

THE *Southwestern*

A SOUTHWESTERN ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE MEMBER MAGAZINE

JULY 2019 • VOLUME 71 • ISSUE 7

**ANNUAL MEETING
INFORMATION**

**CAPITAL
CREDIT Q&A**

**CO-OP HOSTS
RECYCLING DRIVE**

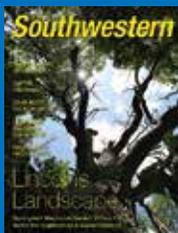
**LOWER YOUR
BILL WITH A
DEHUMIDIFIER**

**RECIPES FOR A
FROSTY FOURTH**

Lincoln's Landscape

**Springfield Memorial Garden Offers
100 Acres For Education & Contemplation**

Inside This Issue



ON THE COVER

Sunlight pierces the canopy above a shaded path near an ancient tree at Lincoln Memorial Garden in Springfield, Ill. Perched on the southeast shore of Lake Springfield, the Garden offers six miles of trail traversing 100 acres of woodland and prairie. See our story on page 18.

04 Election 2019

Six co-op members are vying for three seats in the 2019 board election. Plus: Voting absentee? Here's what you need to know.

05 Activities & Information

Our 2019 annual meeting offers food, fun, fellowship and an opportunity to participate in your cooperative.

06 Capital Credit Q&A

Capital credits are one of the benefits of cooperative membership. This month we answer some of the most commonly asked questions regarding patronage capital.

08 Triminology

Terms like tree trimming, right of way maintenance and line clearance are often used interchangeably by utilities. Here's how we define common right of way work terminology, and what those words mean to you.

10 Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

Old electronics cluttering your living space? Bring your obsolete gadgets to our collection sites and they'll be repurposed by an EPA-approved recycling center.

12 Swipe, Tap, Type

Pay your bill, sign up for alerts, view your energy usage and send and receive outage information with the SWEC IL app.

14 Energy & Efficiency

Julie Lowe, energy manager for Southwestern Electric, shares a strategy for making your home more comfortable while using less energy this summer.

16 Health & Safety

About 300 people will be injured by lightning this year. Of those, 30 won't survive the encounter. In most cases, you can avoid injury by following the simple precautions we offer here.

18 Out & About

Looking for a quiet place to commune with nature? Springfield's Lincoln Memorial Garden offers 100 acres of woodland and prairie crossed by six miles of trails, most of them shaded from the summer sun.

20 Who-What-Where?

We share your responses to our June mystery location and challenge you to identify a vintage tool.

22 Co-op Kitchen

This month we offer four frosty treats to keep your family cool on the Fourth of July—or any sweltering summer day when something cold and sweet will help you weather the heat.

24 Current Events

Celebrate homecoming in St. Jacob, see cyclists zoom through Edwardsville, enjoy Heritage and Harvest Days in Greenville and Highland, meet Abraham Lincoln in Alton, and pull on your favorite Hawaiian shirt to polka in Madison.

27 Final Frame

Arbor days.

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

CO-OP REMINDERS

July 4

Offices closed in observance of Independence Day.

July 8 & August 12

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.

August 23 - September 6

Absentee voting available (see page 4 for details).

August 24

Electronics Recycling Drive at Southwestern Electric Cooperative's headquarters, 525 US Route 40.

September 2

Offices closed for Labor Day.

September 7

81st Annual Meeting of Members at Greenville Jr. High School, St. Jacob and St. Elmo facilities. Voting available 7 a.m. - 10 a.m.

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

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On the Horizon

Most of us measure time as a turning of days, weeks and months. We plot our plans in 30 or so squares until a page flip or app swipe brings us to a new month, a change in season, and a fresh start.

People who produce periodicals keep time in their own way. We note it in editions. So while Southwestern Electric Cooperative's 81st Annual Meeting of Members may look like an event on the distant horizon to some, for us, it's just two issues away.

Each year, as the annual meeting draws near, we change things up a bit in the magazine. It works like this:

The August issue of *The Southwestern* serves as the official notice of our annual meeting. It differs significantly from the magazine's usual format. Rather than the features and columns you're accustomed to, we offer information to help you participate in the meeting. The issue includes a meeting agenda, voting information, reports from your board president and Southwestern's CEO, and brief biographies of director candidates.

In September, we'll return to our usual format.

If you're new to Southwestern, the role you play as a co-op member may be new to you as well. When you joined Southwestern Electric, you became more than a utility customer. You became an owner. A shareholder in this company. And you inherited the privileges and responsibilities that come with co-op membership.

As part of a democratic organization, you set policy and offer direction through your elected representatives—your board of directors. Your cooperative's bylaws grant each member a single vote. Whether you use a hundred or a hundred thousand kilowatt-hours per month, your vote counts the same. And each September, during our annual meeting, you have an opportunity to make your vote count during the election.

Southwestern Electric Cooperative's 81st Annual Meeting of Members will be held Saturday, Sept. 7, at Greenville Junior High School in Greenville. Breakfast will be served from 7 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. The business meeting will begin at 10 a.m.

If you're a longtime member, we look forward to seeing you again.

If you're new to the co-op, we look forward to meeting you.

Hope to see you there.

Joe Richardson, editor
joe.richardson@sweci.com



Board Election 2019

SIX CANDIDATES ON THE BALLOT; CANDIDACY BY PETITION DEADLINE PENDING AT PRESS TIME

Three incumbent directors and three other co-op members have filed for candidacy in Southwestern Electric Cooperative's 2019 board election. In accordance with the cooperative's bylaws, a nine-member Nominations Committee convened on May 16 to submit candidates for three open seats (one per voting district) on the board of directors. At press time (mid June), no members had submitted a bid for candidacy by petition in advance of the June 24 deadline.

Southwestern Electric Cooperative's directors are responsible for establishing organizational direction and policies, ensuring member needs and concerns are given fair and timely treatment, and overseeing the overall financial stability of the cooperative. As of June 9, board candidates include:

- District I: Incumbent Sandy Grapperhaus, Collinsville
James Ryan Morris, St. Jacob
Christopher Burcham, Edwardsville
- District II: Incumbent Ted Willman, Greenville
Roger Thiems, Sorento
- District III: Incumbent Ann Schwarm, Loogootee

Each elected director will serve a three-year term beginning Sept. 7, 2019. A profile of each board candidate will appear in the August 2019 edition of *The Southwestern*, which serves as Official Notice of the 81st Annual Meeting of Members and Annual Report for the Fiscal Year 2018.

Voting will take place from 7 to 10 a.m. on Saturday, Sept. 7, at Greenville Junior High School. Polls will also be open during this time at Southwestern's satellite facilities in St. Jacob and St. Elmo. Absentee voting will be available at the cooperative's Greenville headquarters during normal business hours, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Aug. 23 - Sept. 6. Each active membership voting in the board election, on the day of the annual meeting or absentee, will receive a \$20 credit applied to their October bill.

In order to vote, members will be asked to present the registration card printed on the back cover of their August special edition of *The Southwestern*.

Absentee Voting Guidelines

Section 4 (E): Proxy Voting, Absentee Voting and

Voting by Entities: Proxy voting is prohibited. However, anything contained in the Bylaws to the contrary notwithstanding, a Member may vote by absentee ballot as follows: A Member desiring to cast his vote absentee, shall appear in person at the Cooperative's headquarters at Greenville, Illinois, during the ten weekdays preceding the election at regularly scheduled office hours, or at such other locations as may be established from time to time by the Board of Directors for the purpose of casting absentee ballots, during hours and days as directed by the Board of Directors and shall request an absentee ballot. An absentee ballot approved by the Credentials and Election Committee shall be provided and the Member shall cast such ballot secretly and seal such ballot in an envelope, which shall be provided in such sealed envelope to the Credentials and Election Committee. On the date of the Annual Meeting of the Members, the Credentials and Election Committee shall open and count such absentee ballots so provided. Any absentee ballot, which is delivered to the Credentials and Election Committee in an unsealed condition, shall be deemed invalid and shall not be counted. Notice of this Bylaw provision shall be provided to the Members of the Cooperative in the notice of Annual Meeting. Voting by Members other than Members who are Natural Persons shall be allowed only upon the presentation to the Cooperative by a duly appointed officer or agent of such Member (prior to or upon registration of such Member at each Member meeting, or when requesting an absentee ballot) of satisfactory evidence entitling such officer or agent presenting the same to cast a vote on behalf of such Member.

For more information regarding the annual meeting, please contact Susan File, vice president of member services, at (800) 637-8667 or susan.file@sweci.com.



Annual Meeting Activities

Bingo: Bingo will be played in the gymnasium from 8 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.

Breakfast: Available from 7 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. Pancakes, sausage, biscuits and gravy, eggs, and cheesy potatoes will be served.

