

# THE *Southwestern*

A SOUTHWESTERN ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE MEMBER MAGAZINE

JUNE 2022 • VOLUME 74 • ISSUE 6

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FESTIVALS TAKE  
FLIGHT

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Made in America.

**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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In recent years, you've read about issues with the United States Postal Service delaying the delivery of your magazine. More recently, the same issues have delayed delivery of our bills, as well as your bill payments.

Some of us use that windowed envelope in the mailbox as a reminder. We see it and we know it's time to make a payment. When the reminder doesn't arrive or lands late, that can leave you paying your bill late. In the case of your electric bill, late payments can result in penalty fees or disconnection for non-payment.

In last month's magazine, Veronica Forbis, our billing manager, shared a simple, reliable solution to that problem: electronic billing. Electronic billing—or e-billing, as we call it here—can help you avoid penalties resulting from postal delays and late payments. Our e-bill resembles our paper bill with one important distinction: It always arrives on time. You can learn more about e-billing on page 4. Or if you'd like to talk to a member service representative in our billing department, please call us at 800-637-8667. We'll be happy to help you.

On a related note, last month Veronica shared answers to commonly asked questions about auto-pay, one of our electronic billing options. You'll find her responses in a video on our Facebook page. While we're on the topic, I'll encourage you to follow us on social media. We post complementary pieces to our articles and our most current information at [facebook.com/SWECI](https://facebook.com/SWECI) and [twitter.com/sweci](https://twitter.com/sweci).

Meanwhile, if you have questions or comments about Southwestern Electric Cooperative, please contact me at [bobby.williams@sweci.com](mailto:bobby.williams@sweci.com). I look forward to hearing from you.

Bobby Williams, CEO

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

## NEWS & NOTES

### FIND US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

For the latest news and notes, follow us on Facebook and Twitter. You'll find us at [facebook.com/SWECI](https://facebook.com/SWECI) and [twitter.com/sweci](https://twitter.com/sweci). Search for Southwestern Electric on YouTube and Instagram.



### ON THE COVER

Nancy Redman of the Lincoln Land Association of Bird Banders prepares to release a ruby-throated hummingbird during a 2021 festival at Stoecklin's Orchard south of Donnellson. Our story begins on page 8.



### CO-OP REMINDERS

**June 13** Payment processing systems will be unavailable from midnight to 4 a.m., while we perform system maintenance. No payments will be processed during this time. We will resume processing payments at 4:01 a.m.

**July 4** Offices closed in observance of Independence Day.

### ASK THE CEO

Have a question for the CEO? Send it to [bobby.williams@sweci.com](mailto: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.



## E-BILLING PROVIDES QUICK, EASY WAY TO AVOID FEES ASSOCIATED WITH POSTAL DELAYS

Paperless billing—or e-billing—provides a simple, reliable solution to penalties associated with postal delays and late payments. An e-bill is an electronic billing statement delivered to your email address. Our e-bill looks like our paper bill. Since it's sent to your inbox instead of your mailbox, it always arrives on time.

In addition to our e-bill, we also offer electronic notifications you can use as reminders, or to confirm your payment has been made. You can receive our reminders, alerts and notifications by text, voice mail and email.

Maybe you'd prefer not to think about your bill from month to month. With our Auto-Pay service, you won't need to. Auto-Pay automatically deducts your monthly payment from your checking account, or debit card or credit card. It's safe, convenient and reliable. Like our e-billing options, Auto-Pay is free and simple to set up.

If you'd like to know more, please call Southwestern Electric's billing department at 800-637-8667, Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Our team will be happy to help you.

### 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](https://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](https://facebook.com/SWECI) and [twitter.com/sweci](https://twitter.com/sweci).

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

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

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

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

Pay-As-You-Go allows the account-holder to purchase electricity at his or her convenience. Payments appear as credits on the member's account. The balance, which reflects energy used and payments made over the past 24-hours, is updated daily. There's no penalty for allowing funds to run out, but electric service becomes subject to disconnection when the account balance reaches \$0.00.

The cooperative doesn't mail a monthly bill to Pay-As-You-Go accounts. Rather, participating members monitor their account balance via the cooperative's online billing system, SWEC IL app or in-home display. In

addition to checking their account balance and payment history, the member will have access to an assortment of tools for tracking their energy consumption, including a breakdown of their kilowatt-hour usage and money spent on power each day.

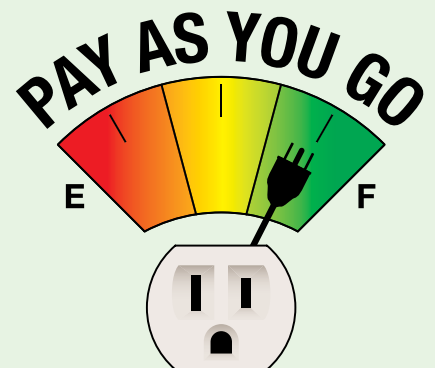
Southwestern also offers an in-home display unit (at no charge), particularly for members who don't have Internet access. The online billing system, app and in-home display allow the accountholder to view their present account balance and average daily usage.

