

# THE *Southwestern*

A SOUTHWESTERN ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE MEMBER MAGAZINE

APRIL 2024 • VOLUME 76 • ISSUE 4

## Book Report

**LIBRARIES SURVIVE,  
THRIVE AMID CHANGE**

**E-CYCLING**

**COGENERATION**

**READER CONTEST**

**RUNNER'S ROUNDUP**

**CO-OP KITCHEN**

**WHO-WHAT-WHERE**

EDWARDSVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY

IN HONORABLE MEMORY OF THE EARLY SETTLERS,  
WHOSE COURAGE, INDUSTRY AND ENDURANCE  
TRANSFORMED A WILDERNESS INTO A

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Loud and clear.

## NEWS & NOTES

### ON THE COVER

The century-old monument standing outside of the state-of-the-art Edwardsville Public Library provides a perfect juxtaposition for libraries today — constantly adapting while remembering their founding principles. Our story begins on page 8.



### CO-OP REMINDERS

**April 8** Payment processing systems will be unavailable from midnight to 4 a.m., while we perform system maintenance. No payments will be processed during this time. We will resume processing payments at 4:01 a.m.



### FIND US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

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



# Reader Contest

In recognition of safe digging month, we've placed the JULIE 811 logo in your magazine. Your job is to find it. The actual image may be larger or smaller than what you see here. We may change the color or reverse or alter the image we've hidden to make the contest more challenging. If you find the 811, email us or send a postcard with your name, address, phone number, and the page number where you found the image. Please email us at [thesouthwestern@sweci.com](mailto:thesouthwestern@sweci.com) or send your postcard to The Southwestern Magazine, Southwestern Electric Cooperative, 525 US Route 40, Greenville, IL 62246.

Entries must be postmarked or in our [thesouthwestern@sweci.com](mailto:thesouthwestern@sweci.com) inbox by the first day of the month following the

month of publication. For our April contest, we'll need your entries in our inbox or postmarked by May 1, 2024.

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



### FEBRUARY WINNER

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

### RULES TO PLAY BY

- One entry per membership per month.
- A membership can only win once per calendar year.
- No phone calls, texts, social media posts, walk-in traffic, carrier pigeons, singing telegrams or other clever means of communication that may occur to you.
- Please respond *only* by emailing us at [thesouthwestern@sweci.com](mailto:thesouthwestern@sweci.com) or by sending a postcard to The

Southwestern Magazine, Southwestern Electric Cooperative, 525 US Route 40, Greenville, IL 62246.

- Entries submitted by other methods will be disqualified.
- Entries emailed to other Southwestern Electric email addresses will be disqualified, deleted, then disqualified again, just to be safe.
- Entries mailed to other departments or included with other correspondence will likely never find

their way to the editor. If they do, they'll be disqualified. Also, he'll add you to his list of people who can't follow instructions. It's a long list and not one you care to be part of.

- April contest entries must be in our inbox or postmarked by May 1.
- We'll never hide the image on the front or back cover or on the page where we list the rules.

# Recycle with Southwestern

## WE'RE A NATION IN LOVE WITH ELECTRONICS

According to a Connected Consumer Survey conducted by Deloitte in 2023:

- You probably have 21 connected electronic devices in your home.
- Half the people reading this article brought a new connected device into their home last year.
- About one out of every six people seeing this added three or more connected electronics to their home.

Given the statistics, it's likely you own an outdated TV, PC or mobile phone. We can help you find new life for your old devices through e-cycling — electronics recycling. E-cycling is the process of refurbishing, redistributing and reusing electronic devices and components, rather than discarding them. It extends the lifecycle of electronics and lowers their overall environmental impact.

Southwestern Electric will host three e-cycling drives this year. You're invited to bring your obsolete electronics to our collection sites on the dates listed at right. Your electronics will be collected and recycled by an EPA-approved recycling center. All collections begin at 9 a.m. and end at noon or when the truck is filled — whichever comes first.

### We can help you recycle a variety of electronics, including:

- Computers, 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).
- Electrical, cabling, communication machinery, and equipment.
- Home electronics, blenders, toasters, irons, etc.

#### Please Note

- Rechargeable batteries (NIMH, Li-ion and NICD) will be accepted for a fee of 50 cents per pound.
- CRT TVs, console TVs, projection TVs and monitors will be accepted for a fee ranging from \$5-\$35 depending on their size and model. Please bring cash or check for payment.
- Light bulbs, DVDs, CDs, and VHS and cassette tapes and hazardous materials will not be accepted.



## RECYCLING DRIVE DATES & LOCATIONS

- **May 11** Southwestern Electric's St. Elmo Distribution Center, 2117 East 1850 Avenue (frontage road southwest of the St. Elmo exit off Interstate 70), St. Elmo, IL 62458
- **June 8** Southwestern Electric's St. Jacob Office, 10031 Ellis Road, St. Jacob, IL 62281
- **Fall Date TBA** Southwestern Electric Cooperative's headquarters, 525 US Route 40, Greenville, IL 62246
- **Collection Times** All collections will begin at 9 a.m. and end at noon or when the truck is filled — whichever comes first.



## QUESTIONS & CJD E-CYCLING

Have questions regarding e-cycling or recyclable items and fees? Call or email CJD E-Cycling at 618-414-9209 or [info@cjdecycling.com](mailto:info@cjdecycling.com). CJD E-Cycling is a family-owned recycling business with offices in East Alton and Edwardsville. You can learn more about CJD E-Cycling and the materials they recycle at [www.cjdecycling.com](http://www.cjdecycling.com).

# Board Candidate Nominations

## *Filing Deadline: May 23*

**A**s a not-for-profit cooperative, Southwestern Electric is both owned and governed by its members — the consumers who receive their electricity from the co-op. A board of directors, consisting of nine members democratically elected by their peers, is responsible for overseeing the general direction and financial stability of the organization.

The cooperative's service territory is divided into three voting districts. Three of the nine board seats — one per voting district — are open for election each year. District I encompasses the co-op's territory in Macoupin, Madison and St. Clair counties; District II includes Bond, Clinton and Montgomery counties; and District III covers Clay, Effingham, Fayette, Marion and Shelby counties. The three directors whose terms expire in 2024 are William "Bill" Jennings in District I, Jerry Gaffner in District II, and Jared Stine in District III.

Potential board candidates are advised to begin their preparations for the 2024 election soon. The names, addresses, and telephone numbers of the 2024 Nominations Committee will be published in the May issue of *The Southwestern*.

Any Southwestern Electric member interested in running for a seat on the board, or who would like to submit another member's name for consideration, must notify a Nominations Committee member from the appropriate district prior to 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 23.

If the nomination deadline is missed, members may also file for candidacy

**Any Southwestern Electric member interested in running for a seat on the board, or who would like to submit another member's name for consideration, must notify a Nominations Committee member from the appropriate district prior to 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 23.**

by petition. Such a petition, bearing the names, addresses and signatures of at least 15 Southwestern Electric Cooperative members, must be filed at the co-op's headquarters by Monday, June 24. Any candidate who doesn't file by June 24, 2024 will not be eligible to run for election until 2025.

All members 18 years of age or older and in good financial standing with the co-op are eligible to serve on the board of directors, so long as they meet the qualifications set forth in Section 5(B) of the bylaws. The relevant sections of the cooperative's bylaws are reprinted on the next page for your reference.

The results of the 2024 board election will be announced at Southwestern Electric's 86th Annual Meeting of Members, which will take place on Saturday, September 7. Each director will be elected to serve a three-year term beginning on September 7 and ending on the date of the 2027 Annual Meeting.

Questions about board service and the election process should be directed to Susan File, Southwestern Electric Cooperative's vice president of member services. She may be reached by telephone at (800) 637-8667, or by e-mail at [susan.file@sweci.com](mailto:susan.file@sweci.com).

## SOUTHWESTERN ELECTRIC 2024

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.

Names of Nominations Committee members appear in the May issue of *The Southwestern*.

Board candidates should express their interest in running for a seat on the board by contacting a Nominations Committee member from the appropriate district by 4:30 p.m., Thursday, May 23.

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.

# Candidates for the Board of Directors: Qualification & Nomination Guidelines

## Section 5 (B): Qualifications

To be eligible to become or remain a Director of the Cooperative, such person:

1. Shall not be a Close Relative of an incumbent Director;
2. Shall not be an employee or agent of the Cooperative;
3. Shall not be, directly or indirectly, employed by or financially interested in a competing enterprise, business selling electric energy or supplies to the Cooperative, or a business primarily engaged in selling electrical or plumbing appliances, fixtures or supplies to, among others, the Members of the Cooperative;
4. Shall not be, directly or indirectly, interested in any contract, permit, franchise or other similar agreement or authorization to which the Cooperative is or may be a party;
5. Shall be a Member in good standing with the Cooperative and receiving energy or service from the Cooperative at his primary place of abode;
6. Shall be a Natural Person;
7. Shall be at least eighteen (18) years of age; provided, however, that a duly elected officer or duly appointed agent of any Member which is not a Natural Person shall be exempt from the qualifications stated in Section 5(B)(6) and Section 5(B)(7) if such Member is in good standing with the Cooperative and receiving energy or service from the Cooperative.

