



THE *Southwestern*

A SOUTHWESTERN ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE MEMBER MAGAZINE

JUNE 2019 • VOLUME 71 • ISSUE 6

Helping Hands

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REACHES OUT TO
MACOUPIN COUNTY**

**BOARD CANDIDACY
FILING DEADLINE**

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



On the Cover

Rob Nesbit, construction foreman, tests his skills during a Hurtman Rescue simulation in May. The exercise requires linemen to strap into their climbing gear, scale a 35-foot pole, and safely lower a 150-pound mannequin to the ground—all while racing the clock. Simulations and training exercises like this ensure that our crews are equipped to act safely and swiftly in emergency situations and as they perform their duties day to day.

CO-OP REMINDERS

June 10

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.

June 24

Deadline for board candidates to file by petition.

July 4

Offices closed in observance of Independence Day.



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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Life Story

I've never saved a life. Never stood inside a span of moments where my actions altered a personal narrative by prolonging it. But I know people who have. On the rare occasions they talk about the experience, they turn inward, focusing on details. They recount steps. Highlight points of procedure. And they avoid, either consciously or by reflex, talking about emotion and outcome.

I was privileged to be present when they told those stories. I gratefully accepted what was offered. It wasn't my place to press for more, or ask about their feelings in the moment. I can only assume they placed their faith in their training while acknowledging the outcome was beyond their reach.

Similarly, I've never asked my coworkers about their thoughts and feelings during safety drills. But I can imagine. Even through a long lens 75 feet away, you feel it—the adrenaline, emotion, focus, the sense of holding your breath from start to finish. The situation may be a simulation, but the emotions are authentic.

Safety is sacrosanct at Southwestern. It's braided into our organizational DNA. Nonetheless, we're obligated to prepare for possibilities we prefer not to consider, but need to acknowledge.

Simulations like the Hurtman Rescue are hours set aside wherein we build trust in our tools, our training, our colleagues and ourselves.

They're opportunities to recount steps. To highlight points of procedure. To practice intent, so the emotions of the moment, while present, don't determine outcome.

They're invitations to keep faith. To reaffirm our position that, while some events may be beyond our control, most are directed by our decisions.

They're reminders that the lessons we learn can help us improve a personal narrative, and the story we're rewriting may be a friend's, a family member's, a colleague's, or our own.

Joe Richardson, editor
joe.richardson@sweci.com



June 24 is 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 2019 race. While the deadline for standard nominations (May 16) 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 24, in order for the candidate’s name to appear on the 2019 ballot. For additional guidance on filing for candidacy by petition, please see Section 4(D)3 of the cooperative’s bylaws.

The 2019 board election, which will take place at Southwestern Electric’s 81st 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 7, 2019, and expiring on the date of the 2022 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). 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.

Petitions must be received at the cooperative’s Greenville headquarters by Monday, June 24, in order for the candidate’s name to appear on the 2019 ballot.

SOUTHWESTERN ELECTRIC 2019

Verify your voting eligibility today. In a joint membership, either person who signed the membership application may vote. With an individual membership, voting rights are granted solely to the person who signed the application.

Board candidates who missed the nomination deadline may file for candidacy by petition. The petition for candidacy, with required signatures and residency information, must be filed by June 24.

Members may vote absentee at the co-op’s headquarters Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Aug. 23 - Sept. 6 (excluding Labor Day).

VERIFY YOUR VOTING ELIGIBILITY

Southwestern Electric Cooperative members are advised to verify their voting eligibility before the co-op's annual election in September. The election gives members an opportunity to elect or re-elect their peers to the board of directors and approve any proposed amendments to the bylaws.

"We're encouraging members to check their membership status to keep registration and voting areas moving," said Susan File, vice president of member services for Southwestern Electric. "Each active membership is allowed to cast one vote, but the type of membership determines exactly *who* may cast that vote."

The cooperative offers two types of residential membership: individual and joint.

With an *individual* membership, only the individual who signed the membership application is entitled to voting rights.

With a *joint* membership, two people sign the membership application, but only one of them may vote in a given election.

Southwestern also offers a commercial membership status to businesses and other organizations. Each commercial membership is entitled to one vote, which may be made by a duly appointed officer or agent of the business with proper documentation of said appointment.

"If you're a widow or widower, and the membership is in the name of your deceased spouse, or if you've recently changed your name due to marriage or divorce, you'll want to give us a call to make sure the voting rights are under the correct name," said File. "Membership classification also determines how we distribute capital credits to that membership, so even if you're not planning to vote, you have good reason to make sure the information is correct."

VOTING OPTIONS

Absentee: Available at the cooperative's headquarters (525 US Route 40 in Greenville), Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., August 23 - September 6 (excluding Labor Day).

In Person: Available 7-10 a.m. on September 7, at the cooperative's 81st Annual Meeting of Members, held at Bond County Community Unit #2 Junior High School in Greenville.

Also available 7-10 a.m. on September 7, at two Southwestern Electric satellite facilities: 10031 Ellis Road in St. Jacob and on the frontage road southwest of the St. Elmo exit off Interstate 70.

CATEGORIES OF ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP

Individual Residential: One name is listed on the account, and only this individual is entitled to voting rights.

Joint Residential: Two names are listed on the account, but only one of them may vote in a given election.

Commercial: The name of the business is listed on the account, and one duly appointed officer or agent may vote in a given election.

To verify or make changes to your membership status, contact us at (800) 637-8667. In order to ensure changes are made in time for the election, members are asked to contact the cooperative prior to 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, September 5.

VOTING AND ELECTION OUTLINE

Members may vote for board candidates during the co-op's annual meeting, Saturday, September 7, 7 a.m. - 10 a.m., at Greenville Junior High School in Greenville, or at the co-op's facilities in St. Jacob and St. Elmo.

Members elected to the board begin serving a three-year term September 7, 2019. Their term ends on the date of the 2022 annual meeting.

Election results are published in the October issue of *The Southwestern*. A summary of the annual meeting appears in the November issue.

SOUTHWESTERN HOSTS ELECTRONICS RECYCLING DRIVE

We're a nation in love with electronics. 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.



Levelized Billing Simplifies Budget Planning

Southwestern Electric offers levelized billing to help you avoid substantial changes in your electric bill from one month to the next. When you sign up for levelized billing, your bill will be based on a rolling 12-month average, and your amount due will vary by a few dollars from month to month.

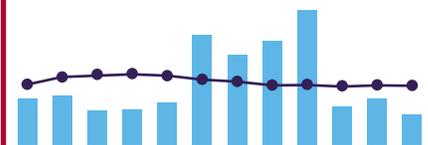
Program Requirements:

You must have resided at your current location for at least 12 months.

To be eligible, you need to have a zero balance and have made no more than one late payment in the last 12 months.

All monthly payments must be made by the due date or the account may be disqualified from the program.

If you decide to discontinue levelized billing, or if your account is removed from the program or disconnected, your actual account balance will be payable in full on the due date of your next bill.



