

THE *Southwestern*



A SOUTHWESTERN ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE MEMBER MAGAZINE

JULY 2022 • VOLUME 74 • ISSUE 7

Wireside Chat

NEW PODCAST EXPLORES
ALL THINGS ENERGY

A Legacy of Service

CO-OP MOURNS LOSS
OF LONGTIME FRIEND &
DIRECTOR BARB TEDRICK

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

03 From The CEO

Southwestern Electric CEO Bobby Williams discusses regional power supply and demand, green energy and coal-fired generation, and how it all relates to our members in this month's column.

04 Remember When?

Do you remember when the lights came on? We'd like to know how electricity changed life in your home, on your farm or at your school.

05 Power For Progress

Ten graduating seniors and one post-high school student will receive scholarships in 2022 through Southwestern Electric's scholarship program.

06 Annual Meeting

Six candidates are on the ballot for the upcoming board election. See the names and read more about September's annual meeting.

08 A Legacy of Service

Barb Tedrick served 32 years on Southwestern Electric's board of directors. She passed away in May, but her legacy lives on at the cooperative.

10 Now Hear This

Whether you're in the car, making dinner for your family, or on an early-morning neighborhood walk, Wireside Chat is there for you.

12 Energy & Efficiency

The number of smart devices on the market continues to grow. We highlight a few that could make your life easier—and more energy-friendly.

14 HomeServe

Home emergencies, like electrical issues that are outside of Southwestern's scope, can be a big imposition on you and your bank account. That's where HomeServe comes in.

16 Health & Safety

We often think about heat-related health concerns during summer months, but July is also the perfect time for heavy storms to lead to flash flooding.

18 Out & About

Time doesn't stop, but one Altamont group is keeping the memory of bygone farming techniques and equipment alive through their annual event.

20 Who-What-Where?

You ID a solemn statesman, and we ask you to point us in the right direction to solve this month's puzzle.

22 Co-op Kitchen

July 30 is National Cheesecake Day? Say no more.

24 Current Events

Catch a concert on Highland's square, revel at any of the many county fairs, go nuts at Staunton's "Tour de Donut," get a scoop with your troupe at Wood River's ice cream social, and take in some culture at the Artisan Fair in Effingham.

25 Final Frame

Field Inspection.

27 Voter Registration Card

Redeem this card for a \$30 credit on your October electric bill.

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

FROM THE CEO



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Electricity has been a popular topic this summer. You've probably read stories or watched videos about regional power supply and demand, green energy and coal-fired generation, and rising rates among some investor-owned utilities. I want to address those topics here as they relate to your cooperative.

By now you've probably heard that a local investor-owned utility raised its rates in June. You may have wondered if Southwestern is doing the same. We aren't. Southwestern has no plans to raise rates this year.

You may also have heard about the possibility of preventative or prescribed power outages—they're usually called rolling blackouts—in the Midwest.

Here's the long and short of the situation as I see it:

Our industry is evolving. We're shifting from coal-fired power plants to green energy. Older coal plants are closing and energy companies aren't investing in new plants to take their place. In our region, coal historically has provided us with baseload, or always-on, energy. Consequently, the availability of always-on energy in our region is diminishing. Green energy is growing in the Midwest, but it takes a lot of wind and solar to bridge the gap left by baseload energy losses.

Consequently, it is possible the Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO), which manages power supply and demand across the grid in our region of the Midwest, may require utilities—ours included—to interrupt service for a defined period in specific areas, if, on a particularly hot afternoon, the demand for power promises to surpass supply.

By instructing utilities to interrupt power in defined areas for short periods, MISO can reduce demand on the grid and prevent larger outages. The prescribed outage would likely be brief—a few hours—but it would probably occur when demand for energy is greatest—in late afternoon or early evening.

Continued on page 7 ▶



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 and twitter.com/sweci. Search for Southwestern Electric on YouTube and Instagram.



ON THE COVER

Lineman Jimmy Revisky repairs a line near Hookdale on Friday, May 20, after storms left about 360 members without service. On Saturday, May 21, a second storm broke poles, uprooted trees, downed power lines and left about 1,500 co-op members without power. Crews worked through Saturday evening to restore service.



ASK THE CEO

Have a question for the CEO? Send it to bobby.williams@sweci.com, or write to Bobby Williams at Southwestern Electric Cooperative, Inc., 525 US Route 40, Greenville, IL 62246. Periodically, we'll print some of your questions with his replies in The Southwestern. Each member who submits a question will be entered in a drawing for a \$25 bill credit. We'll draw a name each time we run an "Ask The CEO" Q&A segment in the magazine.

CO-OP REMINDERS

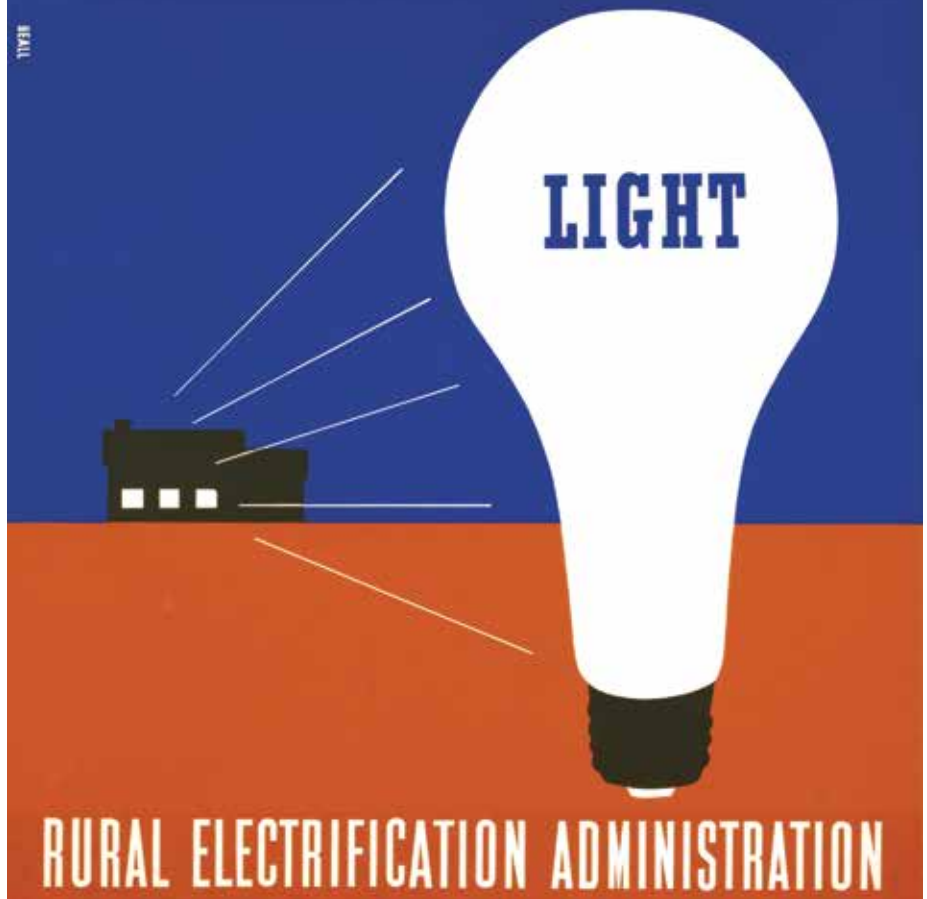
July 4 Offices closed in observance of Independence Day.

July 11; August 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.

Remember When?