## Section 4 (D): Election of Directors

At each annual meeting of the Members of the Cooperative, Directors shall be elected by secret written ballot cast (except as otherwise provided in this section) by the Members present at such annual meeting and qualified to vote under the terms and conditions of the Bylaws. Such election shall be conducted as follows:

1. Appointment of Nominations Committee: The Board of Directors shall appoint, not less than one hundred fifteen (115) nor more than one hundred forty-five (145) days prior to the date of the annual meeting of the Members of the Cooperative, a Nominations Committee which shall consist of nine (9) Natural Persons, three

from each Directorate District. Members of the Nominations Committee shall not be employees, agents, officers, or Directors of the Cooperative, shall not be known candidates for Director, and shall not be Close Relatives of employees, agents, officers, Directors of the Cooperative, or known candidates for Director.

2. Candidates Nominated by Nominations Committee: On or before eighty-five (85) days prior to the annual meeting of the Members of the Cooperative, the Nominations Committee shall:
  - a. Nominate as many Natural Persons who meet the qualifications stated in Section 5B of these Bylaws as the Nominating Committee deems desirable to be candidates for election to the Board of Directors; and,
  - b. Post a list of the names of such Natural Persons so nominated by the Nominations Committee at the principal place of business of the Cooperative.

3. Candidates Nominated by Petition: In addition to those candidates named by the Nominations Committee, any fifteen (15) or more Members of the Cooperative may nominate such other Natural Persons as candidates for election to the Board of Directors by filing with the Secretary of the Cooperative not less than seventy-five (75) days prior to the annual meeting of the Members of the Cooperative a written petition bearing the signatures, names and addresses of at least fifteen Members of the Cooperative nominating such other Natural Persons as candidates for election to the Board of Directors and listing the candidate's name, address, age, and telephone number. The Secretary of the Cooperative shall post such petition at the principal places of business of the Cooperative where the list of nominations made by the Nominations Committee was posted.

4. Notice to Members of Nomination of Candidates: The Secretary of the Cooperative shall mail or cause to be mailed to the Members notice of the annual meeting of the Members of the Cooperative at least fifteen (15) days but not more than sixty (60) days before the date of said annual meeting a statement of the names, addresses, ages, and telephone numbers of all candidates nominated for election to the Board of Directors. Such statement shall identify the Directorate District to which such candidate may be elected, and such statement shall identify which candidates were nominated by the Nominations Committee and which candidates were nominated by petition filed by Members of the Cooperative.

## VOTING AND ELECTION OUTLINE

Members may vote absentee at the cooperative's headquarters (525 US Route 40, Greenville) Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., August 23 - September 6.

Members may vote for board candidates during the co-op's annual meeting, Saturday, September 7. The time and site of Southwestern Electric Cooperative's 2024 Annual Meeting of Members has yet to be determined.

Members elected to the board begin serving a three-year term September 7, 2024. Their term ends on the date of the 2027 annual meeting.

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

# Book Report

## LIBRARIES ADAPT, SURVIVE, THRIVE AMID CHANGE

Story by Nathan Grimm | Photos by Mike Barns

A few weeks after the Effingham Public Library opened its doors at its current location in 2016, a woman walked into the lobby and announced she was there for a meeting.

The two-story building, located at 200 N. 3rd St. in downtown Effingham, has meeting spaces in its basement, Effingham Library Director Amanda McKay said, so it wasn't an uncommon thing to hear. The only problem? There were no meetings on the books for that day.

"She said, 'Oh, the meeting is not here,'" McKay recalls. "And I asked, 'Where is it?' And she said, 'I don't know.'"

Daunting? Maybe for some, but for librarians, it's all in a day's work. Libraries are, statistically, among the most-trusted institutions in society, according to a Pew Research Center survey from 2016 that reports 78 percent of adults feel that public libraries help them find information that is trustworthy and reliable.

That includes, sometimes, helping a visitor figure out where — and with whom — she's supposed to be meeting.

"We got her to the right place," McKay said. "She just stopped in here because she didn't know what else to do. She just knew she had a meeting in

Effingham, and the library would help her figure it out. And we did.

"We definitely see ourselves as the community connector. We want people to come to us to try to solve those issues."

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A question fewer librarians get, undoubtedly, is, "Can you tell me how to get, how to get to Sesame Street?"

Edwardsville Public Library Director Diana Brawley Sussman sees a similarity between libraries and the PBS staple, though.

"Sesame Street had Oscar the Grouch, and Sesame Street had people who spoke Spanish, and Sesame Street had all the animals and the people hanging out together, children and adults, and it was multigenerational," Brawley Sussman said. "Well, the library is just like that, too."

National Library Week was first observed by the American Library Association in 1958. The week is a chance to celebrate the contributions of libraries and librarians and to promote library use and support.

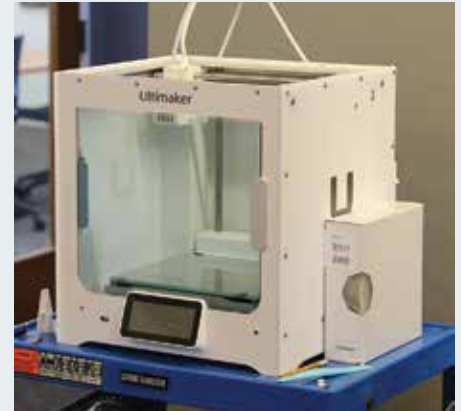


From right, Effingham Public Library Director Amanda McKay, library volunteer Eleanor Bounds and guest Jerry Brummer stand in the library's Genealogy Room. Tracking the county's genealogy is just one of the many features the Effingham library offers.





Something old, something new: The Edwardsville Public Library offers a stunning view of the 16-foot statue erected in 1912 to commemorate Madison County's centennial, left, and also offers something those in 1912 couldn't have possibly dreamed of — a 3D printer, below.



The recognition of libraries hasn't changed, but the way they're used transforms virtually every day. That's a feature, though, not a bug, says Brawley Sussman.

"That's kind of the beauty of libraries — we're able to stay relevant because evolving is part of our standard of operations," Brawley Sussman said. "We've always been expected to evolve and encouraged to evolve, both at the local level and also at the state and national level.

"There isn't homogeneity in libraries. Libraries have always been about local control, which means serving your local community in the way that your local community wants to be served. That requires a constant evolution, because communities will change in terms of what it is they want — and the overarching zeitgeist changes as well. What does the world require of people, and therefore what do people need access to and

what do people need to learn? To me, that's the beauty of working in a library. You can be really responsive to what is happening culturally, both on a local level and on a larger scale. Part of the way you can do that is through your collection, but you can also do that through your programs."

The Edwardsville library puts on hundreds of programs in a year, Brawley Sussman said, catering to a range of interests. On a Tuesday afternoon in late February, young Pokémon fans gathered in one of the library's meeting rooms for a Pokémon Hangout event where they could trade cards, color their own Pokémon characters and connect over their shared love of anime.

In the midst of the elementary-aged children was volunteer Mike Watters, who, along with his son Caden, was on hand to help the young enthusiasts with all their Pokémon needs. The pair are Pokémon Professors, a title bestowed

upon them by The Pokémon Company International for their passion and knowledge of the franchise.

Watters, an Edwardsville resident, echoed Brawley Sussman's sentiments about the library's need to continue to grow and adapt with the changing times.

"I think libraries are now evolving into their next evolution, to coin a Pokémon phrase," Watters said. "We need the library to stay and to stay relevant."

As Pokémon fans — and library patrons — know, evolution isn't always as easy as it sounds.

In the early 1900s, more than 1,600 libraries were built throughout the United States with funding from businessman and philanthropist Andrew Carnegie. Among those were libraries in Greenville, Litchfield and Edwardsville, all three of which are still standing. In total, 106 public libraries were built in

*Continued on next page* ▶

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**"I think people have a perception — that's both good for libraries but also limiting for libraries — of nostalgia. They associate libraries with their childhood because it was a fantastic childhood experience for them. But libraries aren't only nostalgic. We are also on the cutting edge of modernity, and we have as much to offer adults as we do children."**

*—Diana Brawley Sussman, library director, Edwardsville Public Library*

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► *Continued from page 9*

Illinois with the help of Carnegie grants.

Majestic and historic as they are — both the Litchfield and Greenville buildings are listed on the National Register of Historic Places — the limitations of the aging structures have become increasingly hard to ignore.

“We had books in windowsills. We had books on top of shelves. We had carts of books that we were using for shelving,” Litchfield Library Director Sara Zumwalt said of the building at 400 N. State St. “Our programming space was a very small space. We could never have done there what we do here.”