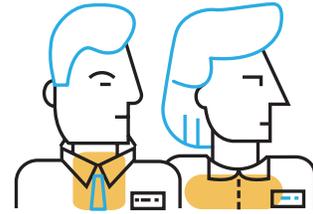
Levelized Billing flattens out the peaks and valleys that come with seasonal shifts in your electric usage, making it easier to forecast your bills and plan your budget.

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.



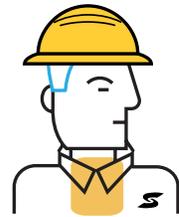
Work with your system installer and insurance agent to complete the forms we send. Instruct your solar installer to draft a 1-line diagram and submit it to us. Have the hold harmless agreement notarized. Return your completed documentation to Julie Lowe at Southwestern Electric.



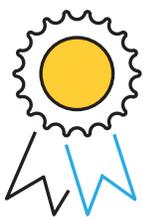
As your installation nears completion, call us. We'll discuss the commissioning timeline. You'll receive a \$500 invoice to cover the installation of your new dual register electric meter, a system inspection, and your array's interconnection to the grid.



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



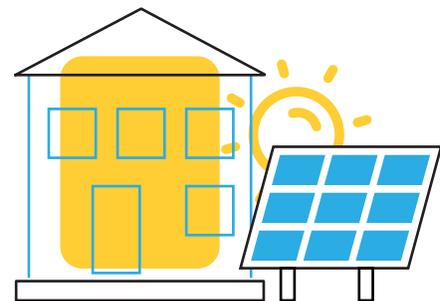
A Southwestern Electric engineer will inspect your system to verify it meets the cooperative's safety specifications. After your system passes inspection, you go live! Your array is connected to Southwestern Electric's distribution system.



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.

Helping Hands

Staunton Center Reaches Out to Macoupin County

It's 9 a.m. on a Tuesday and the aisles behind this Staunton storefront are bustling. Shoppers are focused on filling their carts with groceries, toothpaste, tissues, and an assortment of sundries. A mom lifts her son to pull cereal from a top shelf. Another shopper checks the canned goods in her cart against a long list in hand. Behind her, two people stock a freezer in preparation for

a busy morning. This could be a scene from any supermarket in Southwestern Illinois. Difference being, these aisles are crowded with volunteers—and the everyday essentials they're storing, stocking and pulling from shelves are provided at no cost to Macoupin County residents who could use a helping hand.

For more than 40 years, Staunton locals who needed food could come to the town's pantry. In 2017, the

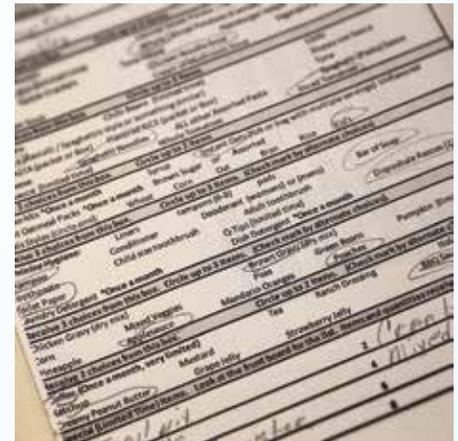
pantry relocated to larger quarters on Main Street, and in the same stroke embraced a broader mission. Staunton Food Pantry became Staunton Helping Hands Center—an organization that equips Macoupin County residents with skills and resources to improve life for themselves and their families. In addition to offering nutritious food and essential personal care products, Helping Hands provides health education,



About 60 Staunton area residents volunteer at Helping Hands, including (from left) Kay Lindsey, Cathy Best, Josh Thorn, Don Thorn, Emily Best, Tony Banovz, Caroline Strasen, Lori Semanik, Brittany Highlander (with son Brian) and JoMichelle Hanks.



Brittany Highlander (left) gathers items selected by a Helping Hands guest. Ailee Taylor (below), co-coordinator for Staunton Helping Hands Center, carts groceries from the storeroom to the floor for stocking.



wellness screenings, job training, and life skills coaching in fields like financial management.

The center’s new mission and additional resources have been well received. Visits have tripled in the last two years, and Helping Hands now sees about 500 area residents each month. “We are known as a cheerful place, well stocked, clean and inviting,” said Ailee Taylor, who along with Lori Semanik, coordinates operations at the center. “We respect our guests and have high standards for our volunteers, ensuring a safe and fun volunteer experience.”

Taylor said Helping Hands doesn’t duplicate services offered by other Macoupin County organizations. “We work with existing agencies to find out what unmet needs we can provide,” she said. The center receives free commodities through the Central Illinois Food Bank and supplements donations with food purchases at a cost of about 19 cents per pound. “This is a big source of our protein items each month,” Taylor explained.

Helping Hands also partners with local retailers to provide fruit, vegetables and baked goods. Since 2017, Mayfield’s Produce has provided the center with free, fresh produce, and Bill’s IGA has donated bread to the center. Both businesses deliver groceries each week. “We are small-town proud,” Taylor said.

OPERATION ROUND UP

In March 2019, Staunton Helping Hands Center received a \$500 Operation Round Up grant, which it used to purchase personal care products. Taylor explained that appearance and presentation are important components of the center’s job training program. Products purchased and provided with the Operation Round Up grant provided a basic, vital element for visitors entering the job market or seeking better employment.

“Operation Round Up is amazing,” Taylor said. “When a large amount of people round up a small amount of change, it adds up to a huge impact. Grants are made possible that impact lives. Change matters!”

POWERED BY PEOPLE

Staunton Helping Hands Center is staffed by about 60 volunteers, including Taylor, who’s served the Center since 2016. She organizes inventory, coordinates volunteers, helps to manage

Continued on next page ➤



“Operation Round Up is amazing. When a large amount of people round up a small amount of change, it adds up to a huge impact. Grants are made possible that impact lives. Change matters!”

—Ailee Taylor, Co-Coordinator, Staunton Helping Hands Center

the budget, and shares Helping Hands Care Center’s mission and message with potential visitors, supporters and volunteers.

“Each day, we have three main teams of volunteers,” said Taylor. “We have a team that focuses on intake, a group that fills orders and a group that manages the stockroom. In a day, we sort and stock new donations and purchases, and serve

each family that comes in. We ensure that this is the easiest stop for a person dealing with poverty,” Taylor said. “With minimal questions, we respect and serve anyone from Macoupin County.”

The Center, which is funded through grants and donations, operates on an annual budget of about \$40,000. With no payroll and minimal overhead, nearly all of Staunton Helping Hands Center’s

budget is dedicated to purchasing food and hygiene items. Taylor said the volunteers at Helping Hands love the community and have a passion to bring forth the resources that people need.

“The \$500 grant from Operation Round Up helped us keep our household and person care items available,” Taylor said. “We are so thankful for the support we receive.” 

Donating to Staunton Helping Hands Center

Staunton Helping Hands Center is a 501(c)(3) organization. Financial contributions are tax deductible and may be sent to Staunton Helping Hands Center, PO Box 111, Staunton, IL 62088. The Center also accepts donations of non-perishable food. You may leave donations during operating hours at the Center, located in Staunton at 219 W. Main St. Operating hours are Tuesday 9-11 a.m., Wednesday 5:30-7 p.m., and the last Saturday of each month, 9-10 a.m.

