-4064 or visit facebook.com/Streif-PumpkinPatch.



WHO • WHAT • WHERE

And just like that, Southwestern Electric's 86th Annual Meeting of Members is a memory. As we prep this issue of the magazine for press, cornstalks are fading to gold, evening air is turning cool if not cold, and holiday items are creeping into our back-of-the-book events. Later this month, we'll be mulling over Out &



About locations for next year's editions. Makes me wonder where I'll go, what I'll discover, and who I'll meet.

If I'm lucky, I may bump into you.

It's a joy to meet readers when we're writing or shooting a story. More oft than not, talk turns to articles you've liked and which pages you favor.

Our puzzle pages often top your list.

They top my list as well.

That has a lot to do with you.

Many of you have memories tied to the items that appear here, and you're generous enough to share your stories. Thank you. That's a little of your life you're sharing. I don't take that for granted.

Before you read responses to our June puzzle, take a look at this month's challenge photo. Can you identify the

antique? There are clues to *where* it is, if not *what* it is, elsewhere in the issue.

While the artifact wasn't originally sited in our service area, it did live its life in a county served by Southwestern.

Have the answer? You can submit your solution to joe.richardson@sweci.com, or mail it to: Joe Richardson,



Southwestern Electric Cooperative, 525 U.S. Route 40, Greenville, IL 62246. Please include your name, mailing address, and hometown in your response. If you have a story associated with the artifact, we'd love to read it.

Meanwhile, here's what you had to say about our July challenge...

The Who, What, Where contest in the July issue of *The Southwestern* is the statue of Newt the cat on the MCT Trail in Edwardsville. I encountered the actual Newt many times while running the trail in the area. The first time I saw him he was laid out on the trail just soaking up the sun. He was quite friendly and wore a tag that stated "I like to roam." He lived up to that for sure.

—*William Rodgers, Moro*

Located at Edwardsville Junction in Edwardsville, where the MCT Nature, MCT Nickel Plate, and MCT Goshen trails intersect, is Newt, an orange kitty standing 9 feet tall and reminding all frequent trailgoers of their favorite small trail kitty.

—*Fred Faust, Edwardsville*

The image is artwork on the MCT Trail at Edwardsville Junction off IL Route 159. The artwork is named "Newt" in honor of the favorite small trail kitty who frequented the MCT Trail. Newt recently passed away and now travels the bike trail in Heaven. Amazing, the tributes and memories that were posted for Newt to honor him after his death. There are currently eight statues along the MCT Trails.

—*Dave Norris, Worden*

What am I?



Fall Favorites

SPICED CIDER

Ingredients

- 2 quarts apple cider
- 1 teaspoon whole allspice
- 1 stick cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon whole cloves
- 1 small orange cut into quarter-inch rounds

Directions

1. Simmer all ingredients together for 15 minutes.
2. Strain if desired. Serve hot.

PECAN PIE BARS

Ingredients

- 1½ cups flour
- ½ cup plus 2 tablespoons packed brown sugar
- ½ cup butter
- 2 eggs
- ½ cup light corn syrup
- ¾ cup pecans finely chopped
- 2 tablespoons butter melted
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- ⅛ teaspoon salt

Directions

1. In a small bowl, combine flour and two tablespoons of brown sugar and mix well.
2. With fingers, work in ½ cup butter until dough begins to hold together.
3. Press into 9 inch square pan.
4. Bake at 350° for 15 minutes.
5. Beat together ½ cup brown sugar and eggs.
6. Add corn syrup, nuts, melted butter, vanilla and salt and mix well. Pour mixture over crust.
7. Bake for 25 additional minutes or until edges are lightly browned.
8. Cool on rack and cut into 3 inch squares.

HARVEST LOAF CAKE

Ingredients

- 1¾ cups flour
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- ½ teaspoon salt
- ½ teaspoon nutmeg
- ¼ teaspoon ginger
- ¼ teaspoon cloves
- ½ cup butter
- 1 cup sugar
- 2 eggs
- ¾ cup canned pumpkin
- ¾ cup chocolate chips
- ¾ cup walnuts chopped

Glaze Ingredients

- ½ cup powdered sugar
- ⅛ teaspoon nutmeg
- ⅛ teaspoon cinnamon
- 2 tablespoons heavy cream

Directions

1. Combine dry ingredients.
2. Cream the butter, adding sugar gradually.
3. Blend in the eggs and beat well.
4. Add the dry ingredients, alternating with pumpkin. Mix well.
5. Stir in chips and ½ cup of the walnuts reserving ¼ cup of walnuts.
6. Pour into greased loaf pan and sprinkle with reserved walnuts.
7. Bake at 350° 70 minutes or until a toothpick comes out clean.
8. Mix together glaze ingredients and drizzle over cake.