That helps explain why, in 2018, the Litchfield library moved out of the Carnegie building and into its current home a few blocks down at 1205 S. State St. It was a decision that was neither easy nor popular — Zumwalt said the entire Litchfield City Council attended one library board meeting in hopes of convincing the library to stay in the building — but one that, in the end, was the right one for the library’s needs.

At right: Heather Kastelein, left, and sons Brayden, 6, and Jacob, 10, color Poké Balls at the Edwardsville Public Library’s Pokémon Hangout event on February 27. Below: The Litchfield Public Library nearly doubled its square footage when it moved to its new location in 2018.



PHOTO BY NATHAN GRIMM



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**“I just feel like we’re where people come for answers. If they get the answer from google, it might be right. If they get it from a book in the library, it’s going to be right.”** —Sara Zumwalt, library director, Litchfield Public Library

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“It was hard. I love that building — that was my library when I was growing up,” Zumwalt, a Litchfield native, said. “But I love this one.”

Greenville’s Carnegie building is facing a similar inflection point. The current building at 414 W. Main St. is something more than just a recognizable structure — it’s a part of the community’s fabric. That fabric, though, is bursting at the seams, Greenville Library Director Jo Keillor said, prompting a conversation about the future of the library.

“It’s a big step for the community to leave a beloved building,” Keillor said. “The library board is taking it slowly.

They’re not rushing into this. But they are looking.”

Unlike in Edwardsville, where an addition provided the library the ability to stay in its current location without sacrificing programming needs, and Litchfield, which relocated with the help of endowments gifted to the library over the years, there is no clear path forward for the Greenville library. The only thing clear is that a decision appears to be on the horizon, one way or another.

“I grew up in Greenville. The library is one of the first buildings I remember other than my home,” Keillor said. “So, it is near and dear to my heart — but it is not adequate to meet our needs. And as a librarian, I want to meet the needs of the community. I want to make things accessible for everybody.”

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Space isn’t the only challenge that lies ahead for the Greenville, or any other, library.

Just as libraries have had to adapt to the advent of audiobooks, the internet and other advances — the Edwardsville library even has a 3D printer that patrons can use for a cost, among other offerings — continuing to “acclimate to and utilize new technology” will be among the biggest hurdles facing all libraries moving forward, Brawley Sussman expects. Less tangible concepts like trying to bring people together to find commonalities in an increasingly polarized world — what Brawley Sussman called “compassion building” — will also likely fall on the shoulders of the trusted institutions, she opined.


“I would like to see our library start to do some more things that bring people together to meet people who they might not normally interact with,” Brawley Sussman said.

In Effingham, McKay is similarly concerned with the human aspect of the library’s scope of services. The Effingham library has housed human services case managers for the past four years with the help of various grants, serving more than 6,000 community members in that span. That grant money will soon run dry, though, with McKay hopeful to find other funding streams to keep the program alive.

Also of concern to McKay and many librarians in southern Illinois is the number of people who live in small towns, unincorporated areas and other rural settings who aren’t served by a public library. Those individuals can still walk into a library and take advantage of the public space, McKay said, but don’t receive all the benefits of library membership.

“They don’t have access to the guts of the library,” McKay said. “They have access to the heart of the library, but not the guts.”

And though the future, like the past, holds many unanswerable questions, the one thing that will remain constant is that if someone does choose to walk into a library — in Effingham, Greenville, Edwardsville, Litchfield or anywhere else — in search of an answer, librarians like McKay, Keillor, Brawley Sussman and Zumwalt will be there to help find one.

“I love that people think of the library as being able to solve that,” said McKay, “that they trust being able to walk into the library with basically no information and we’ll figure it out together.” 



## EVER-GREEN

Don’t fret, Greenville residents. The Greenville Public Library isn’t going anywhere — or, at least, the building isn’t.

Despite discussions about a possible move from the Carnegie library building at 414 W. Main St., Greenville Mayor George Barber said the building will live on even if it no longer houses a library. The library building, built in 1905, is one of more than 100 public libraries built in Illinois using grant funding from businessman and philanthropist Andrew Carnegie, and in 1995 it was added to the National Register of Historic Places.

The building, which is owned by the city, has been a “feather in our cap for decades,” said Barber, and could

be repurposed if the library does find a new location to call home.

“We would not want it to just fall into disrepair,” Barber said.

As far as a possible new home for the library, Greenville Library Director Jo Keillor said plans have been discussed and designs have been sketched but that it’s still very early in the process. Mostly, Keillor said, she would love for any new building to have an environment that feels “homey, welcoming, inviting.”

“What I would most like to see,” said Keillor, “is a place where everyone in the community can come and get many, many needs met.”



Far left: The Effingham Public Library was once pressed for space, but no longer. Left: Greenville Public Library Director Jo Keillor shows off one of the library’s mobile hot spots.

# Considering Cogeneration? Call Before You Install

A new solar array won't pay for itself anytime soon. It may not deliver the rate of return you've seen in brochures. You'll still pay a monthly bill.

Members who fail to consult with Southwestern before they go solar may find they've invested tens of thousands of dollars in a disappointment. Before you sign the contract, get the full story.

by Julie Lowe, Energy Manager

The appeal of green energy — and solar power in particular — is clear. It's clean, quiet and renewable, and harnessing your own energy can cut dollars from your electric bill. The benefits of generating your own energy are significant — but the expenses and obligations are as well.

It is very important that we all work together — you, your chosen solar installer, and Southwestern Electric — to ensure that you are completely satisfied with your investment. Below are some of the key factors to consider *before* signing a contract with a solar installation company.

### THINK AVOIDED COST, NOT NET METERING

We can't emphasize this point strongly enough: If you are considering installing solar, *call us first*. That call will help you make an informed decision about your solar project. We want you to understand how we meter and reimburse you for energy, so you will know what to expect on your first post-installation bill.

Many solar companies are used to working with investor-owned utilities, like Ameren, who use net metering.

Southwestern Electric, like many cooperatives, doesn't use net metering to calculate cogeneration reimbursement. Your co-op calculates reimbursement based on *avoided cost* — the cost Southwestern Electric avoids paying for wholesale energy supplied by its primary power provider.

When you install a cogeneration system, we'll equip your home or business with a dual-register meter. As the name suggests, the meter is equipped with two registers. One register tracks the kilowatt-hours (kWh) you use from the grid. The other tracks the kWh your system overproduces and supplies to the grid.

*Continued on next page* ▶

# Member-Owned Cogeneration 2010-2024



467

Member-Owned Cogeneration Projects

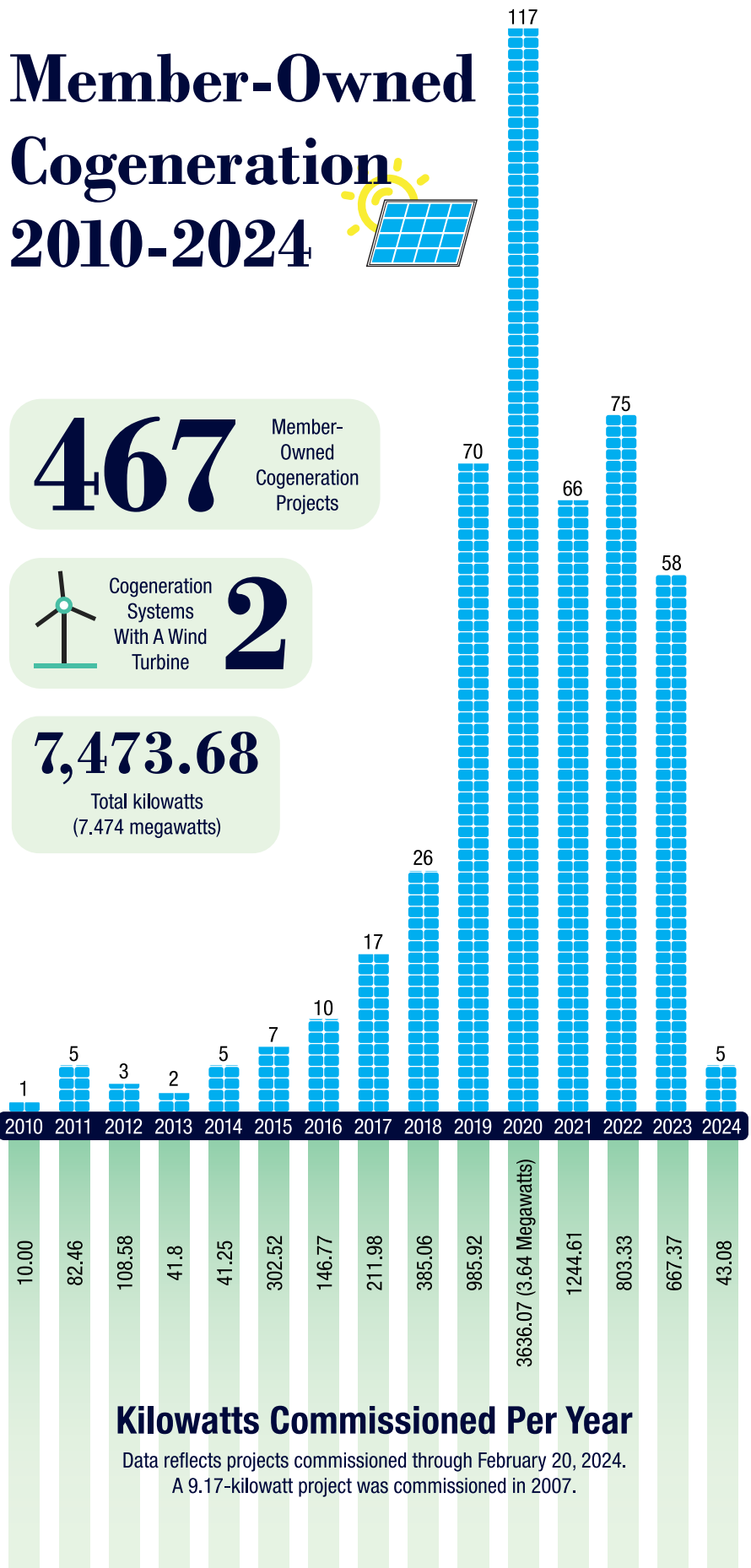


Cogeneration Systems With A Wind Turbine

2

7,473.68

Total kilowatts (7.474 megawatts)