Learn More

Questions? Call Staunton Helping Hands Center at (618) 635-2267 or go to stauntonhelpinghands.org or facebook.com/StauntonHelpingHandsCenter.

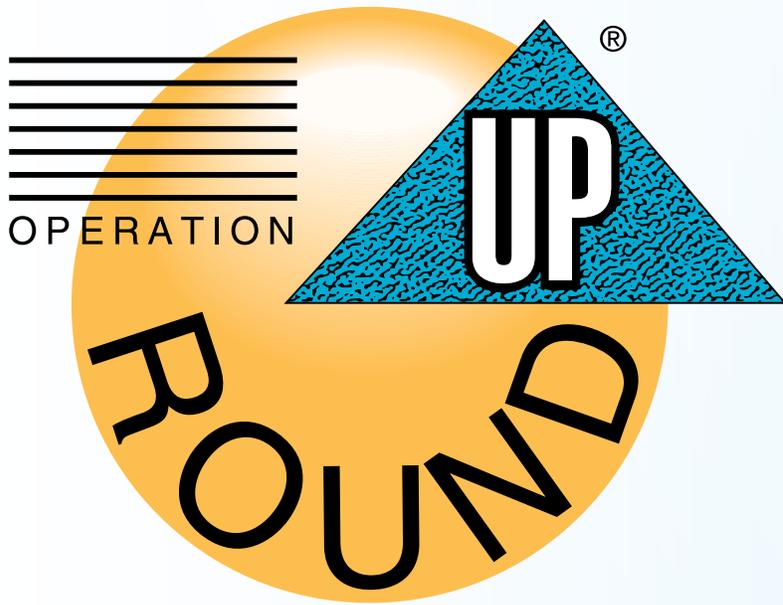


Cathy Best, Dena Schuette and Caroline Strasen select items for their guests. On a typical day, Helping Hands volunteers assist about 30 families within 90 minutes. Teamwork ensures fast service.



Foreground: JoMichelle Hanks staffs the intake desk and explains menu options, while (background) Ailee Taylor, Brittany Highlander and Helping Hands co-coordinator Lori Semanik fulfill guest grocery and personal care product requests.

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, contact Southwestern Electric Cooperative at (800) 637-8667, or fill out the form below and return it with your bill payment. For more information about Operation Round Up, visit sweci.com.



When you sign up for Operation Round Up, Southwestern Electric will round up the amount due on your monthly electric bills to the nearest dollar. Your donations stock food pantries, fund youth activities, provide lifesaving equipment for first-responders, and support veterans programs and many other community causes and local projects.

- **Donations average \$6 annually per account.**
- **Over \$139,000 donated since 2005.**
- **All donations stay local.**

To enroll in Operation Round Up, complete this form and return it with your bill payment.

PRINT YOUR NAME _____

SOUTHWESTERN ELECTRIC ACCOUNT NUMBER _____

For more information about Operation Round Up visit www.sweci.com





HEATING AND COOLING TIPS FOR MANUFACTURED HOMES

If you own a manufactured home, take measures to ensure you have an efficient heating and cooling system. You can also make simple improvements that save energy and make your home more comfortable.

\$ Install ceiling fans

Install ceiling fans throughout your manufactured home. Ceiling fans are energy efficient and can be used to keep warm or cool air moving throughout your home. Be sure to turn them off when you're away. Remember, ceiling fans cool people, not rooms.

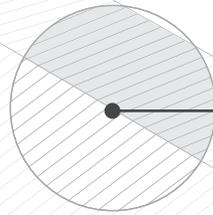


\$ Option for smaller budgets

\$\$ Option for flexible budgets

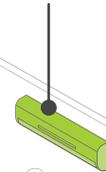
\$\$ Efficient roof color

Choose a light-colored roof if you live in the southern part of the U.S. and a dark-colored roof if you live in the northern U.S.



\$\$ Install a mini-split system

Eliminate unnecessary heating and cooling by installing a single zone strategy throughout your manufactured home. A zone system allows you to save energy by only heating or cooling rooms that are occupied.



ZONE 2

ZONE 1

\$ Install awnings

Install awnings over windows to keep sunlight from overheating your home during the summer.



\$\$ Add insulation

If you have a home that was manufactured before 1976, you could add insulation to your home's underbelly to reduce any heat loss.



Source: U.S. Dept. of Energy

Purchase Power Day By Day With Pay-As-You-Go Option

Pay for the power you need as you need it—that’s the idea behind Southwestern Electric Cooperative’s Pay-As-You-Go program. “Most members are billed for power a month at a time. The power they’ve used during the last month is what they pay for,” explained Susan File, vice president of member services for Southwestern Electric Cooperative. “With our Pay-As-You-Go program, you only pay for the power you need at the time, and you can add more money to the account whenever you want to.”

According to File, the Pay-As-You-Go Program is perfect for families who want to control precisely how much of their budget they put toward electricity.

“Our main goal is to help our members use less power, and forego paying a deposit and reconnection fees,” she pointed out. “Studies have shown that households typically experience a 12 percent drop in energy use after switching to this type of program.”

Pay-As-You-Go allows the accountholder to purchase electricity at his or her convenience. Payments appear as credits on the member’s account. The balance, which reflects energy used and payments made over the past 24-hours, is updated daily. There’s no penalty for allowing funds to run out, but electric service becomes subject to disconnection



when the account balance reaches \$0.00.

The cooperative doesn’t mail a monthly bill to Pay-As-You-Go accounts. Rather, participating members monitor their account balance via the cooperative’s online billing system, app or in-home display. In addition to checking their account balance and payment history, the member will have access to an assortment of tools for tracking their energy consumption, including a breakdown of their kilowatt-hour usage and money spent on power each day.

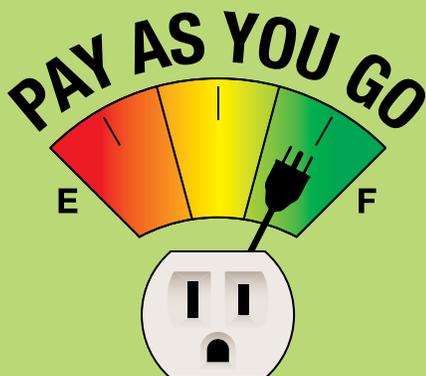
Southwestern also offers an in-home display unit (at no charge), particularly for members who don’t have Internet

access. The online billing system, app and in-home display allow the accountholder to view their present account balance and average daily usage.

“Obviously the member has to keep an eye on their remaining balance with this type of program, but we also have a couple of systems in place to let them know their account’s status,” said File. “The in-home display sounds an alarm when the account reaches a minimum dollar amount. We can also send the member a reminder message by telephone, text, and e-mail if we have a valid phone number or e-mail address on file for their account.”