**Do you remember when the lights came on?
When the poles went up and the lines came through?**

If you weren't there, did you hear stories from your parents or grandparents about the days before electricity lit our way? We're interested in hearing about the early days of electrification. We'd like to know how electricity changed life in your home, on your farm, or at your school. Please send your stories to Joe Richardson at joe.richardson@sweci.com or via traditional mail to 525 US Route 40, Greenville, IL 62246.



FOR OUTAGE UPDATES SEE OUR SOCIAL MEDIA CHANNELS



Over the last year, we've posted outage updates to both our social media channels and our website. Beginning in September, we'll no longer post outage updates to sweci.com. We're reserving our website for less fluid content. For outage information and the latest news and notes, follow us on Facebook at facebook.com/SWECI and twitter.com/sweci.

Southwestern Students Earn Power for Progress Scholarships

Since 1995, Southwestern Electric Cooperative's Power for Progress Scholarship Program has provided \$287,000 in financial assistance to a total of 427 students.

This year the cooperative awarded \$1,000 scholarships to 11 students, including 10 graduating seniors and one student who graduated prior to 2022.

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

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

This year's Power for Progress scholarship recipients are:

Graduating Seniors

- Julianna Berg
- Nicole Bluhm
- Holly DeVries
- Dalton Fox
- Derrick Moore*
- Zada Reynolds
- Allison Ridens
- Addison Rode
- Sydney Sommer**
- Nathan Williams

- Altamont Community High School
- Highland High School
- Staunton High School
- Effingham High School
- St. Elmo High School
- South Central High School
- Greenville High School
- Highland High School
- Collinsville High School
- Greenville High School

Post-high school scholarship recipients

- Hanna Wolff
- Clarke University, Dubuque, Ia.

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

**Sydney Sommer is the Alan G. Libbra Memorial Scholarship winner.

Congratulations to our 2022 Power for Progress Scholarship recipients!
It's a privilege to be part of your journey.



84th ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERS

Six Candidates on the Ballot; Candidacy By Petition Deadline Pending at Press Time

Three incumbent directors and three other co-op members have filed for candidacy in Southwestern Electric Cooperative's 2022 board election. In accordance with the cooperative's bylaws, a nine-member Nominations Committee convened on May 26 to submit candidates for three open seats (one per voting district) on the board of directors. At press time (mid-June), no members had submitted a bid for candidacy by petition in advance of the June 27 deadline.

Southwestern Electric Cooperative's directors are responsible for establishing organizational direction and policies, ensuring member needs and concerns are given fair and timely treatment, and overseeing the overall financial stability of the cooperative. As of June 10, board candidates include:

- District I: Incumbent Sandy Grapperhaus, Collinsville
- District II: Incumbent Ted Willman, Greenville
Stacey Sidwell, Sorento
Bruce Unterbrink, Greenville
- District III: Incumbent Ann Schwarm, Loogootee
Stacy Alwardt, Edgewood

Each elected director will serve a three-year term beginning Sept. 10, 2022. A profile of each board candidate will appear in the August 2022 edition of The Southwestern, which serves as the Official Notice of the 84th Annual Meeting of Members and Annual Report for the Fiscal Year 2021. If USPS delivery delays prevent your August issue from arriving in a timely fashion, you can view the magazine online at sweci.com.

Voting schedules have been expanded to provide ample opportunity for early voting. Schedules appear on page 27.

Southwestern Electric Cooperative's annual meeting will be held Saturday, Sept. 10, at Highland Middle School in Highland.

On Account: If your account number is 72947001, call us within 30 days to receive a \$25 credit on an upcoming electric bill.

Absentee Voting Guidelines

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

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

► *Continued from page 3*

I recommend you treat the potential for a preventative power outage as you would any other outage: have a backup power plan in place. That can be as simple as arranging to stay with a friend or family member served by another circuit in a different area. Or if you prefer the peace of mind that comes with knowing you'll have power regardless, you may choose to invest in a backup generator. Think of your backup power plan as insurance: It offers reassurance.

While I often use energy industry terminology, I've never favored the phrase "rolling blackout." It makes a prescribed outage sound like a tidal wave. It isn't. It's a controlled operation where transmission line operations and engineering personnel open circuits, and create a defined outage, to reduce power demand for a while. Then they close the circuits to restore power.

Unfortunately, distribution co-ops are often given little or no advance notice of these interruptions—which makes it difficult to notify you. In the event of a prescribed outage, you'll know soon after we do. We'll post messages on our social media channels and we'll call you. As always, we'll do our best to provide you with the information you need to make informed decisions.

If you have questions regarding my column or any aspect of Southwestern Electric Cooperative, please email me at bobby.williams@sweci.com, or write to me at Southwestern Electric Cooperative, Inc., 525 US Route 40, Greenville, IL 62246.

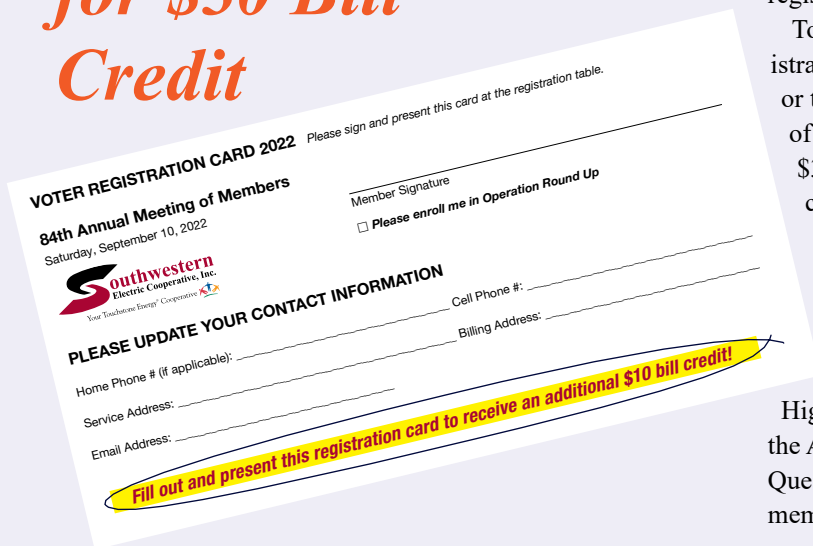
I look forward to hearing from you.

Bobby Williams, CEO



bobby.williams@sweci.com

Redeem Southwestern Voter Registration Card on Back Cover for \$30 Bill Credit



VOTER REGISTRATION CARD 2022 Please sign and present this card at the registration table.

84th Annual Meeting of Members
Saturday, September 10, 2022

Southwestern Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Your Teachers' Union Cooperative

PLEASE UPDATE YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION

Home Phone # (if applicable): _____ Cell Phone #: _____
Service Address: _____ Billing Address: _____
Email Address: _____

Member Signature _____
 Please enroll me in Operation Round Up

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

Like last year, United States Postal Service delivery delays are affecting arrival dates for your magazine. While some issues of The Southwestern arrive in a timely fashion, others arrive much later than usual. To ensure you have the 2022 voter registration card in time to claim your \$30 bill credit for voting in this year's election, we're including a card in both the July and August issues again this year. The cards are identical. You only need one card to register and vote, and you may register and vote only one time.

To expedite voting, members are asked to bring the registration card printed on the back cover of the July issue or the August special edition of The Southwestern to one of Southwestern's voting locations. Members will earn a \$30 bill credit by presenting their preprinted registration card when they vote in this year's election of directors. A schedule with dates, times and locations appears on page 27 below the voter registration card.

Southwestern Electric Cooperative's 84th Annual Meeting of Members will be held at Highland Middle School. The school is located at 2813 State Route 160 in Highland, Ill. More annual meeting information will appear in the August issue of The Southwestern and online at sweci.com. Questions may be directed to Susan File, vice president of member services, at 800-637-8667 or susan.file@sweci.com.

