

THE *Southwestern*

A SOUTHWESTERN ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE MEMBER MAGAZINE

JULY 2026 • VOLUME 78 • ISSUE 7

The 'Glory' of Love

EDEN'S GLORY GETS BOOST FROM ORU

UNDERSTANDING DEMAND

ANNUAL MEETING

SUMMER CONCERTS

BEAT THE HEAT

A STORY TO TELL

LIVE LINE DEMO KEEPS EDUCATING

PROPOSED BYLAW REVISIONS



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

04 News & Notes

Watermelons are in season, and they're also in this month's issue—or at least one is. Find it hidden in our pages and you could win a \$25 bill credit.

05 Annual Meeting

Our 88th Annual Meeting of Members is coming up on Sept. 12. Vote and bring your preprinted voter registration card to receive a \$30 credit on an upcoming bill.

06 Demand Charge

We recently updated our bill format to separate out demand. Why is demand important? Allow us to explain.

07 Board Candidates

Six candidates have been nominated for the three open seats in this year's Board of Directors election. Learn more about the voting process inside.

08 Bylaw Revisions

This year's ballot will also include the opportunity to vote on proposed updates to the cooperative's bylaws. Get an overview of those proposed changes here.

12 Operation Round Up

A recent donation from Southwestern Electric's Operation Round Up program is helping Greenville-based Eden's Glory combat human trafficking.

14 Energy & Efficiency

It's not the heat, it's the humidity. But what if it wasn't? Dehumidifiers could be your secret weapon to beating the Midwestern heat this summer.

16 Health & Safety

A few years in, Kyle Hails and Southwestern Electric's live line demonstration crew continue to "present a story" of electrical safety to the community.

18 Out & About

Amble down a downtown street on a summer night and you're likely to hear music. Don't want to leave it up to chance? Consult our list and find what sounds good to you.

20 Who-What-Where

Only one of you could pinpoint our June location. Will you have more luck with this month's west-facing woman?

22 Co-op Kitchen

There's no better way to beat the summer heat than with a cool summer salad.



525 U.S. Route 40, Greenville, IL 62246.
Phone: 800-637-8667. Office Hours:
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Visit us on the Web at www.sweci.com.

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CEO

Bobby Williams Chief Executive Officer

The Southwestern

Mike Barns Art Director
email: mike.barns@sweci.com
Nathan Grimm Media Specialist
email: nathan.grimm@sweci.com

Distribution Centers:

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

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

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24 Current Events

Live music isn't all our area has to offer in July. See what else is going on locally in the calendar of events.

26 Final Frame

Un-comfrt-able.

27 Voter Registration Card

Redeem this card for a \$30 bill credit.

ON THE COVER

Southwestern Electric Maintenance Foreman Kyle Hails teaches the students at Silver Creek Elementary School in Troy about electrical safety at a recent live line demonstration. Our story on the live line demo starts on page 16.



CO-OP REMINDERS

July 3 Offices closed in observance of Independence Day.

July 21 Payment processing unavailable 8 - 11 p.m. while we perform maintenance.

August 18 Payment processing unavailable 8 - 11 p.m. while we perform maintenance.



FIND US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

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

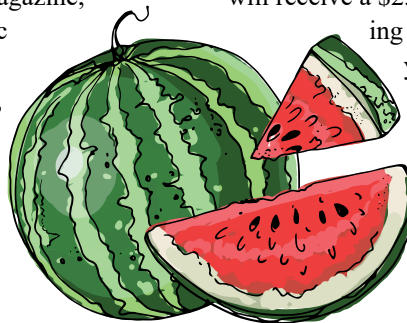


Reader Contest

We've hidden an image of a watermelon in your magazine. Your job is to find

it. The actual image may be larger or smaller than what you see below. We may change the color or reverse or alter the image we've hidden to make the contest more challenging. If you find the watermelon, email us or send a postcard with your name, address, phone number, and the page number where you found the image. Please email us at thesouthwestern@sweci.com or send your postcard to The Southwestern Magazine, Southwestern Electric Cooperative, 525 US Route 40, Greenville, IL 62246.

Entries must be postmarked or in our thesouthwestern@sweci.com inbox by the first day



of the month following the month of publication. For our July contest, we'll need your entries in our inbox or postmarked by August 1, 2026.

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 October issue of The Southwestern.

MAY WINNER

Congratulations to Daniel Engelmann of St. Jacob. As the winner of our May Hide & Seek contest drawing, Daniel will receive a \$25 credit on an upcoming electric bill. Thank

you to everyone who participated in our May contest. This month's image appears at left. You'll find Hide & Seek rules below.

RULES TO PLAY BY

- One entry per membership per month.
- A membership can only win once per calendar year.
- No phone calls, texts, social media posts, walk-in traffic, carrier pigeons, singing telegrams or other clever means of communication that may occur to you.
- Please respond *only* by emailing us at thesouthwestern@sweci.com or by sending a postcard to The Southwestern Magazine, Southwestern Electric Cooperative, 525 US Route 40, Greenville, IL 62246.
- Entries submitted by other methods will be disqualified.
- Entries emailed to other Southwestern Electric email addresses will be disqualified, deleted, then disqualified again, just to be safe.
- Entries mailed to other departments or included with other correspondence will likely never find their way to the editor. If they do, they'll be disqualified. Also, he'll add you to his list of people who can't follow instructions. It's a long (and growing) list and not one you care to be part of.
- July contest entries must be in our inbox or postmarked by August 1.
- We'll never hide the image on the front or back cover or on the page where we list the rules.

ANNUAL MEETING 2026

Southwestern Electric's 88th Annual Meeting of Members will be held Saturday, Sept. 12, at the American Farm Heritage Museum, 1395 Museum Avenue, Greenville, IL 62246. Breakfast and voting start at 8 a.m. followed by the business meeting at 10 a.m. See you soon!



Bring Your Voter Registration Card and Earn a Total Bill Credit of \$30

To help ensure you receive your 2026 voter registration card in time for this year's election, Southwestern is once again including a registration card in both the July issue and the August special edition of The Southwestern. The cards are identical, and you only need one card to register and vote. Members may register and vote only once.

Members who participate in voting for the Annual Meeting will receive a \$20 bill credit. As an added incentive, members who bring their preprinted voter registration card to a voting location will receive an additional \$10 bill credit, for a total bill credit of \$30.

To expedite the voting process, members are encouraged to bring the voter registration card printed on the back cover of the July issue or the August special edition of The Southwestern to one of Southwestern's designated voting locations. A complete schedule of voting dates, times, and locations appears on page 27.

Southwestern Electric Cooperative's 88th Annual Meeting of Members will be held at American Farm Heritage Museum, 1395 Museum Avenue, Greenville, IL 62246. Additional annual meeting information will be published in the August issue of The Southwestern.

Questions may be directed to Brooke Scott, Manager of Member Services, at 800-637-8667 or by email at community@sweci.com.

VOTER REGISTRATION CARD 2026 Please sign and present this card at the registration table.