Child Identification Program

(ChiP): ChiP is a community service initiative dedicated to finding children who've been abducted or run away from home. The Child ID Kit allows parents to collect information by recording the physical characteristics and fingerprints of their children on identification cards kept at home. If needed, the Child ID Kit gives authorities vital information to assist search efforts. Representatives of the Greenville Police Department will be present to administer this important child-safety program.

For Kids and Teens: Youngsters are invited to participate in our Junior Lineman Challenge, bounce in the inflatable play areas and try their luck at various games. Every child and teenager who registers at the Kids' Carnival will receive a gift.

For Your Health: Representatives of the Bond County Health Department will perform blood-pressure screenings and check pulse oximetry levels.

Prizes: Each active registered membership in attendance at the 2019 annual meeting, and/or voting in the board election, will receive a \$20 credit on their electric bill. Prize drawings, held throughout the business meeting, will include bill credits of various amounts, and one lucky member will win a year of free electricity.* Credits will be applied to the October bill.

*Value may not exceed \$1,760 and you must be present to win.

Annual Meeting Offers Food, Fun and the Opportunity to Contribute to Your Cooperative

Mark Saturday, Sept. 7, on your calendar. That's the day of Southwestern Electric Cooperative's 81st Annual Meeting of Members. "We'll be offering the giveaways and prize drawings our members always look forward to at our annual event," said Susan File, the co-op's vice president of member services. "We'll also give a \$20 bill credit to members who register to vote at our St. Jacob, Greenville, or St. Elmo offices," File said, noting that members voting absentee will also receive the \$20 bill credit.

The meeting will offer many activities, including Bingo, a mini-health fair, and a carnival for children and teenagers.

One member will win a year of free electricity from the cooperative.*

"The meeting is an opportunity to participate in the business of your cooperative," File said. "We encourage members to talk to co-op employees and directors, to vote, attend the business meeting, and to ask questions."

The Annual Meeting will be held at Bond County Community Unit #2 Junior High School in Greenville. Doors will open at 7 a.m., and breakfast will be available from 7 to 9:30 a.m., followed by the business meeting at 10 a.m.

You'll find more annual meeting information in the August edition of *The Southwestern*. Questions or comments regarding the meeting may be directed to Susan File, vice president of member services at (800) 637-8667 or susan.file@sweci.com. We look forward to seeing you!

FAQs About Capital Credits

Answers to your most frequently asked questions about capital credits

Q: What are capital credits?

A: Capital Credits are one of the benefits of cooperative membership. Because Southwestern Electric is a not-for-profit cooperative, it doesn't earn "profits". Instead, revenues over and above the cost of business are considered margins. Margins represent an interest-free loan of operating capital by the membership to the cooperative. From these margins the co-op builds equity with the intention of repaying the member's investment, which is done through the retirement of capital credits.

Q: Why does the cooperative need to accumulate equity?

A: Accumulated equity decreases the need for Southwestern Electric to raise electric rates or borrow money for infrastructure improvements. It also makes it easier for the co-op to absorb costs associated with recovery from devastating events like widespread tornadoes and severe ice storms.

Q: How are capital credits accumulated?

A: Capital credits are allocated to every member who purchases electricity during a year in which the cooperative earned margins. For that year, capital credits are allocated proportionally according to the amount of energy purchased. No special action is required on the member's part in order for capital credits to accumulate.

Q: What happens to the capital credits when a member moves off the co-op's lines?

A: Regardless of whether you are an active or inactive member, the capital credits you've earned belong to you. However, capital credits do not become payable upon disconnection of service. They remain on the books in the member's name until the credits are retired or the last member on the account dies.

Q: Does someone have to be a member for an entire year to earn capital credits?

A: No. Capital credits are calculated based upon a member's monthly bills. If a member is billed for electricity for even one month, they will accumulate some capital credits, provided Southwestern Electric earns margins in that year.

Q: What is the difference between allocation and retirement of capital credits?

A: In a capital credit allocation, the margins for a particular fiscal year are spread proportionally among the members. The amount of funds allocated to each member's account is based on the amount of electricity the member purchased during that year. These funds are kept on Southwestern Electric's books until they can be retired. Capital credit retirement is the process of returning the accumulated credits back to the members.

Q: Is a general retirement issued every year?

A: Not necessarily. General retirements are issued at the discretion of Southwestern Electric's board of directors. Each year, based on the cooperative's present financial condition and other considerations, the board of directors determines whether to issue a retirement, and if so, in what amount. Between 2006 and 2011, the cooperative retired capital credits annually, each autumn, on a 30-year cycle (i.e., capital credits accrued in 1979 were eligible for retirement in 2010; credits from 1980 were eligible in 2011, and so on). Due to the cooperative's financial condition, the board didn't issue a general retirement in 2012. General retirements have been issued each year since.

Q: Are payouts to estates handled differently from general retirements?

A: Yes. Southwestern Electric Cooperative pays out accumulated capital credits to an estate upon the member's death, regardless of whether there was a general retirement for that year. Any debt owed by the deceased member to the cooperative must be paid in full, and a representative of the estate must complete the claim process in its entirety, before the disbursement may be made.

Q: In the event of a member's death, does the type of membership affect how the capital credits are paid?

A: Yes. For individual memberships, capital credits are payable to the member's estate upon said member's death. If the capital credits belong to a joint membership, and one of the accountholders dies, the accumulated capital credits will transfer in their entirety to the surviving person's account, and

To review a list of members with unclaimed capital credits, go to www.sweci.com, click the 'About Us' tab, then click 'unclaimed credits' on the menu at left.

their membership will be converted from joint to individual status.

Q: What happens when joint owners of a membership divorce or separate?

A: Capital credits are not disbursed upon divorce or separation, but credits may be reallocated in several different ways, according to circumstances. If the capital credits are included as a marital asset in a divorce agreement, either the court or the cooperative's bylaws will determine how the credits are handled.

Q: Do I have the right to change the type of membership?

A: Membership status may be changed—from joint to individual or from individual to joint—at the member's discretion. It should be noted, however, that such status changes have important ramifications on a member's voting rights. For joint memberships, either accountholder (but not both) may vote on behalf of the membership in the co-op's annual election. For individual memberships, only the individual listed on the account may vote.

Q: What happens when capital credits go unclaimed?

A: The co-op makes all efforts of due diligence, in compliance with state statutes and mandated guidelines, to locate the member, and/or the member's heirs, when capital credits go unclaimed. If, after such due diligence is performed, the member cannot be located, the capital credits are declared permanent equity and remain on the cooperative's records until the member and/or heirs can be identified and found.

Q: How do I find out if there are any unclaimed capital credits owed to me?

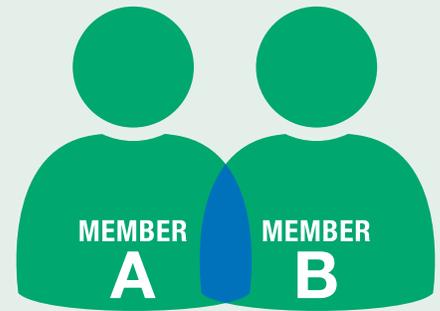
A: Southwestern publishes a list of members with unclaimed capital credits at www.sweci.com. You can also call the co-op's office at (800) 637-8667, during regular business hours (Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.) to see if unclaimed credits may be owed to you.

HOW DO PAYOUTS TO INDIVIDUAL AND JOINT MEMBERSHIPS DIFFER?

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP



JOINT MEMBERSHIP



MEMBER DIES

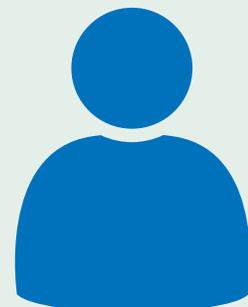
Capital credits are disbursed to the **estate** upon completion of claims process.

MEMBER A DIES

Capital credits transfer to surviving member.

Membership converts from **joint** to **individual**.

MEMBER'S ESTATE



TRIMINOLOGY

Words & Phrases That Make the Cut When We Talk About Trees

We're an industry in love with language—particularly our own. You'd be hard-pressed to find people better stocked with acronyms, hyphenates, shorthand and slang than utility folk. We pepper our talk with terms like kilowatt-hour, kVA, high-side, busbar, blink and tap, then add to the confusion by using words and phrases interchangeably that, frankly, aren't interchangeable. Case in point: tree trimming, right of way maintenance and line clearance.

TRIMINOLOGY

Tree trimming is the work most of you are familiar with. You've probably seen our crews making small, select cuts to specific limbs that have grown near or into our lines. Our objective with tree trimming is to resolve a blink or reliability issue that's confined to a well-defined area.

That's a far cry from the corridor clearing our crews perform when they're cutting back foliage for *right of way maintenance*, or *line clearance*. In this work, we clear a path that spans about 20 feet on either side of the power lines.

With right of way maintenance, our objectives are to ensure and promote member safety, system integrity, and long-term power reliability.