HARVEST PUMPKIN BROWNIES

Ingredients

- 1 (15 ounce) can pumpkin
- 4 eggs
- ¾ cup oil
- 2 teaspoons vanilla
- 2 cups flour
- 2 cups sugar
- 1 tablespoon pumpkin pie spice
- 2 teaspoons cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 1 (14 ounce) container cream cheese frosting
- ½ cup chopped walnuts or pecans

Directions

1. Combine pumpkin, eggs, oil, vanilla, flour, sugar, spice, cinnamon, baking powder and salt with mixer and spread into a greased and floured 10 x 15 x 1 inch jellyroll pan.
2. Bake at 350° for 20 - 25 minutes. Let cool.
3. Spread on cream cheese frosting and sprinkle with nuts.

Pecan Pie Bars | Prepared & photographed by Mike Barns



CURRENT EVENTS

October 4 & 5, 11 & 12, 18 & 19, 25 & 26 ADVENTURES AT HALLOWEENVILLE, Greenville. The Jack-O-Lantern Express will be running thru the land of Halloweenville with lots of friendly ghosts, skeletons, witches and more. All ages are welcome especially the little ones. The hamburger and hotdog grill will be open with a limited menu of food, snacks and drinks. 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. American Farm Heritage Museum, 1395 Museum Avenue. Visit americanfarmheritagemuseum.org.

October 4-6 LIVING HISTORY DAYS, Madison County. Three days of discovery and fun at numerous locations across Madison County. Enjoy music, vintage baseball, performances, crafts, displays, a Chautauqua, quilting, antique cars and more. For details and locations, visit madcohistory.org.

October 4-26 GREAT GODFREY MAZE, Godfrey. Get lost in the maze, ride the hay wagon and cow train, jump on the jumping pillow and bounce houses. After dark each visitor is required to have a flashlight to help navigate the twists and turns. Concession stand on site. Due to uneven surfaces within the maze, it is not fully wheelchair accessible. Maze may close during inclement weather. Fridays 6 - 10 p.m.; Saturdays 11 a.m. - 10 p.m. Admission fees vary. Glazebrook Park, 1401 Stamper Lane. Visit godfreyil.org.

October 5 CABIN DAY, Glen Carbon. Learn about early Glen Carbon and the Goshen Settlement, check out the Yanda Cabin, and shop with our

local craft and food vendors. 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Admission is free. Yanda Cabin, 148 S. Main Street. Call (618) 288-7271.

October 5 CONCERT IN THE PARK, Maryville. Flip the Frog will perform from 7 - 8:30 p.m. Bring lawn chairs or a blanket. Kettle Corn will be available for purchase. Firemen's Park, 300 North Donk Avenue. Call (618) 223-8965, email parksandrec@maryville-il.us or find us on Facebook at Troy Community Band.

October 5 FALL FARM DAY, Collinsville. Lots of crafters, demonstrations, food, beverages, face painting, kids games and farm animals. 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Admission is \$3; children 2 years of age and younger are free. Willoughby Heritage Farm and Conservation Reserve, 631 Willoughby Lane. Visit willoughbyfarm.org.

October 5 & 6, 12 & 13 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/vintagevoices tours.

October 8 FAYETTE COUNTY HOSPITAL BINGO, Vandalia. Join Friends and Families of Sarah Bush Lincoln Fayette County Hospital for an evening of bingo to win great prizes and support Fayette County Hospital initiatives. Doors open at 4:30 p.m.; early bird bingo

starts at 5:30 p.m. \$10 for 10 regular bingo games. Come for the fun, play for the cause. Vandalia Moose Lodge, 328 South 3rd Street. For tickets, call (618) 283-5401 or (618) 283-5446.

October 10 OWL PRESENTATION, Altamont. Presentation by Mark Glenshaw, an award-winning naturalist. He has studied wild Great Horned Owls that live in Forest Park, a large urban park in St. Louis, since 2005. The presentation on the owls lasts approximately 75 minutes and covers how he found these owls, basic facts about the species, and many photos and videos to illustrate the amazing behaviors of these beautiful owls. 6 p.m. Ballard Nature Center, 5253 East U.S. Highway 40. Visit ballardnaturecenter.org.

October 11 & 12 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 p.m.; Saturday 9:30 a.m. - 9 p.m. Admission is free. Veterans Memorial Fountain and along Main Street. Visit bellevillechili.com.

