

# THE *Southwestern*

A SOUTHWESTERN ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE MEMBER MAGAZINE

JUNE 2021 • VOLUME 73 • ISSUE 6

## Should You Drive an EV?

NEW ONLINE TOOLS HELP YOU EVALUATE ELECTRIC VEHICLES

SOUTHWESTERN SCHOLARS

ANNUAL MEETING INFORMATION

BOARD CANDIDACY DEADLINE

MEMBER MAIL

## SMART MONEY

INSTALLING ENERGY-SAVING TECH? YOU MAY QUALIFY FOR A CO-OP REBATE

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

### 03 From The CEO

Last June, Southwestern Electric installed two public EV chargers near I-70 in Troy. This month, Bobby Williams discusses the purpose of the project and shares what we've learned.

### 04 COVID-19 Response

Southwestern Electric will open the doors of its Greenville office to members on Monday, June 14.

### 05 Member Mail

Chris Burcham's kids drop by Southwestern's Troy EV charging station for dinner and a movie.

### 06 EV Owner Survey

Are you an EV owner? How can we improve your EV experience? Let us know by taking our online survey. Learn more, here.

### 07 Residential Charger Rebates Available

Southwestern Electric is offering a \$200 bill credit to the first 50 members who install new Level 2 EV residential chargers. All brands are eligible.

### 08 Southwestern Scholars

Southwestern Electric awarded \$1,000 scholarships to 10 students this year. Join us in congratulating our 2021 Power for Progress Scholarship recipients.

### 09 Charge Your EV For Free

June 30 is the last day you can charge your EV for free at Southwestern's stations in Troy.

### 10 Annual Meeting 2021

Read about this year's annual meeting and learn how to earn a \$50 bill credit.

### 11 Candidacy Deadline

Interested in running for a seat on Southwestern Electric's board of directors? June 28 is the deadline to file for candidacy by petition.

### 12 Home Assurance

Southwestern has partnered with HomeServe to help you protect your finances from unexpected repairs to your home's electrical system.

### 13 Technology Rebates

Installing energy-efficient smart technology? You may be eligible for a Southwestern Electric rebate.

### 14 Is An EV Right For Me?

Should your next car run on electricity? Our website will help you find out.

### 16 Energy & Efficiency

Julie Lowe, energy manager, offers 10 energy-saving tips for staying cool this summer.

### 17 Steps to Solar

Wondering what it takes to interconnect a solar array to Southwestern's distribution system? Here's our at-a-glance guide to solar commissioning.

### 18 Health & Safety

Powerful storms can cause extended power outages in any season. Form a backup power plan today.

### 20 Out & About

O'Fallon's industrial past lays the groundwork for greenspace at St. Ellen Park.

### 22 Who-What-Where?

We share your stories about a tall man with a big heart and challenge you to identify a mystery item. Will your solutions be on the mark?

### 24 Co-op Kitchen

Looking for recipes to beat the summer heat? See what's chillin' in the Co-op Kitchen.

### 27 Final Frame

Watercolors.

**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!



## APRIL SHOWERS

Late April's snowfall draped trees at Greenville's Montrose Cemetery in a winter coat, turning the landscape into a study of light, color and seasons.

## CO-OP REMINDERS

**June 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.

**July 5** Offices closed in observance of Independence Day.

## FROM THE CEO

A year ago this month, Southwestern Electric installed two public charging stations at the entrance to Holiday Inn Express Troy. Within an hour of installation, one of the stations charged its first EV. They've been seeing steady use ever since.

The purpose of the project was two-fold. First and foremost, we wanted to partner with a co-op-community to benefit our members and local businesses. Without Troy, the Troy, Maryville, St. Jacob and Marine regional chamber of commerce, and Holiday Inn Express Troy, this project wouldn't have unfolded as quickly and smoothly as it did. Every member of the team helped to develop the site and promote the chargers.

We also view the chargers as instruments of education. Each time someone sees Southwestern's chargers or the billboards advertising them, it sends a message. It's a reminder that more EVs are on the road, and that they're a practical means of moving through daily life. Over the life of the vehicle, they're more economical than combustion engine vehicles. They can go hundreds of miles without charging. They can outperform a lot of automobiles. And they're good for the environment.

Even as we're educating, we're learning. In the year our chargers have been in place, we've gained valuable insight into the habits of EV owners. Between June 20, 2020 and May 1, 2021, our Troy stations logged 250 charges. Close to 40 percent of those occurred between noon and 6 p.m. The remaining 60 percent were split between the hours of 6 a.m. and noon, and 6 p.m. and midnight. A handful of drivers charged their EVs between midnight and 6 a.m., but they were few and far between. Charges were divided more or less evenly amongst every day of the week.

Drivers who used our DC fast station averaged 35 minutes to charge. Drivers who used our Level 2 station averaged 90 minutes to charge. Most likely, they hooked up their EV, then went for a meal, booked their room for an overnight stay, or watched a movie or played a game on their EV's interactive screen while they waited.

The information we've collected will inform our choices as we select sites for new installations. We'll look for locations that can be of greatest benefit to our members who own EVs and to our co-op communities.

Of course, you don't have to stop by a public station to charge your battery. It's easy and economical to charge your car at home. In October 2020, we launched our EV Pilot Program. Last year we gave away Level 2 residential chargers to 10 Southwestern Electric members. They've been sharing their charging data with us in the months since. We'll continue to compile and analyze that information through this summer, ultimately using it to design residential charging rates that benefit both EV owners and the co-op. We'll have those rates in place later this year.

Wondering if an EV is right for you?

If you're logging more than 300 miles a day or you frequently take long trips and the EV would be your sole vehicle, I'd recommend you take a long look before buying.

But if your daily commute is closer to 30 miles than 300, there's a good chance owning an EV will save you time and money. We can help you find out. We've added a section to our web site that includes a savings calculator and car comparisons. You can read more about it on page 14, or go to [sweci.com/ev-advantage](http://sweci.com/ev-advantage) to begin your research and try our online tools.



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

### Board of Directors

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

### CEO

Bobby Williams ..... Chief Executive Officer

### The Southwestern

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

### Satellite Locations:

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

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

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

*The Southwestern* (USPS 612-500) is published monthly by Southwestern Electric Cooperative, Inc. Periodical postage paid at Greenville, IL. Subscriptions cost \$8.85 per year. Comments or questions regarding material in this publication may be mailed to Joe Richardson, editor of *The Southwestern*, c/o Southwestern Electric Cooperative, Inc., 525 US Route 40, Greenville, IL 62246, or e-mailed to [joe.richardson@sweci.com](mailto:joe.richardson@sweci.com).

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

Apple and the Apple logo are trademarks of Apple Inc., registered in the U.S. and other countries. App Store is a service mark of Apple Inc. Android, Google Play and the Google Play logo are trademarks of Google Inc.



Follow us at [facebook.com/SWECI](https://facebook.com/SWECI) & [twitter.com/sweci](https://twitter.com/sweci).