88th Annual Meeting of Members

Saturday, September 12, 2026



Member Signature _____

Please enroll me in Operation Round Up

PLEASE UPDATE YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION

Home Phone # (if applicable): _____ Cell Phone #: _____

Service Address: _____ Billing Address: _____

Email Address: _____

Fill out and present this registration card to receive an additional \$10 bill credit!

Sign Up for SmartHub Today!

Our SmartHub web portal and mobile app will keep you informed and help you save time and money.

- Set It & Forget It: Use **Auto Pay** to automatically pay your bill on the due date.
- Stay Informed: Get the information you need to make the best decisions about your account.
- Monitor Usage: Track your energy use and find ways to lower your bill.



For more information on SmartHub and how to get it, visit our website at <https://www.sweci.com/smarthub>.

88th ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERS

Six Candidates Currently on Ballot; Candidacy by Petition Deadline Pending

In accordance with Southwestern Electric Cooperative's bylaws, a nine-member Nominations Committee convened on May 28 to nominate candidates for three open seats on the board of directors—one seat representing each voting district.

Southwestern Electric Cooperative's board of directors is responsible for establishing policy, ensuring members' needs and concerns are given fair and timely consideration, and overseeing the Cooperative's governance, strategic direction, and financial stability.

The deadline for candidacy by petition (June 29) was pending at press time. As of June 10, the following candidates had been nominated:

- District I: Incumbent Marvin Warner, Pocahontas
- District II: Challenger Clayton Hilderbrand, Sorento
Incumbent Brad Lurkins, Greenville
- District III: Challenger Cassie Abendroth, Beecher City
Incumbent Annette Hartlieb, Vandalia
Challenger Vance Moore, Brownstown

Directors elected in this year's election will serve three-year terms beginning Sept. 12, 2026.

Candidate profiles will appear in the August 2026 edition of *The Southwestern*, which serves as the Official Notice of the 88th Annual Meeting of Members and the cooperative's Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2025. Members who experience USPS delivery delays may access the magazine online at sweci.com.

To encourage member participation, Southwestern has developed a voting schedule that provides ample opportunities for early voting. Dates, times, and voting locations are listed on page 27.

Southwestern Electric Cooperative's 88th Annual Meeting of Members will be held Saturday, Sept. 12, at American Farm Heritage Museum, 1395 Museum Avenue, Greenville, Illinois. Breakfast starts at 8 a.m. followed by the business meeting at 10 a.m. Members attending the Annual Meeting can enjoy several activities, including a complimentary breakfast, a live line safety demonstration, and opportunities to learn more about their cooperative. In addition, the first 150 members who register at the Annual Meeting on Sept. 12 will receive a complimentary multi-charger cable.

Absentee Voting Guidelines

Section 4 (E): Proxy Voting, Absentee Voting and Voting by Entities: Proxy voting is prohibited. However, anything contained in the Bylaws to the contrary notwithstanding, a Member may vote by absentee ballot as follows: A Member desiring to cast his vote absentee, shall appear in person at the Cooperative's headquarters at Greenville, Illinois, during the ten weekdays preceding the election at regularly scheduled office hours, or at such other locations as may be established from time to time by the Board of Directors for the purpose of casting absentee ballots, during hours and days as directed by the Board of Directors and shall request an absentee ballot. An absentee ballot approved by the Credentials and Election Committee shall be provided and the Member shall cast such ballot secretly and seal such ballot in an envelope, which shall be provided in such sealed envelope to the Credentials and Election Committee. On the date of the Annual Meeting of the Members, the Credentials and Election Committee shall open and count such absentee ballots so provided. Any absentee ballot, which is delivered to the Credentials and Election Committee in an unsealed condition, shall be deemed invalid and shall not be counted. Notice of this Bylaw provision shall be provided to the Members of the Cooperative in the notice of Annual Meeting. Voting by Members other than Members who are Natural Persons shall be allowed only upon the presentation to the Cooperative by a duly appointed officer or agent of such Member (prior to or upon registration of such Member at each Member meeting, or when requesting an absentee ballot) of satisfactory evidence entitling such officer or agent presenting the same to cast a vote on behalf of such Member.

Questions regarding the election process or the Annual Meeting may be directed to Brooke Scott, Manager of Member Services, at (800) 637-8667 or by email at community@sweci.com.

Southwestern Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Proposed Bylaws Revision — Summary of Material Changes

This year's ballot includes more than just director elections. Members will also have the opportunity to vote on proposed updates to the cooperative's bylaws. The last revision to the bylaws was in 2012, and over the past several months, the Board of Directors, management, and Southwestern Electric's corporate attorney have carefully reviewed the current bylaws to ensure they continue to meet the needs of today's cooperative and its members.

The proposed revisions represent a comprehensive modernization of the governing documents. A summary of the proposed bylaw revisions is included below. Members can scan the QR code on page 11 or visit the Cooperative's website and review the complete redline version of the proposed changes. The summary will also be reprinted in the Annual Report, along with the full redline draft of the revised bylaws.

Members who would like a printed copy of the proposed revisions may stop by the Cooperative's headquarters in Greenville to pick one up. If you have any questions regarding the proposed changes, please contact us at 1-800-637-8667.

Overview

The revision draft reflects a comprehensive modernization of the Cooperative's governing documents. The changes summarized below represent material, substantive revisions, particularly concentrated in the areas of Member classification, the Annual Meeting and elections process, Director qualifications, voting methods, and capital credits. Minor grammatical and typographical corrections are not addressed in this summary but are contained in the revision draft.

1. Membership Structure (Section 2)

Elimination of the Associate Member Class

The previous bylaws created two classes of members:

- Regular Members — entitled to vote, receive service, and hold office.
- Associate Members — a non-voting class that received no service, held no capital credits, and could not serve as Directors. The revision eliminates the Associate Member class entirely, replacing the two-class structure with a single Member class. The language governing Associate Members, and references to them throughout the document (including in Sections 8 and 10), has been deleted.

Practical effect: The Cooperative will no longer maintain or offer Associate Memberships. Existing Associate Members (if any) would need to apply as full Members or their status would lapse.

2. Annual Meeting (Section 4A)

Separation of Elections from the Annual Meeting

The previous bylaws contemplated that Directors would be elected by secret written ballot at the Annual Meeting itself, with Members physically present casting votes. The revision restructures this significantly:

- The Annual Meeting's role in the election process is now limited to announcing the results of Director elections, rather than being the venue where voting occurs.
- Actual voting on Director elections takes place before the Annual Meeting through mail, electronic, Cooperative facility (in-person polling), or aggregate (combination) balloting — all managed in advance of the meeting date.
- The Order of Business is updated accordingly: item (e) now reads "Report on the Election of Directors or the Election of Directors", reflecting that the election may already be complete.

This change brings the election structure in line with practices common at cooperatives that have moved to pre-meeting balloting, allowing broader Member participation beyond those who attend the Annual Meeting in person. Notwithstanding the foregoing, it should be noted the revision still provides the ability to conduct elections and vote on matters at the Annual Meeting at the discretion of the Board of Directors.