Co-op Mourns Loss of Friend & Longtime Director Barb Tedrick

Barb Tedrick was an advocate for rural development long before she joined Southwestern Electric's board of directors. In the early 1980s, Tedrick participated in a grassroots movement to support progressive policies in American agriculture. During a rally, she met a Southwestern Electric member who'd recently been elected to the co-op's board. He told her about the cooperative's impact on the rural economy, and how its policies and procedures were shaping the future of Southwestern Illinois. His name was Alan Libbra.

Inspired by Libbra's vision and the co-op's potential, Tedrick felt she could serve farmers and other rural residents of Fayette County by running for a seat on the cooperative's board. The chance meeting and Tedrick's commitment to area communities set the stage for 32 years of service to Southwestern members. Tedrick, who lived near Vandalia, served 11 consecutive terms as a representative from District III, a seat she held from 1984 until December 2016, when she retired.

Barb Tedrick passed away on May 1, 2022, but she leaves behind a legacy of service that continues to be felt in the lives of tens of thousands of co-op members today. "I really appreciate the members electing me as many times as they did. They kept me here," she said



Barb Tedrick served 11 consecutive terms as a representative from District III, a seat she held from 1984 until December 2016, when she retired. She often used humor, a smile, and a kind word to help friends and colleagues through a difficult day.

in a 2017 interview. "But it was time to turn it over to someone younger."

KEEP THE MEMBERS IN MIND

Tedrick took on the responsibilities of treasurer in 1985—duties she fulfilled until late 2016. She was a longtime member of the co-op's Operations & Labor Committee and the Scholarship Committee.

She participated in industry seminars at the state and national levels, was recognized by the National Rural

Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) as a Credentialed Cooperative Director in 2003, and received her Board Leadership Certificate from NRECA the same year.

Over three decades, she was part of a leadership team that guided the cooperative through deregulation of the energy industry, shifting economic and political landscapes, a volatile power market, and sweeping changes in utility technology and outage management techniques.

The key to effective service on the co-op board? "You always have that member in mind," she said in the interview. "That's your number-one priority—what's best for the members. As a director, it was my responsibility to be the voice of the membership."

LEADERSHIP IN AN ERA OF CHANGE

When she joined the board, the co-op billed by postcard, members walked to

"Barb was preparing to retire as I was taking on my new role at the co-op. She told me she was leaving the organization in good hands, and that she knew our board and the new CEO would always put the members first. I appreciated her confidence in us then, and even more so today." —CEO Bobby Williams

a pole to record their usage, and outages were plotted on paper in response to land line phone calls.

At the close of her tenure, members could view and pay their bills from a living room sofa or from across the country, usage statistics had become automated and available on smartphones, and the co-op identified outages through a computerized management system.

Tedrick said that during her years on the board, the membership also changed. “In some areas—parts of Fayette County and Bond County—we still have a lot of older members and farmers. But when you go to Madison County, you see younger, more urban families. So the challenge is to serve different people with different backgrounds, who may have different priorities.”

Member expectations changed during her tenure as well. Southwestern is held to higher standards today in terms of service and reliability. “With tree trimming and the investments we’ve made in our system, we have far fewer outages now than we used to. So when the power does go out, it catches people by surprise,” she said. “We’ve come a long way, and we’re still improving—making investments and moving in the right direction.”

When she joined the board, members used electricity for heat, light, and to power appliances. “Now we use it for everything,” Tedrick said. “We rely on it for our entertainment, for communicating with our friends and

“Barb always acted in the best interests of our membership. She kept that focus throughout her career, and reminded the rest of us to keep it as well. She was community-minded, member-focused, and she helped us lead Southwestern Electric with her quiet consistency. I was privileged to call Barb my friend.” —Ann Schwarm, President

family, and for looking out at the world. We rely on power now more than we ever have.”

Because of that, the cooperative’s role in the lives of its members is more vital now than ever, she said. “A cooperative isn’t like other utilities. We’re owned by the people we serve. We want to make life better for our area.”

INSIGHT & EDUCATION

Tedrick was proud of the fact that Southwestern differed from other co-ops. “We’re independent,” she said. “We don’t kowtow to anybody. We still have the co-op philosophy, but we’re not afraid to do things differently if it’s in the best interests of our members.”

As a teacher’s aide from Mid-State Special Education, Tedrick taught elementary students in Bond and Fayette counties for 15 years. During that time, she developed a unique insight into the needs of rural families and their children. That understanding contributed to her support of cooperative-administered educational programs recognized for their impact and innovation, including Southwestern’s scholarship program, as well as electrical safety demonstrations seen by tens of thousands of students throughout Southwestern’s service area.

“The scholarships are so important. I really enjoyed helping with those,” she said. “We have a lot of smart kids out there. They work, they’re involved in different organizations, they play sports, and they keep their grades at the top of the class. I don’t know how they do it,” she said. “I’m proud to see us encourage those kids and help them get an education.”

TEAMWORK & TENACITY

While her role as a director was fulfilling, it also brought its share of sleepless nights, she recalled. “After the downturn in the economy and drop in energy prices, we knew we had to renegotiate the Plum Point power contract. The board spent a lot of long nights considering options for the membership,” Tedrick said. “I know I carried a lot of it home at times—we all did.”

Tedrick said tenacity and experience helped the board and management team hammer out a solution. “We worked together to develop the plan we have now. We have stable rates. We’re making improvements. We’re paying back capital credits and supporting our communities. We’re in a good place,” she said. “That’s why I’m comfortable going now. I’m just glad I got to be part of it.”

Barb is survived by her husband, Richard Tedrick of Vandalia; her son, Kris Adermann and his wife, Mistie, of Ramsey; her daughter, Michelle Adermann-Neely and her husband, Matt, of Springfield; her step-daughters, Sherry Lofland of Vandalia and Judy Links and her husband, Gene, of Mulberry Grove; her grandchildren, Kristen Newell; Kara Neely-Conklin; Kyle, Kolten and Kendell Adermann; Joshua Lofland; Shannon Peterson; Nathan, Brennon and Braeden Links; and BriAnne Randall; and 14 great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren. **S**



PHOTO COURTESY
BROOKE SCOTT

Ann Schwarm (left), president of Southwestern Electric, presents an honorary resolution to Tedrick during her final board meeting in December 2016.

Now Hear This

WIRESIDE CHAT EXPLORES ALL THINGS ENERGY

by Nathan Grimm, Media Specialist

Long before social media and the internet, before information was available at your fingertips in an instant, people got their news from the town crier.

If it seems archaic, it's because it is. Standing in the center of town, ringing a bell and proclaiming, "Oyez, oyez," is an inefficient and impractical way to deliver news. As soon as the next-best way to get the word out came along, town criers were obsolete. In the same way, those next-best things – carrier pigeons, telegrams, even landline telephones – were also supplanted in time by newer and better ways of communicating.

The need to deliver the information hasn't changed, though. Only the vessel through which it's delivered.

These days, the increasingly popular and prevalent form of information delivery is the podcast, an audio program recorded and released on the internet for public consumption when and where it can be consumed. Podcasts come in all shapes and sizes, and topics run the gamut. Want to learn more about those bygone forms of communication listed above? There's a podcast for that.

And now, there's a podcast for this. In the same way that The Southwestern

delivers news to members' mailboxes, Southwestern Electric Cooperative's new podcast, Wireside Chat, aims to meet members where they are – whether that's in the car between home and work, or while making dinner for the family, or on an early-morning neighborhood walk.