## Kilowatts Commissioned Per Year

Data reflects projects commissioned through February 20, 2024.  
A 9.17-kilowatt project was commissioned in 2007.

► *Continued from page 13*

We read both registers on the first day of the month. Kilowatt-hours you pull from the grid are calculated at our retail rate, which includes fees associated with moving energy across the grid and delivering it to your home or business.

Kilowatt-hours your system pushes to the grid are calculated at our avoided cost — about \$0.0377 per kilowatt-hour.

We apply credit from your overproduction to your bill. If the dollar amount of your credit is greater than the dollar amount of your energy charge, we deposit the difference in your “cogen bank.” We’ll apply that credit to your bill in a future month.

Cogeneration credits expire April 30. Southwestern doesn’t issue checks for the energy you generate, so to get the greatest value from your system, you’ll want to design it with the energy needs of your home in mind.

## BEFORE YOU SIGN

It’s important to understand the difference between net metering and reimbursement based on avoided cost, and to be certain your installer knows, so they can accurately estimate your return on investment.

When you call, we’ll send you an information packet. The packet will explain how we meter and reimburse for energy, and information regarding your responsibilities as a cogeneration owner.

We’ll also include a list of local installers Southwestern members have used and recommend. While you aren’t limited to this list, you can be assured they’ll know how to figure your return on investment based on how we meter.

If you choose an installer not on this list, please make sure they’re aware of our metering policy so they can provide you with an accurate estimate.

## HOW MUCH WILL MY COGEN SYSTEM COST?

Expenses vary from one installation to the next. A system’s rating, manufacturer, the complexity of the installation, and contractor costs affect your overall investment. Ask your installer about tax credits that may help you offset the cost of your system.

Keep in mind, each installer is unique. You can expect to see differences in the equipment they recommend, cost of labor, and project timelines. We recommend you get no less than three estimates for your project. Each estimate should be detailed and include an outline of your return on investment. Make sure the estimates for return on investment aren’t based on net metering.

## KNOW YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES

In addition to the items we’ve already mentioned, the information packet we send will include our interconnection policy, an example certificate of insurance and sample bills from accounts with solar projects. Please read these documents carefully and don’t hesitate to contact us with any questions.

We’ll also include a list of terms and conditions so you can easily see what you will be responsible for. One of your primary responsibilities will be to speak with your insurance agent and make sure they understand exactly what it is that you’re asking them to insure.

## THE WRONG IDEA

Some misconceptions involving solar energy are as old as the sun. Others are more recent. Here are three ideas about solar energy that are more fiction than fact.

*I’ll have power during an outage.*  
If you’re connected to Southwestern’s

distribution system, your home remains part of, and is affected by, conditions on the grid. Which means you’ll lose service during an outage — even if your array is producing power. The only exception to this would be if you have battery storage.

*If I produce enough power I won’t have a bill to pay.* Regardless of how much power you produce, you’ll get a bill from the cooperative to cover service charges and taxes.

*Solar energy is free.* Sunlight is free. Technology that converts it into a form your home can use, isn’t. A cogeneration system is a significant investment. Solar energy is efficient — it isn’t cheap. Be wary of any installer who says installation will cost you nothing. Ask a lot of questions. If the answers you get sound too good to be true, they probably are.

## ILLINOIS SHINES

In recent years, solar installations in Southwestern Electric Cooperative’s service area have been on the rise. Key drivers of the increase include federal tax credits and the Adjustable Block Program, now known as Illinois Shines.

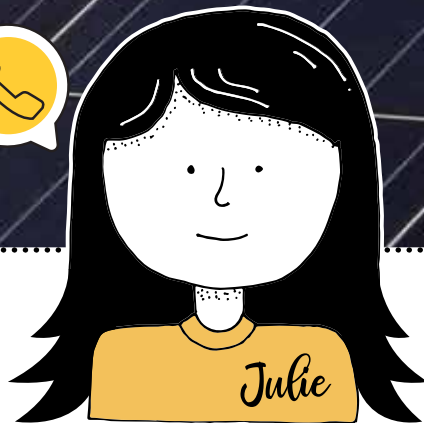
Developed by the Illinois Power Agency and administered by Energy Solutions (a third-party program administrator), Illinois Shines was established by the Future Energy Jobs Act of 2018 to support the development of solar projects in Illinois. Illinois Shines buys solar renewable energy credits (SRECs) produced by solar photovoltaic systems. The dollar amount per SREC falls as program blocks fill.

Blocks are currently filled for Program Year 2023-2024. You may still purchase, install and finance solar projects and vendors may continue to submit applications which will be waitlisted. These

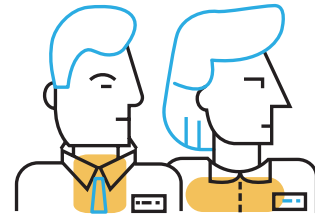
*Continued on page 25* ►

***“Before you talk to an installer, call us. We’ll give you a list of questions to ask before you invest. Those questions may save you a lot of disappointment — and a lot of money.”*** —Julie Lowe, Energy Manager

# 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.



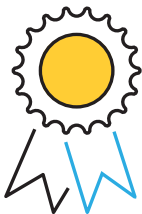
After your one-line diagram is approved by Southwestern Electric, you'll receive a \$500 invoice to cover the installation of your new dual register electric meter, a system inspection, and your array's interconnection to the grid. If your installer will be paying this invoice on your behalf, we'll send the invoice directly to them.



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



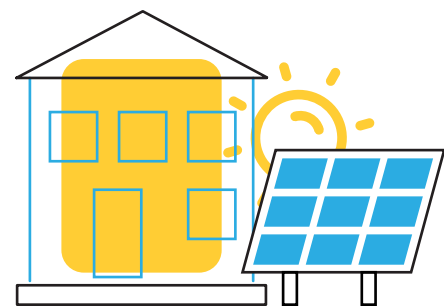
Our commissioning team will visit your site. We will inspect your system to verify it meets our safety specifications. A team member will review a memorandum of understanding with you. You'll sign this document for our files. Note: If you won't be present for commissioning, please schedule a meeting 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 and your installer a certificate of completion. Your installer will submit this document for you, so you can receive your solar renewable energy credits (SRECs).



Each year, you'll submit documentation to confirm you've renewed your insurance. You may add us as a certificate holder on your policy so the renewal will be sent to us automatically each year.



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

# KNOW WHAT'S BELOW

## *Call Before You Dig*

**F**rom where you're standing, your yard may look peaceful — but there's a lot going on underfoot. Most utilities — Southwestern Electric included — deliver services underground. To avoid personal injury and damage to underground lines, state law requires you to contact Joint Utility Locating Information for Excavators (JULIE), Inc., before any digging project, regardless of the project size or depth.

You can call JULIE at 8-1-1 or enter your locate request at [illinois1call.com](http://illinois1call.com). Both the call and JULIE's services are free.

When homeowners inadvertently cut or damage lines during routine projects, the results can take a staggering toll in terms of costly delays, environmental or property damage, liability, personal injury and loss of life.

All digging projects — from relatively small tasks like planting a tree or shrub to more complex projects like installing a deck, fence or home addition — require a call.

Any number of utility lines may rest where you intend to dig. What appears to be the perfect place to plant a shrub or set a post may be home to water, electric, gas or sewer lines.

When you call 8-1-1, you'll speak with a JULIE call center agent. The agent records the location and description of your project site, and notifies affected member-utility owners and operators. The utilities send a professional locator (JULIE personnel do not perform locating or marking services) to mark the approximate location of their underground utility lines with small flags or paint.