October 11-13 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 - 8 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 12 ASTRONOMY NIGHT, Altamont. The Riverbend Astronomy Club will be here with telescopes to help you explore the night sky. No registration required and is open to all ages. Come anytime between 7 - 9 p.m. Ballard Nature Center, 5253 East U.S. Highway 40. Visit ballardnaturecenter.org.

October 12 CELEBRATE! FINE ARTS FESTIVAL, Centralia. A festival of art, wine and music featuring local artisans, musicians, crafters, wineries, craft brewers, and food vendors. Celebrate! also hosts Fine Arts Fiesta, a regional high school art competition and a public art competition. 2 - 8 p.m. Downtown Event Space, 100 and 200 Blocks of Broadway and 100 Block of South Locust Street. Visit seecentralia.com

October 12 GOING GOLD KIDS FEST, Edwardsville. Liberty Apple Orchard will host the popular "Going Gold Kids Fest" to benefit pediatric cancer research by the American Cancer Society. The afternoon features face painting, a petting zoo and pony rides (1 - 3 p.m.), touch-a-truck, a scavenger hunt and more. Food will be available for purchase. All proceeds benefit childhood cancer research and initiatives through the American Cancer Society. Noon - 3 p.m. \$10 per child 2 years of age and older. 8308 Kuhn Station Road. For more information, visit facebook.com/libertyappleorchard, email j5fourj@gmail.com or call (618) 659-9217.

October 12 HARD ROAD CAR CRUISE, Marine. A celebra-
Continued on page 26 ▶

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.


► *Continued from page 9*

touch. He feared that many companies, even cooperatives, ran the risk of losing the personal qualities that define them.

In an age of smart phones and social media, Gusewelle said, co-op leaders needed to be actively engaged — in spirit and in person — in the communities where their members live.

A longtime member of Southwestern’s Scholarship Committee, Gusewelle actively supported the co-op’s involvement in education. He made it his mission to look out for the membership’s best interests, position the co-op to offer reliable energy at affordable rates, and to see that Southwestern had the resources it needed to operate effectively day-to-day.

“Our members put their trust in me. They knew I’d listen and make decisions on their behalf,” he said. “That meant a lot to me. I always appreciated that.”

Rich is survived by his wife, Joyce Gusewelle of Edwardsville, his sons Mark Gusewelle; Clay Gusewelle and fiancée, Jody; Matthew Gusewelle and wife, Cheryl, all of Edwardsville; his daughter Stephanie King and her husband Stefan Paul of Edwardsville; eight grandchildren and seven great grandchildren. 



Directors Ann Schwarm, Gusewelle, Sandy Nevinger and Annette Hartlieb stand with CEO Bobby Williams after being re-elected during Southwestern’s 79th Annual Meeting of Members in 2017. Left: Director Bill Jennings and Gusewelle pause for a photo after the 2020 annual meeting.

Directors, members and employees thanked Rich Gusewelle for 36 years of service during Southwestern Electric’s 82nd Annual Meeting of Members, held at the Bond County Fairgrounds on Sept. 12, 2020. Pictured are (front) directors Bill Jennings, Gusewelle and Sandy Grapperhaus and (back) CEO Bobby Williams and directors Jared Stine, Ted Willman, Ann Schwarm, Annette Hartlieb and Jerry Gaffner.



► *Continued from page 24*
tion car cruise of the 100th anniversary of the hard road between Marine and St. Jacob. We would like to register any car or pickup truck that was made between 1924 and 2024. Registration is free. Lineup at 11 a.m. Cruise will begin at noon with vehicles from newest to oldest, drive to St. Jacob to old Route 40, go around the block and then back to Marine where participants are welcome to showcase their vehicle for the afternoon. Village Park, 155 North Duncan Street. To register, call Dennis at (618) 491-4842 or email mhscruise@marinehistoricalsociety.org.

October 12 HISTORIC CRAFT FAIR, Hartford. Purchase finely crafted goods made by local artisans, including baskets, shawls, pottery and more. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Admission is free. Lewis & Clark State Historic Site, One Lewis & Clark Trail. Call (618) 251-5811 or visit campdubois.com.

October 12-13 ART IN THE PARK, Highland. This juried exhibit shows the works of 65 artists in nine mediums. A total of nearly \$8,000 in cash prizes will be awarded. The event includes art demonstrations, live music, food vendors, hands-on activities for children, and an art gallery "Just for Kids", where for \$5 children can purchase artwork donated by exhibiting artists. Friday special ticketed event 5 - 8 p.m.; Saturday 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sunday 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. Free and open to the public. Lindendale Park, Park Hill Drive & Lindenthal Avenue. Visit highlandartscouncil.org for more information and details on a special ticketed preview event October 11.