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

Payments on a Pay-As-You-Go account can be made at the cooperative's Greenville office during regular business hours, at the Vandalia Farm Bureau, or deposited in the dropbox at Southwestern's St. Elmo and St. Jacob offices. Payments are also accepted 24/7 by phone, SWEC IL app and online at [sweci.com](http://sweci.com). Most payments will post to the member's account within an hour. However, members should allow three day's processing time when payments are made at the St. Elmo or St. Jacob offices or Vandalia Farm Bureau.



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



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

# Highland Middle School Will Serve as Site for Southwestern’s 84th Annual Meeting of Members

by Susan File, Vice President of Member Services

Southwestern Electric Cooperative’s 84th Annual Meeting of Members will bring a new venue, new activities and many other changes to our co-op’s time-honored tradition.

We will offer early voting in a drive-through format 10 days prior to the annual meeting at our Greenville office, beginning at 8 a.m. on Friday, Aug. 26. We will offer two evenings for drive-through voting in each of the three districts. Members will be able to vote the morning of annual meeting ONLY at the meeting and NOT in the other two district locations. Why? Because turnout at Greenville during normal business hours and for the two evenings in each district was wildly successful while member

turnout on the Saturday morning of annual meeting at the two remote locations over a three-hour period was scarce.

Regardless of whether you vote early, during the day, during one of the evening registration events, or the day of annual meeting, the bill credits will remain the same. You will receive a \$30 bill credit if you use your pre-printed registration card (which is the opposing side of the mailing address on your July and August monthly magazines) and a \$20 bill credit if you choose not to use your pre-printed registration card when registering.

**Venue.** So, what is planned for this year? Well, the meeting will still be held on the first Saturday following Labor Day as it has been the past several decades, which is Saturday, Sept. 10. And

it just so happens that there is some truth in the old adage that sooner or later, everything old is new again. Decades ago, the meeting location rotated amongst our three districts. We are on the move... to a new location for this year’s annual meeting. This year’s meeting will be held at the Highland Middle School located at 400 Broadway, Highland, Ill. Why a new location you ask? We are on the move to revitalize and refresh our meeting to garner more member involvement and to encourage new and varied perspectives in response to questions our members are asking of us. We will have room for an electric or hybrid vehicle car show, solar installers, live line safety demonstrations, and more. We want to provide a venue for you to ask the ques-

## 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, 400 Broadway, 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 pm on Friday, Sept. 9. We are closed on Monday, Sept. 5 in observance of Labor Day.

tions you may have about some of the newer technologies, cars, and programs and interact with us to learn best practices and lessons we've discovered along the way. And what better location for learning than a school? Highland Middle School offers convenient parking, large meeting rooms, outdoor space for a food truck or maybe two, and inside seating areas for dining and the business meeting.

**Food, refreshments and door prizes.** That's another important piece to this meeting. Southwestern Electric will kick off the day at 8 a.m. We'll allow a couple of hours for members to register and vote if they haven't already done so before our business meeting starts at 10 a.m. A "smart" gift will be given to the first 100 memberships that attend the meeting at the school. Limit one gift per membership. Members and non-members alike are invited to look over the electric and hybrid vehicles at the car show, watch the live line safety demonstration, speak with one of the solar installation companies on hand, and visit with us over coffee and doughnuts before the meeting. A ribeye sandwich meal will be available for purchase after the meeting from a local food truck vendor.

**Election.** The annual meeting is an opportunity to exercise your vote for representation in your district on the cooperative board. Attending the meeting also gives you the opportunity during the business meeting to share and hear information about cooperative matters, ask questions, and make your voice heard in the presence of other members of your cooperative. So how does one become a director candidate? Glad you asked.

The cooperative's service territory is divided into three districts. District I entails Montgomery, Madison, and

St. Clair Counties. District II entails Macoupin, Bond, and Clinton Counties. District III entails Shelby, Fayette, Effingham, Marion, and Clay Counties. There are three directors per district comprising the nine-member board. Each year, one seat from each district is open for election. Members meeting the qualifications to become a director as stated in the bylaws may contact one of three Nominating Committee members from their respective district and ask for consideration to become a candidate. Members nominated at the May 26 Nominating Committee meeting or who successfully petition to become a director candidate by the June 27 deadline by securing signatures from 15 or more distinct memberships and are approved by the board will be officially voted on by the entire membership (and not just by the members of the district they reside in).

In contested elections, directors will be elected by plurality vote in each district. In uncontested elections, directors will be elected by acclamation as per the bylaws. Votes per candidate are announced during the business meeting. Proxy voting is not accommodated in our bylaws.