Payments on a Pay-As-You-Go account can be made at the cooperative’s Greenville and St. Jacob offices during regular business hours. Payments are also accepted 24/7 by phone, app, and online at sweci.com. Most payments will post to the member’s account within an hour. However, members should allow three day’s processing time when payments are made at the St. Elmo office, Holiday Shores facility, or Farm Bureau.

For more information on our Pay-As-You-Go program, visit sweci.com or call (800) 637-8667 to speak to one of our member services representatives.



- Take control of your energy usage.
- No credit checks or security deposits.
- No fees for late payment or reconnection of service.
- Say goodbye to paper bills.



BE PREPARED

POWERFUL STORMS CAN CAUSE EXTENDED OUTAGES IN ANY SEASON. FORM A BACKUP POWER PLAN TODAY.

Every utility works to keep the power on around the clock, every day of the year. And every utility falls short of the goal. Elements ranging from mechanical failures to weather to wild animals interrupt service.

Most interruptions are measured in minutes or hours. But in the case of a storm that damages infrastructure system-wide, an 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. Investing in a standby generator is the most reliable way to ensure you always have electricity.

Consider the following items as you develop your backup power plan:

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.

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.

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.

WHAT TO DO: IF YOUR CAR CRASHES INTO A UTILITY POLE

Accidents happen. Would you know what to do if your car crashed into an electric utility pole? Knowing what to do could be the difference between life and death.

Always consider power lines and other electrical equipment to be live and dangerous!

IF A POWER LINE FALLS ON YOUR VEHICLE AND THERE IS **NO** FIRE:

Your safest option is to stay inside your vehicle until help arrives. The vehicle acts as a path for the electrical current to travel to reach the ground. You are safe inside the vehicle, but if you get out, you could be electrocuted.

Call 911 or your local electric utility for help.

IF A POWER LINE FALLS ON YOUR VEHICLE AND THERE IS **A** FIRE:

Only attempt to leave your vehicle if it is on fire.

To exit safely:

- Jump out of the vehicle, making sure NO part of your body or clothing touches the ground and vehicle at the same time.
- Land with both feet together and in small, shuffling steps, move at least 40 ft. away from the vehicle.
- The ground could be energized. Shuffling away with both feet together decreases the risk of electrical shock.

Call 911 or your local electric utility for help.

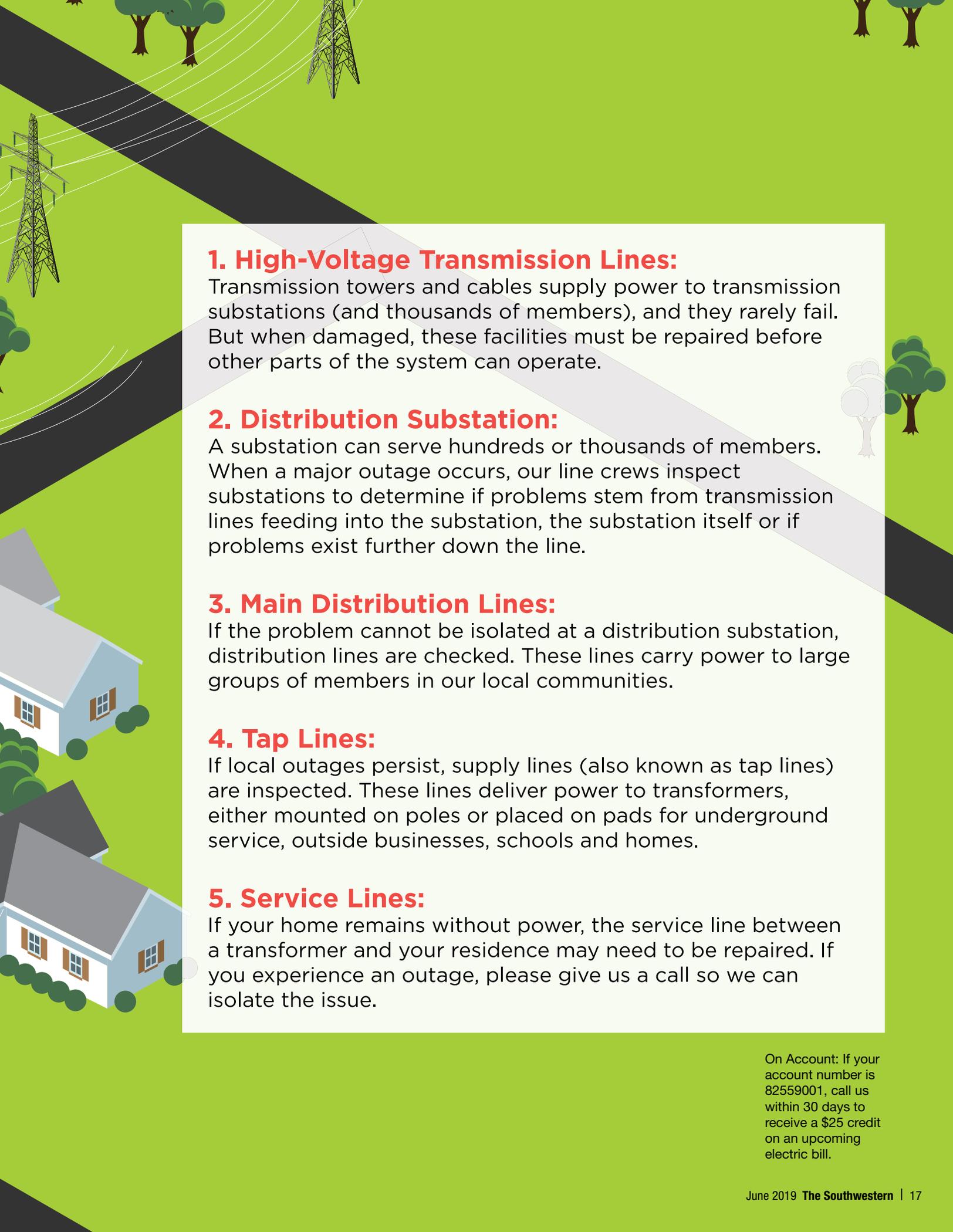


AMERICA'S ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVES

Powering Up After an Outage

When the power goes out, we expect it to be restored within a few hours. But when a major storm or natural disaster causes widespread damage, extended outages may result. Our line crews work long, hard hours to restore service safely to the greatest number of members in the shortest time possible. Here's how we get to work when you find yourself in the dark:





1. High-Voltage Transmission Lines:

Transmission towers and cables supply power to transmission substations (and thousands of members), and they rarely fail. But when damaged, these facilities must be repaired before other parts of the system can operate.

2. Distribution Substation:

A substation can serve hundreds or thousands of members. When a major outage occurs, our line crews inspect substations to determine if problems stem from transmission lines feeding into the substation, the substation itself or if problems exist further down the line.

3. Main Distribution Lines:

If the problem cannot be isolated at a distribution substation, distribution lines are checked. These lines carry power to large groups of members in our local communities.

4. Tap Lines:

If local outages persist, supply lines (also known as tap lines) are inspected. These lines deliver power to transformers, either mounted on poles or placed on pads for underground service, outside businesses, schools and homes.