Expanded Meeting Format Flexibility

The revision explicitly authorizes the Board to hold the Annual Meeting in person or by video conferencing, or web-based conferencing, provided Members have a reasonable opportunity to participate. This codifies remote meeting authority.

3. Voting Methods for Member Matters (Section 4C)

The revised bylaws formalize four distinct methods by which Member votes may be conducted — on any matter, not just Director elections. This is a meaningful expansion from the prior bylaws, which only addressed voting at a meeting and limited mail balloting:

Method	Description
Mail Ballot	Written ballots mailed to each Member with a fixed Election Date for return. Notice required at least 30 days in advance.
Electronic Ballot	Ballots distributed and cast electronically. Member must have an email address on file. Board determines terms to protect election integrity.
Cooperative Facility Voting	In-person polling at Cooperative Headquarters and/or designated facilities in each District. Ballots delivered at least 30 days before Election Date.
Aggregate (Combined)	A combination of mail, electronic, and/or facility voting used together. Board has discretion to combine methods for any given election.

The Board retains exclusive authority to determine which method(s) to use for any given election or vote. The Credentials and Election Committee’s authority to establish ballots and procedures operates within whatever method the Board selects.

4. Director Elections Process (Section 4D)

Election Date Definition

The draft introduces a defined term — Election Date — used consistently throughout the election provisions. The Election Date is either:

- The date of the Annual Meeting, if the election is held at the meeting; or
- The ballot return deadline, if the election is conducted by mail, electronically, or at a Cooperative facility.

This clarifies timing for nomination deadlines, notice requirements, and committee appointments, all of which are keyed off the Election Date.

Notice to Members — Expanded Content Requirements

The notice of nominations mailed to Members must now include not only candidate names and districts, but also information sufficient to explain all available voting procedures (mail, electronic, facility, aggregate). This ensures Members understand how to participate regardless of which method(s) the Board selects.

Director Election by Plurality — Codified

The draft explicitly states that Directors are elected by a plurality of votes cast, with ties resolved by drawing of lots. This codifies the plurality standard, which was previously implied but not stated in the bylaws.

5. Director Qualifications (Section 5B)

Cooling-Off Period for Former Employees

Under the prior bylaws, a current employee or agent of the Cooperative was disqualified from serving as a Director, but there was no waiting period for former employees. The revision adds a three-year cooling-off period: a person who was employed by the Cooperative within three years of the applicable Election Date is disqualified from running.

This change is intended to prevent recently departed employees from immediately transitioning to Director roles, reducing the risk of conflicts of interest.

Competing Business Disqualification — Narrowed

The previous disqualification for being involved in a competing enterprise was broader, including businesses primarily engaged in selling electrical appliances, fixtures, or supplies to Cooperative Members. The revision narrows this to businesses selling electric energy or supplies to the Cooperative — a more focused conflict-of-interest test.

District Residency Requirement — Codified

Directors must now reside and receive service at their primary place of abode within the Directorate District they represent or seek to represent. This requirement was implied by the district structure but is now an explicit qualification.

Elimination of Non-Natural Person Director Exception

The prior bylaws included a provision allowing a duly elected officer or agent of a Member that is not a Natural Person (e.g., a corporation or LLC) to serve as a Director even if such officer did not independently satisfy the age or natural-person qualifications. This exception has been deleted. Under the revised bylaws, all Directors must be Natural Persons aged 18 or older, without exception.

6. Vacancies — Special Election Threshold (Section 5G)

The threshold for triggering a special election to fill a Board vacancy has been revised:

Prior Language	If the remaining term is less than 180 days, the vacancy may be filled by plurality vote at the Annual Meeting.
Revised Language	If the remaining term is less than 95 days from the applicable Election Date, the vacancy shall be filled by special election conducted as expeditiously as practicable, but no later than 145 days from the date of vacancy.

This revision shortens the threshold from 180 days to 95 days from the Election Date, and replaces the Annual Meeting fill mechanism with a dedicated special election process with a firm 145-day deadline. This gives the Board clearer guidance and ensures vacancies are resolved on a defined timeline.

7. Board Meeting Structure (Sections 6A & 6E)

Removal of Post-Annual-Meeting Board Session

The prior bylaws required a regular Board meeting to be held immediately following the adjournment of the Annual Meeting. This automatic post-annual-meeting requirement has been deleted. The Board now operates solely on its regular monthly meeting schedule as set by resolution, with no mandatory session tied to the Annual Meeting.

Expanded Remote Participation Authority

Section 6(E) has been updated to authorize participation by conference telephone, video conferencing, or any other virtual communication platform that allows all participants to hear and communicate with one another — expanding the prior narrower language limited to telephone/similar equipment. Participation by any such means constitutes presence at the meeting for all purposes, including quorum.

8. Officer Elections (Section 7A)

The revision removes two procedural requirements that previously governed the election of Officers (President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer) by the Board:

- Secret written ballot — Officers were previously required to be elected by secret written ballot among the Directors. This requirement has been removed, leaving the Board free to elect Officers in whatever manner it determines.
- Prohibition on nominations — Officers were previously elected without prior nomination. This restriction has also been removed, allowing the Board to use a nomination process if it chooses.

These changes give the Board more procedural flexibility in conducting its organizational meeting after the Annual Meeting.

9. Capital Credits (Section 8B)

Capital Credit Assignability — Updated Standard

The previous bylaws restricted capital credit assignment to successors in interest or occupancy of premises served by the Cooperative, unless the Board determined otherwise. The revision replaces this with a broader, board-policy-driven standard: capital credits may be assignable pursuant to policies of general application established by the Board of Directors. This gives the Board more flexibility to craft assignment policies as circumstances evolve.

New: Capital Credit Retirement upon Membership Termination

The revision adds an entirely new provision granting the Board discretionary authority to retire capital credits upon the termination of any Member's membership — whether by expulsion, withdrawal, resignation, or cessation of existence. Previously, this discretionary early retirement right only applied upon the death of a Member. The new provision mirrors the death-retirement framework and requires the terminated Member (or legal representatives) to request early retirement in writing, with retirement subject to the Board's terms and the condition that the Cooperative's financial position is not impaired.

Unlocatable Member Capital Credits — Simplified

If a Member cannot be identified or located after due diligence when capital credits are being retired, the Board may declare those credits as permanent equity. The prior bylaws included a restoration provision requiring payment to such a Member if later found. The revision eliminates that restoration requirement — once declared as permanent equity, those credits remain so without further obligation to locate or pay the Member.

Interest on Overdue Balances — Removed

The prior bylaws allowed the Cooperative to deduct from a Member's capital credits not only amounts owed to the Cooperative, but also accrued interest at the Illinois legal judgment rate, compounded annually. The revision removes the interest component — only the principal balance owed is deducted before capital credit retirement.

10. Removal of USDA Nondiscrimination Statement (Section 10)

The prior bylaws included, as Section 10(F), a formal USDA nondiscrimination compliance statement referencing Title VI of the Civil Rights Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, and the Age Discrimination Act, along with USDA complaint filing procedures. This section has been deleted from the bylaws in its entirety. Instead this language has been included in the Cooperative's website for compliance purposes.