Please bear in mind that as a democratic organization, each membership is allowed one vote. If the membership is joint or individual, only one vote can be cast per membership. If the membership has one or 101 accounts under a membership, only one vote can be cast per membership. Authorized users, designated by AU after their name on the registration card, are not allowed to cast the vote on behalf of the membership. We also cannot accept a signed registration card from someone other than the member of record for purposes of voting and/or securing a bill credit.

# JUNE 27 DEADLINE TO FILE FOR CANDIDACY BY PETITION

**S**outhwestern Electric members interested in running for a seat on the co-op's board of directors have a final opportunity to enter the 2022 race. While the deadline for standard nominations (May 26) has passed, the cooperative offers an additional month to file for candidacy by petition.

A valid petition must include the candidate's name, address, age and telephone number, along with the names, addresses and signatures of at least 15 other Southwestern Electric Co-op members. Petitions must be received at the cooperative's Greenville headquarters by Monday, June 27, in order for the candidate's name to appear on the 2022 ballot. For additional guidance on filing for candidacy by petition, please see Section 4(D)3 of the cooperative's bylaws.

The 2022 board election, which will take place at Southwestern Electric's 84th Annual Meeting of Members, will fill three seats on the cooperative's board of directors. Each director will be elected to serve a three-year term beginning on Sept. 10, 2022, and expiring on the date of the 2025 Annual Meeting. Any active member 18 years of age or older and in good financial standing with the co-op is eligible to serve on the board of directors, so long as he or she meets the qualifications set forth in Section 5(B) of the bylaws (available at [sweci.com](http://sweci.com)). If you have questions about board service or the election process, please contact Susan File, vice president of member services, at (800) 637-8667, ext. 5924.

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

# A BIRD IN THE HAND

Summer festivals  
offer insight into small  
but mighty species

by Joe Richardson



Ruby-throated hummingbirds may migrate more than 1,000 miles to revisit the same backyard bird feeders year after year.

Let's try a little magic. Pull a five-dollar bill from your pocket. Fold it, fold it, fold it again. Place it in your palm. Now imagine I cover your hand with mine, and when I move it away, in place of the paper sits a bird with amber eyes, a needle-long bill, and metallic green plumage that shines iridescent in the afternoon sun. The bird is soft and still and very alive, and you feel the heat of it seep into your skin.

Now turn your hand. If the feathers at its throat shift from sunset-orange to black and back in the changing light, the bird's a male. If the feathers are the color of dandelion down, it's a hen. Either

way, you're holding a ruby-throated hummingbird, the sole species of hummingbird that makes it a habit to nest east of the Great Plains.

If the bird's in no hurry to leave—and they often aren't—you may see an aluminum alloy anklet ringing the leg above its toes. An ornithologist attached the band, years or minutes ago. You'll need sharp eyes to read the code—essentially an avian social security number—stamped in the metal.

At some point the bird will take wing. Or you'll tap the back of your hand and gently jostle it into action, because a bird's got to eat, and this bird needs to eat more often than most.

You'll feel a brush of air, and this tiny creature with a frantic heartbeat, a miracle of feather and bone that's flown from Florida or Central America or the Yucatan and crossed the Gulf of Mexico to land in your hand, a bird so small it's on the menu of some insects, that weighs less than a nickel and can hover, lift, spin, reverse, drop and turn on a dime, will have vanished.

But the magic isn't over.

Later, if you're very lucky, a letter may appear in your mailbox. It's from Vernon Kleen, an ornithologist with the Springfield-based Lincoln Land Association of Bird Banders (LLABB). The \$5 you parted with earlier was a

donation supporting avian science. In effect, it earned you postcards from the road. If your hummingbird reappears at one of Kleen's banding stations, he'll send a letter apprising you of the bird's travels. Kleen posts between 125 and 150 letters annually.

Having banded birds for 62 years, Kleen himself is a bit of magic, racking up miles on his own annual migratory route, which carries him across Illinois in summer and in winter to Costa Rica. He's one of about 1,600 ornithologists in North America licensed to band birds. Together they maintain a database housed by the Bird Banding Laboratory (BBL) in Maryland, which, as you might guess—but probably wouldn't—is run by the United States Geological Service (USGS). The USGS keeps records of a banded bird's gender, approximate age when signs are evident, and the date and location of banding stations where the bird's been apprehended and held for questioning. The data clues ornithologists into changes in habitat, range, population and migratory patterns—species indicators impossible to gauge in birds on the wing.

Equal parts art and science, bird banding is a meticulous, precise and elegant act. You can catch performances at hummingbird festivals throughout Southwestern Illinois this summer.

Better yet, you can be part of the show.



Paula Lievers greets guests and answers questions during her 2021 Hummingbird Festival in Worden.