JULIE's call center agents are available to receive and process requests 24 hours a day, seven days a week at either 8-1-1 or (800) 892-0123. Homeowners can also submit locate requests online via E-Request, a free, web-based program, at [www.illinois1call.com](http://www.illinois1call.com).

Projects that require notifying JULIE include, but are not limited to, planting trees, bushes or shrubs; putting up a fence or tent; installing a swing set, a mail box post or water feature such as a pool, pond or fountain; building a deck; or preparing a new garden or landscape area.

For a free copy of JULIE's Homeowner's Guide with information about the one-call process, visit [www.illinois1call.com](http://www.illinois1call.com).

**All digging projects — from relatively small tasks like planting a tree or shrub to more complex projects like installing a deck, fence or home addition — require a call.**

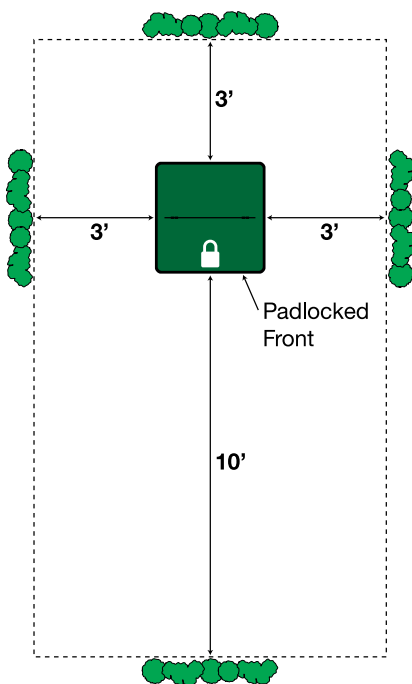




## **BURY ME NOT**

If there's a pad-mounted transformer in your yard, please don't bury it. It isn't dead. To the contrary, there are live electrical components inside the cabinet. Our crews need to work with those components now and then. By planting thorns around your transformer, or fencing it in, or burying it, you're making it more difficult to restore power to your neighbors and yourself during an outage. You're also compromising your safety and possibly the integrity of Southwestern Electric's distribution system.

A pad-mounted transformer isn't the most attractive feature in your yard, but it is one of the most useful items on your property. Please help us maintain it by following the guidelines we've provided here.



## **FIVE STEPS TO SAFETY**

There are five important steps to every safe excavation project

1. Identify your dig area.
2. Submit a request.
3. Wait for the paint or flags.
4. Respect the markings.
5. Dig with care.

## RUNNER'S ROUNDUP

April is the month many of us dust off our running shoes, pull on performance tees and hit the road. Entering a 5k or fun run can start you down a path to lifelong fitness. Consult your doctor before beginning any exercise program, and be sure to call or go online to confirm registration deadlines, fees, dates and weather plans. We've listed a sampling of local races. You'll find more at [active.com](http://active.com), [runsignup.com](http://runsignup.com), and [halfmarathons.net](http://halfmarathons.net). Be careful out there — and enjoy your run.

**April 6 LAKE SARA DAM RUN**, Effingham. A Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics Illinois. Choose from half marathon, 8-mile run, 5K run or 5K walk, and virtual. Half marathon starts at 7 a.m.; 8-mile at 8 a.m.; 5K run and walk at 9 a.m. Lake Sara Dam Run raises money for Special Olympics. Raceroster will donate \$1 for each registrant. Lake Sara Dam, 9352 East Park Avenue. Learn more or register at [lakesaradamrun.com](http://lakesaradamrun.com).

**April 6 WINE RUN 5K & WALK**, Belleville. The course offers a scenic view of the farm and orchard and includes a mix of paved paths and grass/cross-country style running suitable for runners and walkers. The race starts and finishes at Eckert's. 9 a.m. Eckert's, 951 South Green Mount Road. To register, visit [eckerts.com](http://eckerts.com).


**April 13 LOVE YOU 5(K)EVER 5K RUN/WALK**, Lebanon. Run/walk on a flat, fast course through Lebanon. Join us as McKendree Sport Management students support [www.loveyoumorefoundation.org](http://www.loveyoumorefoundation.org), a non-profit organization that helps families affected by childhood tumors. Online registration will close at noon on April 12. Race day registration in-person at the Hett between 7-7:45 a.m. Race starts at 8 a.m. The Hett Center for the Arts, 400 North Alton Street. Call (618) 537-6863 or visit [thehett.com](http://thehett.com). Register at [mckspportmgmt.com](http://mckspportmgmt.com).

**April 13 5K RUN/WALK FOR LIFE**, Shelbyville. A challenging race with great scenery. Participants can choose the 5K run/walk or 1K prayer walk. 7:45 - 8:45 a.m. late registration and packet pick up; 9 a.m. 5K run/walk start; 10:30 a.m.

awards. \$25 per person or \$75 for family of five. Dacey Trail at Forest Park, East North 9th Street. Register at [runsignup.com](http://runsignup.com).

**April 20 5K RUN/WALK FOR LIFE**, Effingham. Participants can choose the 5K run/walk or 1K prayer walk. 7:45 - 8:45 a.m. late registration and packet pick up; 9 a.m. 5K run/walk start; 10:15 a.m. awards; 10:30 a.m. 1 mile prayer warrior walk will begin. \$25 per person or \$75 for family of 5. Effingham Performance Center, 1325 Outer Belt West. Register at [runsignup.com](http://runsignup.com).

**April 20 WATERSHED RUN WILD! 5K & FUN RUN**, Edwardsville. Coffee and yoga will be provided before the race. Hang around afterward for a native plant sale, music and Discovery Day educational



activities for the kids. Awards given in several categories. 5K is \$35 and starts at 8:30 a.m.; virtual 5K is \$30 (registration ends on April 18); 1 mile fun run is \$15 and starts at 9:30 a.m. Proceeds benefit the Nature Preserve Foundation's mission: Education, Restoration, Recreation. Watershed Nature Center, 1591 Tower Avenue. To register, visit [naturepreservefoundation.org](http://naturepreservefoundation.org).

**April 27 KIDS & COPS DOUGHNUT RUN**, Granite City. A day of fun and awareness, offering both a competitive 5K and non-competitive 1 mile walk/run. This is the perfect event for those looking for a fun day out with the family, a walk in a beautiful park, and/or a way to support a good cause. Prior to the race, we will have refreshments, music, kids' activities, the opportunity to explore first response vehicles, and a photo opp with our mascot, the giant doughnut man. 8 a.m. check-in and kids activities; 9:15 a.m. race introduction; 9:30 a.m. race start. Wilson Park, 2900 Benton Street. To register, visit [brightpoint.org](http://brightpoint.org).

**May 4 HYDRANTS, HOSES, AND HEROES**, Highland. Celebrate International Firefighters Day by participating in our 5K run/walk. This Highland Fire Department Auxiliary event provides financial support for fire department initiatives, food and beverages for the team during fires and emergencies, and support for families impacted by fires. Registration at 7 a.m.; race at 8 a.m. Lindendale Park, 2005 Park Hill Drive. Register at [runsignup.com/race/il/highland/hydrantshosesandheroes5k](http://runsignup.com/race/il/highland/hydrantshosesandheroes5k).

**May 4 LAW DAY RUN**, Belleville. 5K run/walk and 1K youth fun run or toddler trot. Long-sleeve t-shirt hoodies for 5K participants registered by April 19. Custom beverage tumblers for age group awards. \$100 gift card to winner of best Cinco de Mayo-themed costume. Tacos, margaritas and Mexican pizza after race. This is the first event in Belleville's Triple Crown Series. Proceeds benefit the Land of Lincoln Legal Assistance Foundation and other legal aid organizations, who provide low income and senior residents of southern and central Illinois with high quality civil litigation services to obtain and maintain their basic human needs.

Starts at 9 a.m. 113 East Main Street. Register at [lawdayrun.com](http://lawdayrun.com).

**May 25 RUN/WALK IN REMEMBRANCE 5K**, Worden. All proceeds will provide assistance and opportunities to those who have been affected by burn injuries, as well as to their children and families. We welcome and encourage individuals and families to wear t-shirts in memory of their loved one(s). Packet/shirt pick-up and in-person registration Friday, May 24 from 6 - 8 p.m. or on race day at 8 a.m. Run starts at 9 a.m. Worden Public Library, 111 East Wall Street. Register at [doughbehemefoundation.org](http://doughbehemefoundation.org).

**May 27 LEGACY MEMORIAL DAY 5K**, Belleville. This 5K run/walk honors the many who have given their lives in defense of our country. 7:30 a.m. race check-in; 8:30 a.m. National Anthem; 8:45 a.m. race start; 9:45 a.m. award ceremony. T-shirt guaranteed if registered by May 6. Proceeds support Trail Life and American Heritage Girl Troops IL-0078 efforts to promote patriotism, good citizenship, and a love for the military. Race begins and ends at Laderman Park, 1105 Mascoutah Avenue. Register at [honoringthelegacymemorialday5k.itsyourrace.com](http://honoringthelegacymemorialday5k.itsyourrace.com).