For more information on the proposed updates to the cooperative's bylaws scan the QR at the left or visit <https://www.sweci.com/proposed-bylaws-revision>.

[sweci.com/proposed-bylaws-revision](https://www.sweci.com/proposed-bylaws-revision)



YOUR ACCOUNTABLE ENERGY PARTNER



Southwestern Electric Manager of Member Services Brooke Scott, Eden's Glory Director of Development and Marketing Lorna Gaffney, Foster Kairos Clinical Director Meghan Reedy, Southwestern Electric Manager of Business Development Erin Jurke and District I Director Marvin Warner stand in the front room of Eden's Glory's offices at 214 N. 3rd St. in Greenville.


program. Johnna Schultz, Eden's Glory's designated grant writer, said donations like those from Operation Round Up mean even more because as a faith-based operation they don't receive funding from state or federal programs.

"I'm really grateful to your organization," Schultz said. "Especially with Foster Kairos coming on the ministry is just continuing to grow, and those are kiddos in our own area that they're caring for. These are kids that have been through therapy with other therapists and typically just didn't make it, so they're

harder cases. That's kind of our niche. Without organizations like yours, that wouldn't happen here, either."

Along with financial support, Gaffney said the primary way the community can benefit Eden's Glory is through volunteerism.

"We are actively expanding our network, so we need people who are excited about this work and want to partner with us," Gaffney said.

For more information on Eden's Glory, including how to donate and how to volunteer, visit their website at edensglory.org. 



Small change.
Big difference.

Operation Round Up (ORU) is a charitable program governed, funded, and supported by Southwestern Electric Cooperative members. Co-op members may elect to have their monthly electric bills rounded up to the nearest dollar. The rounded-up amount goes into a charitable fund that the governing committee allocates toward community projects ranging from education and athletics to veterans' affairs and the arts. To learn more about Operation Round Up, including how to enroll in the program and how to apply for a grant, visit sweci.com/operation-round-up, call us at (800) 637-8667 or scan the QR code below.



sweci.com/operation-round

Dehumidifiers Help You **BEAT THE HEAT**

by Julie Lowe, Energy Manager

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

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

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

HOW DO YOU KNOW IF YOU NEED A DEHUMIDIFIER?

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

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

WHAT TO CONSIDER BEFORE PURCHASING A DEHUMIDIFIER

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

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

Keep these points in mind while you do your research:

- Dehumidifiers are described in terms of pint capacity. Select a size suited to your home. There are models available for small rooms, mid-sized rooms, large rooms, basements and garages, and units designed to dehumidify an entire home. Be sure you're buying the correct size for the space you want to condition.
- Look for a model with an automatic shut-off feature. These units use intelligent software to monitor your environment. They shut down when they detect your living space is at the desired humidity level. In addition, these units will also

shut-off when their internal reservoir is full. This feature will ensure that the device only operates at its best ability.

- Look for the Energy Star rating. An Energy Star rating means the dehumidifier operates in an energy-conscious manner to help you save power — which saves money on your electric bill.
- You can also reduce costs by purchasing a timer-equipped model. You can set the humidifier to turn on before you arrive home, so it creates a comfortable space while you're there, and doesn't use energy while you're away.

Keep in mind that dehumidifiers will address humidity, but they aren't a solution for chronic dampness. If you have standing water in your basement, or you're fighting a persistent musty smell, you need to address the cause.

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

EFFICIENCY OPTIONS

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

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

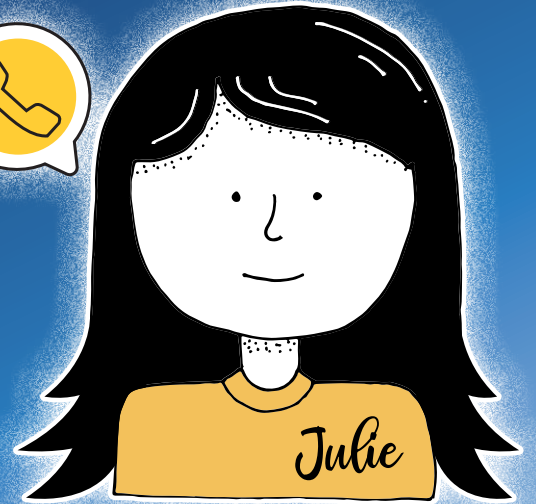
GET THE MOST FOR YOUR MONEY

Simple steps will help your dehumidifier operate more efficiently.

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



Steps to Solar Commissioning



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

2 Contact your installer and insurance agent. Ask your installer to send a one-line diagram and certificate of insurance. Speak with your insurance agent to confirm you have appropriate coverage. 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.

3 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.

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

5 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.

6 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).

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

A Story Worth Telling

Southwestern Electric's live line demo crew spreads message of electrical safety

Story by Nathan Grimm | Photos by Mike Barns

It's officially called a live line demonstration, but Kyle Hails likes to think of it as “presenting a story.” “If we don't take what we're doing seriously, we're doing the audience an injustice,” Hails said. “It needs to be good; it needs to be engaging. If we can do that, they're going to get something out of it.”

Hails, a maintenance foreman with Southwestern Electric, is part of the four-man team that makes up the cooperative's live line demo crew. Joining him are Journeyman Lineman Adam French; Foreman Polyphase Meterman & Tester Scott Fitzgerald; and Journeyman Lineman Braden Clark.

The four-man crew travels across the Southwestern Electric service area and beyond to spread their gospel of electrical safety. In recent months, they've put on demonstrations for volunteer firefighters in New Douglas and Altamont, spoken to school-aged children in Highland at the Progressive Agriculture Safety Day, and performed for crowds of farmers at Decatur's popular Farm Progress Show.

The presentation explains how electricity powers our lives, details real-world hazards and offers live-saving tips and tactics in the event of a contact incident. Though the roughly

hour-long program remains largely the same from event to event, finding a way to relate their message to different demographics at each stop presents a welcome challenge, Hails said.

“I always think about what is absolutely the most important to who I'm looking at,” Hails said. “For first responders, for example, we talk about the equipment we're using, the safety gear we're using because it's more pertinent to them. I want to highlight the things that matter to them.”

Though some of the presentations take place during work hours, others—like those at volunteer fire departments—have to be done on nights and weekends, making the demos a labor of love for Hails and the rest of the crew. He said that while it may sometimes cut into personal time, the engagement and “overwhelmingly positive” response to the program makes the extra work worth it.

“They walk away saying, ‘Wow, this is serious, and I'm really glad you showed us that,’” Hails said. “The question-and-answer session at the end is the best time, every time, because you can look in their face and see things start to click. You really do start to see the value in what you're doing and the time you're putting in.”

As far as what the future holds, Hails said they hope to present the demo to even more businesses, schools and community groups in the future, specifically hoping to reach more farmers—many of whom might double as Southwestern Electric members.