## A FESTIVAL TAKES FLIGHT

It's a humid afternoon at the Worden Hummingbird Festival, July 2021, and the catch and release part of the performance has already been staged a few dozen times at the home of Jeff and Paula Lievers. Judging by the volume of ruby-throated hummingbirds that continue to flutter under nets draped over their feeders, banders will be at it all afternoon.

The Lievers' property is prime hummingbird habitat. Their lawn is ringed by trees, there's a pond nearby, and flowers and feeders are strategically stationed for optimal viewing. Avid wildlife watchers, the Lievers had already cultivated a healthy hummingbird population when a friend mentioned that the Edwardsville

Garden Club wanted to host a hummingbird festival. The Club was searching for a site. That was five years ago. The event has grown by word of mouth and social media since.

"You get to meet so many people," Paula Lievers said. "They ask a lot of questions. I feel really good that I can share the information and pictures we have, and all the knowledge that we've accumulated." Last year's festival drew people from throughout Southwestern Illinois, upstate, and parts of Missouri. "The first two hours of the fest are the busiest," said Lievers, "because you're trying to get the names and addresses of people signing up to adopt birds."

Adoption is simple. Contribute \$5 or so (contributions are voluntary) to offset costs involved in banding the birds. Your name and address are linked to a number on a band. An ornithologist at the festival will take measurements of a hummingbird, then fit the bird with a band. He or she will hand the bird to another member of the team.

They'll hand it to you.

You'll set it free.

Simple yet extraordinary.

You'll receive an adoption certificate on the day and a letter each time your bird is caught by Kleen. "Some people will adopt five or 10 different birds for different people," Lievers said, "or sponsor a bird as a memorial for somebody they've lost." *Continued on next page* ►



Ornithologist Vernon Kleen points out the distinguishing features of a ruby-throated hummingbird at last year's festival in Worden.

► *Continued from page 9*

## ARRIVALS, DEPARTURES & LAYOVERS

Male ruby-throated hummingbirds typically arrive at the Lievers home in mid-April. “They try to take over the feeder and they won’t let any other males or even any adventuring females get near it.” The Lievers put up additional feeders to reduce competition. Hummingbirds nest nearby and spend the summer visiting flowers and feeders in their yard.

“The birds have to learn you have a feeder. It takes time,” she said. “You have to be really consistent. If you have a feeder out there, you have to make sure that feeder’s clean and has some liquid in it every day.” Birds begin to feed in

### SEEING RED

Hummingbirds are attracted to the color red. In the wild that works for them, as red blooms mean ready food. In suburbia red can kill. “If somebody has their garage door open, they may find a dead hummingbird inside,” cautions Kay Stoecklin, who’s fed hummingbirds at her orchard south of Donnellson for more than 20 years. Stoecklin says hummingbirds are drawn to the red paint found on garage door handles, lawn mowers and other tools. “Anything red is drawing them in.” Once inside, birds may not find their way out. She suggests keeping doors closed or painting or taping handles in a different color. “I’ll even throw a tarp over things that are red.”

Many hummingbird enthusiasts strongly advise against using nectar (sugar water) with red dye. The coloring is widely believed to affect the birds’ internal organs. A quick survey of literature suggests testing hasn’t been conducted to prove the assertion—but the same reports emphasize there is no data to disprove the belief, and anecdotal evidence to support it. Bird Watcher’s Digest says dye isn’t necessary to attract birds—a red feeder is all you need. The Digest, ornithologist Vernon Kleen, and our local hummingbird festival hosts all recommend avoiding sugar solutions with red dye. When it comes to nectar, stay clear.

the morning. “As soon as it starts getting daylight, they’ll be swarming. You can almost set your clock by them.” Birds work the feeders again in the evening, before they settle into a deep sleep—a metabolic torpor—to conserve energy.

The performance is repeated daily from spring into summer. Older males begin departing in July and are gone by the end of August. Females and young juveniles may remain into October.

The Lievers watch other wildlife in autumn and winter, waiting for the birds to return. At last year’s festival, between 2 p.m. and 5 p.m., Kleen and the LLABB banded 88 hummingbirds. The tally included 64 adult females, 12 adult males, 11 young females, and a young male. Eight of the birds had been previously banded. The afternoon ended with 45 adoptions. “Until you’ve been to a hummingbird festival,” Lievers said, “you just don’t know what all the excitement is about.”

### FOR THE BIRDS

Attend an Illinois bird banding festival north of Interstate 64 and you’re likely to meet Vernon Kleen. An ornithologist who retired from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Kleen is one of three people in the state licensed to band

birds. Each banded bird adds a point of color to the collective portrait of a species. The pictures painted by a database lack the artistry of John James Audubon, but they offer insight into the range, health and habitat of North American birds. “Things you can’t tell,” Kleen said, “when they’re just up there flying.”