**June 1 SERVICE ABOVE SELF ROTARY CLUB 5K RUN/WALK**, Swansea. Proceeds benefit the Chad Wood Memorial Scholarship Fund, which supports college scholarships for qualifying graduates from area high schools. T-shirt, number pick-up and late registrations on race day 6:30 - 7:30 a.m.; start at 8:00 a.m. Begins and ends at Wolf Branch Elementary School, 125 Huntwood Road. To register, visit [swansearotary.org/service-above-self-5k-run.php](http://swansearotary.org/service-above-self-5k-run.php).

**June 8 ROUTE 66 10K RUN**, Edwardsville. This event is tailored to be enjoyed by all who participate as runners, walkers and volunteers. A portion of the proceeds are used to promote physical fitness and activity in the Metro East. Packet pick-up 6:30 - 7:45 a.m.; race starts at 8 a.m.; awards ceremony 10 a.m. Edwardsville's City Park, Metro Milers tent, 101 South Buchanan Street. Register at [route6610k.com](http://route6610k.com).

## WHO • WHAT • WHERE



PHOTO COURTESY IOC OLYMPIC MUSEUM, SWITZERLAND

Several of you recognized the Olympic athlete pictured in our February magazine. Thanks to everyone who submitted a solution — and special thanks to Gordon Moore of Vandalia and Sharon Hobbie of Ramsey for sending blog links and a newspaper clipping our way, each of which spotlighted the accomplishments of a Montgomery County resident who represented our country — and our area — on a world stage.

On to our next challenge: Do you know where we took the photo below? Maybe you have a memory involving the building, the street or the first time you saw the sign? Let us know. We'll share some of your responses in June. Meanwhile, here's what you had to say about our February puzzle.

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I am pleased to report, the man pictured in the Feb. 2024 edition of *The Southwestern Magazine*

happens to be Mr. Harold Osborne.

After an extensive search of what I thought was 1932 or 1936 Olympic team names, it just so happens I stumbled across this excerpt from an article posted from Nancy Tinari [Feb. 5, 2016 post at <https://nancytinarirunswrites.wordpress.com>]. I immediately saw the resemblance of Mr. Osborne and followed up with Wiki to confirm my suspicions.

Sad this fine human has passed on. It would have been a pleasure to meet him and hear of his many experiences.

I guess the top picture would have come from the 1924 Olympic Games in Paris. The wiki article says he earned 2 Gold medals. One for the High Jump and

the second for winning the Decathlon. He was born in Butler, Illinois and was a U of I Graduate. I would guess the second photo would have been when he set the world record for the high jump – judging by the number of official looking fellows surrounding him.

Appreciate the challenge and recognition of a fine person.  
—Gordon R. Moore, Vandalia

The February 2024 “Who am I?” challenge proved to be a truly amazing Olympic athlete. Harold Osborn is the

pride of Butler, where he was born and raised, the University of Illinois, where he received a degree in agriculture, and Lewiston, where he taught school while training.

In the 1924 Olympics in Paris he won gold medals and set Olympic records in both the high jump and the decathlon. His 6’ 6” high jump remained the Olympic record for 12 years, while his decathlon score of 7,710.775 points also set a new world record, and resulted in worldwide press coverage calling him the “world’s greatest athlete.”

His standing high jump of 5’ 5 ¾” is still a world record today as it is no longer competed in the Olympics.

Not bad for a guy who stood 5’ 11” and weighed 161 pounds. Due to a childhood accident, he had very little vision in one eye

which caused challenges with his depth perception. He was not deterred!  
—Bill Malec, O’Fallon

Harold Osborn, Butler, IL, 1924  
Olympic gold medalist.  
—Tona Walker, Troy

His family home was down the road from me when I lived in Hillsboro — the road north of the courthouse.  
—Sharon Hobbie, Ramsey

**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](mailto: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.

**WHERE ARE WE?**



# YARDBIRD

## Specials

### THAI CHICKEN SALAD

#### Salad Ingredients

- 4 cooked boneless, skinless chicken breasts chopped
- 1 bag broccoli slaw (2-3 cups)
- 1 cup papaya sliced
- 1 cup cucumber sliced
- 2 small bok choy chopped
- ¼ cup mint chopped
- ½ cup peanuts or slivered almonds
- 1 red chili pepper diced (optional garnish)

#### Dressing Ingredients

- juice of 2 limes
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 2 tablespoons low sodium soy sauce
- 1 tablespoon honey
- 2 tablespoons peanut butter
- 1 teaspoon fish sauce
- pinch of red pepper flakes

#### Directions

1. In a large bowl add chicken, broccoli, papaya, cucumber, bok choy, mint and nuts and toss together.
2. In a separate bowl combine dressing ingredients and mix well.
3. Pour dressing over salad, toss well and sprinkle on diced red chili pepper.

### SOUTHWESTERN CHICKEN SALAD

#### Salad Ingredients

- 1 (15 ounce) can no salt added black beans rinsed and drained
- 12 ounces cooked boneless, skinless chicken breasts chopped
- 1 (8 ounce) can diced water chestnuts
- ½ red bell pepper chopped
- ½ green pepper chopped
- ½ red onion chopped
- ½ cup fresh cilantro chopped
- ½ jalapeno pepper minced

#### Dressing Ingredients

- 3 tablespoons cider vinegar
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 2 tablespoons orange juice
- 1 teaspoon ground cumin
- ½ teaspoon chili powder
- ½ teaspoon ground red pepper
- ½ teaspoon salt

#### Directions

1. Combine beans chicken, water chestnuts, peppers, cilantro and jalapeno pepper in a large bowl and mix well.
2. Place dressing ingredients in a jar or container with a fitted lid, shake until salt dissolves, pour dressing over salad, mix well and serve.

### CLASSIC CHICKEN SALAD

#### Ingredients

- 1 whole roasted rotisserie chicken skin removed, deboned and chopped
- ¾ cup ranch dressing
- ⅔ cup slivered almonds
- 2 large celery ribs chopped
- ½ cup fresh parsley leaves coarsely chopped
- ½ cup onion finely diced
- ½ teaspoon paprika
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- ¼ teaspoon black pepper
- 2 large tomatoes sliced (optional)
- head of romaine lettuce (optional)
- croissants halved (optional)

#### Directions

1. In a large bowl, combine chicken, dressing, almonds, celery, parsley, onion, paprika, salt and pepper. Mix well.
2. Serve on a slice of tomato, bed of lettuce or on a croissant.

Classic Chicken Salad

Prepared & photographed by Mike Barns



## CURRENT EVENTS

**April 5** ARCADIA DANCE ORCHESTRA, Lebanon. The Arcadia Dance Orchestra is an authentic, 11-piece 1920s-style jazz band based in St. Louis. Named after the once-famous Arcadia Ballroom, the group consists of incredible musicians playing era-correct instruments with red-hot energy and keen historical accuracy. Hear the same music and repertoire you could have heard in St. Louis if you were to travel back in time. 7:30 p.m. Admission fees vary. The Hett Center for the Arts, 400 North Alton Street. For tickets, visit [thehett.com](http://thehett.com).

**April 5 & 6** CREATING KEEPSAKES SCRAPBOOKING CONVENTION, Collinsville. Join us for scrapbooking, paper crafting, creative inspiration, classes and cropping. A wide variety of vendor booths where you'll find everything from the latest products to savings on items you need to stock up on. Watch for make and takes sponsored by exhibitors. Friday 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; (9 a.m. exclusive early entrance for show special attendees or purchase an early entrance ticket add on) Saturday: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Gateway Center, One Gateway Drive. For tickets, visit [ckscrapbookevents.com](http://ckscrapbookevents.com).

**April 6** NONSENSE NATURE HIKE, Godfrey. This hike is not what it seems. This tricky, family friendly hike will have

you identifying some interesting phenomena in nature. Bring your dad jokes and your sense of humor to this unusual April Fool's Day themed hike. 1 p.m. \$5 for non-members; members free. Pre-registration required. The Nature Institute, 2213 South Levis Lane. To register, visit [thenatureinstitute.org](http://thenatureinstitute.org).

**April 6** SPRING BIRD WALK, Hillsboro. The walk will be followed by refreshments. 7 a.m. Admission is free. Bremer Sanctuary, 194 Bremer Lane. Visit [bremersanctuary.com](http://bremersanctuary.com).

**April 7** SPRING CRAFT SHOW, Effingham. More than 80 vendors and crafters. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Admission is free. Thelma Keller Convention Center, 1202 North Keller Drive. For more information, email [baentertainment21@gmail.com](mailto:baentertainment21@gmail.com).

**April 9** WHAT'S YOUR MVP? WITH DONNIE CAMPBELL, Lebanon. Coach Donnie Campbell is not just an inspirational coach, but also in part the impetus for the wise and ever so cheerful lead character of the Emmy Award Winning show Ted Lasso. His colorful keynote provides valuable leadership lessons that can be seen on the court, but more importantly, applied in the workplace. At a time when embracing your uniqueness is a rare quality, he shows how to define your core values while forming your mission, values and plan. 7 p.m.