“As a cooperative, that's what we do,” he said. “It's a service that we're doing.”

If you'd like to have the Southwestern Electric live line demonstration at your work, school or organization, reach out to Manager of Member Services Brooke Scott at 800-637-8667 or community@sweci.com.



Southwestern Electric Maintenance Foreman Kyle Hails speaks to a group of students at the Progressive Agriculture Safety Day at Highland's Lindendale Park.



Southwestern Electric Maintenance Foreman Kyle Hails explains the flow of electricity to a group of volunteer firefighters in Altamont.



Journeyman Lineman Adam French (above) shows Silver Creek Elementary School students what happens when someone—in this case, Captain America—comes into contact with an energized vehicle. Left: Journeyman Lineman Braden Clark shows students some of the personal protective equipment (PPE) linemen wear when working in the field.



The four-man Southwestern Electric team of (left to right) Adam French, Braden Clark, Scott Fitzgerald and Kyle Hails have taken their live line demonstration to groups across our service area in hopes of spreading the message of electrical safety.

“The question-and-answer session at the end is the best time, every time, because you can look in their face and see things start to click.”

—Kyle Hails, Maintenance Foreman

Music to Our Ears

Few things bring people together like live music.
Don't believe us? See for yourself.

Story by Nathan Grimm | Photos by Mike Barns

I'd heard the Eagles hit "Take It to the Limit" numerous times before, but as I sat there in the cool night air in an amphitheater overlooking the Illinois River, I thought to myself that it had never sounded better.

It was June 2025, and my family and I had made the short trek to Peoria from our campground in Goodfield, Illinois. An Eagles cover band called Heartache Tonight was playing at the CEFCU Center Stage at The Landing, and although Eagles predate my sons by a few decades, my wife decided it would be a low-stakes way to introduce them to live music.

My preschooler was predictably unimpressed by anything other than the light-up necklace and hand-squeezed lemonade from a nearby food truck, but my grade school-aged son surprised us. He was engaged. He got up and danced to "Hotel California." A few days later, he asked to make "Heartache Tonight" his walk-up song for his last Little League game of the season.

That's the power of live music.
(And the power of Don Henley, but I digress.)

Live music is at the foundation of many of our core memories. Detailing the band that you saw for your first concert is a popular icebreaker in social situations. Amphitheater lawns and mosh pits have endured despite a post-COVID world that's increasingly uncomfortable in large gatherings. It's a testament to the fact that no matter how different our experiences, backgrounds and worldviews are, our love of music unites us.

The good news is you don't have to drive to Peoria to find it. Locally, there's plenty of summer concerts throughout our service area to keep you humming all season long. Whether it's an outdoor concert in a city park, an indoor show at a local venue or music literally coming down from the sky—courtesy of Centralia's carillon—get out and about this summer and experience music how it's meant to be heard, live and with friends.

Put me on a highway.
Show me a sign.
Take me to a concert one more time.

1973 - The Music of Journey performing at Charter's Patio in Vandalia May 30.



July 1 - September 30 CIVIC PARK CONCERT SERIES, Granite City. See a live show every Wednesday evening with a mixed genre lineup of fantastic local and regional artists. 1301 Niedringhaus Avenue. 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. Admission is free. Call 618-452-6213.

July 2 - August 20 MUSIC IN THE PARK, Bethalto. Enjoy a different free performance every Thursday at 7 p.m. July 2 America 250 celebration concert starts at 6 p.m. Limited concessions are available and be sure to bring your lawn chairs. Central Park, East Central Street. Cancellations will be posted on the Bethalto Spirit Facebook page. Visit facebook.com/BethaltoSpirit/.

July 2 - September 26 MUSIC IN THE PARK, Grafton. Bring your lawn chairs and coolers for a toe-tapping evening of great music along the Mississippi River. From classic rock and pop to country, bluegrass and jazz, there is something for everyone. Every Thursday 7 - 9 p.m. Admission is free. The Grove Memorial Park, corner of Market and Main Streets. Visit graftonil-chamber.com/music-in-the-park.

July 3 - October 10 SUMMER CONCERTS, Vandalia. From sunset acoustic sets to high-energy weekend shows, your favorite local artists are taking the stage all season long. Grab your crew, sip something cold, and let the music carry you through the summer nights. Charter's Patio, 401 West Gallatin Street. For a complete schedule, visit facebook.com/ChartersPatio.

July 10; August 14; September 11 SUMMER CONCERT & MOVIE NIGHTS, Belleville. Bring your lawn chairs and picnic blankets and enjoy free music and movies throughout the summer. Event includes local food trucks and free activities and games for kids. Bands start at 7 p.m.; movies start at sunset. Bellevue Park Bandshell, 401 Bellevue Park Drive. Visit belleville.net/354/parks-recreation.

July 10, 17, 24; August 14 ARTS IN THE PARK CONCERT SERIES, Edwardsville. City Park bandstand, 101 South Buchanan Street. 8 p.m. In the event, a scheduled concert must be canceled, a notice will be posted facebook.com/EdwardsvilleParksAndRec. Visit cityofedwardsville.com/588/Concerts-in-the-Park.

July 11, 26; September 5, 19 CARILLON CONCERT SERIES, Centralia. Bring your lawn chair and enjoy a carillon performance in the park. Carillon Park, 104 South Elm Street. Visit centraliacarillon.org.

July 19; August 15 SUMMER CONCERT SERIES, Edwardsville. Enjoy the music of Hunter Sharp Band in July and Sheafor & Simes in August. All are welcome to join us in celebrating and supporting local music. Doors open 5 p.m.; music starts 5:30 p.m. Admission is free will offering. Light refreshments available for purchase. Immanuel UCC Church in Hamel, 5838 Staunton Road. Call 618-560-8543.