5. Service Lines:

If your home remains without power, the service line between a transformer and your residence may need to be repaired. If you experience an outage, please give us a call so we can isolate the issue.

On Account: If your account number is 82559001, call us within 30 days to receive a \$25 credit on an upcoming electric bill.



Farmers' Market

It's not about the food. The farmers' market? Not about food at all, is it?

It's about history. Open air markets have roots that run deeper than any fistful of carrots freshly plucked from the ground.

It's about verve. Drop by a farmers' market on any given day, and you'll find more local color to catch your eye than you'll see in any sun-ripened tomato, moments ago snapped from the vine.

It's about community. Visit once, twice, thrice, and suddenly you're part of an ongoing conversation. You're a member of a group that's tighter, richer, more jovial and textured than, well, peas in a pod.

It's about the economy. You're supporting local growers. There's something affirming about knowing the people who grow your food, and letting them get to know you.

It's about the environment. By buying local you're going green, minimizing miles from farm to table.

It's about authenticity. A good meal is made from more than

what you buy. Where you buy your ingredients can influence taste and freshness. And there's a good chance the person selling you those fruits and vegetables can tell you the best way to prepare them.

Okay, it may be a *little* about the food. Corn still stuck in the shuck. Berries freshly gathered from the field. Jams, jellies and locally cultivated honey, jarred and ready to improve your meal, your mood, your day.

But it's not *just* about the food. It's about an experience, from browsing to buying to cooking to plating and placing it on the table.

It's about heritage and hard work. Breaking soil and bartering with the sun.

It's about breaking bread before you bake it, and feeding the need to look back, look forward, look within, as you reach out.

There's a whole summer ahead of you. Visit a farmers' market. You'll find it's not about food—not really—even as you truck a bushel basket-load of farm-fresh produce from the market to your car to your home.

June 1 - Oct. 19 FARMERS' & ARTISANS' MARKET, Alton. Discover delicious produce, baked goods, locally-raised hormone-free meat, handmade soaps, artwork and pottery. Every Saturday from 8 a.m. - noon; Wednesday market runs July 3 - Sept. 25 from 4 - 7 p.m. Corner of Landmarks Blvd. (US Highway 67) and Henry Street. Visit altonmainstreet.org.

June 1 - Oct. 19 LAND OF GOSHEN COMMUNITY MARKET, Edwardsville. You'll find seasonal fruits and vegetables, farm fresh eggs, naturally raised meats, baked goods, pottery, fine arts, honey, soaps, seedlings and cut flowers. Every Saturday 8 a.m. - noon. South of the Madison County Courthouse (corner of North Main and St. Louis Streets). Call (618) 307-6045 or visit goshenmarket.org.

June 1 - Oct. 26 FARMERS' MARKET, Effingham. We offer locally-grown food, art, live music and quality artisan goods. Every Saturday from 8 a.m. - noon. Effingham County Courthouse Museum lawn, 100 East Jefferson Avenue. E-mail effinghamfarmersmarket@gmail.com.

June 1 - Oct. FARMERS' MARKET, Mascoutah. Our market offers garden vegetables, seasonal fruit, jams and jellies, local honey, succulents and houseplants,



baked goods, coffee bar and live music. Every Saturday from 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. 100 block of Railway (across from city hall). Visit mascoutahfarmersmarket.webs.com.

June 1 - Nov. 2 OLD TOWN MARKET, Belleville. Buy local produce and peruse artisan booths. Open every Saturday 7:30

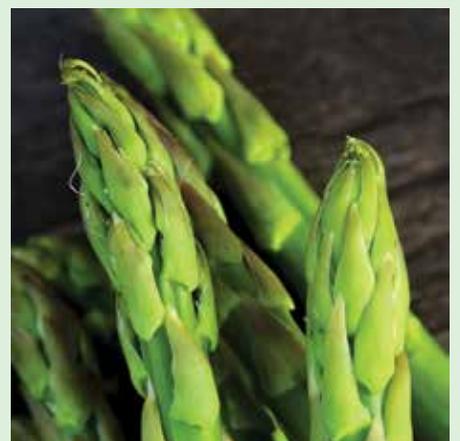
a.m. - noon. First block of South Charles between East Main and East Washington. Call (618) 233-2015 or visit bellevillemainstreet.net.

June 4 - Aug. 27 FARMERS' MARKET, Shelbyville. Local produce and hand made goods every Tuesday 3 - 5:30 p.m. 1361 State Highway 128. Call (217) 259-8284.

June 6 - Sept. 5 FARMERS' MARKET, Maryville and Collinsville. Locally farmed, produced and manufactured goods. Thursdays, 4 p.m. - 7 p.m. Fireman's Park, 300 North Donk Avenue in Maryville, and the D.D. Collins House, corner of Combs and West Main Street in Collinsville. Call (618) 304-8335 or visit maryvilleilfarmers-market.org.

June 6 - Oct. FARMERS' MARKET, Swansea. Locally grown fruits, vegetables, meats, baked goods, and intriguing hand-crafted goods. Every Thursday 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. rain or shine. For more information, e-mail swanseafarmersmarket@yahoo.com.

July 11 - Sept. FARMERS' MARKET, Wood River. Homegrown fruits and vegetables, garden and houseplants, baked and canned goods, crafts and quilts. Every Thursday 4 p.m. - dusk. Parking at Route 143 and 1st Street. Call (618) 877-3433.



WHO



WHAT

As quickly as we line 'em up, you knock 'em down—and we couldn't be happier about it. After a pair of winter puzzles that stumped most of you, we've seen an abundance of answers to our spring challenges. No matter the person, place or thing—you can name it.

Thanks to everyone who submitted a solution to last month's puzzle. We hope you'll give this month's challenge a go. For this photo, we ventured into Jersey County. Meanwhile, you'll find responses to last month's puzzle below.

As always, we deeply appreciate your interest in our magazine, and the Who~What~Where department in particular. Thanks for writing.

The May 2019 *Who Am I?* is Lyman Trumbull. Trumbull was a teacher and later lawyer born in Colchester, Conn., who originally practiced law in Greenville, Ga., before moving to Alton, Ill., in 1837. He later practiced law in Chicago as well.

As a politician he held offices at both the state and national level as a Republican, Liberal Republican, Democrat and Populist. He is on the short list of 28 politicians that were elected to the U.S. House of Representatives but never served, since he was elected to the House in 1854 but later selected by the state legislature to the U.S. Senate before he could take the House seat.

U.S. explorer John Wesley Powell named Mt. Trumbull in Arizona after him. Closer to home, the Lyman Trumbull House in Alton is a national historical landmark. In addition, a street, school and park in Chicago are named after him.

—Bill Malec, *O'Fallon*

The answer to *Who Am I?* is Lyman Trumbull. Trumbull (October 12, 1813 – June 25, 1896) was a United States senator from Illinois during the American Civil War, and co-author of the Thirteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution. He was born in Colchester, Conn., the grandson of historian Benjamin Trumbull.