RIGHT OF WAY

Right of way maintenance demands considerable time and resources. We currently clear right of way in an area once every seven years. So if you're new to Southwestern Electric, you may not have noticed right of way maintenance in your area.

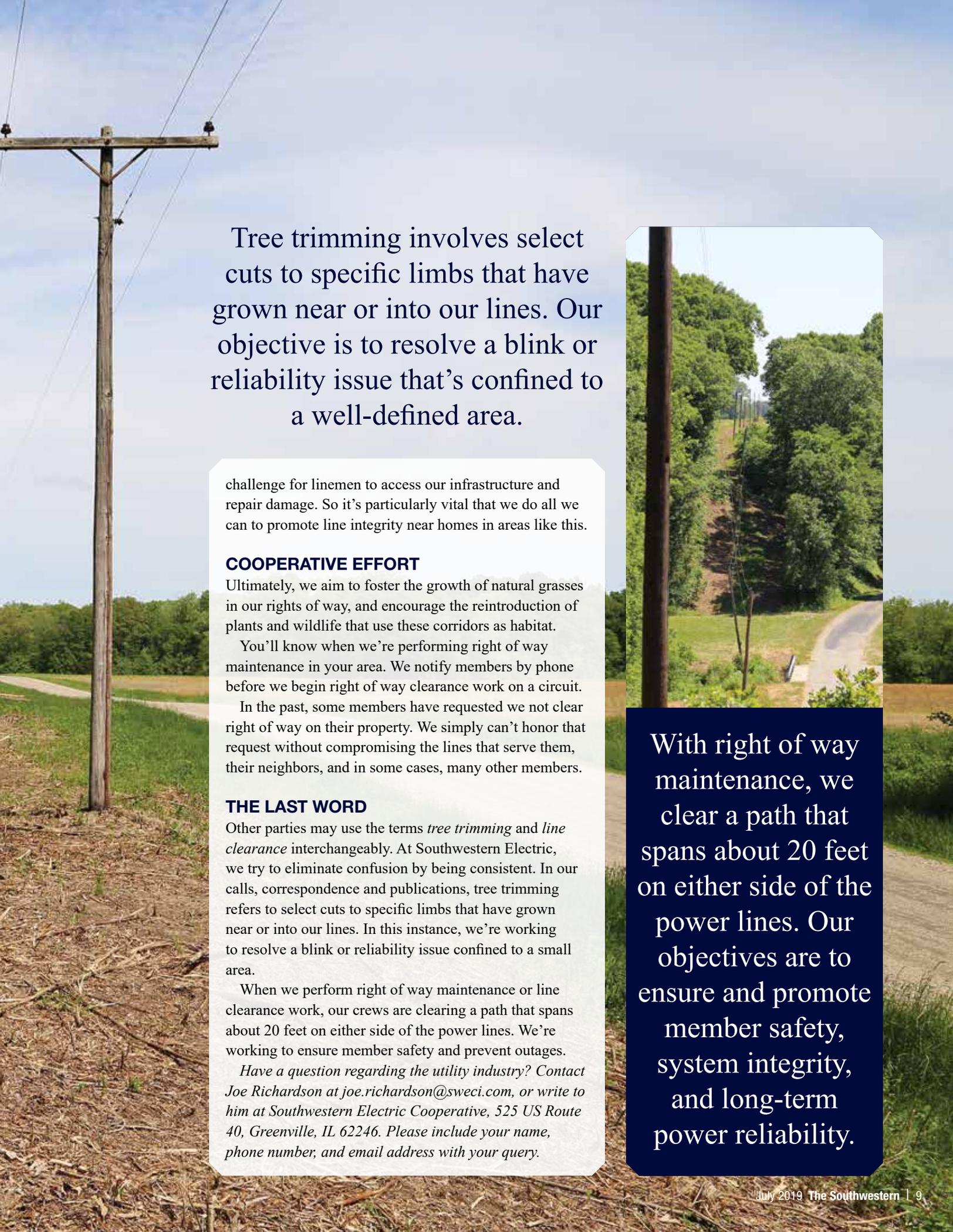
The change in landscape is dramatic, particularly in an overgrown area. But the close-cropped look is short-lived. You'll see significant and rapid change in spring and summer, when the open corridors allow grasses to take root and the canopy reaches into the edges of the corridor we cleared.

HOW IT HELPS

Trees are a tremendous asset; they're also a leading cause of outages. Consequently, sound forestry practices are vital to keeping your family cool in the summer and warm in the winter months.

The co-op's right of way maintenance program has significantly reduced the number of outages you experience. It's also offered our crews better access to power lines, improving our power restoration times after storms.

In more remote areas, where lines travel through field and timber far from roads, it's a



Tree trimming involves select cuts to specific limbs that have grown near or into our lines. Our objective is to resolve a blink or reliability issue that's confined to a well-defined area.

challenge for linemen to access our infrastructure and repair damage. So it's particularly vital that we do all we can to promote line integrity near homes in areas like this.

COOPERATIVE EFFORT

Ultimately, we aim to foster the growth of natural grasses in our rights of way, and encourage the reintroduction of plants and wildlife that use these corridors as habitat.

You'll know when we're performing right of way maintenance in your area. We notify members by phone before we begin right of way clearance work on a circuit.

In the past, some members have requested we not clear right of way on their property. We simply can't honor that request without compromising the lines that serve them, their neighbors, and in some cases, many other members.

THE LAST WORD

Other parties may use the terms *tree trimming* and *line clearance* interchangeably. At Southwestern Electric, we try to eliminate confusion by being consistent. In our calls, correspondence and publications, tree trimming refers to select cuts to specific limbs that have grown near or into our lines. In this instance, we're working to resolve a blink or reliability issue confined to a small area.

When we perform right of way maintenance or line clearance work, our crews are clearing a path that spans about 20 feet on either side of the power lines. We're working to ensure member safety and prevent outages.

Have a question regarding the utility industry? Contact Joe Richardson at joe.richardson@sweci.com, or write to him at Southwestern Electric Cooperative, 525 US Route 40, Greenville, IL 62246. Please include your name, phone number, and email address with your query.



With right of way maintenance, we clear a path that spans about 20 feet on either side of the power lines. Our objectives are to ensure and promote member safety, system integrity, and long-term power reliability.

SOUTHWESTERN HOSTS ELECTRONICS RECYCLING DRIVE

According to a recent report by the Consumer Electronics Association, you probably have about 30 electronic devices in your home. While most of them play an important role in your daily activities, likely as not, you have an outdated TV, PC or mobile phone that's been collecting dust in your attic for years.

We can help you free up that space.

In late summer and early autumn, Southwestern Electric will host an electronics recycling drive. You're invited to bring your obsolete electronics to our collection sites on the dates listed below. A truck will be present to receive your items. All collections will begin at 9 a.m. and end at noon or when the truck is filled—whichever comes first.

Your electronics will be collected and recycled by a regional, EPA-approved recycling center. Electronics recycling—or e-cycling—is the process of refurbishing, redistributing and reusing electronic devices and components, rather than discarding them. It extends the life cycle of electronics and lowers their overall environmental impact.

WE CAN HELP YOU RECYCLE A VARIETY OF ELECTRONICS, INCLUDING:

- Computers, monitors, printers, cables and peripherals (keyboards, mice, etc.)
- Fax machines, scanners, digital converter boxes, cable receivers, satellite receivers.
- Video game consoles, digital video disc player/recorders, portable digital music players.
- Networking equipment, server, telecommunications, phones, cell phones and clocks.
- VCRs, stereos, and audio/video equipment (including cable/satellite).
- Holiday lights and metal decorations.
- Electrical, cabling, communication machinery, and equipment.
- Home electronics, blenders, toasters, irons, etc.
- Rechargeable batteries (NIMH battery, li-ion battery and NICD battery)
- UPS battery backups

PLEASE NOTE:

- CRT TVs, console TVs and projection TVs will be accepted for a fee ranging from \$5-\$30 depending on their size and model. Flat screen TVs may be recycled at no charge. Please bring cash or check for payment.
- DVDs, CDs, and VHS and cassette tapes will not be accepted.

RECYCLING DRIVE LOCATIONS

- **Greenville / August 24**
Southwestern Electric Cooperative's headquarters, 525 US Route 40.
- **St. Elmo / September 21**
Southwestern Electric's warehouse on the frontage road southwest of the St. Elmo exit off Interstate 70.
- **St. Jacob / October 5**
Southwestern Electric's office at 10031 Ellis Road.

All collections will begin at 9 a.m. and end at noon or when the truck is filled—whichever comes first.



View, Pay,
Create,
Update,
Alert,
Report,
Send &
Receive?



There's
an app
for that.

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





Your Spare Change Can Make a **Big Difference** through Operation Round Up

Neighbors helping neighbors. That's what a co-op is about. And that's the idea behind Operation Round Up (ORU), a charitable program governed, funded and supported by Southwestern Electric Cooperative members like you.