"It's undeniable that the way in which people consume media is changing," said Southwestern Electric Media Specialist Nathan Grimm, who hosts the podcast. "As we aim to be members' accountable energy partner, it's important

"If we can make it easier for members to get the information they need to know about their energy service, we're absolutely going to explore that."

—Nathan Grimm, Media Specialist

that we grow and adapt with the times. If we can make it easier for members to get the information they need to know about their energy service, we're absolutely going to explore that."

Like the magazine, the podcast will be a mix of timely news items, features and personal interest stories. Unlike the magazine, the podcast offers a chance to expand beyond word counts and print deadlines, allowing for longer and more frequent episodes as needed.

At present, the podcast will be released monthly and will usually range between 15 and 30 minutes in length, Grimm said. Those parameters are not hard and fast, though.

"If there is a topic that's worthy of a longer conversation or deeper dive, or if something arises that needs to be discussed in its own episode, the podcast medium offers the freedom to chase those leads," Grimm said.

In the podcast's debut episode this past April, Grimm and SWECI Energy Manager Julie Lowe discussed the past, present and future of electric vehicles as gas prices continue to put a strain on consumers' wallets. In the second episode, which aired in May, Grimm invited Southwestern Electric CEO Bobby




“Our tagline is, ‘Your accountable energy partner,’ and it’s something I like to repeat at the end of every podcast to remind myself and the listeners of our mission.”

—Nathan Grimm, Media Specialist

Williams to the podcast to revisit the early February storms and talk about the cooperative’s outage restoration process.

Where the podcast goes in the future will depend, like the cooperative’s service itself, on what best serves its members.

“At the end of the day, this venture is about providing a useful service to the members,” Grimm said. “Our tagline is, ‘Your accountable energy partner,’ and it’s something I like to repeat at the end of every podcast to remind myself and the listeners of our mission. As long as the podcast continues to strive for that goal, it will be a success.” 



LISTEN HERE

Wireside Chat can be heard on Apple Music, Spotify and anywhere else podcasts are found.

Get Smart

GROWING NUMBER OF SMART DEVICES AIM TO BLEND CONVENIENCE, COST SAVINGS

As the world gets smarter, so, too, do our devices.

Smart plugs, smart power strips and smart thermostats are just a few of the devices that have been introduced to make life easier. While those are some of the more popular and widely available appliances, they're not the only products on the market aimed at making energy savings more comfortable and convenient.

Here are a few other household gadgets that can help you conserve time, energy and, ultimately, money.

SMART LIGHT BULBS

Like electrical outlets, light bulbs are present in virtually every room in your house. And like smart plugs, smart light

bulbs offer the ability to control the lights in your home from a smartphone, tablet or other smart device. Smart bulbs can be turned on or off remotely or set to timers, and some even connect to your smartphone and can be set to turn on or off automatically depending on your location and proximity to the home.

Along with those functions, another great feature of some smart bulbs is the ability to change colors. Mood lighting has never been easier!

Smart light bulbs can be purchased virtually anywhere these days. Cost varies with the bulb's functionality, but most smart bulbs are relatively inexpensive, especially compared to prices just a few years ago. Couple that with the fact that smart bulbs

use less energy and last longer than traditional incandescent bulbs, and the product is one that makes sense for any homeowner.

SMART AIR CONDITIONER

Smart thermostats are great, but not everyone has central air. For those who turn to air conditioner units for keeping cool during the hot Midwestern summer months, a smart air conditioner can keep you from sweating high energy bills.

Smart air conditioners let you control things like temperature and fan speed, and allow you to schedule it to kick on or off from a phone or tablet. Those features allow the user to save money by only cooling rooms when they're occupied or about to be occupied. Energy usage reports can give you a breakdown of how and when the unit is working.

One of the considerations when purchasing a smart air conditioner, along with price, is the size of the unit. If the unit is too big or too small for the room it's cooling, it will operate less efficiently, offsetting some of the good of investing in a smart device in the first place. To figure out the right-size smart air conditioner for your space, calculate the room's square footage and multiply it by 20 to get an estimate of the British Thermal Units (BTUs) needed. If your room is 400 square feet, you will want your smart air conditioner to be 8,000 BTUs, for example.



PHOTO COURTESY PHILIPS

Smart air conditioners are less omnipresent than their light bulb companions, so check with your local hardware store or retailer to see if they sell them in-store. If not, many retail websites offer shipping.

SMART SMOKE DETECTOR

Many smart products are aimed at making life more comfortable. Smart technology doesn't stop there, though, and your home's safety can benefit from technological advances as well.

A smart smoke detector can alert homeowners in different ways and with more accuracy than traditional smoke alarms. Smart smoke detectors send alerts to your phone or other device, and ones with the ability to speak are able to notify people in the home of which room the fire or smoke is in.

The industry standard is the Google Nest Protect, though numerous products exist in the market – many of which can be found on the shelves of local hardware retailers. On top of the



PHOTO COURTESY GOOGLE

added safety, the Nest Protect tests itself to gauge battery life and sends a notification to your phone to let you know it's running low, rather than the random chirping that accompanies traditional smoke detectors. In that way, smart smoke detectors do provide added convenience as well as the safety components that make them worthwhile investments.

GREAT OUTDOORS

Smart technology doesn't just exist inside the confines of your home or office. Here are a few outdoor products that can help you conserve energy while also beautifying your home's exterior.

SMART SPRINKLER

Ever water your grass right before a storm rolls in, or go days without turning on the sprinkler because you're just too busy? Never again with a smart sprinkler, which can be set to a schedule and uses real-time weather data to determine when to kick on and off.

SMART LAWNMOWER

This might sound like something out of a Back to the Future movie, but smart lawnmowers now exist to cut your grass for you while you relax by the pool or inside in the conditioned air. A perimeter wire lets the mower know where the boundary of your property is, and sensors tell the mower when it needs to recharge and when it's done mowing.



SMART OUTDOOR LIGHTS

Like the indoor light bulbs, smart outdoor lighting can be on a timer and can be adjusted for brightness, color and other settings as desired. No backyard party is complete without them!

Southwestern Offers Rebates for High Efficiency Heat Pumps, Electric Water Heaters, Smart Thermostats

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

Members are eligible for one rebate per category per year. All rebates will be applied as a bill credit upon receiving the completed rebate application and proof of purchase.

Rebate forms are available on our website at sweci.com. You can email your completed application and proof of purchase to 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.



Home Service Repair Plans Offer Assurance, Quality and Convenience

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

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

If something goes wrong with a system or appliance covered by a HomeServe repair plan, the member can call HomeServe anytime, 24/7, at 833-334-1874. The company will dispatch a pre-screened, local repair technician to the member's home to diagnose the problem. The technician will fix the issue or replace the covered item as detailed in the home repair plan.

HOW HOMESERVE HELPS

HomeServe is available to take emergency repair calls around the clock. Technicians dispatched through HomeServe are local, licensed and insured. Their work is covered by a one-year HomeServe guarantee.

HomeServe lessens the financial burden of unexpected breakdowns by paying the bill on covered repairs up to the benefit amount, and eases the stress and inconvenience that

comes with the event. You don't have to research repair bids or vet and hire a technician.

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

HELPING US HELP YOU

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

HomeServe will return a portion of the proceeds from plan sales to Southwestern Electric. The funds will be dedicated to support efforts like Southwestern Electric Cooperative's Power For Progress Scholarship Program.

You can read more about HomeServe at www.HomeServe.com and view nearly 100 informational videos on HomeServe's YouTube channel.