*Continued on page 5* ▶

View, pay, create, update, alert, report, send and receive?



There's an app for that.

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

### Coronavirus Response

## Greenville Office Will Open to Members June 14

Southwestern Electric will open the doors of its Greenville office to members on Monday, June 14. Both the lobby and drive-up window will be open and available to members who'd like to conduct business in person, said CEO Bobby Williams.

"Conditions in our region have improved to the degree that we're comfortable conducting business in our offices," said Williams. "As always, our top priority is the health and safety of our employees and members. Consequently, we will expect everyone — employees and members alike — to wear a mask while they're in the building."

Williams said the cooperative's St. Jacob lobby and walk-up window will remain closed. "In recent years, we've seen a marked decline in office visits at St. Jacob. Our Madison County crews will continue to operate from our St. Jacob building," Williams said, "but we're permanently closing the lobby and walk-up window."

The St. Jacob drop box will remain open and available.

Southwestern's decision to open the Greenville office coincides with Illinois' plan to fully open the state. In early May, Gov. J.B. Pritzker announced plans to enter Phase 5 of the state's COVID reopening plan. Effective June 11, the plan calls for fully opening all sectors of the economy and eliminating capacity limits.

"We'll continue to monitor conditions," Williams said, "but we're optimistic that Illinois has reached a milestone, and our Greenville office will remain open to our members."

In March 2020, Southwestern Electric took precautions to safeguard the health of employees and members and curb the spread of COVID-19. Protective measures included closing offices to visitors, adopting CDC health and safety guidelines, observing social distancing protocols, wearing face coverings when appropriate, and reviewing safety measures with employees.

Throughout the pandemic, co-op employees have answered calls and questions and crews have responded to outages and focused on restoring power quickly and safely.

Members may continue to manage their accounts, report outages and make payments using the co-op's online payment portal, by using the SWEC IL app, or by calling the cooperative at (800) 637-8667. For the latest information, see our social media channels or go to [www.sweci.com](http://www.sweci.com).

## MEMBER MAIL

I wanted to thank Southwestern Electric for letting SWECI members charge for free at the Troy EV chargers through June. I've charged there several times. With the past year of social distancing, my girls aren't going to gymnastics, dance, and their other activities. To get out of the house, we started having pizza parties and ice cream parties in our minivan. We have a plug-in hybrid Chrysler Pacifica. We pick one of the girls' favorite DVDs and run through the drive through at DQ or Little Caesars in Troy. The van is charging at the Troy ChargePoint charger while my girls enjoy their ice cream or pizza while watching Trolls, Elf, or one of their other favorites. While this may not sound like fun to many people, my kids really enjoy it and we get out of the house for a socially distanced mini-adventure.



Chris Burcham's daughters recharge with pizza, ice cream and a movie at Southwestern's charging station in Troy.

It is a win-win for us to charge the minivan's battery during our movie. It's unlikely we would go to the restaurants in Troy since they're a couple miles further than Edwardsville for us. The free EV charging gives us incentive

to take our ice cream party to Troy. Hopefully that is something SWECI was going for with this incentive.

Here are some pictures of us eating ice cream, watching Trolls, and charging.  
—Chris Burcham, Edwardsville



In March 2021, Southwestern CEO Bobby Williams, and Julie Lowe, EV program coordinator, worked with Troy and the Troy, Maryville, St. Jacob and Marine regional chamber of commerce to promote EV charging stations at the I-70 Troy exit.

### ► Continued from page 3

I'm an engineer by trade. I believe in data. But numbers seldom tell the full story. There's no substitute for field work. I encourage you to drive an EV. See how it feels.

When conditions are right, Southwestern will host EV Drive Days, where you can test-drive different makes and models. Until then, talk to your local automobile dealer. Ask if their dealership can arrange for you to sit behind the wheel of an EV. You'll be surprised by the similarities — and the differences — you find in comparison to your current automobile.

In closing, I'll remind you that June 30 will be the last day you can charge your EV for free at our Troy stations. That said, after June 30, you can receive a discount on the public charging rate. To receive your discount code, contact Julie Lowe, program coordinator, at (800) 637-8667 or [julie.lowe@sweci.com](mailto:julie.lowe@sweci.com).

If you have questions or comments about our EV program or any aspect of Southwestern Electric Cooperative, please email me at [bobby.williams@sweci.com](mailto:bobby.williams@sweci.com). In the meantime, drive safely — and keep an eye out for EVs. You'll find them on the interstate, on county roads, around your town square, and maybe — if after doing the research you decide an EV is right for you — in your own front drive.

Bobby Williams, CEO

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

# *How can we improve your EV ownership experience?*

Let us know by taking our EV owner survey at [sweci.com/EVsurvey](https://sweci.com/EVsurvey).

Your responses will help us build EV incentive rates and shape Southwestern's EV program. The survey takes less than 5 minutes to complete.

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

**Take our EV owner survey at [sweci.com/EVsurvey](https://sweci.com/EVsurvey).**



***YOUR ACCOUNTABLE ENERGY PARTNER***



## RESIDENTIAL CHARGER REBATES AVAILABLE

Southwestern Electric Cooperative is offering a \$200 bill credit to the first 50 members who install new Level 2 electric vehicle (EV) residential chargers. All brands are eligible.

The rebate is part of Southwestern Electric's EV Pilot Program — an initiative launched in October 2020 that will help the co-op identify energy demand and usage patterns among EV owners and develop EV-oriented incentive rates.

Rates will be structured to reward EV owners, with margin enough to fund infrastructure improvements.

Until incentive rates are in place, EVs will charge at a member's existing electric rate. The co-op's immediate goal is to make electric vehicle ownership an attractive option, encouraging higher EV adoption rates among members.

"More EVs mean more power sales," said Julie Lowe, program coordinator. "We can use that revenue to fund more infrastructure improvements while keeping our rates in check."

Incentive rates and prime charging hours will become clear later this year as Southwestern reviews data from the EV Pilot Program. For more information, contact Julie Lowe at (800) 637-8667 or [julie.lowe@sweci.com](mailto:julie.lowe@sweci.com).



## STEPS TO BUYING AN EV

1. Ask if an EV is right for you.

Is your daily commute under 300 miles? Do you make long trips? Is the charging network robust along routes you use to reach friends, family and favorite vacation destinations across the country? These are points you'll want to explore while you're deciding between gas and electric.



2. Choose the model that suits your lifestyle.

Do you drive 100 miles a day, or 10? Are you single or a parent with three children? How much passenger and cargo space do you need? What's your budget? Most of the questions you'd ask before buying a traditional automobile also apply to an EV.



3. Look into rebates, incentives, tax credits and discounts.

Are incentives available for the make and model you have in mind? Will you be purchasing a residential charger? Southwestern Electric offers a \$200 rebate to members purchasing new Level 2 chargers.



4. Test drive and purchase your EV.

When conditions permit, Southwestern Electric will host EV Drive Days. Until then, contact your local auto dealership to ask about test driving an EV.