Admission fees vary. The Hett Center for the Arts, 400 North Alton Street. For tickets, visit [thehett.com](http://thehett.com).

**April 10; May 7** TELESCOPE NIGHT, Godfrey. Want to look at the universe through a telescope, but don't own one? Come out to the Talahi Lodge on the night after a full moon and we will have some set up. Bring your own telescope and we can help you use it. We will talk about how telescopes work and look at the moon and other night sky objects. March 7 - 9 p.m.; April 8 - 10 p.m.; May 8:30 - 10:30 p.m. Free for members; \$5 for non-members. Space is limited, registration required. The Nature Institute, 2213 South Levis Lane. To register, visit [thenatureinstitute.org](http://thenatureinstitute.org).

**April 13** NATIVE PLANT FESTIVAL, West Alton. Learn all about native plants and their importance for us and our environment. Local partners will share tips and resources for native landscaping and its benefits. There will also be open tours of the Riverlands greenhouse. 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Audubon Center at Riverlands, 301 Riverlands Way. Call (636) 899-0090 or visit [riverlands.audubon.org](http://riverlands.audubon.org).

**April 13** TRIVIA FOR TAILS, Effingham. Join us for a fun night of raffles, prizes and trivia in support of the animals at

the Effingham County Humane Society. You are welcome to bring your own snacks. Bake sale items and drinks will be available for purchase. 5:30 p.m.; trivia begins at 6 p.m. \$150 for a table of 6. Tuscan Hills Winery Stellar Cellar, 2200 Historic Hills Drive. To register, email Lacy at [lacynicoler@gmail.com](mailto:lacynicoler@gmail.com) or (618) 339-3337.

**April 13 & 27** VINE STREET MICRO MARKETS, O'Fallon. Micro Markets are an abbreviated version of the regular season farmers market. 9 a.m. - noon. Indoors at the O'Fallon Station, 212 East 1st Street. Visit [ofallonstation.com](http://ofallonstation.com).

**April 20** CLASSIC FLICKS FOR CONSERVATION, Godfrey. Transformers, those robots in disguise, turn 40 this year, so cozy up with a blanket for a movie on the lawn and celebrate. Come watch Metropolis on our giant inflatable screen. Bring your own chairs or blanket, as well as your own snacks. No alcohol is permitted. No pre-registration required. 8 p.m. While this event is free, donations are welcome. Limited parking is available, so arrive early to grab your seat. All movies this year will feature an episode of the 1939 movie serial "The Phantom Creeps" as a pre-film short. The Nature Institute, 2213 South Levis Lane. Call (618) 466-9930 or visit [thenatureinstitute.org](http://thenatureinstitute.org).

**April 20** EARTH DAY CELEBRATION, Edwardsville. The day kicks off at 8 a.m. with registration for the Run Wild! 5k and Fun Run. Runners step off at 8:30 a.m. Event will also feature a native plant sale, kids discovery day, guided bird walk, yoga, massages, adopt a pet, food trucks and DJ. Watershed Nature Center, 1591 Tower Avenue. Call (618) 692-7578 or visit [watershednaturecenter.com](http://watershednaturecenter.com).



**April 21** MUSHROOM FESTIVAL, Grafton. Join us for live music, unique craft vendors, lunch in the restaurant, locally made wines and all there is to know about morel mushrooms. The Great Morel Hunt will be held at 1 p.m. (weather and morels permitting). Join fellow hunters as you scan the ground for these delicious delicacies. If you're new to mushroom hunting the lodge will have two seasoned hunters out in the woods with you for help. Once the hunt is over, see if you found the smallest, biggest or most morels to win a free night at our lodge. Wear sturdy shoes. 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. This event is free and open to the public and great for all ages. Pere Marquette Lodge & Conference Center, 13653 Lodge Blvd. For more information call Arielle at 618-786-2331, extension 338 or visit [pmlodge.net](http://pmlodge.net).



► *Cogeneration continued from page 14*  
applications will be first in line for review when capacity becomes available for Program Year 2024-2025.

You can learn more about Illinois Shines at [www.illinoisshines.com](http://www.illinoisshines.com).

To search for installers certified by the Illinois Commerce Commission, go to [www.icc.illinois.gov/public-utility](http://www.icc.illinois.gov/public-utility).

## ASK QUESTIONS


At Southwestern Electric, we hear solar terms used every day. Most installers are well-versed in technical language and often use it when presenting information to interested consumers. It's easy for people in our field to think of industry-specific language as something everyone is familiar with — but this likely isn't the case. If we're using terms that are unfamiliar or unclear to you, ask us to define those terms or explain the point we're making in another way.

Write a list of questions. Spend some time working on your list. Have it in hand when you're gathering estimates. Your list may include questions like:

- How will the installer determine which size of system will be best for you?
- Is battery storage a good option for you? Why or why not?

- Based on your bills, how long will it take for your system to pay for itself?
- Are their return-on-investment projections based on Southwestern's avoided cost, as they should be, or did they mistakenly calculate your savings based on net metering?

Your list should help to ensure you know exactly what to expect from your installation. Which brings me back to my first point: If you're considering solar, make Southwestern Electric your first call. I'll be happy to help you create a list of questions to ask the installers you contact, and I'll explain our approach to metering and the co-op's safety requirements. You can reach me at 800-637-8667 or [julie.lowe@sweci.com](mailto:julie.lowe@sweci.com). I look forward to hearing from you.

*As Southwestern Electric's energy manager, Julie Lowe coordinates a variety of member-oriented programs involving cogeneration and solar energy, electric vehicles, home and commercial EV chargers, and Southwestern Electric Cooperative's energy efficiency rebate program. You can speak with Julie by calling 800-637-8667 or email her at [julie.lowe@sweci.com](mailto:julie.lowe@sweci.com).* 

**April 20 HOMEBREW & MUSIC WALK**, Belleville. Ticket holders will be able to sample home brewed beers, judge who is the Best in Belleville and enjoy live music throughout Main Street. There will be music at several locations during and after the walk. 3 - 7 p.m. Starts at Shoehorn Brewing, 225 East Main Street. Visit [bellevillemainstreet.net/events](http://bellevillemainstreet.net/events).

**April 23 SHELBY COUNTY ART SHOW**, Shelbyville. The Special Exhibit this year will feature the works of Robert Marshall Root (1863-1937), Midwestern tonalist and impressionist artist from Shelbyville. 3 - 7 p.m. Lake Shelbyville Corps of Engineers Visitor Center, U.S. 1989 State Highway 16. Call Carol Kessler at (217) 827-5690 or email [carolkessler1948@gmail.com](mailto:carolkessler1948@gmail.com).

**April 23; May 23 MOONLIGHT HIKE**, Godfrey. Join us on a night hike on the trails of the Mississippi Sanctuary and Olin Nature Preserve. The terrain is light to moderate and is appropriate for families. The hike will be about 2 miles with stops along the way. Meet at the Talahi Lodge. The April hike leaves promptly at 8 p.m.; May event leaves at 8:30 p.m. Admission is free for members; non-members \$5. Registration is required. The Nature Institute, 2213 South Levis Lane. Call (618) 466-9930 or visit [thenatureinstitute.org](http://thenatureinstitute.org).

**April 27 FISHING DERBY**, Maryville. Open to anyone 15 years of age or younger. No fishing license needed. Bring fishing gear and bait. Box lunches and awards. 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Drost Park, East Division

Street. Email [parksandrec@maryville-il.us](mailto:parksandrec@maryville-il.us).

**April 27 WALKING WITH LLAMAS**, Altamont. Come out and walk on the trail with llamas. We'll also have yard games for kids. 1 - 3 p.m. Event is free. Ballard Nature Center, 5253 East U.S. Highway 40. Visit [ballardnaturecenter.org](http://ballardnaturecenter.org).

**April 28 ST. LOUIS BRASS BAND AND ACADEMY BRASS BAND**, Lebanon. The Saint Louis Brass Band consists of 30 professional brass and percussion performers whose mission is to spread the repertoire of the traditional brass band through many high-quality performances in the Greater St. Louis Metropolitan area. 3 p.m. Admission fees

*Continued on next page* ►

## CO-OP OFFERS NEW 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 drop off your materials at our Greenville office.



## HAVE QUESTIONS?

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

► *Continued from page 25* vary. The Hett Center for the Arts, 400 North Alton Street. For tickets, visit [thehett.com](http://thehett.com).

**May 2-12 SOMETHING ROTTEN**, 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 [lookingglassplayhouse.com](http://lookingglassplayhouse.com).

**May 4 MUSIC FESTIVAL**, Maryville. Event will feature 11 bands. Great food and drink options for purchase. Proceeds benefit the construction of an entertainment pavilion in Fireman's Park. 1 - 11 p.m. Admission is \$20. Firemen's Park, 300 North Donk Street. Call (618) 233-8965 or visit [facebook.com/tmscoc/](http://facebook.com/tmscoc/).