THE HOMESERVE CUSTOMER PROMISE

1. Before a customer joins, we'll make it clear what they're buying and what it will do for them.
2. When a customer joins, we'll tell them how much they're paying, what that buys for them, and how to make a claim.
3. When a customer becomes a member, we'll make life easy for them.
4. When a customer makes a claim, we'll solve their problem quickly and easily—their emergency is our emergency.
5. If a customer is not happy, we'll listen, apologize, and make things right wherever we can, as soon as we can.

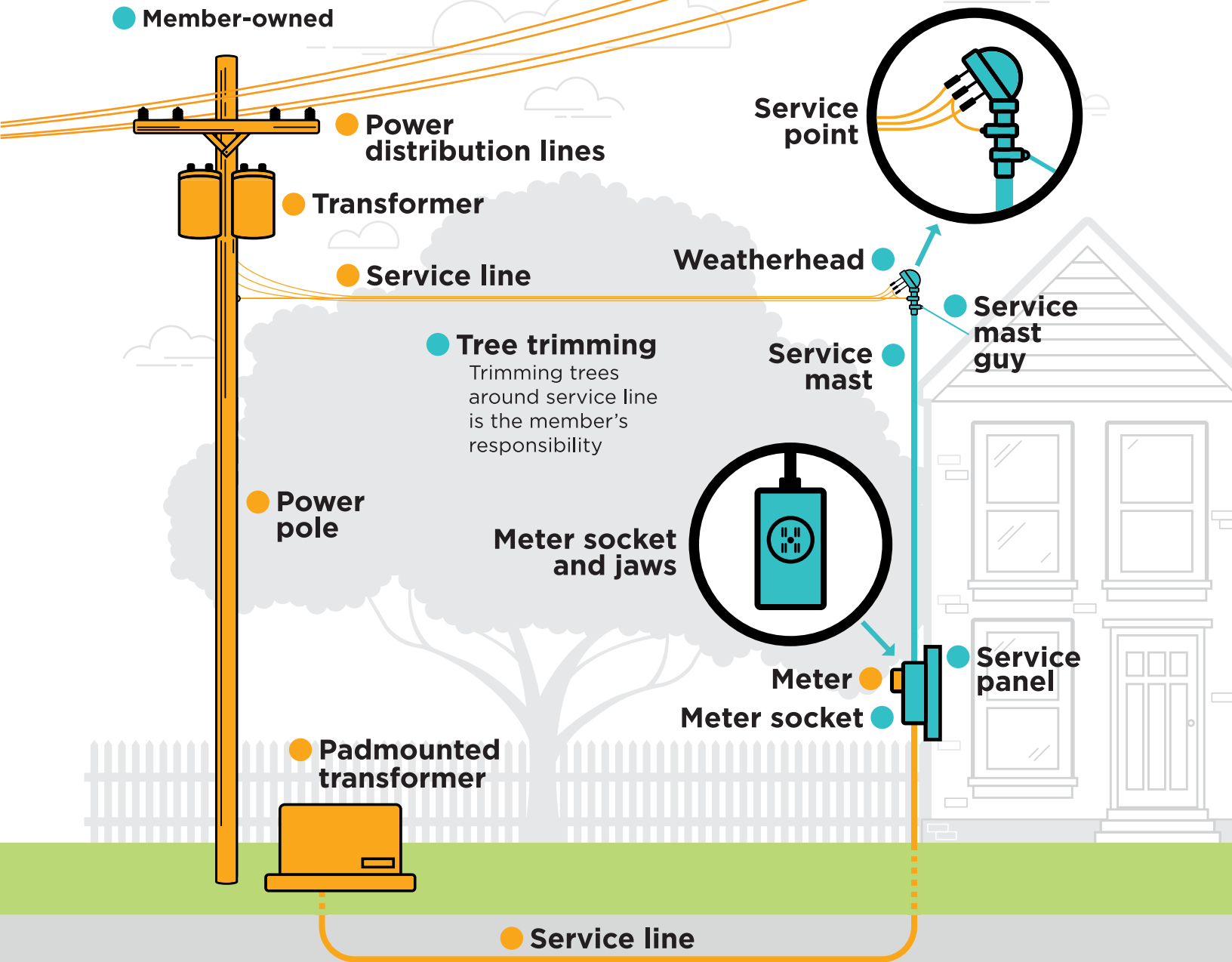
PHOTO COURTESY MODERN FOTOGRAFIC BY DAVE NOONAN

Who Owns What?

Electric Co-op Owned Equipment vs Member-Owned Equipment

This graphic depicts equipment owned by the co-op (in gold) and the member (in blue). If a storm damages any equipment owned by the co-op, we are responsible for repairs. If a storm damages any member-owned equipment, the member is responsible for repairs. Repairs to member-owned equipment should be performed by a licensed electrician.

- Co-op owned
- Member-owned



Note: This graphic depicts overhead and underground service. Please be aware of which type of service you receive at your home or business.

TROUBLED WATERS

You're driving a rural road through a heavy rainstorm. It's dark. Visibility is limited. You approach a section of pavement covered in water. The water doesn't appear to be deep, and the vehicle in front of you crosses the flooded area without trouble. You're faced with a choice: go back the way you came or take your chances.

When rivers are on the rise, the National Weather Service (NWS) has four words to live by: "Turn Around, Don't Drown." Turn Around Don't Drown® is the NWS-sponsored initiative to warn people of the hazards of walking or driving through flood waters.

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, more than half of all flood-related drownings occur when motorists attempt to drive through flood water. Pedestrians trying to cross flood water account for the second highest percentage of deaths.

Six inches of moving flood water can knock down an adult. Eighteen inches of moving water can carry away heavy vehicles. Once buoyant, a car can easily be pushed sideways by the current, trapping passengers inside and washing them downstream.

Never drive through flooded roadways. Take extra precautions at night, when it's harder to see flood dangers.

Here are additional tips to keep you safe and dry when creeks and rivers are on the rise:

Turn Around, Don't Drown

- 1) Always plan ahead and know the risks before flooding happens. Monitor a National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration All-Hazards Radio or other news source for vital information on weather and road conditions.
- 2) If flooding is expected or occurring, get to higher ground as quickly as possible. Abandon areas subject to flooding, such as valleys and low ground near creeks and rivers, canyons and washes.
- 3) Avoid areas already flooded, especially if the water is flowing fast, and never attempt to cross flowing streams.
- 4) Never drive through flooded sections of road, even if the water appears to be shallow enough to cross. Water conceals potential hazards like shifted logs or rocks, dips in the road and washed out road beds. This is especially true at night.
- 5) Don't camp or park your vehicles along streams and washes, particularly during threatening conditions.
- 6) Never cross a barrier that's been put in place by local emergency officials. Not only is this dangerous, but many states and communities levy steep fines on people who ignore barricades and other road closure indications.



ONCE BUOYANT, A CAR CAN EASILY BE PUSHED SIDeways BY THE CURRENT, TRAPPING PASSENGERS INSIDE AND WASHING THEM DOWNSTREAM.



FLOOD STATUS

FLOOD WATCH

Rainfall is heavy enough to force rivers from their banks. Flooding is possible.

FLOOD WARNING

Flooding is in progress or very likely in an affected river, lake or tidewater area. If told to leave, do so immediately.

FLASH FLOOD WATCH

Flash flooding in specified areas is possible. You may need to act quickly.

FLASH FLOOD WARNING

Flash flooding is in progress or very likely along certain streams and select areas. Go to a safe place immediately!

STAY HIGH & DRY

Flooding is the leading weather-related cause of death in the United States. Every year, almost as many people die in floods as from hurricanes, tornadoes and lightning combined.

Flash floods can occur in a matter of minutes, depending on the intensity and duration of the rain, the area's topography, the condition of the soil, and ground cover.

Six inches of moving flood water can knock over an adult. A foot or two can carry away a vehicle.