5. Install a Level 2 EV charger at home.

Level 2 home chargers are efficient and convenient. And as we noted earlier, Southwestern offers a \$200 rebate to members purchasing new Level 2 chargers.



Learn more at [sweci.com/ev-advantage](http://sweci.com/ev-advantage).

## PLUG or PUMP?

**PAY AT THE PUMP**

**\$2.76**

Average price per gallon.

**PRICE AT THE PLUG**

**\$1.12**

Average price per eGallon.

An eGallon is the cost of fueling a vehicle with electricity compared to a similar vehicle that runs on gasoline. Pricing information provided by [energy.gov](http://energy.gov) based on Illinois averages as of March 20, 2021.

# Southwestern Students Earn Power for Progress Scholarships

Since 1995, Southwestern Electric Cooperative's Power for Progress Scholarship Program has provided \$276,000 in financial assistance to a total of 416 students.

This year the cooperative awarded \$1,000 scholarships to 10 students, including eight graduating seniors and two students who graduated prior to 2021.

Each year, dozens of applications are evaluated by Southwestern Electric Cooperative's Scholarship Committee. The committee is composed of nine judges. Each judge independently evaluates the merits of every application against an extensive list of criteria, including financial need, academic success, employment, and participation in extracurricular and volunteer activities.

Southwestern Electric scholarship recipients may use the awarded funds to attend any accredited university, college or vocational school in the U.S.

Look for interviews with this year's scholarship winners in a future issue of *The Southwestern*.

This year's Power for Progress scholarship recipients are:

#### Graduating Seniors

- Isabelle Daiber
- Megan Darby
- Sophia Eckhardt
- Felicity Guttman
- Matthew Lay
- Katie Maine\*
- Brooke Tompkins
- Morgan Wilderman

- St. Anthony High School
- Triad High School
- Vandalia Community High School
- Edwardsville High School
- Ramsey High School
- Highland High School
- Greenville High School
- Greenville High School

#### Post-high school scholarship recipients

- Zachary Burks Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, Ill.
- Hannah Jansen University of Illinois, Springfield, Ill.

\*Katie Maine is this year's Judy Siebert Memorial Scholarship winner. This scholarship is awarded annually in memory of longtime cooperative director Judy Siebert, who died in 2001.



“Resilience and perseverance are key qualities for living a fulfilling life. By thriving both academically and socially during a year marked by the pandemic, our 2021 scholarship winners have demonstrated they possess both. It is an honor to celebrate their accomplishments as they build the future, one day, one dream, one achievement at a time.”

—Ann Schwarm, President, Southwestern Electric Cooperative



# Charge Your EV for Free!

## *Own an electric vehicle?*

You're invited to recharge *free of charge* at Holiday Inn Express Troy. From now through June 30, 2021, Southwestern Electric members are invited to charge their EVs for free at our charging stations at Holiday Inn Express Troy, near I-70 Exit 18. Whether you're spending the weekend or just passing through, our EV charging stations and Troy's restaurants, hotels and parks will help you recharge before you hit the road.

## *Call for a code*

To recharge your EV at no cost, call or email Julie Lowe, EV program coordinator, during office hours at (800) 637-8667 or [julie.lowe@sweci.com](mailto:julie.lowe@sweci.com). She'll provide you with a passcode. You can enter the code at our charging stations to recharge your EV for free.

## *Questions?*

To learn more about our EV program, contact Julie Lowe, program coordinator, at (800) 637-8667 or [julie.lowe@sweci.com](mailto:julie.lowe@sweci.com).



# Focus Remains On Safety For 2021 Annual Meeting

**S**outhwestern Electric Cooperative's 83rd Annual Meeting of Members will rely on the same social distancing measures employed in 2020, which allowed members to participate in the cooperative's democratic process comfortably and safely.

Like last year, the meeting will be held at the Bond County Fairgrounds in Greenville and offered in a drive-through or pull up and park format. Members may vote and leave or vote and pull into a parking area to await the president's address, CEO report and election results.

In either case, members will be asked to remain in their vehicles for the duration of their stay. The meeting will be broadcast through a short-range FM transmitter, and attendees will listen via their car radio.

To expedite voting, members are asked to bring the registration card printed on the back cover of the July issue or the August special edition of The Southwestern. To more effectively practice CDC recommended health guidelines and help ensure member and employee safety, the co-op is encouraging members to vote before the day of the meeting. Members will earn a \$50 bill credit by presenting their preprinted registration card and voting before Sept. 11.

Voting schedules appear below.

In addition to creating an environment which encourages social distancing, the co-op will limit interpersonal contact at this year's meeting. "We won't be serving meals, offering attendance gifts, holding prize drawings, playing BINGO or putting on a carnival this year," said Susan File, vice president of member services. "There will be no drawings for cash prizes or a year of free electricity."

Since there aren't activities to entertain the kids, they'll likely want to pass on attending again this year. Otherwise, they'll be spending their morning in your car.

At 10 a.m., Ann Schwarm, president of Southwestern Electric Cooperative, and CEO Bobby Williams will deliver their reports. Election results will follow.

"Like last year, our objective is to equip members to participate in the co-op's democratic process as comfortably and safely as possible," File said.

More information about the meeting will appear in the July and August issues 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](mailto:susan.file@sweci.com).

## 2021 Annual Meeting Voting Schedule

### Greenville Office

Aug. 27 – Sept. 10 from 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. \$50 bill credit with registration card, \$40 bill credit w/o registration card  
Sept. 1 & Sept. 9 voting extended to 7 p.m.

### St. Jacob warehouse

Aug. 31 & Sept. 8 from 4 p.m. – 7 p.m. \$50 bill credit with registration card, \$40 bill credit w/o registration card

### St. Elmo warehouse

Sept. 2 & Sept. 7 from 4 p.m. – 7 p.m. \$50 bill credit with registration card, \$40 bill credit w/o registration card

### Meeting Day, Saturday, September 11

### Bond County Fairgrounds, St. Jacob

and St. Elmo warehouses: 7 a.m. – 10 a.m. \$30 bill credit with registration card, \$20 bill credit w/o registration card

## 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](mailto:susan.file@sweci.com).**

# June 28 deadline to file for candidacy by petition

Southwestern Electric members interested in running for a seat on the co-op's board of directors have a final opportunity to enter the 2021 race. While the deadline for standard nominations (May 27) has passed, the cooperative offers an additional month to file for candidacy by petition.

A valid petition must include the candidate's name, address, age and telephone number, along with the names, addresses and signatures of at least 15 other Southwestern Electric Co-op members. Petitions must be received at the cooperative's Greenville headquarters by Monday, June 28, in order for the candidate's name to appear on the 2021 ballot. For additional guidance on filing for candidacy by petition, please see Section 4(D)3 of the cooperative's bylaws.