Trumbull was elected as a Democrat to the state legislature in 1840 but resigned the next year to become Illinois Secretary of State. After an unsuccessful campaign for the federal House of Representatives in 1846, Trumbull vowed not to seek legislative office again. Apparently he did not keep that vow!

—Jane Dyer, *Bethalto*

The answer to *Who Am I?* is Lyman Trumbull. He was Illinois Secretary of State from 1841 to 1843.

—Susan Dick, *Troy*

Lyman Trumbull is the answer to the Who~What~Where challenge. As a U.S. senator (1855-1873) from Illinois, he served alongside William A. Richardson. Any relation to Joe?

—Tim Bennett, *Holiday Shores*

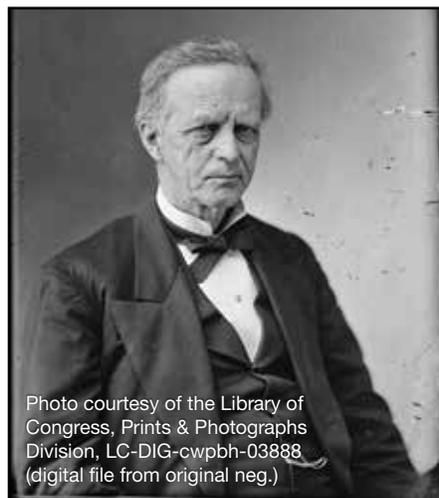
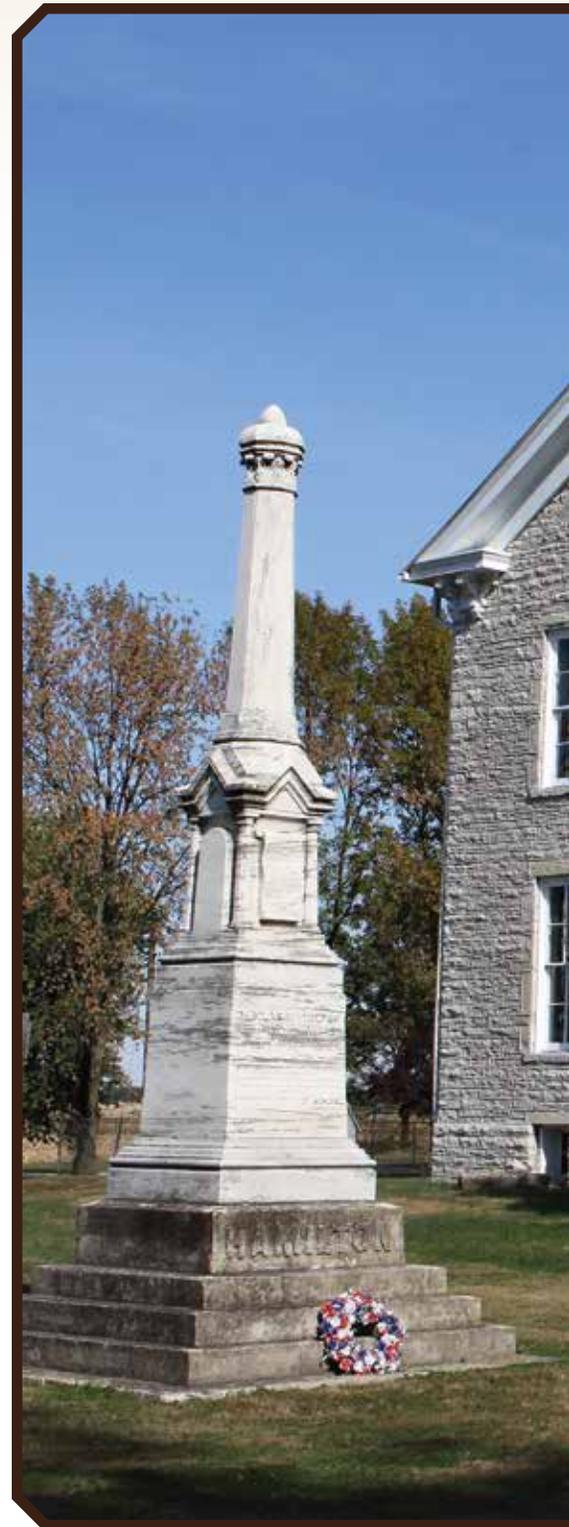
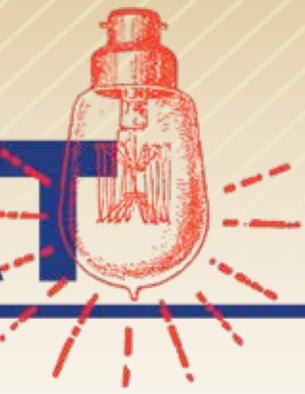


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WHERE



WHERE ARE WE?



HAPPY

BIRTHDAY

AMERICA

AMERICAN FLAG SUGAR COOKIE



Ingredients

- | | | | |
|---|--|---|------------------------------------|
| 1 | package refrigerated sugar cookie dough (about 16 ounces) | ¼ | cup powdered sugar |
| 2 | ounces Baker's white chocolate baking squares (1 ounce each) | 1 | cup frozen whipped cream thawed |
| 1 | package (8 ounces) cream cheese softened | 1 | quart fresh strawberries quartered |
| | | 1 | small package fresh blueberries |

Cookie Directions

1. Press the cookie dough firmly and evenly (¼ inch thick) into a non-stick 9 x 13 inch rimmed baking sheet. Or, roll onto a rectangular baking stone (¼ inch thick) shaping into a rectangle.
2. Bake the sugar cookie according to directions or until light brown. Let cool.

Icing Directions

1. Place baking chocolate and milk in microwave safe bowl and heat on high for about 45 seconds. Stir until smooth. Microwave an additional 20 - 30 seconds if necessary.
2. Combined softened cream cheese and powdered sugar and mix well.
3. Gradually stir in white chocolate mixture and mix until smooth.
4. Fold in whipped cream.

Decorating Directions

1. Spread cream cheese mixture evenly over cookie.
2. Place rows of blueberries in upper left-hand corner to represent stars.
3. Create rows of strawberries to represent stripes.

If there is extra cookie dough try using a small star-shaped cookie cutter to create cookie stars (baked separately) to place with blueberries.

Raspberries can be substituted for strawberries.





Current Events

June 2, 9, 16, 30; 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.

June 2 - 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 for all to hear. 5 - 5:30 p.m. Concerts are free and last approximately 30 minutes. Gordon F. Moore Community Park, 4550 College Avenue (Illinois Rt. 140). Call (618) 465-6676.

June 4, 11, 18 BIRD AND PHOTOGRAPHY WALKS, West Alton. Join Audubon Center volunteer, Paul Moffett for a bird and photography hike. This is a great way to learn new skills and spend time with people who enjoy nature. The group will meet at the Audubon Center and then walk paved trails around the Riverlands, and go to one of the Riverlands Migratory Bird Sanctuary "hot spots," such as Heron Pond or Ellis Island. Some car caravanning may be required. Total walking distance will be 1 - 3 miles. Bring binoculars and/or camera, wear boots or heavy shoes, and dress for weather conditions. The group will have a record keeper and enter data in ebird at the end of the hike, contributing important data into a global network that helps monitor bird species population and trends. 7 - 9 a.m.