BEFORE THE FLOOD

Avoid getting stranded. Leave flood-prone areas before flooding starts.

Learn which roads are prone to flooding and find alternative routes so you can avoid them.

Familiarize yourself with local emergency plans. Know where to go and how to get there if you need to evacuate.

Avoid camping or parking near creeks and rivers during heavy rainfall. These areas can flood without warning.

Stay tuned to phone alerts, TV, or radio for weather updates, emergency instructions, and evacuation orders.

DURING THE FLOOD

Never drive through flooded roadways. You can't determine the depth of the water or ground conditions. The road bed under flood waters may be severely damaged.

Take extra precautions at night, when it's harder to see flood dangers.

Don't attempt to cross flowing streams on foot.

If floodwaters rise around your car but the water isn't moving, abandon your car and go to higher ground—but don't leave your car to enter moving water. Call for help.

Respect road barriers. The road or bridge may be washed out.

AFTER THE FLOOD

Avoid flood water. Standing water may contain dangerous chemicals, debris, and other health hazards.

Stay away from power lines and electrical wires. Water conducts electricity, and electrocution is a significant danger during floods. Report downed power lines to Southwestern Electric (or the local utility) and area emergency services.

Photograph damage to your property for insurance purposes.

THRESH PERSPECTIVE

Altamont farming show brings new life to old way of living

Story by Nathan Grimm | Photos by Mike Barns

It is said that some things need to be seen to be believed. One such thing, at least according to Tom Denton, is the wheat thresher that doubles as one of the big draws at the annual Mill Road Thresherman Show.

“It’s a Rube Goldberg contraption – belts, levers, some of it’s wood, some of it’s metal,” Denton, 61, said, referring to the popular cartoonist known for his fanciful gadget creations. “It’s quite a thing.”

Like a Goldberg creation, the old-school machine is, these days, unnecessarily complicated, an inefficient use of time and resources. Gradually over the course of the last century, threshers gave way to combine harvesters, to the point that threshers like the one in Altamont are virtually extinct.

Which is why the show exists, and why it remains a big draw as it approaches its 41st year in operation. Those who will flock to the Effingham County Fairgrounds from Aug. 11-14, 2022, go for a number of reasons, Denton said – the rural Effingham County resident was secretary of the Mill Road Thresherman’s Association for a decade, and remains a member of the association – but chief among them is the chance to see American farming history brought to life.

“It’s not just the kids, but their parents have never seen threshing done that way,” Denton said. “It’s a working farm show. We’re out there working equipment.”

The first threshing demonstration was held on July 24, 1982, in Altamont by neighbors Louis Milleville and Wayne Mueller. The duo, according to legend, thought it would be fun to thresh wheat and oats with a 1930s-era 2238 McCormick Deering threshing machine that belonged to Milleville. Friends and neighbors brought other antique tractors, implements, hit-and-miss engines and cars to help make the event a success. In total, more than 400 people attended that original event, and

the following year the show moved to the Effingham County Fairgrounds.

On top of the demonstrations, the list of attractions and events is exhaustive, including but not limited to truck and tractor pulls, potato digging, games, bluegrass music and crafts.

“The kids seem to really enjoy it,” Denton said. “We do a lot of stuff specifically for the kids. We have a scavenger hunt, for lack of a better word – you come and get a sheet, and it says things like, ‘Find your favorite international tractor,’ different things like that where they move around the (fairgrounds) looking for different things. That seems to be really popular. We do stuff like a straw stack treasure hunt, corn pile, petting zoo.

“We try to make it family friendly. It’s not just for the guys to be out there looking at old equipment.”

The event, Denton said, is also popular among the Future Farmers of America (FFA) groups in the region. He said three or four local clubs usually have students volunteer to do anything and everything needed over the four days. In return, the Mill Road Thresherman’s Association awards two, \$500 scholarships to area students who are active in their schools’ FFA programs and wish to continue their

education at a college, university, or trade school.

“That’s been a fantastic partnership,” Denton said. “Those kids are great to be around.”

The four-day event begins Thursday, Aug. 11 with a truck and tractor pull at 7 p.m. Friday, Aug. 12 and Saturday, Aug. 13 are full days of events from morning to night, and Sunday, Aug. 14 has events in the morning before an antique tractor pull wraps up the show at noon.

For a full schedule of events, more information and to learn more about the Mill Road Thresherman’s Association, visit millroadthresherman.org.





WHO • WHAT • WHERE

In recent issues of the magazine, we've mentioned adjusting our solution schedule to accommodate postal delays. The timeliness of magazine deliveries still appears to be hit or miss. Until postal delays are sorted, we'll continue to hold our solutions for two months.

As longtime readers know, in August we shift from our usual format to bring you Southwestern's annual report. So the solution to our June puzzle will appear in September, and we'll share your responses to this month's challenge in our October issue.

We'll also take this opportunity to thank you for reading the magazine and writing to us. We're grateful for the time you spend with the magazine and your contributions to Who~What~Where, Members in Focus, Remember When?, Member Mail, and our Ask The CEO segments. As always, your words and photos are the best part of The Southwestern.

On to this month's challenge: Do you know where we are? You can certainly tell how many miles it is to any number of places from where we stand, but is that enough to get you where we've gone? We look forward to seeing your responses. Meanwhile, here's what you had to say about the historical figure who appeared in our May puzzle.

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The gentleman pictured in the May 2022 Who, What, Where column of The Southwestern is John Reynolds, the fourth governor of Illinois.



IMAGE OF GOV. JOHN REYNOLDS FROM THE JANUARY 1896 ISSUE OF MCCLURE'S MAGAZINE

According to Wikipedia, "John M. Reynolds (February 26, 1788 – May 8, 1865) was a United States lawyer and politician from the state of Illinois who served in all three governmental branches.

"One of the original four justices of the Illinois Supreme Court (1818–1825), he later won election several times to the Illinois House of Representatives (1826–1830, 1846–1848, and 1852–1854, including as Speaker of the House) and the United States House of Representatives (1834–1837 and 1839–1843), and as 4th Illinois Governor (1830–1834).

"He also took the rank of major general of the Illinois militia during the Black Hawk War. He published a large autobiography titled *My Own Times*."

—*Darwin Evelsizer, Maryville*

I believe the fellow pictured in the May issue is John Reynolds. He served as governor, a legislator, Illinois Supreme Court judge, and in the U.S. House of Representatives, and as a lawyer in private practice.

—*Harry Volberg, Pocahontas*

The answer to the May 2022 "Who is this?" is John Reynolds. Reynolds' name can be found inscribed on a stone monument with a bronze plaque located in a small park at the corner of St. Louis and Randle Streets in Edwardsville. His name appears along with four other former Illinois governors from Edwardsville.

Reynolds was the fourth Illinois governor (1830-1834) but also served in the Illinois House of Representatives, Illinois Supreme Court, and U.S. House of Representatives. While governor, he was commander of the state militia. In 1832 he called out the militia to engage in the Black Hawk War.

His two-year stint as an Indian scout during the War of 1812 earned him the nickname "Old Ranger."

He was characterized as "a rather talkative man, and apt in all the Western phrases and catch-words that ever gained currency, besides many cunning and odd ones of his own manufacture."

In 1855, his 432-page autobiography, "My Own Times: Embracing Also The History of My Life," was published.

He died in Belleville on May 8, 1865 and is buried in Walnut Hill Cemetery.

—*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 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?