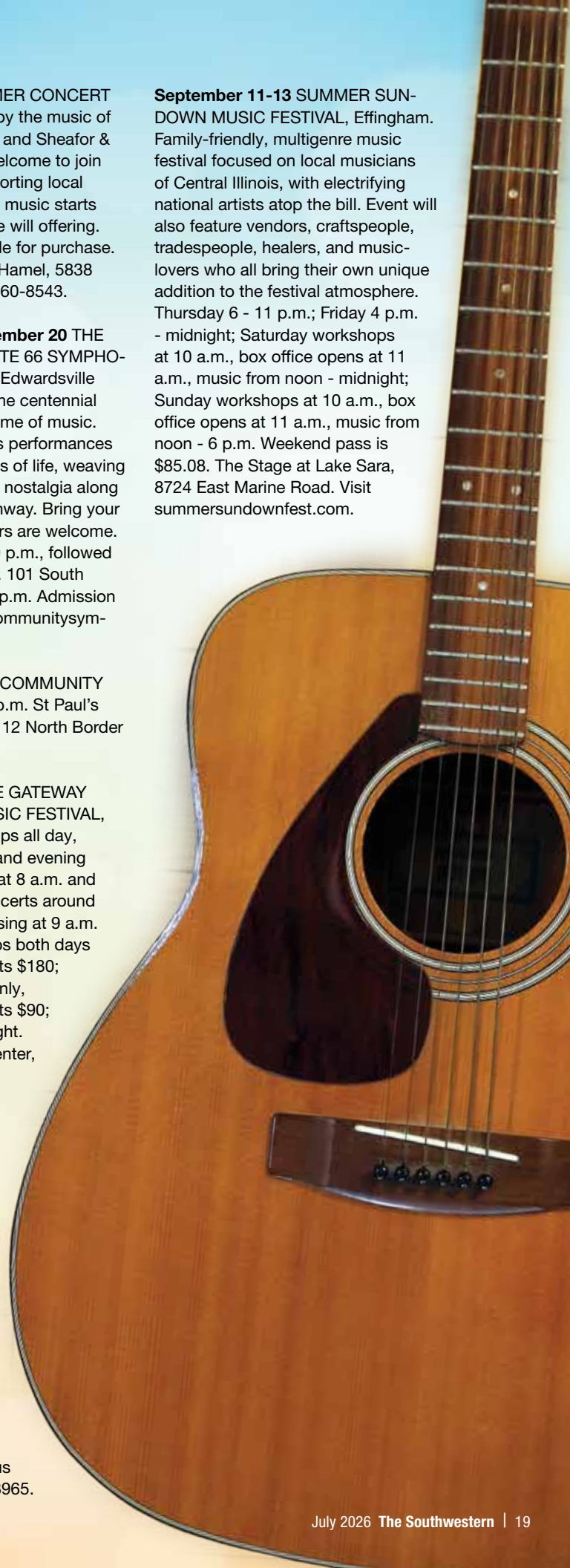
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August 1, 15, 22 CONCERTS IN THE PARK, Maryville. Bring your lawn chairs and enjoy a different performance at each concert. 7 - 9 p.m. Firemen's Park, 300 North Donk Avenue. Visit maryville.il.us/98/parks-recreation, email parksandrec@maryville-il.us or message us (618) 223-8965.

September 11-13 SUMMER SUNDOWN MUSIC FESTIVAL, Effingham. Family-friendly, multigenre music festival focused on local musicians of Central Illinois, with electrifying national artists atop the bill. Event will also feature vendors, craftspeople, tradespeople, healers, and music-lovers who all bring their own unique addition to the festival atmosphere. Thursday 6 - 11 p.m.; Friday 4 p.m. - midnight; Saturday workshops at 10 a.m., box office opens at 11 a.m., music from noon - midnight; Sunday workshops at 10 a.m., box office opens at 11 a.m., music from noon - 6 p.m. Weekend pass is \$85.08. The Stage at Lake Sara, 8724 East Marine Road. Visit summersundownfest.com.



WHO • WHAT • WHERE

When we said we were going to make the June puzzle more difficult, we didn't expect that it would stump all but the most dogged detectives in our readership.

That seems to be the case, though, as after many of you correctly identified the "Elektro" slide rule in last month's issue we received only one response to our June "Where Are We?" question. That response came from who else but Bill Malec, the Dudley Do-Right to our Snidely Whiplash schemes.

For the uninitiated, the painting of the Thompson Mill Covered Bridge spanning the Kaskaskia River is on East Locust Street in Cowden, Illinois, in Shelby County. The rendering is actually part of a larger mural depicting historical spots in and around Cowden.

So, to encourage participation, we'll offer some assistance to help you identify this month's item. If our matronly monument could speak, she might say:

I am part of a series of 12 identical monuments dedicated to the spirit of pioneer women in the United States. Other monuments like me can be found in places like Wheeling, West Virginia; Albuquerque, New Mexico; and Upland, California.

The centennial celebration of my dedication is coming in 2028. Construction of me and my sisters was commissioned by the Daughters of the American Revolution as a commemoration of the courage and faith of the women who helped conquer the wilderness and establish permanent homes.

Behind me stands a building listed on the National Register of Historic Places; all around me are reminders that one of the country's most significant figures once walked the surrounding streets. I am not only a part of history myself—I am surrounded by it.

Can you identify our mystery woman? We look forward to reading your submissions. In the meantime, here's Bill Malec's response to our June puzzle.

A rudimentary wall painting at an unknown location depicts your June 2026 "Where Are We?"

Not sure where the wall painting is exhibited but it captures the essence of the Thompson Mill Covered Bridge over the Kaskaskia River located three miles east of Cowden, Illinois. The bridge was actually constructed in 1868 in Michigan, shipped to Shelbyville, and hauled to the river crossing by horse-drawn wagons. The road the bridge serviced was an important transportation corridor connecting Springfield, Taylorville, and Effingham.

Also depicted in the wall painting is a corn and saw mill which operated from 1843-1914 to which the bridge provided access for area residents. It was the first commercial water-powered corn and sawmill on the Kaskaskia River.

—Bill Malec, O'Fallon



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 thesouthwestern@sweci.com or send it by mail to The Southwestern magazine, c/o Southwestern Electric Cooperative, Inc., 525 US 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.



WHO



N·S·D·A·R· MEMORIAL

AM I?

COVERED WAGON DAYS



CO-OP KITCHEN

Cool Summer Salads

LAYERED SALAD

Ingredients

- 1 head lettuce chopped
- 1 head cauliflower chopped
- 1 bunch broccoli chopped
- 2 cups mayonnaise
- 1 medium onion chopped
- 1 pound bacon fried and crumbled
- $\frac{1}{3}$ cup Parmesan cheese grated
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup white vinegar
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup sugar

Directions

1. Layer in bowl in order of list and cover overnight or for several hours.
2. Toss just before serving.

CABBAGE SALAD

Ingredients

- 1 large head cabbage sliced
- 1 green pepper finely sliced
- 1 large onion sliced
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 tablespoon sugar
- 1 cup vinegar
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon dry mustard
- $\frac{3}{4}$ cup salad oil

Directions

1. Combine cabbage, green pepper, onion and 1 cup sugar in large bowl.
2. Heat and stir together remaining sugar, vinegar, salt, mustard, and salad oil until thoroughly blended.
3. Pour liquid over sliced vegetables. Firmly press in bowl and refrigerate.
4. Let cool completely before serving.

NUTTY BROCCOLI SALAD

Ingredients

- 1 package chicken ramen noodles
- 1 10-12 ounce package broccoli slaw or rainbow slaw
- 2 cups green onions chopped (about 2 bunches)
- $1\frac{1}{2}$ cups broccoli florets
- 1 cup sunflower kernels toasted
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup sliced almonds toasted

Directions

1. Set aside noodle seasoning packet for the dressing.
2. Crush the noodles and place in large bowl.
3. Add remaining ingredients. Do not add dressing until ready to serve.

Dressing Ingredients

- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup sugar
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup apple cider vinegar
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup olive oil
- ramen seasoning packet

Dressing Directions

1. In a jar with a tight fitting lid, combine all dressing ingredients and shake well. Drizzle over salad, toss to coat, and serve.