October 18 BOOS & BOOZE HALLOWEEN PARTY, Grafton. The party takes place in our on-site Winery and in addition to the spooky décor we offer guests live music, drink specials, themed adult beverages, medium readings and a costume contest where you have 3 chances to win.

Costume judging at 7:30 p.m. 2nd and 3rd will both win a restaurant gift certificate and our 1st place winner will take home a free night stay to our one of a kind lodge. 6 - 10 p.m. Admission is free but must be 21 years of age or older. Pere Marquette Lodge & Conference Center, 13653 Lodge Blvd. Visit pmlodge.net.

October 18 & 19 HAUNTED TRAIL, Carlyle. Brave souls embark on a hayride from Dam West Boat Ramp to the Little Prairie Nature Trail, 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. All proceeds will go to support the Fireworks Spectacular. Dam West Boat Ramp. Visit carlyle-lake.com.

October 18 & 19, 25 & 26 HAUNTED TRAIL, Kinmundy. Prepare to immerse yourself in the paranormal as you venture into a haunted trail that winds its way through the eerie woods and historic log cabins from the 1800s. All proceeds go towards preserving the cabins and grounds. 7 - 11 p.m. Admission fee applies. Kinmundy Log Cabin Village, 6260 Gesell Road. Visit kinmundylogcabinvillage.com.

October 19 HARVEST HOOTENANNY 5K OR HALF MARATHON, Litchfield. A 5K fun run/walk to benefit a local family or community organization in need. 9 a.m. - noon. Participation fees vary. Lake Lou Yaeger, Picnic Area 3, Three Primitive Lane. For more information, visit visitlitchfield.com.

October 20 LECLAIRE PARKFEST, Edwardsville. The event offers live music, festival food, a beer and wine garden, craft booths, a used book sale benefiting the American Cancer Society, children's activities, a vintage vehicle exhibit and trolley tours of the LeClaire National Historic District. 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. Admission is free.

LeClaire Lake Park, 900 Hale Avenue. Visit historic-leclaire.org.

October 26 FRIEDENS CRAFT AND VENDOR SHOW, Troy. Show will feature baked goods, jewelry, home decor, florals, painted rocks, sewn and crochet items, glass specialties, candles and more. Lunch items will be available for purchase. Raffle tickets for quilt and assortment of sponsor gift cards and merchandise. Vendors donating door prizes throughout the day. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Admission is a canned good for food pantry. Friedens United Church of Christ, 207 East Center Street. For more information, call Diana at (618) 667-7074 or email montanadi-art@yahoo.com.

November 1 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 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. 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. Free for members; \$5 for non-members. Space is limited, registration required. The Nature Institute, 2213 South Levis Lane. For more information or to register, visit thenatureinstitute.org.

November 2 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. Email greenvilleoptimist@gmail.com.

November 9 ART & WINE WALK, Belleville. Stroll downtown Main Street while sampling wines and celebrating unique local artisans and their work at 30 locations. All tastings, artists and entertainment

are located inside our stores and restaurants. Artists' work will be available for purchase the evening of the event. 3 - 7 p.m. Belleville Main Street, 216 East A Street. Visit belleville-mainstreet.net.

November 9 SAUSAGE SUPPER, Grantfork. Dinner includes homemade pork sausage, mashed potatoes and gravy, sauerkraut, green beans, applesauce and a piece of pie. Fresh packaged sausage and fried sausage for purchase. Drive thru only. 2 - 7 p.m. All dinners \$14. Grantfork United Church of Christ, 206 South Locust Street. Call (618) 675-2595.

November 10 WINE FESTIVAL, Grafton. Guests will have access to sample dozens of wines from around the world. Your entry fee will include a souvenir wine glass, appetizers, live music and seven wine tasting tickets. For those 21 years of age and older only. Noon - 4 p.m. Additional wine tasting tickets are 2 for \$1. Pere Marquette Lodge & Conference Center, 13653 Lodge Blvd. To reserve your spot call Arielle at (618) 786-2331, extension 338. For more information, visit pmlodge.net.

November 14 MOONLIGHT HIKE, Godfrey. Join us on a night hike on the trails of the Mississippi Sanctuary and Olin Nature Preserve. The terrain is light to moderate and appropriate for families. The hike will be about 2 miles with stops along the way. Meet at Talahi Lodge. Hike leaves promptly at 5:30 p.m. and will return at about 6:45 p.m. Free for members; non-members \$5. Registration is required. The Nature Institute, 2213 South Levis Lane. For more information or to register, visit thenatureinstitute.org.

New light falls on century-old machinery at the American Farm Heritage Museum in Greenville.



THE FINAL FRAME



[Redacted text]