CO-OP KITCHEN

Say Cheeseecake

SNICKERS CHEESECAKE

Crust Ingredients

- 24 chocolate sandwich cookies such as Oreos
- 4 tablespoons unsalted butter melted

Crust Directions

1. Pulse cookies in food processor until crushed. Then pulse in butter.
2. Wrap bottom and sides of springform pan with aluminum foil.
3. Grease pan and press cookie mixture in an even layer into bottom of pan.
4. Bake at 350° for 8 - 10 minutes. Let cool.

Filling Ingredients

- 3 (8 ounce) packages cream cheese at room temperature
- ¾ cup sugar
- 3 large eggs at room temperature
- 2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- 1 teaspoon lemon juice
- 1 tablespoon cornstarch
- 3 regular sized Snickers candy bars chopped into ¼ pieces
- ¼ cup caramel sauce
- ¼ cup chocolate syrup
- ¼ cup roasted and salted peanuts chopped

Filling Directions

1. Place a roasting pan filled with 1 inch of hot water on oven's center rack (this is the water bath). Pan should be large enough to place springform pan in oven.
2. Beat cream cheese until smooth.
3. Add sugar and beat for 1 minute. Beat in eggs.
4. Scrape down sides and bottom of bowl and beat in vanilla, lemon juice, and cornstarch.
5. Sprinkle Snickers evenly over crust.
6. Pour batter into pan and place in water bath.
7. Bake at 350° for 55 minutes until cake is set around edges but still jiggles in the center.
8. Remove cake from roasting pan, remove foil, and place on cooling rack.
9. When cooled, cover and refrigerate until firm (minimum of four hours).
10. When ready to serve, drizzle top with caramel sauce and chocolate syrup and top with peanuts.

SIMPLY SENSATIONAL CHERRY CHEESECAKE

Ingredients

- 1¼ cups graham cracker crumbs (about 1 sleeve of graham crackers)
- ¼ cup sugar
- ⅓ cup Crisco melted
- 2 (8 ounce) packages cream cheese softened
- 1 (14 ounce) can of Eagle brand sweetened condensed milk
- 3 eggs
- 3 tablespoons lemon juice
- 8 ounces sour cream at room temperature
- 1 (21 ounce) can cherry pie filling

Directions

1. Mix together graham cracker crumbs, sugar, and shortening.
2. Firmly press cracker mixture into bottom of 9 inch springform pan.
3. In a large bowl, beat cream cheese until fluffy.
4. Gradually beat in sweetened condensed milk until smooth.
5. Beat in eggs and lemon juice and pour over graham cracker crust.
6. Bake at 300° for 45 minutes or until center is set.
7. Spread sour cream over top and bake 5 minutes longer.
8. Place on cooling rack. When cool place in refrigerator to chill completely.
9. Before serving, top with cherry pie filling. Refrigerate leftovers.

This month's recipes are courtesy of Greenville Regional Hospital Auxiliary's Home Town Favorites cookbook.

CURRENT EVENTS

July 1 - August 12 MUNY BAND SUMMER CONCERTS, Highland. Join us Friday evenings at 8 p.m. on the square. 948 Main Street. Visit highlandmunyband.wixsite.com/muny-home.

July 3; August 7 MONASTERY MUSEUM TOUR, Teutopolis. More than 30 rooms filled with artifacts from the Franciscans and early pioneers dating back to the mid-1800s. First Sunday of the month from 12:30 - 4 p.m. through November. Adult \$5; children 14 years of age and younger \$1. To schedule a group tour call the parish office at (217) 961-6404 ext. 236. For more information visit teutopolis.com.

July 7 - August 4 NIGHT MARKET, Alton. Live local music will fill the air and vendors will be set up outdoors in the park and along the sidewalks, as well as indoors in the East gallery of the Jacoby Arts Center. Walk around to check out the handmade and homegrown wares, as well as vintage, craft, and thrift booths. Every Thursday 7 - 10 p.m. Located at the pocket park between Jacoby Arts Center and Germania Brew Haus. 627 East Broadway. Visit downtownalton.com.

July 7 - August 11 MUSIC IN THE PARK, Grafton. Bring your lawn chair or picnic blanket and listen to live

bands and performers. Every Thursday 7 - 9 p.m. Admission is free. The Grove Memorial Park, corner of Market and Main Streets. Call (618) 786-3344 or visit graftonilchamber.com.

July 9 HUMMINGBIRD FESTIVAL, Hartford. The Lincoln Land Association of Bird Banders will catch and band hummingbirds. Experts will discuss hummingbirds, the banding process and how to encourage these gorgeous birds to visit your yard. Opportunities to "adopt" and release banded hummingbirds are on a first-come basis. A donation is suggested for each adoption. The adopters will receive updates when their banded hummingbird is found somewhere else. Visitors are encouraged to bring lawn chairs, water and sunblock. 9 a.m. - noon. Lewis & Clark State Historic Site, One Lewis & Clark Trail. Call (618) 251-5811 or visit campdubois.com.

July 9 TOUR DE DONUT, Staunton. The "Tour de Donut" bicycle race is a spoof on the "Tour de France." From the mass start, the approximately 32 - 34 mile route follows lightly traveled roads over rolling terrain. Riders can stop at two checkpoint stations (donut stops). While donut consumption is not mandatory, the rider is awarded a five minute time credit for each donut eaten.

There is also a Tour De Donut Hole option, which consists of 12 miles and one donut stop. Sign in begins at 7 a.m.; race 9 a.m. - noon. Staunton City Park at the corner of East Pennsylvania Street and Ash Street. For more information or to register, visit tourdedonut.org.

July 10 ICE CREAM SOCIAL, Wood River. 3 - 6 p.m. Central Park, 633 North Wood River Avenue. Call (618) 251-3130 or visit wrparks.org.

July 10; August 14, September 11 PICKERS MARKET, Litchfield. All items sold at this market are prior to 1980 including antiques, collectibles, vintage items, upcycled items, and refurbished items. Live music each week. 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. 400 North State Street (Intersection of Route 16/Union Avenue and State Street). Visit visittitchfield.com.

July 12, 26; August 9, 23; September 13, 27 HEARTLAND PRAIRIE HIKE, Alton. Join the Nature Institute for a hike that will focus on identifying native plants and birds. Be sure to wear comfortable shoes, bring water, binoculars and a plant identification book. Every second and fourth Tuesday July through October 5:30 - 7 p.m. Free and open to the public. The Nature Institute's Heartland Prairie is located on the north side of Route 111 across from Gordon Moore Park (4550 College Avenue). For more information, visit thenatureinstitute.org.

July 13; August 11; September 10 MOONLIGHT HIKE, Godfrey. Join us on a night hike through the woods 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. 8 - 9:15 p.m. Meet at the Talahi Lodge and be on time, as the hike leaves promptly at start time. 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.

July 13 - October 26 CIVIC PARK CONCERT SERIES, Granite City. Rock your way through the summer with a different band every Wednesday. 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. 1301 Niedringhaus Avenue. For more information, call (618) 452-6213 or visit granicity.illinois.gov.

July 15 & 16 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 - 10 p.m.; Saturday 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Tuscan Hills Winery, 2200 Historic Hills Drive. Visit effinghamartisanfair.org.

July 16; August 13; September 17 MOVIES IN THE PARK, Edwardsville. Enjoy free, family friendly movies each month of the summer. Come early, lay down your blanket, take part in pre-movie community activities. Movies include The Sandlot in July at 8:15 p.m., The Greatest Showman in August at 8:30 p.m., and Finding Nemo at 7:30 p.m. in September. City Park, 101 South Buchanan Street. Visit cityofedwardsville.com.

July 22 & 23 EffingHAM-JAM, Effingham. Friday evening's Hometown Throw-down local BBQ competition featuring amateur enthusiasts

Continued on page 26 ▶

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. 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.