The 2021 board election, which will take place at Southwestern Electric's 83rd Annual Meeting of Members, will fill three seats on the cooperative's board of directors. Each director will be elected to serve a three-year term beginning on September 11, 2021, and expiring on the date of the 2024 Annual Meeting. Any active member 18 years of age or older and in good financial standing with the co-op is eligible to serve on the board of directors, so long as he or she meets the qualifications set forth in Section 5(B) of the bylaws (available at [sweci.com](http://sweci.com)). If you have questions about board service or the election process, please contact Susan File, vice president of member services, at (800) 637-8667, ext. 5924.



## *Home Service Repair Plans Offer Assurance, Quality and Convenience*

**W**e've all experienced home mechanical and system failures. When breakdowns involve exterior home electrical lines, members sometimes call Southwestern to request repairs. Many members understandably assume all electrical lines outside their home are owned by the cooperative. But components that connect a member's home to the cooperative's distribution system—elements like the weather head, insulator, riser, meter base or loop, and service entrance conductor—are owned by the member.

When those elements fail, you find yourself facing bills you hadn't budgeted for. If the issue is related to aging parts and normal wear and tear on the system, your homeowners insurance may not cover the cost of repairs. That's why Southwestern partnered with HomeServe USA, an independent provider of home repair service solutions. HomeServe offers home service repair plans that protect a homeowner's budget from sudden, often significant expenses that come with water, sewer, electrical and heating and cooling home emergencies. Their external electrical line plan will pay for repair or replacement of items that your homeowners insurance may not cover when the components fail due to normal wear and tear.

If something goes wrong with a system or appliance covered by a HomeServe repair plan, the member can call HomeServe anytime, 24/7, at (833) 334-1874. The company will dispatch

a pre-screened, local repair technician to the member's home to diagnose the problem. The technician will fix the issue or replace the covered item as detailed in the home repair plan.

### **HOW HOMESERVE HELPS**

HomeServe is available to take emergency repair calls around the clock.



Photos courtesy Modern Fotographic by Dave Noonan

Technicians dispatched through HomeServe are local, licensed and insured. Their work is covered by a one-year HomeServe guarantee.

HomeServe lessens the financial burden of unexpected breakdowns by paying the bill on covered repairs up to the benefit amount, and eases the stress and inconvenience that comes with the event. You don't have to research repair bids or vet and hire a technician.

And if the work doesn't measure up to your expectations? HomeServe will work to address the issue as quickly and comprehensively as possible.

### **HELPING US HELP YOU**

Southwestern has partnered with HomeServe to offer home service repair plans as an optional member service. No one is obligated to buy a plan. Southwestern recommends that members interested in a plan speak with their insurance agent before buying, to make sure the terms and conditions listed in the plan aren't already addressed by your homeowners policy.

HomeServe will return a portion of the proceeds from plan sales to Southwestern Electric. The funds will be dedicated to support efforts like Southwestern Electric Cooperative's Power For Progress Scholarship Program (see page 8 for a list of this year's scholarship winners).

You can read more about HomeServe at [www.HomeServe.com](http://www.HomeServe.com) and view nearly 100 informational videos on HomeServe's YouTube channel.

# Co-op Offers Rebates for High Efficiency Heat Pumps, Electric Water Heaters, Smart Thermostats

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

Members are eligible for one rebate per category per year. All rebates will be applied as a bill credit upon receiving the completed rebate application and proof of purchase. Rebate forms are available on our website at [sweci.com](http://sweci.com). You can email your completed application and proof of purchase to [julie.lowe@sweci.com](mailto:julie.lowe@sweci.com), or mail it to: Julie Lowe, 525 US Route 40, Greenville, IL 62246. You're also welcome to leave your materials in the drop box at our Greenville office.

## HEATING AND COOLING

High efficiency heat pumps can significantly increase the comfort of your home while lowering your energy bills. If you're thinking of upgrading to or installing a new air source or ground source heat pump, our \$300 rebate will help you offset some of the cost.

To qualify for the rebate, your heat pump must be the primary source of heat in your home. It may be installed in a newly constructed home, or replace electric resistance heat, propane or fuel oil heat. Installed backup heat must be electric, and the condenser and coil must be replaced and/or installed as a matched set.

Requirements for air source heat pumps include:

- At least 16 SEER
- 9 HSPF

Requirements for ground source (geothermal) heat pumps include:

- For closed systems—at least 17 SEER; COP 3.6
- For open systems – at least 21.1 SEER; COP 4.1

## WATER HEATERS

Water heating accounts for about 18 percent of your home's energy use. Choosing an energy efficient water heater can help you reduce your monthly water heating bills.

To qualify for our \$250 water heater rebate, you can install an electric water heater as part of a newly constructed home, or replace an existing gas water heater with an electric model.

Your water heater must be at least 50 gallons and one rebate is allowed per home.

On-demand water heaters do not qualify for a rebate.

## SMART THERMOSTATS

A smart thermostat learns your lifestyle and adjusts the temperature of your home automatically, helping you use less energy and save money.

With a smart thermostat, you can control your home's temperature settings, even when you're at work or on the road. Connected to your Wi-Fi, your smart thermostat allows you to monitor and change your home's temperature from your smart phone, tablet or PC.

You can install a smart thermostat as part of a newly constructed home, or replace an existing manual or programmable thermostat.

To qualify for our \$50 rebate, your smart thermostat must be:

- Energy Star certified
- Internet-enabled



Have questions? Call Julie Lowe at (800) 637-8667 or email her at [julie.lowe@sweci.com](mailto:julie.lowe@sweci.com).

# IS AN EV RIGHT FOR ME?

*Should your next car run on electricity? Maybe.*

If you drive more than 300 miles a day the benefits of owning an electric car may be outweighed by the inconvenience of planning your travel around charging stations.

But if your daily commute is closer to 30 miles than 300, owning an EV may improve your quality of life. We've added an EV information section with a savings calculator and car comparison tables to our web site. Here's a preview of what you'll find online.

**Learn more at [sweci.com/ev-advantage](http://sweci.com/ev-advantage).**



## EV & HYBRID CAR COMPARISONS

Check under the hood. Click on the *all-electric* and *plug-in hybrid* tabs to compare and contrast information regarding different EV makes and models. You'll find price, driving range and efficiency information. You can sort your search by the characteristics that matter most to you. You'll also find federal income tax credit information for different EV makes and models. EV technology is constantly advancing, so please check manufacturer websites for the most up-to-date details.

## HOME CHARGER INFO

Shopping for a Level 2 home charger? We'll help you examine options and sort your search without leaving home. You can prioritize your preferences by brand, amperage, wi-fi capabilities, and Energy-Star certification. As with EVs, charger technology is constantly evolving, so please check manufacturer websites for the most up-to-date details.

## BENEFITS OF OWNING AN EV

### Electric Vehicles (EVs) Cost Less To Operate Than Gas Powered Cars.

EV operation can be three to five times cheaper than gasoline and diesel powered cars, depending on gas prices and driving habits.

### EVs Are Environmentally Friendly.

EVs have no tailpipe emissions, and without an internal combustion engine, they're quiet.