CRANBERRY SALAD DRESSING

Ingredients

- 2 cups fresh cranberries
- 1 cup apple cider vinegar
- 2 cloves minced
- 3 cups canola oil
- $1\frac{1}{2}$ cups sugar
- $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon dry mustard
- 1 tablespoon salt
- 1 dash fresh ground pepper

Directions

1. Use blender to purée cranberries, vinegar, and garlic.
2. Transfer to large mixing bowl, add remaining ingredients, and whisk together well.
3. Serve over fresh garden greens.

PEA CASHEW SALAD

Ingredients

- 1 (20 ounce) package frozen peas thawed
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup celery chopped
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup onion chopped
- $\frac{1}{4}$ cup pimento chopped
- 1 cup salted cashews chopped
- 8 slices bacon fried crisp and crumbled
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup mayonnaise
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup sour cream
- $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon Greek seasoning or seasoned salt

Directions

1. Toss together all ingredients.
2. Chill four hours before serving.

APRICOT NECTAR SALAD

Ingredients

- 1 small box orange Jello
- 1 (12 ounce) can apricot nectar
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice
- $\frac{1}{2}$ crushed pineapple undrained
- 1 banana sliced

Directions

1. Combine Jello and nectar and heat until mixture is almost boiling, stirring constantly.
2. Remove from heat and let cool.
3. Stir in lemon juice, pineapple and banana.
4. Chill until firm.

Layered Salad prepared & photographed by Mike Barns, mike.barns@sweci.com

CURRENT EVENTS

July 1 - September 30 CIVIC PARK CONCERT SERIES, Granite City. See a live show every Wednesday evening with a mixed genre lineup of fantastic local and regional artists. 1301 Niedringhaus Avenue. 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. Admission is free. Call 618-452-6213.

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July 7 ADULT WATERCOLOR CLASSES, Highland. Enjoy learning basic watercolor skills or improving existing skills as you apply them to creating your own original painting. The class is designed to meet the needs of beginners as well as experienced artists. Kenzie Holzinger Smith, MFA will teach and lead you through the process. Afternoon class 2:30 - 4:30 p.m.; evening class 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. All supplies will be provided. Cost is \$95. Class size is limited and is for ages 14+. Korte Recreation Center, 1 Nagel Drive. To register, email burnskathy11@gmail.com or visit highlandartscouncil.org.

July 10 & 11 ARTISAN FAIR, Effingham. A weekend for visitors to enjoy fine art and one of a kind crafts for purchase, artisan demonstrations, food and drink and live music. Friday 5 - 9 p.m.; Saturday 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Tuscan Hills Winery, 2200 Historic Hills Drive. Visit effinghamartisanfair.org.

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July 10; August 14; September 11 SUMMER CONCERT & MOVIE NIGHTS, Belleville. Bring your lawn chairs and picnic blankets and enjoy free music and movies throughout the summer. Event includes local food trucks and free activities and games for kids.

Bands start at 7 p.m.; movies start at sunset. Bellevue Park Bandshell, 401 Bellevue Park Drive. Visit belleville.net/354/parks-recreation.

July 11 TOUR DE DONUT, Staunton. The race is a spoof on the "Tour de France." The 34 mile route follows lightly traveled roads over rolling terrain with some moderate hills toward the end of the long route. While donut consumption is not mandatory, the rider is awarded a five minute time credit for each donut eaten at the two rest stops. A shorter ride is also available. Helmets are required for all riders. Must be 13 years of age to ride without an adult. Registration at 7 a.m.; race 9 a.m. - noon. Fees vary. Staunton City Park at the corner of East Pennsylvania Street and Ash Street. To register, visit tourdedonut.org.

July 11 VOLUNTEER FIRE-FIGHTER BBQ FUNDRAISER, Altamont. Join us for a day of delicious BBQ, fun activities and community spirit. BBQ competition, car show, inflatables for kids, live music and beer garden. Free will donation for meal. All proceeds benefit Altamont Volunteer Firefighters. 1 - 9 p.m. Effingham County Fairgrounds, 722 East Cumberland Road. Visit facebook.com/groups/738732974581822/.

July 11; August 8; September 12 LUCY HASKELL PLAYHOUSE OPEN HOUSE, Alton. Step inside the Victorian-style playhouse, take a walk through history, and rediscover the childlike wonder that surrounds this remarkable piece of Alton's past. 10 a.m. - noon. Visit haskellplayhouse.org.

July 11, 26; September 5, 19 CARILLON CONCERT SERIES, Centralia. Bring your lawn chair and enjoy a different carillon performance each day in the park. Carillon Park, 104 South Elm Street. Visit centraliacarillon.org.

July 18 MOVIE NIGHT: THE LORD OF THE RINGS, THE TWO TOWERS, Godfrey. This year marks the 25th anniversary of the release of Peter Jackson's "Lord of the Rings" trilogy. We will celebrate by watching various movies set in J.R.R. Tolkien's Middle Earth on our giant inflatable screen. Bring your own lawn chairs or blankets, and snacks. No alcohol is permitted. No pre-registration required. While this event is free, donations are welcome. Limited parking is available, so arrive early. 9 - 11:55 p.m. The Nature Institute, 2213 South Levis Lane. Visit thenatureinstitute.org.

July 19; August 15 SUMMER CONCERT SERIES, Edwardsville. Enjoy the music of Hunter Sharp Band in July and Sheafor & Simes in August. All are welcome to join us in celebrating and supporting local music. Doors open 5 p.m.; music starts 5:30 p.m. Admission is free will offering. Light refreshments available for purchase. Immanuel UCC Church in Hamel, 5838 Staunton Road. Call 618-560-8543.

July 24 & 25 RAILROAD PROTOTYPE MODELERS MEET, Collinsville. High-quality models, displays, prototype layouts, and hands-on learning centers. Presentations by historians and modelers, over 20 railroad historical societies and tables

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 mike.barns@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.

of hand-picked scale model vendors—no swap meet stuff. Friday 9 a.m. - 9 p.m.; Saturday 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. Admission is \$35 for Friday and Saturday; \$25 for Saturday only; children under 13 years of age are free with paid adult admission. Cash only at the door. Gateway Center One Gateway Drive. For more information, visit stlrpm.com.

July 24 & 25 THE ROCKY HORROR SHOW, Lebanon. A theatrical performance by the Looking Glass Playhouse. Shows at 7 and 10 p.m. Ticket fees apply. Looking Glass Playhouse, 301 West Saint Louis Street. Visit lookingglassplayhouse.com.

July 24-26 HERITAGE DAYS, Greenville. Tractor Pulls, field demonstrations, gas engine display, live music, grand scale railroad, food, vendors, activities, steam engine, Baker fan, sawmill, threshing, car cruise, train rides, The Lil' Red Barn Museum and pedal pulls daily. Friday and Saturday 8 a.m. - dark; Sunday 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. \$10 arm band for all three days; Sunday only \$5; children under 12 years of age free. American Farm Heritage Museum, 1395 Museum Avenue. Visit americanfarmheritagemuseum.org.