On some days Kleen is lucky to band five birds. “Some places I catch over a hundred birds,” he said. “Sometimes it seems like we’re catching more birds, which is always a good sign.”

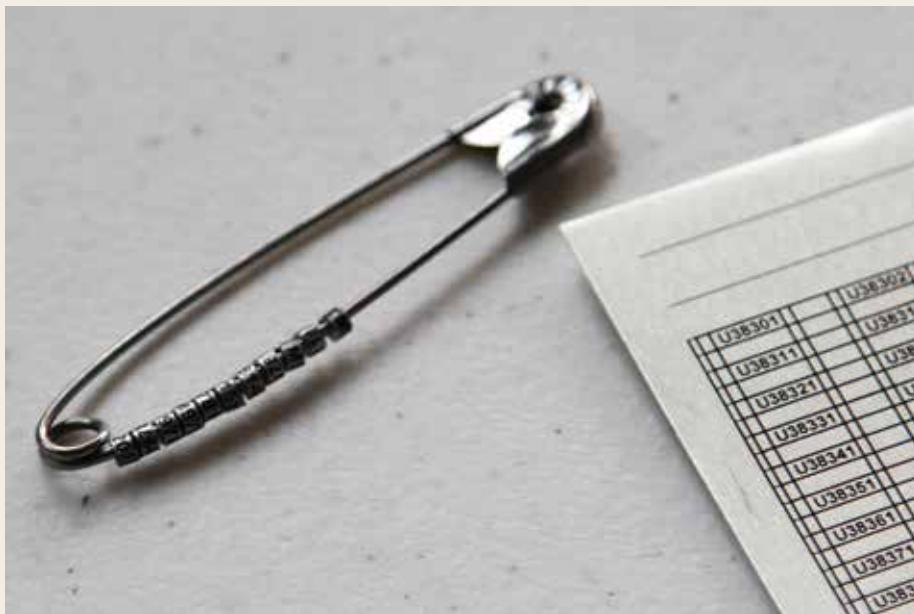
Kleen works with the care and precision of a jeweler setting a stone. At festivals he spends most of an afternoon head-down, looking through a visor fitted with a magnifying lens. Kleen examines each bird, takes measurements using calipers, and gently applies a band using pliers. The procedure takes less than two minutes. “We want to have these birds in our hands for a very short time. We want to get the birds out there flying—we don’t want to deprive them of their food. That’s the reason they were caught,” he said. “They were hungry enough to try to get food.”

When you have the metabolism of a hummingbird—a heart that can top 1,200 beats a minute and wings that burn through 50-plus strokes per second—and

*Continued on page 12 ►*



Artist and entrepreneur Kay Stoecklin photographs Kleen banding a ruby-throated hummingbird during a 2021 hummingbird festival at Stoecklin’s Orchard, south of Donnellson. An avid nature enthusiast, Stoecklin brings a sense of wonder and an eye for composition, color and texture to her outdoor photography.



## KAY'S CARE & FEEDING TIPS

- Make small amounts of nectar so you can monitor it. Only add extra feeders when they drain what you have out.
- Only use cane sugar, no beet sugar.
- Never leave nectar (sugar water) out more than 48 hours.
- Be diligent about cleaning your feeders.
- Make your own nectar. Never use red dyes.
- Boiling sugar water cuts down on bacteria in the nectar, but if they drink it quickly, there's no need to boil.
- Newer feeders have built-in ant moats and bees can't reach the nectar—a big plus.
- At the end of summer during migration, keep your feeders out until you haven't seen hummingbirds for two weeks. Even if it frosts, keep a feeder up during the day. "Strays come through late some years," Stoecklin says. "I'll keep a feeder up until Thanksgiving. Do not take a feeder down if you still have hummingbirds. That doesn't make them leave. It only leaves them hungry."
- Hide or paint anything in your garage that's red. Hummingbirds are attracted to red, get trapped inside, and die.
- They are attracted to red flowers. Plant some to bring hummingbirds into your yard. They love mimosa trees.

Clockwise from top: A safety pin will accommodate about 20 hummingbird bands. Festival hosts attract birds with flowers and feeders. Vernon Kleen fits a band to a bird. Lisa Kraus of Edwardsville, pictured holding her daughter, Margo, and with her son, Auggie, and their friend, Renee Rozma of Wildwood, Mo. (taking photos), adopted and released hummingbirds at Stoecklin's Orchard in 2021. The pink sacks on the spindle hold hummingbirds awaiting banding.



► *Continued from page 10*

maybe two mouths other than yours to feed, you're always hungry. You eat frequently or you die. And you make it a point to remember places where you picked up a good meal. Stands to reason that Kleen encounters some of the same birds at feeding stations year after year.