Crews repair a line near Hookdale under the watchful eyes of a local resident. Linemen worked long hours in May to restore power after storms left close to 2,000 co-op members without service.



THE FINAL FRAME

► *Continued from page 24*
sets the stage for a weekend of great music, food, and fun. Teams of amateur BBQ enthusiasts can compete for category trophies Top Hog or the Grand Champion team. Saturday is the official Kansas City Barbecue Society State Championship Competition. Live music both days. Proceeds benefit the Chamber Foundation of Effingham County Scholarship Program. Friday 5 - 10:30 p.m.; Saturday 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. Effingham County Courthouse Museum, 100 East Jefferson Avenue. For more information, visit effingham-jam.com.

July 24 GATEWAY WEDDING SHOW, Collinsville. Show features many different vendors that can help couples personalize their wedding. In just a few hours, you can meet more wedding businesses than you could visit in a month. We bring you a face-to-face sampling of virtually everything you'll need to plan your perfect wedding. 1 - 4:30 p.m. Gateway Center, One Gateway Drive. For more information, visit gatewayweddingshow.com.

July 24; August 28; September 18 SYMPHONY SUMMER CONCERT SERIES, Edwardsville. Enjoy musical performances by the SIUE Symphony, Edwardsville High School, and area artists performing with a variety of instruments. Bring your comfiest lawn chair or blanket and listen to different tunes at each concert. Admission is free. Music starts at 6:30 p.m. Edwardsville City Park, 118 Hillsboro Avenue. Visit facebook.com/Edwardsville-CommunitySymphony/.

July 28; August 29; September 25 TELESCOPE NIGHT, Godfrey. Want to look at the universe through a telescope, but don't own one? Come out to 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'll look at the moon and other night-sky objects. July at 9:30 p.m.; August at 9 p.m.; September at 8:30 p.m. Free for members; \$5 for non-members. Space is limited, registration required. The Nature Institute, 2213 South Levis Lane. Call (618) 466-9930 or visit thenatureinstitute.org.

July 29 & 30 RAILROAD PROTOTYPE MODELERS MEET, Collinsville. Over 28,000-square feet of high-quality models, displays, visiting prototype layouts, hands-on learning, and more. Presentations by nationally-recognized historians and modelers. Over 20 Railroad Historical Societies. 120 tables of hand-picked scale model vendors—no swap meet stuff. Thousands of models brought by modelers like you will be on display. Home layout tours as well as layouts in the Gateway Center. Evening social events, fellowship, and lots of door prizes. 9 a.m. - 7 p.m. \$25 Friday and Saturday; \$20 Saturday only. Kids under 13 are free with paid adult admission. Gateway Center, One Gateway Drive. For more information, visit stlrpm.com.

July 29-31 HERITAGE DAYS, Greenville. Tractor Pulls, field demonstrations, antique fire truck display, gas engine display, live music, grand-scale railroad, food, vendors, activities, steam engine, Baker fan, sawmill, threshing, The Lil' Red Barn Museum, pedal pulls daily. Friday 8 a.m. - dark; Saturday 8 a.m. - dark; Sunday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. \$10 arm band for all three days; Sunday Only \$5; children under 10 years of age free. Admission includes tractor pull and parking. American Farm Heritage Museum, 1395 Museum Avenue. Call (618) 664-9733 or visit american-farmheritagemuseum.org.

August 5-7 GATEWAY DULCIMER FESTIVAL,

Fairview Heights. Dulcimer festival featuring workshops, nightly concerts, music jams, and buffet lunch on Friday and Saturday. Full festival with workshops both days, includes lunch and concerts \$130; Friday or Saturday 1 day only, includes lunch and concerts \$65; concerts only are \$10 each night and are first come first served until sold out. 8 a.m. - 9 p.m. both days; concerts begin at 7 p.m. The Four Points Sheraton/Fountain Conference Center, 319 Fountains Parkway. For more information, visit gatewaydulcimer.org or e-mail Sharon at gdsmf98@gmail.com.

August 11-14 MILL ROAD THRESHERMAN'S SHOW, Altamont. Explore a century of farming using antique farm equipment from the past, demonstrating it in the present, and preserving it for the future. Farming and tractor events, horse farming, bluegrass music, women's activities, children's events and more. Camping is available on the grounds. Admission is \$7; children 12 years of age and younger are free. Effingham County Fair Grounds, 722 East Cumberland Road. For more information, visit millroadthresherman.org or find us facebook.com/millroadthresherman.

August 19-21 BALLOON FEST, Centralia. Annual hot air balloon festival featuring live entertainment, craft booths, family activities, balloon glows Friday and Saturday evenings, car and motorcycle show. Friday 3 - 9 p.m.; Saturday 10 a.m. - 9 p.m.; Sunday 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. \$5 wristband (available at event gates) gives all-access to the three-day festival. Children under 6 years of age are free. \$5 parking at north entrance. Foundation Park, 1490 Gragg Street. For more information, visit centraliachamber.com/balloon-fest.

COUNTY FAIRS

July 8-13 FAYETTE COUNTY FAIR, Brownstown. Visit fayetfecofair.org.

July 17-21 SHELBY COUNTY 4-H & JUNIOR FAIR, Shelbyville. Call (217) 774-5531.

July 17-23 CLINTON COUNTY FAIR, Carlyle. Visit clintoncofair.org.

July 21-30 CLAY COUNTY FAIR, Flora. Call (618) 780-7747.

July 26-30 MADISON COUNTY FAIR, Highland. Visit madcofair.com.

July 30 - August 6 EFFINGHAM COUNTY FAIR, Altamont. Visit effinghamcountyfair.com.

July 29 - August 6 MARION COUNTY FAIR, Salem. Visit marioncountyagfair.org.

August 4-9 BOND COUNTY FAIR, Greenville. Call (618) 664-1412 or visit bondcofair.com.

August 11-21 ILLINOIS STATE FAIR, Springfield. Visit illinoisstatefair.info.

August 26 - September 5 DUQUOIN STATE FAIR, DuQuoin. Visit duquoinstatefair.net.



VOTER REGISTRATION CARD 2022 *Please sign and present this card at the registration table.*

84th Annual Meeting of Members

Saturday, September 10, 2022



Member Signature _____

Please enroll me in Operation Round Up

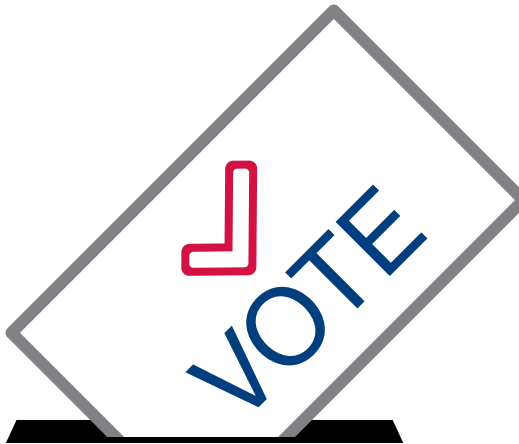
PLEASE UPDATE YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION

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!



2022 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

Aug. 31 remains open to 7 p.m.
Sept. 8 remains open to 7 p.m.

St. Jacob warehouse, 10031 Ellis Road, St. Jacob

Aug. 30 from 4 to 7 p.m.
Sept. 7 from 4 to 7 p.m.

St. Elmo warehouse, 2117 East 1850 Avenue, St. Elmo

Sept. 1 from 4 to 7 p.m.
Sept. 6 from 4 to 7 p.m.

Highland Middle School, 2813 State Route 160, Highland

Sept. 10 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. 26 through 4:30 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 9. We are closed on Monday, Sept. 5 in observance of Labor Day.



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