July 25; August 29; September 19 MOVIES IN THE PARK, Edwardsville. Get there early to grab a spot and take part in pre-movie activities. Bring a chair, blanket, snacks and beverages. In the event, a scheduled movie must be canceled, a notice will be posted on the Facebook page of the Edwardsville Parks and Recreation Department. Enjoy Jurassic Park in July, Wild Robot in August and Wicked: For Good in September. City Park bandstand, 101 South Buchanan Street. 8:30 - 10:30 p.m. Admission is free. Visit facebook.com/EdwardsvilleParksAndRec.

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July 31; August 1 & 2 THE GATEWAY DULCIMER SOCIETY MUSIC FESTIVAL, Fairview Heights. Workshops all day, vendors, raffles, jamming and evening concerts. Each day starts at 8 a.m. and ends after the evening concerts around 9 p.m.; Sunday is a hymn sing at 9 a.m. Full Festival with workshops both days includes lunch and concerts \$180; Friday or Saturday 1 day only, includes lunch and concerts \$90; concerts only \$10 each night. Four Points Convention Center, 319 Fountains Parkway. For more information or to register, visit gatewaydulcimer.org, email Sharon at gdsmf98@gmail.com or call 618-651-8271.

July 31; August 1-2, 6-9 ALTON LITTLE THEATER: JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT, Alton. A musical presentation by the Alton Little Theater Company. Featuring a wide variety of musical styles from pop to calypso to country, this energetic musical is filled with unforgettable songs, humor and heart. July 31, August 1, 6 and 7 at 7:30 p.m. August 2, 8 and 9 at 2 p.m. Admission is \$25. Alton Little Theater, 2450 North Henry Street. For tickets, visit altonlittletheater.org.

July 31; August 29 TROY COMMUNITY BAND CONCERT, Troy. 7 p.m. St. Paul's Lutheran Church School, 112 North Border Street. Visit troyband.org.

August 1, 15, 22 CONCERTS IN THE PARK, Maryville. Bring your lawn chairs and enjoy a different performance at each concert. 7 - 9 p.m. Firemen's Park, 300 North Donk Avenue. Visit maryville.il.us/98/parks-recreation, email parksandrec@maryville-il.us or message us (618) 223-8965.

August 6-9 THE DROWSY CHAPERONE, Breese. A theatrical presentation by Clinton County Showcase. All performances begin at 8 p.m. except for the Sunday showing, which is at 2 p.m. General admission is \$15. The Avon Theatre, 525 North 2nd Street. For reservations, visit clintoncountyshowcase.com.

August 9 PEACH FESTIVAL, Grafton. Local peach growers from all over the area will be presenting their peaches for visitors to sample and purchase. Festival will also feature live music, fresh produce, unique vendors, kids activities, locally made wine, and the peach pitting contest. 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. Admission is free. Pere Marquette Lodge & Conference Center, 13653 Lodge Blvd. Visit pmlodge.net.

August 15 ROTARY CRITERIUM BICYCLE RACES, Edwardsville. A series of high-speed professional and amateur bicycle races complimented by a running event, free kid's races, a kid's zone with an art tent, and entertainment zone complete with live music, food and beverages. Hundreds of cyclists from over 10 states will compete for \$15,000. This event is hosted by the Rotary Club of Edwardsville as a fund raiser for their service projects, grants and scholarships. 2 - 11 p.m. Visit edwardsvillecriterium.page.

August 21-23 KIRCHENFEST, Highland. Festival offers food (including a Bavarian skillet dish prepared on a 500-pound skillet and a sit-down chicken dinner), live music, games, live auction, flea market, competitive run, bingo, raffles, and

more. Admission is free. Friday 5 p.m. - midnight; Saturday 7:30 a.m. - midnight; Sunday 8 a.m. - 8 p.m. St. Paul Catholic Church, 1412 Ninth Street. Visit stpaulkirchenfest.com.

August 22; September 26 MOVIES IN THE PARK, Maryville. Bring your lawn chairs for a free movie in the park. The August movie will be "Zootopia 2" and "Dogman" will be shown in September. 7 - 9 p.m. Firemen's Park, 300 North Donk Avenue. Visit maryville.il.us/98/parks-recreation, email parksandrec@maryville-il.us or message us (618) 223-8965.

August 28-30 MIDWEST SALUTE TO THE ARTS, Fairview Heights. Event features local and national artists, artist demonstrations, live entertainment, children's gallery and food trucks. Friday 6 - 9 p.m.; Saturday 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.; Sunday 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. Admission is free. Moody Park, 525 South Ruby Lane. Visit midwest-salute.com.

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Comfort—or Comftr, as it were—was not what most faces were displaying at the recent live line demonstration at Troy’s Silver Creek Elementary School.

THE FINAL FRAME

VOTER REGISTRATION CARD 2026 *Please sign and present this card at the registration table.*

88th Annual Meeting of Members

Saturday, September 12, 2026



Member Signature _____

Please enroll me in Operation Round Up

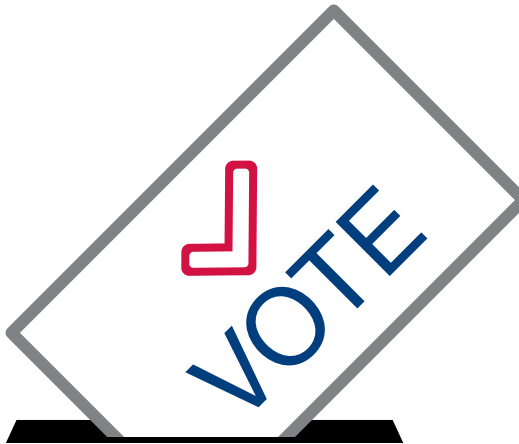
PLEASE UPDATE YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION

Home Phone # (if applicable): _____ Cell Phone #: _____

Service Address: _____ Billing Address: _____

Email Address: _____

Fill out and present this registration card to receive an additional \$10 bill credit!



2026 Annual Meeting Voting Schedule

\$30 bill credit with your pre-printed registration card, \$20 bill credit without your pre-printed registration card.
Bill credit to be applied on the October bill — same credit amounts offered for early and day-of-meeting voting.

Greenville office, 525 US Route 40, Greenville	Sept. 2 remains open to 7 p.m. Sept. 10 remains open to 7 p.m.
St. Jacob warehouse, 10031 Ellis Road, St. Jacob	Sept. 1 from 4 to 7 p.m. Sept. 9 from 4 to 7 p.m.
St. Elmo warehouse, 2117 East 1850 Avenue, St. Elmo	Sept. 3 from 4 to 7 p.m. Sept. 8 from 4 to 7 p.m.
American Farm Heritage Museum, 1395 Museum Avenue, Greenville, IL 62246	Sept. 6 from 8 to 10 a.m.

In addition to the above times, any member of the cooperative can vote during normal business hours at our Greenville office beginning at 8 a.m. on Friday, Aug. 28 through 4:30 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 11. We are closed on Monday, Sept. 7 in observance of Labor Day.