Here's how it works: After you sign up for ORU, Southwestern will round up the amount due on your monthly electric bills to the nearest dollar. Your donations are placed in the ORU account. Each quarter, an independent committee of Southwestern Electric members reviews ORU grant requests. ORU grants support various community projects across the co-op's service territory.

Since launching the program in 2005, **Southwestern Electric's Operation Round Up has assisted a wide variety of organizations**, including local food pantries, senior centers and fire departments.

Ready to get started? To join ORU today, just check the enrollment box on your electric bill or online, or contact Southwestern Electric Cooperative at (800) 637-8667. For more information about Operation Round Up, visit sweci.com.



Small change.
Big difference.

Swipe & Type

Report your outage in seconds with the SWEC IL app

Use your smartphone or tablet to report an outage with the SWEC IL app. SWEC IL is available for both Apple® and Android™ devices. It's a free download from the App Store® and on Google Play™. You can add SWEC IL to your smartphone or tablet as you would any other app.



1

Download the app

Download the app free on Google Play™ or from the App Store®. Enter your account number and password.

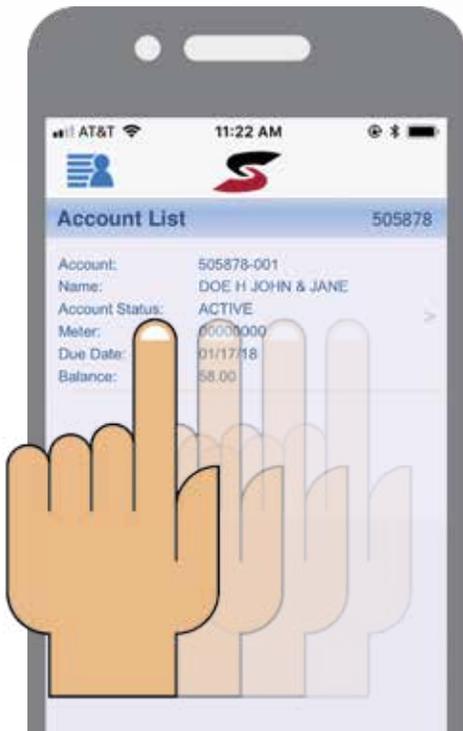
Don't have a password?

Create one using the My Account tab at sweci.com or call us at (800) 637-8667.

More Than One Account?

If you have more than one account, the app will present each of your accounts on the Account List screen. When you need to report an outage, swipe left across the account that's without power. If more than one account is affected, repeat the process for each account.

On Account: If your account number is 75923001, call us within 30 days to receive a \$25 credit on an upcoming electric bill.

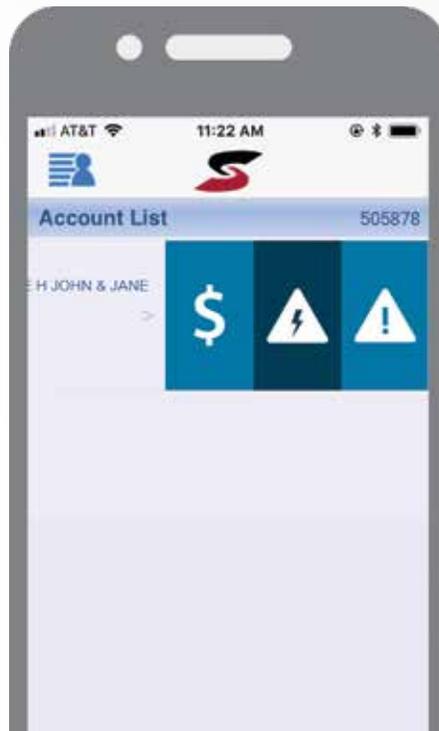


2

Swipe

Swipe your account info

Swiping left across your account information will reveal three icons.



3

Tap

Tap the center icon

Tapping the center icon (the lightning bolt in a triangle) will take you to the outage reporting screen.



4

Type

Tap *Report an Outage*

Make sure the *Confirm Power Out* slider is activated. This is essential—it's how the app identifies your message as an outage report. Then tap *Report an Outage*. And that's it. The app will notify us that your account is without power.

Only Tap *Report an Outage* When You're Ready to Report

When you tap *Report an Outage*, your notification instantly appears in our dispatch center. There's no prompt asking you to confirm your information, and no option to recall the message once you've sent it. The app makes outage reporting fast and easy—which is exactly what you're after when the lights are out.

If you'd like our automated system to call you when power is restored, enter your phone number and activate the *Request for Callback* slider. You can send comments by typing them in the *Comments* area. You'll want to take care of those items before you hit the *Report an Outage* button. After you've successfully registered your outage, the app will indicate your account is without power.



Dehumidifiers Help You **BEAT THE HEAT**

by Julie Lowe, Energy Manager

As anyone living in the Midwest this time of year will tell you, the heat and humidity are enough to make summer almost unbearable at times. Combined, they make air conditioning a Midwesterner's best friend during the summer months. While we're grateful for air conditioning, the extra energy use isn't easy on a bank account.

Fortunately, your air conditioner doesn't have to work alone. Another household appliance can operate with your A/C to keep your home comfortable while lowering your energy use.

Dehumidifiers are appliances that help maintain preferred—and healthy—humidity levels within your living space. They draw excess moisture from the air and prevent the growth of mold, bacteria, and other particulates—all of which could lead to a variety of health issues. The drier air also enables you to set your thermostat higher without sacrificing comfort.

HOW DO YOU KNOW IF YOU NEED A DEHUMIDIFIER?

Signs that signal you could benefit from the use of a dehumidifier include:

- Stains from moisture on your walls or ceiling
- Stuffy or damp rooms
- Your windows are covered with condensation
- A musty odor in your home
- You see mold

WHAT TO CONSIDER BEFORE PURCHASING A DEHUMIDIFIER

When paired properly with your A/C, dehumidifiers can reduce your energy use by allowing you to set your thermostat higher. But if not sized properly for your living space, they can use a lot of energy without providing the

best return on your investment in terms of comfort and efficiency.

Be sure to do your homework before making a purchase. Research different models on the market, read consumer reviews and look into warranties. You want to be well informed and know what you're looking for before you buy.

Keep these points in mind while you do your research:

- Dehumidifiers are described in terms of pint capacity. Select a size suited to your home. There are models available for small rooms, mid-sized rooms, large rooms, basements and garages, and units designed to dehumidify an entire home. Be sure you're buying the correct size for the space you want to condition.
- Look for a model with an automatic shut-off feature. These units use intelligent software to monitor your environment. They shut down when they detect your living space is at the desired humidity level. In addition, these units will also shut-off when their internal reservoir is full. This feature will ensure that the device only operates at its best ability.
- Look for the Energy Star rating. An Energy Star rating means the dehumidifier operates in an energy-conscious manner to help you save power—which saves money on your electric bill.
- You can also reduce costs by purchasing a timer-equipped model. You can set the humidifier to turn on before you arrive home, so it creates a comfortable space while you're there, and doesn't use energy while you're away.

Keep in mind that dehumidifiers will address humidity, but they aren't a solution for chronic dampness. If you

have standing water in your basement, or you're fighting a persistent musty smell, you need to address the cause.

That may involve performing small DIY jobs, like cleaning gutters and repairing leaky pipes and faucets. Or it may involve larger, more labor-intensive tasks, like patching basement walls, installing a sump pump, adding exhaust fans to your bathroom and kitchen, repairing or installing new guttering, and regrading your yard for better drainage.

EFFICIENCY OPTIONS

Ready to buy a dehumidifier? Look for these energy-saving features:

- An Energy Star rating.
- An on/off switch so you can easily turn off the humidifier when you leave the room.
- A humidistat that lets you program a humidity level between 30 and 50 percent, which is the optimal range of humidity for most people.
- A timer that enables you to turn on the humidifier a little while before you come home from work. You can set the timer so your humidifier creates a comfortable space while you're present, and doesn't use energy while you're away.

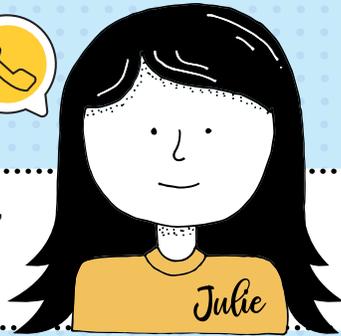
GET THE MOST FOR YOUR MONEY

Simple steps will help your dehumidifier operate more efficiently.

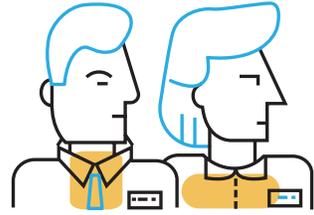
- Start by reducing humidity at the source. Turn on an exhaust fan before you cook or take a shower.
- If you have a programmable model, set the humidistat to keep moisture at a moderate level, such as 50 percent.
- Leave your windows closed at night to keep dry air inside and warm, moist air out.
- Position the unit so air can easily circulate in and out.
- Clean the dehumidifier's filter regularly.