In fall 2021, at a banding station in Litchfield, he caught 213 birds. Of those, 106 previously had been banded. "Half of those birds used their GPS to find the exact same location where they had lived previously. They come back to the same spot, year after year." Impressive, given many of the birds winter in Mexico or

## IDNR BIRD FEEDER ADVISORY

As of mid-May, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) advised Illinois residents to discontinue the use of bird feeders and bird baths. IDNR issued the notice to stem the spread of avian influenza infections. The advisory was active through May 31 or until infections subside. At press time, infections hadn't been detected in songbirds. The advisory did not specifically apply to hummingbird feeders and hummingbird festivals were still on the roster as of May 1. Please confirm dates and times before you attend. We wanted to pass the information along, as your interest in birds may extend to a wide range of species.

Central America and follow a migration path of more than 1,000 miles over open water and changing landmarks.

Kleen's bird banding season begins in March. Six days a week, from shortly before sunrise until noon, Kleen and his team work nets on the campus of Lincoln Land Community College in Springfield, Ill., where they catch and catalog a variety of species. From the end of May through August the team will travel Illinois to band hummingbirds. They'll spend late August through mid-November at the banding station in Springfield. Kleen bands between 6,000 and 8,000 birds a year. Of those, about 3,000 are hummingbirds. He bands about 100 species annually. The day of our interview he'd banded 118 birds. "I just enjoy it. It's fun teaching people and sharing experiences with them, so they learn more about birds." Kleen says the best thing you can do for birds is work with conservation agencies that preserve habitat. "Habitat preservation is the primary success story for birds and all wildlife, for that matter."

## BIRDS IN BLOOM

Kay Stoecklin didn't go looking for hummingbirds. The birds came to her. "It was more that they demanded my attention," she said. The birds found her 20 years ago when she was working on her property south of Donnellson. "I had a Ford Explorer and it had red taillights

that were kind of big, and every time I was out there, the birds would be at my taillights."

She mixed sugar solution and put out a feeder. "They drained it in a heartbeat. So I got a second feeder." She hung the feeders from the branches of an oak. They were raided by raccoons. She rigged a rope and pulley from the high branches and hauled the feeders out of reach. The raccoons relented. The birds kept coming. When she shifted a quarter mile west to work land that would become Stoecklin's Orchard, she put out more feeders. The birds followed. Hummingbirds have found her feeders every summer since.

"I start with one feeder. I force them to drink all the nectar in a 48-hour period before I'll throw out another," she said. "I make sure it's fresh and clean. I'll only put out as much as they'll take; I try not to put out extra because it's going to go bad and you're going to have problems."

Stoecklin says birds usually arrive at her feeders around the first of May, about 10 days after they show up at other feeders in the region. The males show up first. "The males will eat as they're migrating north. They'll stay for a night, or they may just drink their fill and go. I won't have any resident birds for a while."

She often hears the birds before she sees them. "I know their chatter. I know



Frank Harris of Salem (in red) and Jerry Baker of Glen Carbon collect hummingbirds from a net draped over a feeder during the Lievers' 2021 hummingbird festival in Worden.



that wing noise. That’s usually my first clue that they’re here. It’s not long after that I start seeing the pendulum swing—that’s the mating dance.”


Like Lievers, Stoecklin notes feeding frenzies at dawn and dusk. “Especially during migration. You can come out here and see a hundred birds,” she said. “Every time they’ve nested and babies have fledged, I feel the nectar drain. I’m going through the stuff faster. So I put out more feeders and then I add more nectar.” In early spring, she makes about three cups of sugar solution daily. “At the end of summer I’ll be making three gallons a day,” she said. “In three months I go through 400 pounds of sugar.”

Kay and her husband, Phil, host two festivals at their orchard—one in June and one in July. “We try to catch the birds before migration starts, but after most of the babies have fledged from

their second or third brood.” Their festivals have become a popular regional event, in part because of the multitude of birds, but also due to the setting. You can watch Kleen band birds, then see them take flight while you sit with a blueberry field to the south, trees at your back, art on the lawn, and a sprawling farm field with a weathered barn breaking the horizon. The venue communicates the values and personality of the people who call it home. Reverence and respect for nature are evident in Kay Stoecklin’s art, photography, and in the experiences she shares.

“Early on, might have been my second year, probably the end of summer, I had a lot of birds,” she recalled. “I was mowing, and the feeders ran out. I wasn’t paying attention. They started swarming me on the mower.” She took a feeder inside to fill it. “I walked out the back door and instantly I was swarmed by

at least 40 birds. I didn’t move. I didn’t breathe. I just froze. There was a layer of birds. They were eating. There was a layer above them trying to eat. There was another layer above them.” She stopped and stood a while, drinking in the moment, committing it to memory. “Finally, I was able to start walking with this cloud of hummingbirds around me.” Twenty years later, she’s still awed by the experience.