### Never Go To The Gas Station.

Electric vehicles don't require gasoline. You can charge your EV at home with a standard 120-volt outlet (it takes a long time — but if you have the hours, it's an option). We recommend using a 240-volt Level 2 charger for fast, efficient charging.

### EV Performance Benefits.

Electric motors provide quiet, smooth operation, strong acceleration and require less maintenance than gasoline-powered internal combustion engines.

### EV Driving Range & Recharge Time.

EVs can cover 80 to more than 330 miles on a full charge. The average American's daily round-trip commute is about 30 miles. Fully recharging the battery pack may take four to eight hours. A "fast charge" to 80% capacity can take 30 minutes.



Source: Ford Media



Source: Tesla



Source: Nissan media



Source: GM media

## OFFERS & INFORMATION

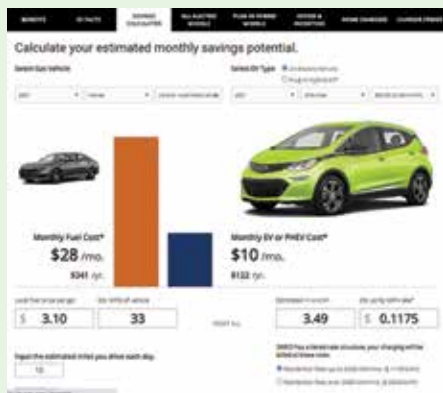
Does the EV that caught your eye qualify for a tax credit? A federal income tax credit up to \$7,500 is available for the purchase of some EVs. While some popular EVs have passed the qualification threshold, federal income tax incentives still apply to many makes and models. Look for additional credit information in the vehicle profiles under the *all-electric* and *hybrid-electric* tabs.

Consumers who purchase qualified residential chargers prior to December 31, 2021, may receive a tax credit of 30% of the cost, up to \$1,000. Permitting and inspection fees are not included in covered expenses.

Southwestern Electric Cooperative is offering a \$200 bill credit to the first 50 members who install Level 2 EV chargers. Level 2 electric vehicle supply equipment (EVSE) provides charging through a 240 volt AC plug and provides faster, more efficient charging than a standard 120 volt outlet.



Source: ChargePoint



## SAVINGS CALCULATOR

Calculate your monthly savings potential by comparing gas to electric. Enter the make and model of your current automobile, your estimated miles per gallon, and the cost of gasoline. Then choose an EV. The calculator estimates savings based on Southwestern Electric's residential rate. We'll update the calculator to reflect our EV rates when they're in place later this year.

## ROAD TRIPS

Whether you're planning a trip across town or across the country, our map will help you locate public chargers along the way. Use it to pinpoint charger locations, hours of operation and network information.

*Learn more at [sweci.com/ev-advantage](https://sweci.com/ev-advantage).*

# 10

## TIPS TO REDUCE SUMMER ENERGY CONSUMPTION

Summertime is upon us once again! We are all welcoming the longer days, warmer weather, and sunshine. But as much as we are looking forward to those bright days, we aren't looking forward to the increase in our electric bills.

With pools being opened and A/C units being kicked on for the first time, your electric use and energy bills will be on the rise. Here are 10 tips to reduce your energy consumption this summer, while keeping your home cool and comfortable.

by Julie Lowe, Energy Manager

**ONE.** Schedule regular maintenance for your cooling equipment. Have a trained technician check your system each year before the cooling season begins to ensure it is in good working condition. Be sure to clean or replace filters monthly.

**TWO.** Set your thermostat as high as is comfortable. It may be helpful to install a programmable or smart thermostat to help you adjust temperatures when you are away from home. Set it to bump up the temperature when you are away, and set it to decrease the temperature a few hours before you're due home.

**THREE.** Keep blinds and curtains closed during the day. Blinds and curtains can be used during the day to keep the sun's light from heating up your home. During cooler evening hours, consider turning off the A/C and opening your blinds and windows if practical.

**FOUR.** Use ceiling fans to increase cooling efficiency. Remember, fans cool people – not rooms. Be sure to turn fans off when you leave the room. Use bathroom fans after showering to remove heat and humidity from your home.

**FIVE.** Minimize indoor heat in the afternoon. When possible, use an outdoor grill or microwave to prepare your meals on hot summer afternoons and evenings. Run your clothes dryer and dishwasher at night and let the dishes air dry.

**SIX.** Install efficient lighting that runs cooler – such as LEDs. Only about 10% of the energy that incandescent bulbs consume actually results in light – the rest is turned into heat! LEDs are energy efficient and long lasting.

**SEVEN.** Lower your water heating costs. Water heating can account for up to 20% of the total energy expense for many households. You can lower your water heater's energy use by wrapping it in a water heater blanket, setting it no higher than 120 degrees, and washing your clothing in cold water.

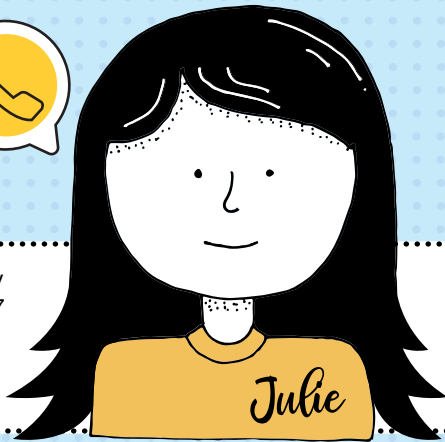
**EIGHT.** Seal air leaks. Seal around interior doors and baseboards with caulking and install weather-stripping around exterior doors and windows.

**NINE.** Consider adding insulation. Be sure your attic floor is well insulated to prevent hot attic air from heating your home. Also, your attic needs to be ventilated to expel the heat. Attic ventilation can come from soffit and gable vents, roof fans, or any combination of these.

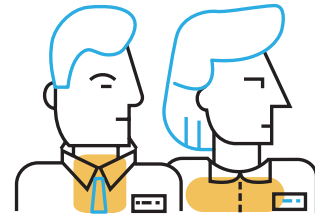
**TEN.** If you have a pool, consider upgrading to a variable speed pool pump. Install a timer to control the pump's cycling. Be sure to keep intake grates clear of debris.



# Steps to Solar Commissioning



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



Contact your installer and insurance agent. Ask your installer for a one-line diagram. Request a certificate of insurance from your agent. They're welcome to send those documents to Julie Lowe at Southwestern Electric. Or if you'd like to review them, they can send them to you, and you can pass them along to Julie.



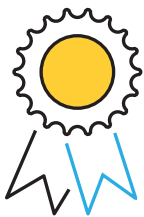
As your installation nears completion, call us. We'll discuss the commissioning timeline. You'll receive a \$500 invoice to cover the installation of your new dual register electric meter, a system inspection, and your array's interconnection to the grid.