Going Solar? Contact Southwestern

STEPS TO SOLAR COMMISSIONING



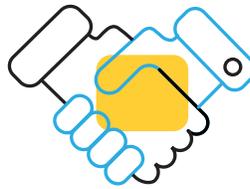
Contact Julie Lowe, energy manager, at (800) 637-8667 or julie.lowe@sweci.com for our information and commissioning packet.



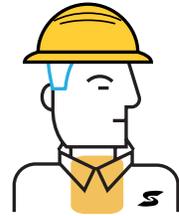
Work with your system installer and insurance agent to complete the forms we send. Instruct your solar installer to draft a 1-line diagram and submit it to us. Have the hold harmless agreement notarized. Return your completed documentation to Julie Lowe at Southwestern Electric.



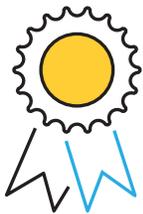
As your installation nears completion, call us. We'll discuss the commissioning timeline. You'll receive a \$500 invoice to cover the installation of your new dual register electric meter, a system inspection, and your array's interconnection to the grid.



After installation is complete, contact us to schedule your system's on-site review and commissioning.



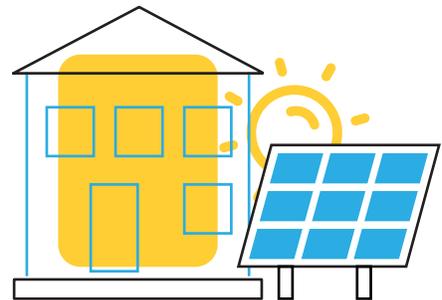
A Southwestern Electric engineer will inspect your system to verify it meets the cooperative's safety specifications. After your system passes inspection, you go live! Your array is connected to Southwestern Electric's distribution system.



We'll send you a certificate of completion, which you'll submit to your installer to receive your solar renewable energy credits, or certificates (SRECs).



Each year, you'll submit documentation to confirm you've renewed your insurance.



Every three years, we'll visit your system to confirm it's connected properly, well-maintained, and that your safety signs are in place.





Bolt

When Thunder Roars, Move Indoors

You're hiking, biking, or on a walk in the woods, when the wind shifts, the sky blackens—and *boom*—you're rattled by a blinding flash, a sharp crack, and a bass echo that rolls across the countryside. The sound and fury of thunder and lightning are awe-inspiring. They're also a signal to move indoors—immediately. Each year close to 40 people die and 300 are injured by lightning strikes. In most cases, these casualties can be avoided by taking a few simple precautions. Consider these measures the next time a thunderstorm approaches your area.

Storm Shelter. When a thunderstorm hits, you want to seek proper shelter immediately. Park pavilions, sheds and rain shelters aren't designed to protect you from a lightning strike. Look for a shelter with doors, windows, wiring and plumbing. You want an infrastructure that can channel energy from a lightning strike into the ground while keeping you clear of its path.

Home Rules. While your home offers the best protection from electrical energy in a thunderstorm, simply being inside isn't enough to protect you and your family from electrical shock. Stay clear of items that could conduct lightning, including electrical appliances, telephones and light switches and fixtures. Also avoid water and faucets. Finally, don't be lulled into a false sense of security by household safeguards like circuit breakers and surge suppressors. Lightning can fuse them into a mass of plastic and metal.



Keep an Eye on the Sky. Weather forecasts can change dramatically over the course of a few hours. If you're outside and away from TV and radio, keep an eye on the sky. You can also download reliable weather apps for your smartphone. Watch for darkening clouds—especially formations that tower or mushroom—and gusting winds. They're signals that indicate you need to seek shelter.

Danger Zones. While no outdoor location is safe when lightning is in the area, some locations are more dangerous than others. Avoid higher elevations like hilltops, wide open spaces like agricultural or ball fields, and isolated, tall objects like trees, poles and lamp posts. Picnic pavilions, metal fences and metal bleachers are also dangerous; they offer no protection from lightning and if struck, can channel energy into your body.

Field Operations. According to the National Lightning Safety Institute, 45 percent of lightning casualties in the U.S. occur in open areas like sports fields. Game officials should suspend play and ask teams to leave the field at the first sign of lightning. Again, a park shelter isn't the best place to wait out a storm. If you're at a sporting event and expect play to continue, your hardtop automobile provides more protection from lightning than an open park pavilion.

The 30-30 Rule. The "30-30" rule works like this: Time the period between a flash of lightning and the accompanying clap of thunder. If the time is 30 seconds or less, seek shelter. Then wait at least 30 minutes after hearing the last clap of thunder before leaving the shelter. Here's a simpler rule yet, and one you can teach your children: If you can hear thunder, you're within striking distance of lightning. Seek shelter immediately.

Blue Skies. If you're planning an outdoor activity, it's important to know the regional weather forecast. Lightning has been known to travel parallel to the ground for up to 10 miles, so it's important to know what's going on around you as well as in your community.

Car Talk. Your car may be a relatively safe place to take refuge from lightning, depending on its composition. According to data provided by the National Lightning Safety Institute, lightning has a tendency to ride along the outer surface of conductive materials. This phenomenon, known as the skin effect, applies to many automobiles.

While taking shelter in a car isn't as safe as waiting out the storm in your home, it beats being exposed outdoors. In order to minimize your risk of shock, pull off the road at a safe location and take care not to touch doors, windows, electronics, or other objects that provide a path for electricity to reach inside your car. If you drive a convertible or car

with a fiberglass body, seek alternative shelter. Your automobile doesn't offer the same protection as a car with a metal body.

Water Hazards. Southwestern members are a short drive from several lakes constructed by the Army Corps of Engineers. The open walkways on elevated dams, sandy beaches, airy pavilions, in the water and on watercraft are all places you don't want to be during a thunderstorm. Water is a great conductor and engaging in water-related recreational activities elevates your risk of being hit by lightning. Wait out the storm in your car, or use the time to check out the visitor's center.

As we step into summer, we'll see abundant evidence of a thunderstorm's ability to generate tremendous amounts of energy. While lightning is awe inspiring, it's also deadly. Make sure you take measures to protect yourself and your family from one of nature's most formidable forces.



LINCOLN'S LANDSCAPE

Abraham Lincoln never walked among the hickory, oak and prairie grasses growing on the grounds that bear his name, but he would have felt at home here. Harriet Knudson made sure of it.

In the 1930s, Knudson, a Springfield civic dynamo, cultivated support for a Lincoln memorial unlike any other. She envisioned a garden of woods and wildflowers native to Lincoln's home states of Kentucky, Indiana and Illinois.

Knudson convinced the city of Springfield to donate land for the project, then turned her attention to finding an architect. She recruited renowned landscape designer Jens Jensen, a conservationist who'd created parks for the Ford family and city of Chicago, among others.

Jensen's plan included interconnected paths and council rings—circular stone benches that could comfortably accommodate a score or more garden-goers. The web of woodland trails would provide opportunities for quiet reflection, while the rings encouraged conversation and community among visitors.

The first seeds for Lincoln Memorial Garden were sown in 1936. In the years to follow, hundreds of volunteers representing about 50 garden clubs and other organizations planted the Garden's inaugural trees, flowers and grasses.

Some 80 years later, visitors from around the world wander the woodlands, seek solace in the sunlit grasses, and appreciate the vision of Harriet Knudson, whose tribute to a beloved president continues to live and grow.

BEFORE YOU GO

Lincoln Memorial Garden is located at 2301 East Lake Shore Drive, Springfield, IL 62712-8908. The grounds are open year around, sunrise to sunset. The Nature Center is open Tuesday - Saturday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., and Sunday 1 - 4 p.m. For information call (217) 529-1111 or go to <https://lincolnmemorialgarden.org/>



The Garden's Ostermeier Prairie Center offers wildlife viewing (left), sunlit views of prairie grasses and a native wildflower garden (opposite page).



Benches bearing Lincoln quotes invite quiet contemplation throughout Lincoln Memorial Garden. Lincoln's words are etched deeply into the newer structures, while the weathered wood of older benches melts into the landscape.



The Garden's nature center (below) hosts workshops and interactive displays.



GETTING THERE

Lincoln Memorial Garden is located southeast of Springfield on Lake Springfield. The Garden is on East Lake Shore Drive, 2 ½ miles east of the Chatham/East Lake Drive interchange on Interstate 55 (Exit 88). You can also reach the Garden by taking the Stevenson Drive/East Lake Drive exit off Interstate 55 (Exit 94) and following East Lake Shore Drive for six miles.



WHO



WHAT

If you're a regular reader of Who~What~Where, you'll recognize three names in this month's solution section. Bill Malec, Tim Bennett and Jane Dapkus are among our puzzle page's top sleuths. Seldom do we present a historical figure, odd item or mystery location they can't suss out.