People who’ve gathered at Stoecklin’s Orchard on a July afternoon to adopt and hold a hummingbird are awed as well. Like Stoecklin, they’re moved by a moment that will linger in memory. To keep something delicate, resilient, vibrant and alive in your care, if only for a handful of heartbeats, then to feel it take flight, is in every sense of the word, magic. 

## GETTING THERE

JUNE 25 & JULY 29

### Stoecklin’s Orchard Hummingbird Festival

1709 Ayers Road  
Donnellson, IL 62019  
Follow Route 127 to Sorento Avenue. Turn east on Sorento Avenue and go 2 miles to the second crossroad, called Ayers Road (Don’t take the first crossroad, which is West Ayers Road.). Turn north on Ayers Road and go about a half mile. Stoecklin’s Orchard is located on the west side of Ayers Road. Look for bird banders outside the taupe-colored building with a dark green roof and trim. For more information see Stoecklin’s Orchard on facebook.

JULY 30

### Lievers Hummingbird Festival

Paula & Jeff Lievers Residence  
8203 Brickyard Hill Road  
Worden, IL 62097  
Follow Route 4 to Wieseman Road. Follow Wieseman Road about 2.5 miles west to Brickyard Hill Road. Follow Brickyard Hill Road about a half mile west to the Lievers home. Paula recommends watching for signs—your GPS may not be on the mark. For more information email paula@gomadison.com



Nancy Redman (right) of the Lincoln Land Association of Bird Banders discusses the health and habitat of hummingbirds with Dawn Zucca Young (left) of Glen Carbon and Laura Schreckenber of Greenville.

## SOUTHWESTERN ILLINOIS HUMMINGBIRD FESTIVALS

June 25.....	3 p.m. – 6 p.m. ....	Stoecklin’s Orchard, Donnellson
July 9.....	9 a.m. – 12 p.m. ....	Lewis & Clark Historic Site, Hartford
July 17.....	2 p.m. – 5 p.m. ....	Schlueter Home, Mascoutah
July 29.....	3 p.m. – 6 p.m. ....	Stoecklin’s Orchard, Donnellson
July 30.....	2 p.m. – 5 p.m. ....	Lievers Home, Worden
Aug. 21.....	2 p.m. – 5 p.m. ....	Schlueter Home, Mascoutah

## 10

TIPS TO REDUCE  
SUMMER ENERGY  
CONSUMPTION

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

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

by Julie Lowe, Energy Manager

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

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

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

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

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

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

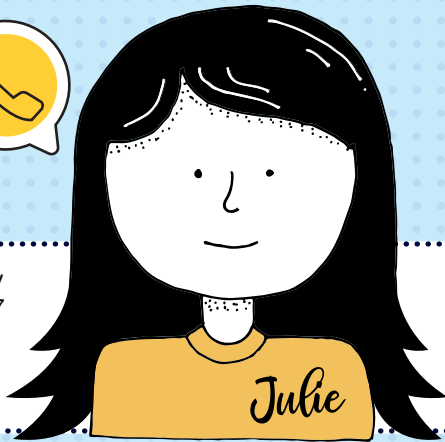
**SEVEN.** Lower your water heating costs. Water heating can account for up to 20% of the total energy expense for many households. You can lower your water heater's energy use by wrapping it in a water heater blanket, setting it no higher than 120 degrees, and washing your clothing in cold water.

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

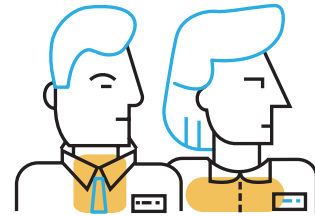
**NINE.** Consider adding insulation. Be sure your attic floor is well insulated to prevent hot attic air from heating your home. Also, your attic needs to be ventilated to expel the heat. Attic ventilation can come from soffit and gable vents, roof fans, or any combination of these.

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

# Steps to Solar Commissioning



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



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



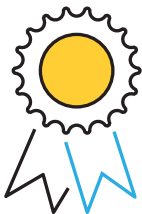
After your one-line diagram is approved by Southwestern Electric, you'll receive a \$500 invoice to cover the installation of your new dual register electric meter, a system inspection, and your array's interconnection to the grid. If your installer will be paying this invoice on your behalf, we'll send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



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



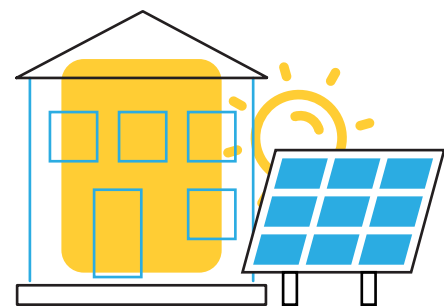
Our commissioning team will visit your site. We will inspect your system to verify it meets our safety specifications. A team member will review a memorandum of understanding with you. You'll sign this document for our files. Note: If you won't be present for commissioning, please schedule a meeting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



We'll send you and your installer a certificate of completion. Your installer will submit this document for you, so you can receive your solar renewable energy credits, or certificates (SRECs).