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



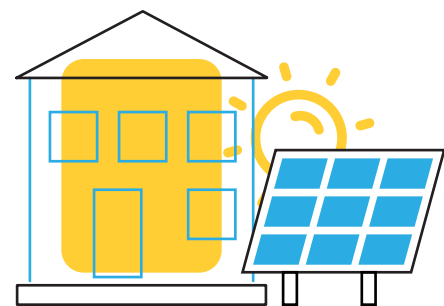
Our commissioning team will visit your site. An engineer will inspect your system to verify it meets our safety specifications. A team member will review a memorandum of understanding with you. You'll sign this document for our files. Note: If you won't be present for commissioning, please schedule a meeting to review and sign the memorandum beforehand. After your system passes inspection, you go live! Your array is connected to Southwestern'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.

# DARK SKIES

POWERFUL STORMS CAN CAUSE  
EXTENDED OUTAGES IN ANY SEASON.

***FORM A BACKUP POWER PLAN TODAY.***

**M**ost service interruptions are measured in minutes or hours. But in the case of a storm that damages infrastructure system-wide, a power outage can last for days. No one can predict when the next powerful storm will strike. But developing a backup power plan today will help you weather an extended outage safely when it does come.

Your plan can be as simple as making arrangements to stay with a friend or family member (who lives on a different circuit) during an outage.

If friends and family aren't nearby, look into purchasing a standby generator. It's the most reliable way to ensure you always have electricity.

Consider the items on the opposite page as you put together your backup power plan.

Storm clouds gather  
over a field in Altamont.

## REACHING OUT

The ability to communicate during an outage is vital. If you usually rely on a cordless phone with a base, keep in mind, it probably won't operate during an outage. Most of us own a cellular phone. Keep yours fully charged and handy when forecasts suggest a storm is likely. If you don't own a mobile phone, consider buying one with an economy plan to use in emergencies.

This is a good time to make sure Southwestern has your current phone number on file. You can confirm your contact information through our online payment portal at [sweci.com](http://sweci.com) or by calling our office at (800) 637-8667.

## EMERGENCY SUPPLIES

Electric pumps mounted to wells won't function without electricity. If you depend on a well for water, store plenty of extra water in case of a power outage. Water is a key ingredient of your emergency supply kit.

If you already have an emergency supply kit, take a few minutes now to make sure it's stocked and your supplies are fresh. If you don't have a kit, spend some time assembling one this week. Your kit should include:

- A three-day supply of water (one gallon per person per day).
- High-calorie, non-perishable food items such as dried fruit or energy bars.
- A blanket or sleeping bag.
- A change of clothing and footwear per family member.
- A first aid kit, including prescription medicines.
- Emergency tools, including a battery-powered National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) weather radio and portable radio, flashlight, and plenty of extra batteries.
- An extra set of car keys and a credit card or cash.
- Any special items needed by an infant, elderly, or disabled family member.
- Telephone numbers for medical emergencies, law enforcement, family members, and friends who may be able to offer assistance.
- Your Southwestern Electric Cooperative account number and the co-op's phone number: (800) 637-8667.

## WHEN THE LIGHTS GO OUT

Check in with neighbors to see if you're the only home without service. If you are, check your electrical box for tripped circuit breakers or blown fuses. If you can't source your outage to your electrical box or your neighbors are also without power, call Southwestern Electric at (800) 637-8667. The line is staffed 24 hours per day. Your call will be answered by a Southwestern Electric employee or a representative of the co-op's emergency response service. Please be prepared to give the operator your name, address, telephone number and account number.

Don't rely on e-mail to contact the cooperative during an outage or other emergency. While our phones are constantly monitored, our e-mail isn't.

During an outage, it's a good idea to unplug or switch off lights and electric appliances, leaving on a light or two so you'll know when power is restored. Doing so will help you avoid overloading a circuit when the electricity comes back on. After your power is restored, turn on appliances and electrical devices one at a time.

## DON'T RELY ON SOCIAL MEDIA CHANNELS TO REPORT OUTAGES

Please report outages at (800) 637-8667 or using the SWEC IL app. Don't rely on our social media channels to contact the cooperative during an outage or other emergency. While our phones are constantly monitored, our e-mail and social media aren't.

## BEWARE OF DOWNED POWER LINES

After a storm, be alert for downed power lines. Tree limbs and debris may disguise deadly electrical hazards. Treat all downed or low-hanging power lines as if they're energized. If you spot a downed or low-hanging line, warn others to stay away and report the location to Southwestern Electric immediately.

# UNEARTHING FUN

Former O'Fallon coal mine site now a public park worth exploring

Story by Nathan Grimm | Photos by Mike Barns

**A**mid the lush, green hills at St. Ellen Park in O'Fallon sits a large stone Perry Coal Co. monument dated 1949.

The view is one that tells a story, that of the park's industrial past and recreational present. The site of a former coal mining operation, the park is now a popular St. Clair County destination for outdoors enthusiasts. An upper and lower trail system encourages walkers, runners, bikers and roller bladers to cruise through the serene setting on a quiet spring morning. For more group-minded affairs, numerous benches are spread throughout the park, and an open-air

pavilion houses picnic tables perfect for hosting much-needed parties and gatherings in the coming months.

Perhaps St. Ellen Park's greatest attribute, though, is its lakes, four in total. On a sunny day, boats carrying paddlers and fishers dot the largest lake on the west end of the park. So, too, do geese and other waterfowl that gravitate to the park's welcoming waters. Tall reeds and natural grass run along the banks of much of the lake, offering seclusion for those looking to escape for a while.

Located on the western edge of the city of O'Fallon, the former coal mine site is now a green space to be enjoyed by all.



Bicyclists take advantage of the trail system at St. Ellen Park in O'Fallon. The 2.4-mile loop includes a 1.2-mile lower trail that traverses the park's perimeter, and an upper trail that offers a far-reaching view from its pinnacle. The trail is one of the most-used and most-popular features of the former coal mine site.



**June 18-21 FREE FISHING DAYS.** This is the one time of year when it's perfectly legal to fish any (public) Illinois waters without a fishing license, inland trout stamp or salmon stamp.



### GETTING THERE

Head west on Interstate 70 to Illinois Route 4. Travel south on Route 4, and take Interstate 64 westbound to Exit 14 for West Highway 50 in O'Fallon. Continue on West Highway 50 to St. Ellen Mine Road.



## WHO • WHAT • WHERE

Earlier this year, we mentioned adjusting our solution schedule to accommodate postal delays. A number of readers didn't receive their April issue until the end of the month. Until postal delays are sorted, we'll hold our solutions for two months. That would place the solution to this month's puzzle in our August edition. As longtime readers know, we deviate from our usual format in August to bring you Southwestern's annual report. So our next solution will appear in September.

On to this month's challenge: Can you identify the item on the opposite page? This is a tough one, but we suspect some of our readers will make a clean sweep of it.

Meanwhile, the letters you're reading today are in response to our April puzzle. To everyone who submitted a solution — and there were a lot of you — thanks for writing. And special thanks to everyone who shared family photos and stories. Your words and photos are, as always, the best part of The Southwestern.