Not only do they solve the puzzle, they improve the challenge by offering interesting information or presenting a lively spin to the solution.

We're grateful for their contributions.

Thanks, too, to Anne Cicero and Jim Kannall for sending solutions to the June challenge.

This month we're asking you to identify a mystery object supplied by one of our members. Please send your solutions to Joe Richardson at joe.richardson@sweci.com.

As always, we appreciate your interest in *The Southwestern*, and the Who~What~Where department in particular. Thank you for reading!

The Who~What~Where for June is Hamilton Primary School, in what is now Otterville, in Jersey County.

The original building was built in 1835 with funds from the estate of Silas Hamilton as the first integrated and first free school in Illinois. Mr. Hamilton wanted to provide an education for a young, former slave named George Washington whom he brought with him when he moved from Mississippi. His dream was realized after his death.

The original building was razed in 1873 and replaced with the current structure. Stones from the first building serve as the base. George left money in his will to have the monument erected to Hamilton's memory. The school is on the National Register of Historic Places.

I look forward to *Who~What~Where* every month. Thanks!

—Jane Dapkus, *Pocahontas*

To solve the June 2019 "Where Are We?" you have to travel to the tiny (2010 census: 126) village of Otterville

in Jersey County, Illinois. There on East Main Street you'll find the Hamilton Primary School. The original two-story Italianate building was constructed from locally-procured limestone in 1835. The school had the distinction of being the first free and integrated school in the United States.

The school was funded by a \$4,000 endowment from local physician, Dr. Silas Hamilton. Hamilton was a former Mississippi plantation owner who had freed his 28 slaves and moved to Otterville in 1830.

One of his former slaves, George Washington, lived with Hamilton and later attended the school. Upon Washington's death in 1864 he bequeathed \$1,500 to build a marble monument to honor Hamilton which is pictured in the left foreground of the photo.

The original building was demolished in 1872 but rebuilt using





WHERE



the original stone a year later. Also pictured to the right in the photo is a monument featuring the original school bell. The school continued to serve students until 1971. The Otter Creek Historical Society took control in 1982 and it was named one of the 10 most endangered historic sites in Illinois in April 2014.

—Bill Malec, O'Fallon

In 1834 Dr. Silas Hamilton, physician and humanitarian, bequeathed \$4,000 for construction and operation of a building for educational and religious purposes.

A stone schoolhouse was opened in 1836, and the tuition-free education for local students attracted families to this area. The school was razed in 1872, rebuilt, and enlarged with the original stones at the base.

It was great to get one!!! Thanks!

—Anne Cicero, St. Jacob

The limestone structure pictured in the June Who~What~Where challenge is known as the Hamilton Primary School and is located in Otterville, Illinois.

In 1830 former Mississippi plantation owner, Dr. Silas Hamilton, freed his slaves, relocated in Otterville and began building the first integrated school in the USA.

—Tim Bennett, Holiday Shores

The picture is the Hamilton Primary School in Otterville, Ill.

—Jim Kannall, Holiday Shores

The August edition of our publication serves as Southwestern's annual report and member meeting notice. The solution to our July puzzle will appear in our September issue.



WHAT IS THIS?

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*.

Frosty Four



FROZEN CHOCOLATE PEPPERMINT DESSERT



Vanilla Wafer Layer Ingredients

1	small box vanilla wafers (about 2 $\frac{2}{3}$ cups) crushed	$\frac{1}{2}$	cup butter melted
$\frac{1}{2}$	cups nuts	$\frac{3}{4}$	cup sugar

Directions

1. Combine vanilla wafers, nuts, melted butter, and sugar together.
2. Reserve half of the mixture and press remainder into 9 x 13 inch baking dish.
3. Bake at 400° for five minutes and set aside.

Chocolate Layer Ingredients

1	cup butter	1	teaspoon vanilla
3	squares bitter chocolate	$\frac{1}{2}$	gallon peppermint ice cream softened
2	cups powdered sugar		
6	eggs separated		

Directions

1. Cream butter and sugar together.
2. Mix in vanilla, egg yolks, chocolate, and powdered sugar.
3. Beat egg whites and fold in.
4. Spread half of chocolate mixture over vanilla wafer layer and chill one hour.
5. Spread ice cream over chocolate layer.
6. Spread remaining chocolate mixture over ice cream, top with reserved vanilla wafer mixture, and freeze. Serve when frozen.

ICE CREAM CRUNCH



Ingredients

$\frac{1}{2}$	cup butter
1	cup light brown sugar
1	cup coconut chopped
2 $\frac{1}{2}$	cups crispy rice cereal
$\frac{1}{2}$	gallon ice cream softened

Directions

1. Melt butter in sauce pan and stir in brown sugar.
2. Remove from heat and let cool.
3. Add coconut and mix together.
4. When mixture reaches room temperature stir in crispy cereal.
5. Grease 9 x 12 inch pan.
6. Spread half of mixture over the bottom.
7. Cut ice cream into slices and layer over the top of mixture.
8. Spread remaining mixture over ice cream.
9. Freeze overnight before serving.

This month's recipes are courtesy of 4-H House Alumni Association's *Nurture the Future @ 805 4-H House Anniversary Cookbook*.

HOMEMADE MAGIC SHELL

Ingredients

- 1 cup chocolate chips (can be dark, semi-sweet, or white)
- 2 tablespoons coconut oil

Directions

1. Place chocolate chips and oil in a microwave safe bowl and mix together.
2. Microwave for 30 seconds. Remove and stir.
3. Continue microwaving and stirring in 15 second intervals until the chocolate reaches room temperature.
4. Serve over ice cream.
5. Cover remainder and store at room temperature for up to 1 month.

BUSTER DESSERT

Ingredients

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| ½ pound Oreo cookies | 6 ounces chocolate chips |
| ⅓ cup butter melted | 2 cups powdered sugar |
| ½ gallon vanilla ice cream softened | 1 13 ounce can evaporated milk |
| ⅔ cup salted peanuts chopped | 8 ounces Cool Whip |
| ½ cup butter melted | |

Directions

1. Crush cookies, combine with butter, and press into 9 x 13 inch pan.
2. Spread ice cream over cookie mixture.
3. Sprinkle peanuts over ice cream and freeze 1 hour.
4. Combine remaining ingredients (except Cool Whip) and boil for 10 minutes.
5. Let cool, pour over ice cream, and spread Cool Whip on top.
6. Place in freezer and serve when completely frozen.



Current Events

July 4-25 LIVE IN LIBRARY PARK, Litchfield. A free weekly concert every Thursday from 6 - 8 p.m. in Library Park. Bring your lawn chairs, picnic blanket, and a whatever else you may need to have a relaxing summer night listening to some great tunes. Admission is free. 400 North State Street. Call (217) 324-8147 or visit visitlitchfield.com.

July 4-25 MUSIC IN THE PARK, Grafton. Bring your lawn chair and enjoy a free concert. Every Thursday a different band will perform with a variety of music genres. There will be a 50/50 raffle to benefit the Jersey Community High School band. 7 - 9 p.m. Admission is free. The Grove Memorial Park, Market Street. Call (618) 535-9922.

July 4, 7, 11, 14, 18, 21, 25, 28; August 1, 4 MUNY BAND CONCERTS, Alton. Summer concerts performed by the Alton Municipal Band. Thursday concerts in Riverview Park, Riverview Drive at Bluff Street from 8 - 9 p.m. Sunday concerts in Haskell Park, 1200 Block Of Henry Street from 7 - 8 p.m. Family friendly concerts are free and open to the public. Bring a blanket or lawn chair. Call (618) 465-6676.

July 5, 12, 19, 26; August 2, 9 SUMMER CONCERT SERIES, Highland. The Highland Municipal Band will perform Friday evenings at 8 p.m. on the square. Concert are free and open to the public. 948 Main Street. Visit highlandmunyband.wixsite.com/muny-home.

July 6 - September 29 CARILLON CONCERTS, Alton. Listen to the melodic songs of the bells ringing forth from the Carillon Tower in the Nan Elliot Rose Garden. Every Sunday during the summer, you can walk the trails through the garden or spread out a blanket

to listen as a talented local musician plays the bells. 5 - 5:30 p.m. Concerts are free. Gordon F. Moore Community Park, 4550 College Avenue (Illinois Rt. 140). Call (618) 465-6676.

July 12 & 13 FIREMEN'S HOMECOMING, Maryville. Event will include rides, games, food, parade both days, and live music by Lanny & Julie and the Blue Marlin Band. Both days 5 p.m. - midnight. Proceeds go to fund the Maryville Fire Department. Firemen's Park, 300 North Donk Avenue. Visit www.vil.maryville.il.us or call (618) 772-8555.