Audubon Center at Riverlands, 301 Riverlands Way. Call (636) 899-0090 or visit riverlands.audubon.org.

June 6 - July 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.

June 6, 9, 13, 16, 20, 23, 27, 30; July 4, 7, 11, 14, 18, 21, 25, 28; August 1, 4 MUNY BAND CONCERTS, Alton. Summer concerts performed by the Alton Municipal Band. Enjoy concert band music, which includes marches, concert pieces, popular tunes, and novelty numbers. 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.

June 14-17 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.




For more information, call (618) 465-6676.

June 6 - October 10 FARMERS' MARKET, Brighton. Handmade products, homegrown fruits and vegetables, plants, and flowers. Every Thursday 4 - 7 p.m. Schneider Park, 206 South Main Street. Call (618) 540-8738 or visit brightonil.com.

June 7-8 DAIRY DAYS, Greenville. Celebrate the thriving local dairy industry with square dancing on the square, live demonstrations, family activities, vendors, milking contests, homemade ice cream contest, and old time carnival games. Downtown on the square. Call (618) 664-1644.

June 7-8 INTERNATIONAL HORSERADISH FESTIVAL, Collinsville. Summer festival featuring entertainment, food, and fun. Activities will include a recipe contest, washer and bag tournaments, root toss, root sacking, bloody Mary contest, live music, and a beauty pageant. Friday 11 a.m. - 10 p.m.; Saturday 10 a.m. - 10 p.m.; Sunday 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Admission is free. Uptown at 101 West Main Street. Call (618) 344-2884 or visit international-horseradishfestival.com.

June 7-9 SCHWEIZERFEST, Highland. A celebration of the city's Swiss heritage. There will be a large assortment of foods, beverages, rides, and games. Live band for Friday night. Friday 7 p.m. - midnight; Saturday noon - midnight; Sunday noon - 11 p.m. Parade at 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Admission is free. Downtown on the Square at Laurel and Broadway Streets. For more information, call (618) 882-8478.

June 7; July 12; August 9; September 6 HWY 55 CAR CRUISE-INS, Litchfield. Go back in time at this 50s throw-

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.

back 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 kdhw55@outlook.com.

June 8 THE EDWARDSVILLE GARDEN CLUB 80TH ANNIVERSARY, Edwardsville. Help The Edwardsville Garden Club celebrate 80 years of gardening as members highlight each decade of the club's existence. You'll see pictures of ladies in stylish hats and white gloves from the 40s and 50s hosting a tea, current members in blue jeans and flannel shirts planting a tree for Arbor Day, and photos from every era in between. Want to learn how to create your own natural herbal insect repellent? Or make a bar of herbal soap to take home? Or assemble your own tussie mussie? We will have "Make and Take" areas so you can do all that fun stuff. Children can decorate their own toilet paper roll planter and plant a seed in it to take home and learn how a seed becomes a plant! They'll also be able to select a "funny" plant to take home. The event includes refreshments, and at-

tendance prize drawings. Noon - 2 p.m. Madison County Farm Bureau Building, 900 Hillsboro Street. For more information, call Pam Baker at (618) 288-9797.

June 8 MILES DAVIS JAZZ MUSIC FESTIVAL, Alton. Enjoy an evening of jazz celebrating the music and life of one the true giants of jazz music - Miles Davis. There will be entertainment by Michael Fitzgerald, Tim Jardin, and Carmen Bonner. 6 - 9 p.m. Admission is \$25 and includes commemorative glass and dinner. Cash bar available. Jacoby Arts Center, 627 East Broadway. Call (618) 462-5222 or visit jacobyartscenter.org.

June 8 MOVIE IN THE PARK, Maryville. Come out to see *Mary Poppins 1964* (rated PG). 7 - 9 p.m. Admission is free. Schiber Court parking lot, #8 Schiber Court. Call (618) 772-8555 or visit vil.maryville.il.us.

June 8 POLLINATORS AT AUDUBON CENTER, West Alton. Come discover the wonderful world of pollinators and how their irreplaceable role in our ecosystem shapes the world as we know it. Learn how to identify some of the common pollinators of your backyard, see up-close the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) insect monitoring efforts here, and learn how you can support our native pollinators in your own backyard. After the presentation, you can venture outside for a guided hike along Two Pecan Trail where we will talk about our restored prairies and plants and pollinators that they support. 10 a.m. Admission is free. Audubon Center at Riverlands, 301 Riverlands Way. Call (636) 899-0090 or visit riverlands.audubon.org.

June 8 ROUTE 66 FESTIVAL, Edwardsville. Event will include classic cars, live music, great food, classic car cruise, local talent show, local artists, children's activities, and trolley rides. Friday 5 p.m. - midnight; Saturday 8 a.m. - midnight.

Admission is free. City Park, 101 South Buchanan Street. For more information, call (618) 692-7538 or visit edwardsvillerooute66.com.

June 8 TRAIN SHOW, Greenville. Operating toy and model railroad displays. Vendors selling toy trains, books, videos, and memorabilia. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Admission is \$5; children under 12 years of age are free. American Farm Heritage Museum, 1395 Museum Avenue. Call (618) 664-9733 or visit americanfarmheritagemuseum.org.

June 8 TWO RIVERS FAMILY FISHING FAIR, Grafton. The event will include fishing and water-safety seminars as well as educational activities and prizes. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Admission is free. Pere Marquette State Park, 13112 Visitor Center Lane. Call (618) 786-3323.

June 8 & 9 QUILTS FROM THE HEART SHOW, Belleville. Over 250 quilts made by our guild members will be displayed. In addition, winners from the "Kids Can Sew Illinois" statewide contest will be on display, Quilts of Valor presentations, vendors, quilters' boutique, "What's In Your Garden" special exhibit, bed-turning, and demonstrations. Saturday 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sunday 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. Admission is \$7; children 10 years of age and younger are free. Whiteside Middle School, 111 Warrior Way (off Lebanon Ave). For more information, visit heartsnhandsqilt.org.

June 9 ALL-WHEELS DRIVE-IN CAR SHOW, Alton. 150-200 classic cars, hot rods and motorcycles will be displayed. Event will also include food, street vendors, music, and 50/50 drawing. 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. West 3rd, State, and Belle streets. Spectator admission is free. For more information, call (618) 792-8901 or visit the events page at downtownalton.com.

June 9; July 14 PICKER'S MARKET, Litchfield. This open air market specializes in items prior to 1980, including vintage, antique, collectible, and re-purposed items. Every second Sunday of the month through October. Entertainment and food available. 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Beginning on the corner of Route 16 (Union Avenue) and State Street. For more information, visit visitlitchfield.com.

June 13-16 BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION, Vandalia. Vandalia will be taking a step back in time and looking towards its future, as it celebrates the 200th anniversary of its founding with numerous events and activities throughout town. For more information, call (618) 283-1152 or visit vandaliailinois.com.

June 13 - July 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.