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



Photo courtesy Linda Mauck of Maryville

Gayle Armstrong of Olathe Kansas pauses to try out a bronze replica of Robert Wadlow's chair.

The "Who Am I?" this month is a statue of Robert Wadlow, The Alton Giant, aka the tallest man on world record. His statue is located on College Avenue in Upper Alton, Ill., across the street from the SIU School of Dental Medicine.

My dad, Bill Brunner, was a newspaper reporter for the Alton Evening Telegraph and he had an assignment to meet with the principal of Alton High School. As he was walking up the steps at the high school, Robert Wadlow was coming down the steps. When my dad stood next to Robert Wadlow, Robert's hand was in front of my dad's face. My dad was 5'8".

The attached picture (left) is a replica of his chair that is near his statue. Seated in the chair is my cousin.

My best friend in junior high and high school was Sherry Wadlow, who would have been Robert Wadlow's second

cousin. Sherry never had a chance to meet Robert because he passed away four years before she was born. Robert passed away from an infection in his foot. He had a shoe size of 37AA, in other words HUGE!!

I really enjoy The Southwestern that you put together. It is entertaining and educational.

—Linda Mauck, Maryville

The statue in the April Issue is Robert Pershing Wadlow from Alton, Ill. I think he died at a young age. He was a distant cousin of mine, but I am only 4'11".

—Carol Steele, Beecher City

The picture this month is Robert Wadlow's statue in Alton, Ill. I was at his funeral with my mother when I was a small boy.

—Gary E Moore, Collinsville

Continued on page 26 ►





# WHAT AM I?



On Account: If your account number is 68618001, call us within 30 days to receive a \$25 credit on an upcoming electric bill.



# Frost Bites

Frozen desserts that beat the summer heat

## COFFEE TOFFEE ICE CREAM PIE

### Ingredients

- ¼ cup butter
- 2 cups Oreo cookies crumbled
- ½ cup pecans chopped
- 3 pints chocolate ice cream softened
- 8 ounces of Heath bars chopped
- 12 ounce jar fudge sauce
- 2 - 3 tablespoons brewed coffee

### Directions

1. Melt butter and mix with pecans.
2. Crush Oreos and add to butter and pecan mixture.
3. Spray 9 inch pie pan with nonstick coating and press Oreo crumb mixture into pan.
4. Bake at 325° for 7 minutes and let cool completely.
5. In large chilled bowl, combine ice cream and Heath pieces and mix well.
6. Spoon into crust and freeze.
7. At serving time, soften pie for 5 - 10 minutes.
8. For topping, combine fudge sauce and coffee, heat, mix well, and serve over pie.

## DAIRY ORANGE DELIGHT

### Ingredients

- 1 (3 ounce) package instant coconut pudding
- 1 cup cold milk
- 1 cup whipping cream
- 1 cup mandarin oranges drained thoroughly
- 1 (6 ounce) package lady fingers biscuits

### Directions

1. Combine pudding mix and milk until well blended.
2. Whip cream and fold it into the pudding mixture.
3. Blend in mandarin oranges.
4. Split lady fingers and place half of them in the bottom of an 8 x 8 inch pan (enough to cover the bottom of pan).
5. Spread small "half" of pudding mixture over lady fingers.
6. Add another layer of lady fingers and spread remaining half of pudding mixture over top.
7. Make a day before serving and store in refrigerator until served.

## FLUFFY FROZEN PEANUT BUTTER PIE

### Ingredients

- 4 ounces cream cheese softened
- 1 cup powdered sugar
- ⅓ cup creamy peanut butter
- ½ cup milk
- 9 ounce container Cool Whip
- 9 inch graham crust or regular crust baked and cooled
- ¼ cup salted peanuts finely chopped

### Directions

1. Whip cream cheese until soft and fluffy.
2. Beat in sugar and peanut butter.
3. Slowly add milk blending thoroughly into mixture.
4. Fold Cool Whip into mixture.
5. Pour mixture into pie crust.
6. Sprinkle top with nuts.
7. Freeze until firm before serving.

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





Fluffy Frozen Peanut Butter Pie

► *Continued from page 22*

The statue in the April 2021 edition of *The Southwestern* is of Robert Wadlow on College Street in Alton, Ill. Known as The Alton Giant, he was born on Feb. 22, 1918, and sadly died at the age of 22 July 15, 1940.

I took my son there for a few concerts a couple years ago and also took pictures of him sitting in the chair. Attempted to have him check out the size of his shoes, but being blind and having autism, he wasn't all that curious to find out. It was amazing seeing him sitting in that chair though and imagining Robert in a chair that size.

—Liz Miller, Collinsville

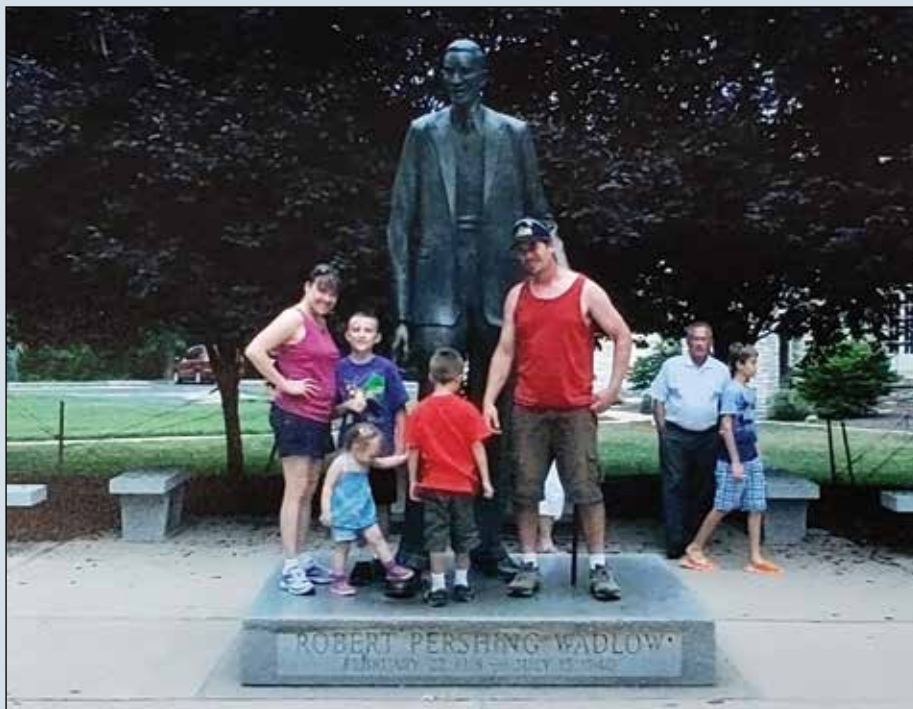
This picture was an easy one of the life-size bronze statue of Robert Pershing Wadlow, "The Alton Giant," in Alton, Ill. You can also sit in the bronze replica

chair. He was the tallest person at 8 feet 11.1 inches but died at the young age of 22. Wore leg braces and had a shoe size of 37AA. International Shoe Company provided him shoes free of charge. Enjoyed reading 100 facts about Alton's gentle giant, Robert Wadlow at [stltoday.com](http://stltoday.com) dated 2/22/2021.