July 12; August 9; September 6 HWY 55 CAR CRUISE-INS, Litchfield. Go back in time at this 50s throwback diner. Enjoy visiting with the other car cruisers, listen to some great 50s music, and eat some great food. 6 - 8 p.m. Hwy 55 Burgers Shakes & Fries, 1403 West Ferdon Street, Suite 21. For more information, call (217) 324-3455 or e-mail kdhwy55@outlook.com.

July 12; August 9; September 13 WALTON PARK CONCERTS, Litchfield. A free monthly concert series. Music starts at 6:30 p.m. Admission is free. 10207 Niemanville Trail. Call (217) 324-9075 or e-mail parkdistdirector@litchfield.il.com.

July 13 HUMMINGBIRD FESTIVAL, Hartford. The Lincoln Land Association of Bird Banders will be catching and banding hummingbirds. Opportunities to "adopt" and release banded birds is on a first come basis. 9 a.m. - noon. Admission is free. Lewis & Clark State Historic Site, One Lewis & Clark Trail. Call (618) 251-5811 or visit campdubois.com.

July 16; August 20 ROCKIN WITH ROBERT CONCERT SERIES, Alton. Enjoy the

music Ralph and GiGi July 16 and Glendale Riders Acoustic will perform August 20. Don't forget to bring your lawn chairs or a blanket. Refreshments will be available for purchase. 7 - 8 p.m. Admission is free. Robert Wadlow Statue, 2810 College Avenue. For more information, call (618) 466-0100 or visit uperalton.com.

July 19 SHAKEY DEAL: NEIL YOUNG TRIBUTE BAND, Alton. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.; show 7:30 p.m. - 10 p.m. \$12 in advance; \$15 at the door. Jacoby Arts Center, 627 East Broadway. Call (618) 462-5222 or visit jacobyartscenter.org.

July 19 & 20 HOMECOMING, St. Jacob. Event features a parade both Friday and Saturday nights, carnival rides, food and refreshment booths, live entertainment, cake walk, bags tournament, and bingo. No outside coolers allowed. Friday 5 p.m. - midnight; Saturday 11 am - midnight. Admission is free. North Douglas & West 3rd Streets. Call (618) 644-5666 or visit stjacobil.com.

July 20 AMERICAN LEGION 100TH ANNIVERSARY, Breese. The Breese American Legion is celebrating 100 years with an old fashioned picnic. There will be music, bounce houses, face painting, drinks, food, games, and a petting zoo. Proceeds benefit community scholarships, schools, veterans, and youth baseball. 575 North Main Street. For more information, call, Julie at (618) 381-4445.

July 20 BIG DAWG DARE 5K MUD & OBSTACLE COURSE RUN, Litchfield. Course features more than 30 obstacles. Whether you are new to running or have been running for 20 years, this race is fun for all levels. There is a 2K Puppy Mud & Obstacle Course Run also available. 8 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. 3153 North 15th Avenue.

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, or mail your info to *The Southwestern*, Southwestern Electric Cooperative, 525 US Route 40, Greenville, IL 62246. Please include a contact number with your listing.

To register, visit bigdawgdare.com.

July 26-28 HERITAGE DAYS, Greenville. Event includes tractor pulls, tractor parade, kids pedal pull, plowing, threshing, hay press, saw mill, shingle mill, flea market, small scale train rides, and food. Hill's Fort historical display. Car cruise Sunday. Friday and Saturday 8 a.m. - dark; Sunday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. Admission is \$7; children 12 years of age and younger are fee; three day armband \$10; train rides \$3. American Farm Heritage Museum, 1395 Museum Avenue. Call (618) 664-9733 or visit americanfarmheritagemuseum.org.

July 26 & 27 FRAMILY FEST, Effingham. Two day music and art festival on Lake Sara featuring vendors, artist, and live music. The bands will play on alternating stages from noon to midnight both Friday and Saturday. A rain or shine event and unless weather conditions become dangerous. Camping and lodging are available, but not included in ticket price. Festival and band merchandise, as well as food and drinks will be available from registered vendors only. \$40 in advance; \$50 at the gate. Larson's Land-

ing, 8724 East Marine Road. For more information or tickets, visit familyfest.com.

July 26 & 27 THE ROCKY HORROR SHOW, Lebanon. A theatrical performance by the Looking Glass Playhouse. Shows at 7 p.m. and 10 p.m. Tickets are \$10. There will be a security pat down at the door, no large bags will be allowed. Grab bags will be available with all kinds of goodies to interact with during the show. Looking Glass Playhouse, 301 West Saint Louis Street. Call (618) 537-4962 or visit lookingglass-playhouse.com.

July 26 - August 4 ALTON LITTLE THEATER: WIZARD OF OZ, Alton. A theatrical presentation by the Alton Little Theater Company. Thursday - Saturday at 7:30 p.m.; Sunday at 2 p.m. Alton Little Theater, 2450 North Henry Street. For tickets, call (618) 462-3205 or visit altonlittletheater.org.

July 27 MOVIE IN THE PARK, Maryville. *How to Train Your Dragon-The Hidden World* (PG) will be playing. 6 p.m. Drost Park, #8 Schiber Court. Visit www.vil.maryville.il.us or call (618) 772-8555.

July 27 SMOKIN ON MAIN, Collinsville. Join professional and backyard teams from all around the St. Louis area at this barbecue competition and festival. Event includes barbecue, food and drink vendors from near and far, and great entertainment from local groups. All proceeds will benefit the Collinsville food pantry and the U.S. Veterans Foundation. 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. Downtown on Main Street. Visit code3spices.com.

July 28 ST. ELIZABETH'S CHURCH PICNIC, Marine. Chicken dinner served family style with homemade dressing and dessert. Dinner starts at 11 a.m.; dinner tickets sold until 5:30 p.m.; country store, basket stand, raffle, bingo, and attendance prizes 12:30 - 7:30 p.m. Adults \$11; children 6 -

10 years of age \$5; children 5 years of age and younger are free. St. Elizabeth's Church, 120 North Windmill Street. Call Connie at (618) 887-4535.

July 28 ST. LOUIS METRO POLKA CLUB MONTHLY DANCE, Madison. Dave Hylla's Good Times Band is the featured entertainment. 3 - 6:30 p.m. Polish Hall, 826 Greenwood Street. Visit folkfire.org/polka.

July 29 LUCY HASKELL'S BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION, Alton. Celebrate the 139th birthday of Lucy Haskell. Enjoy pony rides, free ice cream, cake and cupcakes, lemonade, music by members of the Alton High Orchestra, Victorian games and meet some of the 14 young women who have portrayed Lucy at previous celebrations. 6 - 7:30 p.m. Admission is free. Haskell Playhouse, 1211 Henry Street. Call (618) 463-2235 or visit haskellplayhouse.org.

July 30 TRAIN DAY, Alton. This year there will be a meet and greet with an Abraham Lincoln re-enactor (courtesy of Looking for Lincoln), model train displays, train safety representatives, make and take craft, and free treats. Kids will receive free conductor hats, train whistles, and coloring books while supplies last. 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Admission is free. Alton Regional Multi-modal Transportation Center, 1 Golf Road. Call (618) 468-1280.

August 2 & 3; November 1 & 2 BOOK FAIR, Edwardsville. Over 20,000 used books of all kinds including children's, current fiction, mysteries, history, literature, art, cookbooks, gardening, sports, philosophy, religion, biography and much more, including regional titles. Books are sorted by category and priced to sell. Also available for sale are CDs, DVDs and vinyl albums. Friday 5 - 8 p.m.; Saturday 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 406 Hillsboro Avenue. Call (618) 656-1294.

August 4, 11; September 15 CENTRALIA CARILLON SUMMER CONCERT SERIES, Centralia. Sit on the brick wall, bring your lawn chair, or spread a blanket and enjoy the park setting while listening to the concert. A free climb of the tower will be available after every artist concert. Concerts start at 6:30 p.m. and last approximately 1 hour. Call (618) 533-4381 or visit centralia-carillon.org.

August 3 AQUAFEST, Shelbyville. Enjoy a free day at the beach. There will be inflatable bounce houses, water slide, sand sculpture competition, and games for kids. Noon - 4 p.m. Dam West Recreation Area, 9th Street Beach. For more information, call (217) 774-3951, x2.

August 3 TOM SHORT 5K TRAIL RUN & 1 MILE WALK/RUN, Shelbyville. Registration 6:30 - 7:30 a.m.; race 8 - 11:30 a.m. Entry fee is \$20 until July 22; price increases to \$25 after July 22. Proceeds from the race are used to support the maintenance of the General Dacey Trail. Race held at the General Dacey Trail head behind the scout cabin in Forest Park, 325 East North 9th Street. For more information or to register, visit daceytrail.org.