June 14 BETSEY ANN PICNIC, Brighton. Enjoy family fun, food, music, games and the famous "Burgoo Soup". Volunteers brew the burgoo soup, for which the picnic is known for, for hours, with some of them appointed to stir. Others peel the potatoes and onions. Tubs of various meats and vegetables are added. Much of the flavor comes from the seasoning and people come from miles around to buy the mixture by the gallon to take home. Starts at 5 p.m. both days. Admission is free. Betsey Ann Park, 411 South Park Street. Call (618) 581-2247.

June 14 & 15 HOMECOMING, Glen Carbon. Event features a 5K run, carnival games and rides, beer garden, live entertainment, a variety of foods, and parade. Friday 5

p.m. - midnight; Saturday 4 p.m. - midnight. Fireworks at approximately 10 p.m. Saturday. Admission is free. Main Street, Old Town. For more information, visit glen-carbon.il.us.

June 14 - August 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.



COUNTY FAIRS

June 19-23 MONTGOMERY COUNTY FAIR, Butler. For more information, visit montgomeryfair.org.

June 25-29 MACOUPIN COUNTY FAIR, Carlinville. Call (217) 854-9422 or visit macoupincountyfair.org.

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 19-23 CLAY COUNTY FAIR, Flora. Call (618) 676-1046.

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



June 14; 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@litchfieldil.com.

June 15 FISHING DERBY, Maryville. Fishing contest for children 16 years of age and younger. Will include instruction, prizes, and refreshments. 3 - 6 p.m. Admission is free. Drost Park, off of Illinois Route 159. Call (618) 772-8555 or visit vil.maryville.il.us.

June 15 GREENVILLE GRAFFITI CAR SHOW, Greenville. Enjoy a nostalgic day of classic cars, awards, oldies music, and great food. Downtown on the square. Call (618) 664-1644.

June 15 JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION, Alton. Come out to celebrate the abolition of slavery, the history, heritage, and culture. This event is free and open to the public. There will be children activities, music, entertainment, food and more. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Admission is free. James H. Killion Park (formerly Salu Park) at Salu and Locust. For more information, call (618) 910-7422, (618) 799-9157, or (618) 616-5797.

June 15 NATURE CULTURE HIKE, Collinsville. Cahokia Mounds Historic Site. Join an archaeologist and naturalist for a hike through the grounds of Cahokia Mounds. Meet your guides at the Interpretive Center. Wear comfortable shoes, bring water, and insect repellent. 9:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. There is no charge for the hike, but a guidebook is available in the gift shop for \$1.50 plus tax. Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site, 30 Ramey Street. Call (618) 346-5160 or visit cahokiamounds.org.

June 20-23 MOCCASIN CREEK MUSIC FESTIVAL, Effingham. Three-day music festival featuring folk, blue-

grass, alternative country, roots rock, and blues music in an outdoor setting. Food and beverages sold on site. Larson's Landing, 8724 East Marine Drive. For complete schedule, visit moccasinreekfestival.com.

June 20-23 SINGIN' IN THE RAIN, Lebanon. A theatrical performance by the Looking Glass Playhouse. All performances begin at 7:30 p.m., except for Sunday shows, which begin at 2 p.m. \$10 on Thursday and \$12 Friday - Sunday for adults; \$9 on Thursday and \$11 Friday - Sunday for students, senior citizens and active military personnel (with valid identification). Looking Glass Playhouse, 301 West Saint Louis Street. Call (618) 537-4962 or visit lookingglass-playhouse.com.

June 22 BEN'S BASH, Edwardsville. A FUNraiser for the house. Enjoy great beer, barbecue, and Bluegrass music. House tours will not be available during this event. 4- 8 p.m. Adults \$25; children \$10. Colonel Benjamin Stephenson House, 409 S. Buchanan Street. Call (618) 692-1818 or visit stephensonhouse.org.

June 22 JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION, Centralia. A nationwide celebration of the end of legal slavery in the United States, the end of the Civil War, and the ratification of the 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution ending slavery. Festivities include bingo, horseshoe tournaments, games, and other fun family activities. Complimentary food and beverages will be provided and specialty sandwiches will be available for purchase. Picnic cookout includes hot dogs, polish sausage, chips, and drink. Bring lawn chairs or blanket. Program starts at 11:30 a.m. with the cookout starting at noon. Laura Leake Park, 500 East Kell Street. For more information, call (618) 533-7623.

June 23 MONTHLY POLKA DANCE, Madison. The St Louis

Metro Polka Club monthly dance. The featured band is Butch's Polka Kings. 3 - 6:30 p.m. Polish Hall, 826 Greenwood Street. For more information, visit folkfire.org/polka

June 23 SUMMER SOLSTICE SUNRISE OBSERVANCE, Collinsville. Meet at the Woodhenge Reconstruction at 5:20 a.m. for an explanation by an archaeologist on the importance of Woodhenge to the Mississippians and significance of the Solstice. Woodhenge Reconstruction is about 1/4 mile West of the Cahokia Mounds Interpretive Center on Collinsville Road. Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site, 30 Ramey Street. Call (618) 346-5160 or visit cahokiamounds.org.

June 27 MASTER GARDENERS OPEN GATE OPEN HOUSE, Maryville. Explore vegetable, wildflowers, and lily gardens. Get advice and order lilies for your garden. 6 - 8 p.m. Admission is free. Schiber Park, #8 Schiber Court. Call (618) 772-8555 or visit vil.maryville.

June 29 HUMMINGBIRD FESTIVAL, Donnellson. Vernon Kleen from Lincoln Land Association of Bird Banders will capture and band hummingbirds. These are family friendly activities. Food will be available. 2 -5 p.m. Free and open to the public. Stoecklin's Orchard, 1709 Ayers Road. Call (217) 537-3801.

July 3-6 150 YEAR CELEBRATION, Brighton. Four day festival includes food, vendors, music, contests, parades, fireworks, and more. Each day will feature different entertainment. Starts at 6 p.m. Wednesday; 5 p.m. Thursday and Friday; 8 a.m. Saturday. Schneider Park, 206 South Main Street. For full schedule, visit brightonil.com.

July 4 BOAT REGATTA, Litchfield. Decorate your boat and crew in patriotic attire and join us for a parade around the lake. The parade will begin in

the water in front of the Beach House. 2 - 4 p.m. Admission is free. 4932 Beach House Trail. For more information, call (217) 825-6227 or e-mail andylfurnman@yahoo.com.

July 6 KAYAKING ON DROST LAKE, Maryville. Kayaks provided for hourly individual or family experience. Noon - 5 p.m. Admission is free. Drost Park, #8 Schiber Court. Visit www.vil.maryville.il.us or call (618) 772-8555

July 13 CONTEMPORARY INDIAN ART SHOW, Collinsville. Features Native American artists from across the nation selling paintings, prints, sculpture, basketry, metal work, pottery, jewelry, beadwork and other fine art. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site, 30 Ramey Street. Call (618) 346-5160 or visit cahokiamounds.org.

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 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. To register, visit bigdawgdare.com.

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