—Vicki Babic, Alhambra

The statue in your April edition is of the world's tallest man, Robert Wadlow. It is located in Upper Alton, across from the SIUE Dental School.

My parents remembered seeing Robert with his large 1940s car. He was resting his head on his arm, while leaning on the top of the car. He had a car designed for his tall height; the front seat was removed so he could drive from the back seat.



The statue of the person shown in the "Who Am I?" quiz in *The Southwestern* issue of April 2021 is none other than the same person featured in the former issue of *The Southwestern* of January 2009, Vol. 61, Issue 1 — Robert Pershing Wadlow, "The Alton Giant."

The pictures I've enclosed show Robert meeting my youngest nephew, Bryan Dubiel and his family, from Rockport, Ill. After spending a weekend at Pere Marquette Park in June 2012, I convinced them to meet Robert before heading home.

This statue of Robert is located in Upper Alton on College Ave.

I enjoy reading your Who-What-Where segment in each issue.

—Don Cureton, Pocahontas

My great-aunt also saw Robert as a young boy, crying and walking away from a group of children who were teasing him like he was some kind of big monster. Robert was always categorized as a gentleman, a kind and caring person.

—Jim Wiemers, Dorsey

In the April 2021 issue of *The Southwestern*, the featured photograph for the Who-What-Where is a statue located in Alton, Ill., of a famous man named Robert Pershing Wadlow. He is the world's tallest man. Born in Alton, Ill., in 1918 and died in 1940. He was 8 feet and 11 inches tall and weighed 439 pounds. His shoe size was 37AA, meaning over 1-1/2 feet long. His arms spanned 9 feet and 5-3/4 inches. He was born a normal size baby but started growing abnormally fast after an operation at age 2. At around 10 years old, he was even able to carry his father up the stairs of their home because Robert was 6 feet 5 inches and 210 pounds as a child. His father was town mayor.

—Delmar Korsmeyer, Alhambra

The picture of the man in the Who Am I? April issue, page 23, is Robert Wadlow, standing over 7 feet tall, he was called The Alton Giant.

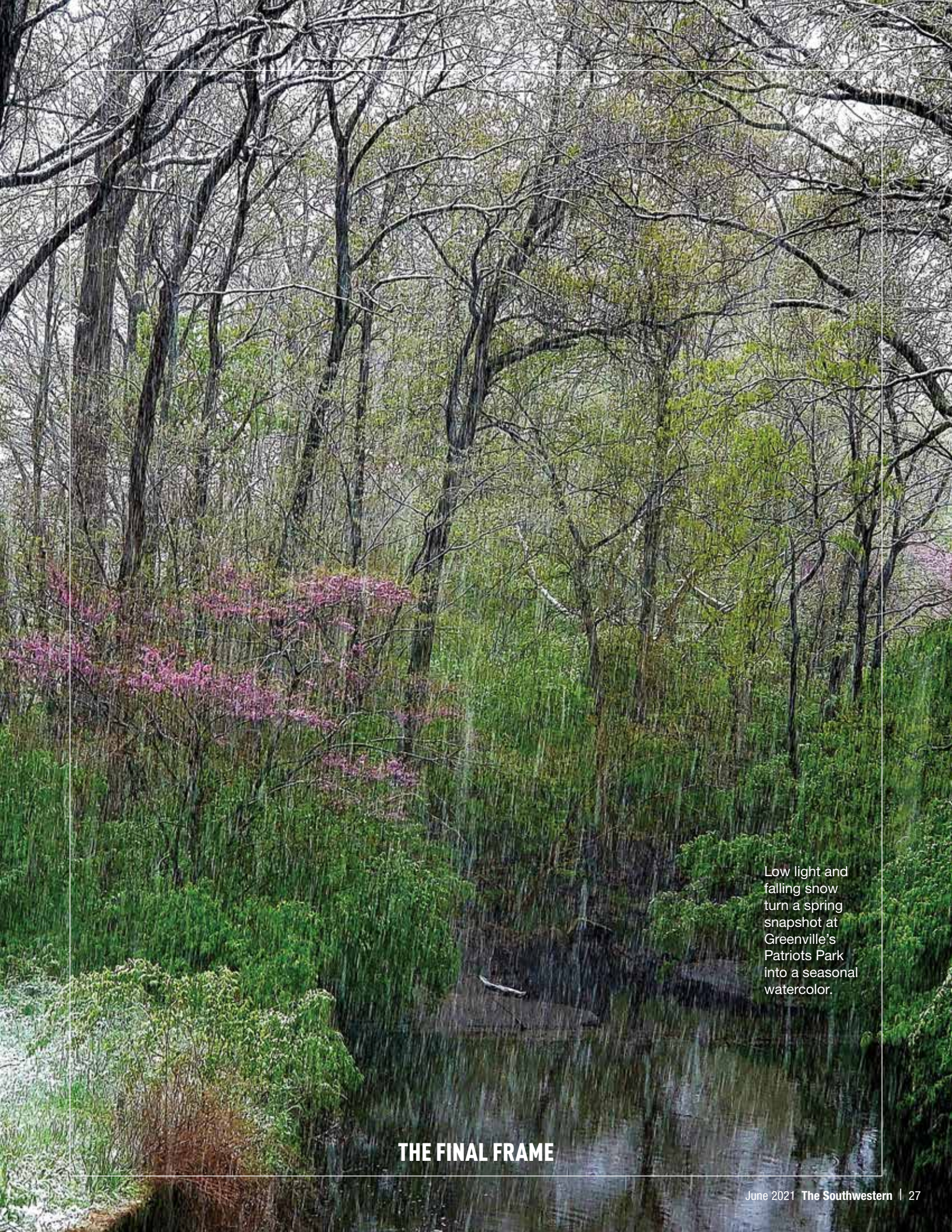
There was a pair of his shoes on display in the window of Bendel Shoe Store in Caseyville, Ill., for years. Mr. Bendel told me they were made special for Mr. Wadlow. They were huge.

—Clement Holdener, Maryville

The statue is of Robert P. Wadlow, Alton's "Gentle Giant." Robert was born in Alton, Ill., on Feb. 22, 1918 and grew to a height of 8 feet 11.1 inches. The statue is located on the campus of the SIUE Dental School. Robert's special Mason's chair is seen in the background.

Robert died in his sleep on July 15, 1940, of an infection caused by a leg brace he wore. He is buried in the Oakwood Cemetery in Upper Alton, Ill., in a very distinct grave site.

—Mac McCormick, Holiday Shores



Low light and falling snow turn a spring snapshot at Greenville's Patriots Park into a seasonal watercolor.

## THE FINAL FRAME



 **Southwestern**  
Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