**April 27 WOODLAND WILDFLOWER WALK**, Hillsboro. The walk will be followed by refreshments. 10 a.m. Admission is free. Bremer Sanctuary, 194 Bremer Lane. Visit [bremersanctuary.com](http://bremersanctuary.com).



**May 4 READING IN THE PARK WITH PAIGE**, Grafton. Paige Hulse of KMOV News 4 will read from her children's book *A Bad Day Fishing*. The Grafton Chamber of Commerce will provide free copies of the book on a first-come, first-served basis. Paige will sign books after the reading. The event will also feature family-friendly vendors. 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. Free admission. The Grove Memorial Park, Corner of Market and Main Street. Visit [facebook.com/enjoygrafton/](http://facebook.com/enjoygrafton/).

**May 4 SPRING FLING FESTIVAL**, Greenville. Enjoy breakfast and lunch in the Lil' Red Barn from 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. The Smok'n on the Farm BBQ Competition starts at 1 p.m. Taste each team's best eats with \$15 armband starting at 4 p.m. Event also includes a flea market and swap meet, beer tent and live music. 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. (rain or shine). American Farm Heritage Museum, 1395 Museum Avenue. Call (618) 664-9733 or visit [american-farmheritagemuseum.org](http://american-farmheritagemuseum.org).

**May 4 TOUR DE STOOGES**, Lebanon. This is a rolling start ride with riders beginning as soon after check-in as they choose. Routes range from 9 - 100 miles. After the ride, we spread out, eat and watch Three Stooges shorts until the cows come home. Long distance rider check-in begins at 5:30 a.m. Riders must finish by 4 p.m. Lunch is served 11 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. Adults \$35; children 5 - 12 years of age \$20; family (2 adults, 2 children from same household) \$80; family child add-on (must be from same household) \$15. McKendree University Convocation Center, Alton Street. Register at [gatewaystrails.org](http://gatewaystrails.org).

**May 10-12, 15-19 ALTON LITTLE THEATER: SINGIN' IN**

**May 11 & 12 DEPARTURE CELEBRATION**, Hartford. Celebrate the departure of Lewis & Clark as they set out on an expedition of discovery. Reenactors, historic artisans, and more will celebrate this important date in Illinois and American history. Demonstrations will include artillery, muskets, candle making, fiber arts, cooking, and more. Volunteers will exhibit the replica of the White Pirogue the Expedition journeyed in. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is free. Lewis & Clark State Historic Site, One Lewis & Clark Trail. Call (618) 251-5811 or visit [campdubois.com](http://campdubois.com).



**THE RAIN**, Alton. A theatrical presentation by the Alton Little Theater Company. Thursday - Saturday at 7:30 p.m.; Sunday at 2 p.m. Alton Little Theater, 2450 North Henry Street. For tickets, call (618) 462-3205 or visit [altonlittletheater.org](http://altonlittletheater.org).

**May 12; June 9; July 14; August 11; September 8; October 13 PICKERS MARKET**, Litchfield. An open-air market with vintage collectibles, live music and food. 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. 400 North State Street (intersection of Route 16/Union Avenue and State Street). Visit [visitlitchfield.com](http://visitlitchfield.com).

**May 17-19 ART ON THE SQUARE**, Belleville. Featuring the work of over 100 artists

from around the world, musical and stage performances, and local food and drink. The festival will include children's art activities, high school exhibits, live entertainment, a children's art garden, art demonstrations, food and wine. Friday 4 - 9 p.m.; Saturday 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.; Sunday 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. Admission is free. Call (800) 677-9255 or visit [artonthesquare.com](http://artonthesquare.com).

**May 18 & 19 POPS CONCERT**, Highland. A Heartland Community Chorus performance. Our always popular pops concert takes a light-hearted look at love with jazz and Broadway standards. Saturday 7 p.m.; Sunday 3 p.m. St. Paul Catholic Church, Trinity Hall, 1412 Main Street. For tickets, visit [heartlandcommunitychorus.org](http://heartlandcommunitychorus.org)

**May 18 & 19 SPRING NATIVE AMERICAN MARKET**, Collinsville. This year's Spring Native American Market is moving to the Collinsville VFW-Post 5691, located at 1234 Vandalia Street. Over 30 tribal affiliated artists from across North America demonstrate and sell authentic indigenous arts and crafts including jewelry, ceramics, paintings/drawings, clothing, flutes, woodcarvings and more. 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. Admission is free. Collinsville VFW-Post 5691, 1234 Vandalia Street. Visit [cahokiamounds.org](http://cahokiamounds.org).

**May 19 STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL**, St. Jacob. Family event featuring delicious food and desserts as well as kids' activities, free music, crafters and more. 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. Free to enter. Various prices for food, activities, vendors, etc. St. Jacob Township Park, 239 West Main Street. Visit [stjacobucc.org](http://stjacobucc.org)

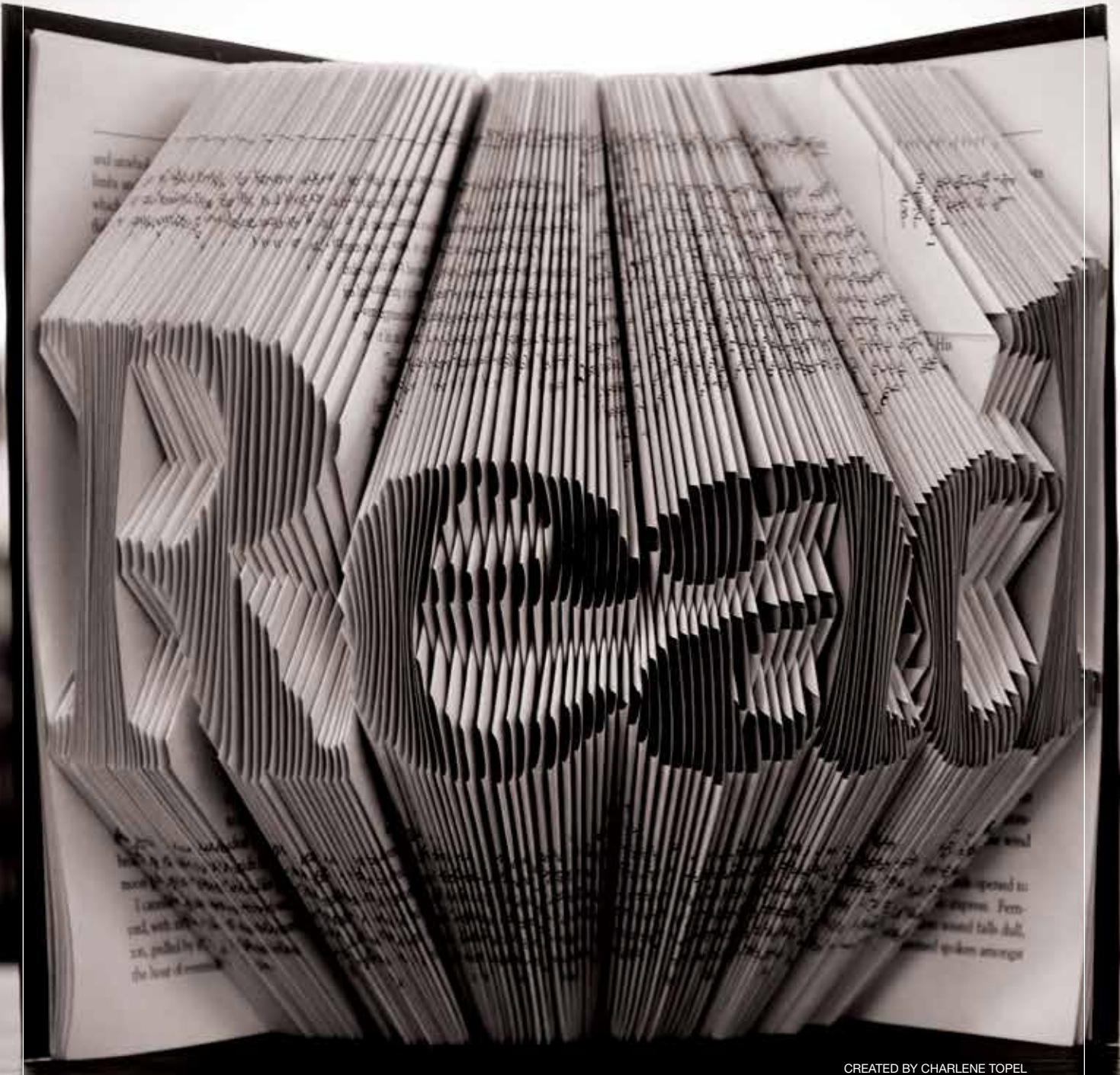
#### Call to Confirm

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](mailto:joe.richardson@sweci.com). Please use our Current Events format (as seen on these pages) to write your submission. Include a contact number or email and submit your listing at least two months prior to your event.

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## THE FINAL FRAME