August 8 - 11 MILL ROAD THRESHERMAN SHOW, Altamont. Steam, gas, and threshing show. Threshing, baling and plowing demonstrations each day. Displays will include antique tractors and machinery, stationary gas engines, model trains, farm toys, and cars. Thursday at 6 p.m.; Friday 9 a.m. - 7 p.m.; Saturday 8 a.m. - 7 p.m.; Sunday 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. One-day pass \$6; four-day pass \$10; children 12 years of age and younger free with paid adult. Effingham County Fairgrounds, 722 East Cumberland Road. For complete schedule, visit millroadthresherman.org.

COUNTY FAIRS

July 6-12 FAYETTE COUNTY FAIR, Brownstown. Call (618) 427-5285 or visit fayettecofair.org.

July 14-20 CLINTON COUNTY FAIR, Carlyle. Call (618) 594-4169 or visit clintoncofair.org.

July 19-28 CLAY COUNTY FAIR, Flora. Call (618) 676-1046.

July 21-24 SHELBY COUNTY 4-H & JUNIOR FAIR, Shelbyville. Call (217) 412-9378.

July 23-28 MADISON COUNTY FAIR, Highland. Call (618) 654-6656 or visit madcofair.com.

July 27 - August 3 EFFINGHAM COUNTY FAIR, Altamont. Call (618) 483-6717 or visit effinghamcountyfair.com.

July 27 - August 3 MARION COUNTY FAIR, Salem. Call (618) 548-1251 or visit marioncountyagfair.org.

August 1-6 BOND COUNTY FAIR, Greenville. Call (618) 664-1412 or visit bondcofair.com.

August 8-18 ILLINOIS STATE FAIR, Springfield. Call (217) 782-6661 or visit illinoisstatefair.info.

August 23 - September 2 DUQUOIN STATE FAIR, DuQuoin. Call (618) 542-1515 or visit duquoinstatefair.net.



August 10 MOVIE IN THE PARK, Maryville. *A Dog's Way Home* (PG) will be playing. 7 - 9 p.m. Admission is free. Drost Park, #8 Schiber Court. Visit www.vil.maryville.il.us or call (618) 772-8555.

August 11 PEACH FESTIVAL, Grafton. Area peach growers will be present their peaches for sampling and purchase. Event will also feature other fresh produce, craft vendors, peach pit-pitching, live music, kids' activities, history of peach farming documentary, and peach wine sampling. 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. Pere Marquette Lodge & Conference Center, 13653 Lodge Blvd. Call (618) 786-2331 or visit pmlodge.net.

August 16-18 BALLOON FEST, Centralia. Annual hot air balloon festival featuring 40 hot air balloons, entertainment, crafts, tethered balloon rides, cardboard boat races, car show, fireworks, and children's activities. Friday 3 - 10 p.m.; Saturday 6 a.m. - 10 p.m.; Sunday 6 a.m. - 6:30 p.m. Admission is \$3; children age 6 and younger get in free. Foundation Park, 600 North Pleasant Avenue. Call (618) 532-6789 or visit balloon-fest.com.

August 17 ROCK THE HOPS, Alton. A celebration of music, art, and craft beer featuring 25+ bands, 25+ artists, and over 25 styles of craft beer. 2 p.m. - 8 p.m. Advance tickets \$30 + \$2.04 service charge; \$35 at the door. For more information or tickets, visit rockthehops.brownpapertickets.com.

August 17 ROTARY CLUB CRITERIUM FESTIVAL, Edwardsville. A series of seven high-speed amateur and professional bicycle races, four free kids races, Downtown Dash 1.4 mile run, food zone with local restaurants, Pedal & Paint Art Tent, children's activities, and an open container area. Enjoy your favorite beverage and food while cyclists, just feet away, zoom past you at an amazing speed. This event is an Edwardsville Rotary Club fundraiser for the clubs local and international service projects, grants, and scholarships. 3 - 11 p.m. Downtown on Main Street. For more information, visit criteriumedwardsville.com or downtown-dash.info.

August 18 GATEWAY WEDDING SHOW, Collinsville. Show features many different vendors that can help couples personalize their wedding. In just a few hours, you can meet more wedding businesses than you could visit in a month. We bring you a face-to-face sampling of virtually everything you'll need to plan your perfect wedding. 1 - 4:30 p.m. Bride and Grooms enter free with coupon code "GWS". Admission is \$5 online or \$7 at the door. Gateway Center, One Gateway Drive. For more information, call Ashley at (618) 345-8998 or visit gatewaycenter.com.

August 23-25 ST. PAUL'S KIRCHENFEST, Highland. Festival offers food (including a Bavarian skillet dish prepared on a 500 pound skillet and a sit-down chicken dinner), live music, games, live auction, flea market, a competitive run, bike ride, raffles, dodgeball and more. Admission is free. \$5 for Friday night's flea market pre-sale. Friday flea market pre-sale 6 - 9 p.m.; Saturday: 7 a.m. - midnight; Sunday: 9 a.m. - 10 p.m. St. Paul Catholic Church, 1412 Ninth Street. For more information call (618) 654-2339 or visit stpaulkirchenfest.com.

August 24 FOOD TRUCK FESTIVAL, Alton. This festival features food trucks from around the region offering global street food cuisine with a range of prices. Beverages of all types will be available for purchase. Live music will be showcased on the stage. General admission is free. Special VIP tickets can be purchased that include parking close to the venue and complimentary drink tickets. The VIP tickets are \$25. 4 - 8 p.m. Liberty Bank Alton Amphitheater, 1 Riverfront Drive. Call (800) 258-6645. For VIP tickets, visit libertybankamphitheater.com.

August 25 ST. LOUIS METRO POLKA CLUB HAWAIIAN SHIRT DANCE, Madison. The featured band is the St. Louis Express. Come dressed in your finest Hawaiian attire. 3 - 6:30 p.m. Polish Hall, 826 Greenwood Street. Visit folkfire.org/polka.

August 31 CONCERT IN THE PARK, Maryville. Beatles tribute band Abby Road Warriors will perform. 7 - 8:30 p.m. Admission is free. Firemen's Park, 300 North Donk Avenue. Visit www.vil.maryville.il.us or call (618) 772-8555.

September 6 CONCERT IN THE PARK, Maryville. Troy Community Band will play traditional music, marches, and show tunes. 7 - 8 p.m. Admission is free. Firemen's Park, 300 North Donk Avenue. Visit www.vil.maryville.il.us or call (618) 772-8555.

September 13-15 HILL'S FORT RENDEZVOUS, Greenville. Event will feature living history reenactors from the Colonial and War of 1812 era, traders and vendors, the Lewis and Clark Fife and Drum Corp, the 2nd Regiment U.S. Artillery, cannon firing, blacksmith, and tours at the 1800s reconstructed Hill's Fort, modeled on a structure that stood south of Greenville. 8 a.m. - 8 p.m. American Farm Heritage Museum, 1395 Museum Avenue. Visit fortsofillinois.org.

September 6-8 HOMESTEAD HARVEST DAYS, Highland. See demonstrations of threshing, shingle mill, stone crushing, corn shelling, gas and steam engines, antique tractors, silent auction, kids' activities, live entertainment, farm equipment auction, flea market, and tours of the Louis Latzer home. Friday 7:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday 7:30 a.m. - 5 p.m. Informal Sunday worship 8 a.m. Admission on Friday is \$3; Saturday and Sunday is \$5. Louis Latzer Homestead, 1464 Old Trenton Road. Call (618) 654-7957 or visit highlandilhistory.org.



September 7 SOUTHWESTERN ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE'S 81st ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERS, Greenville. Doors open at 7 a.m. Breakfast served 7 - 9:30 a.m. Voting available 7 - 10 a.m. Business meeting begins at 10 a.m. Each active membership in attendance will receive a \$20 bill credit. Bond County Community Unit #2 Junior High School, 1200 Junior High Drive. For more information call (800) 637-8667.



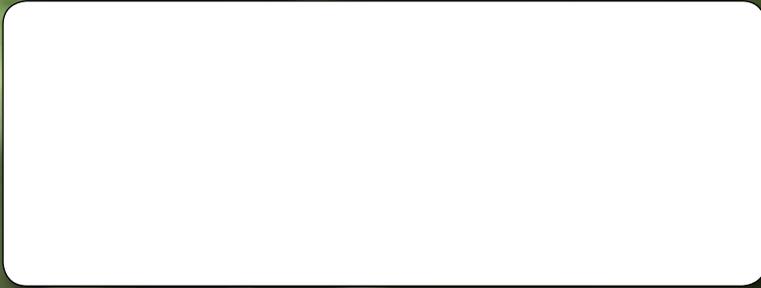
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A tree that put down roots before the U.S. Constitution was drafted stands lakeside at Lincoln Memorial Garden in Springfield, Ill.

1776 THE NATIONAL TREE
ASSOCIATION AND
THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY
OF ARBORICULTURE
JOINTLY DESIGNATED THIS
SPECIFIC TREE AS THE
NATIONAL TREE OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
IN THE YEAR OF THE ADOPTION OF
THE CONSTITUTION

THE FINAL FRAME



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