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



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

# ***DARK SKIES***

POWERFUL STORMS CAN CAUSE  
EXTENDED OUTAGES IN ANY SEASON

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

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

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

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

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



## REACHING OUT

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

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

## EMERGENCY SUPPLIES

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

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

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

On Account: If your account number is 38657001, call us within 30 days to receive a \$25 credit on an upcoming electric bill.

## WHEN THE LIGHTS GO OUT

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

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

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

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

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

## BEWARE OF DOWNED POWER LINES

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



# Market Rebound

## FARMERS' MARKETS BRINGING COMMERCE, CAMARADERIE BACK TO LOCAL COMMUNITIES

Story by Nathan Grimm | Photos by Mike Barns

**O**n a sunny Saturday morning in early May, an uncommon sight is spotted in the middle of Hillsboro's Lincoln Plaza — a crowd.

One of the many things lost in the early months of the ongoing pandemic was the ability to gather in person. With the highly transmissible coronavirus wreaking havoc on the country, entire seasons and series were cancelled with no return date in sight. For the foreseeable future, social meetups were out; social media was in.

Once frozen, society has begun to thaw with the spring flowers. With prevention measures in place and a better grasp on the virus in hand, events have slowly returned to the calendar.

Prominent among them are farmers' markets, many of which began in May and will run until autumn breezes blow in again. Hillsboro's is located in the downtown plaza that's home to a bronze

Abraham Lincoln statue — serving, on this day, as a model for a vendor's hand-sewn shopping bags — but virtually every Southwestern Illinois city plays host to its own version of the popular affair.

Shopping bags are among the things on display on this warm and windy Saturday, but they're far from the only thing. Under the various pop-up canopy tents are freshly baked loaves of artisan

bread, locally grown produce, jars of colorful jellies and farm-raised beef and pork. Others house vibrant plants like the polka dot begonia being admired by one market-goer.

"Kinda cool, huh?" the seller, from Morton Farms in nearby Mt. Olive, comments.

For many, simply being back out, among friends and strangers alike, is kind of cool. Eric and Hannah Chesney of Ernst Family Farms in New Douglas made the roughly half-hour trip northeast for the market. Throughout the summer, they'll also make similar trips southwest for the Maryville market and Edwardsville's Goshen Market.

"Seeing faces again," Hannah Chesney remarked of what she was enjoying on the morning of the first market of the season.

Take note, 2022. Facebook Marketplace? Out. Seeing faces at the market? Back in.



**June 2 - September 1 FARMERS' MARKET,** Maryville. Market offers fresh produce, honey, locally made crafts, art, and a wide variety of products ranging from home décor to skin-care. First and third Thursday of the month - 7 p.m. Closed July 7. Fireman's Park, 300 North Donk Avenue. Call (618) 304-8335 or visit [facebook.com/MaryvilleILFarmersMarket](https://facebook.com/MaryvilleILFarmersMarket).

**June 2 - October 31 FARMERS' MARKET,** Swansea. Locally grown fruits, vegetables, meats, baked goods, and intriguing handcrafted goods. Every Thursday 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. rain or shine. Rural King parking lot, 2801 North Illinois Street. Visit [facebook.com/SwanseaFarmersMarketInc](https://facebook.com/SwanseaFarmersMarketInc).

**June 4 - September 17 FARMERS' MARKET,** Hillsboro. Local vendors featuring plant, produce, food, garden décor, and artisanal items. First and third Saturday each month 9 a.m. - noon. Lincoln Plaza, South Main Street. Call (217) 710-2495 or visit [imaginehillsboro.com](https://imaginehillsboro.com).



**June 4 - October 1 FARMERS' MARKET,** Mascoutah. Market offers garden vegetables, seasonal fruit, jams and jellies, local honey, plants, baked goods, coffee bar and live music. Saturdays from 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. 100 block of Railway (across from city hall). Visit [mascoutahfarmersmarket.webs.com](https://mascoutahfarmersmarket.webs.com).

**June 4 - October 1 MARKET DAYS,** Carlinville. Part farmers' market and part flea market. First Saturday of the month 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. Downtown Square on East Main and South Broad Streets. Call (217) 565-0937 or visit [carlinvillebusinesspartnership.com](https://carlinvillebusinesspartnership.com).

**June 4 - October 1 THE MELTING POT MARKET,** Granite City. Find produce stalls, home décor, art, skin-care products, jewelry, food and snacks, and

locally-made crafts all accompanied by live music and entertainment. First Saturday of the month 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Civic Park, 1301 Niedringhaus Avenue. Visit [facebook.com/MeltingPotMarket](https://facebook.com/MeltingPotMarket).

**June 4 - October 15 FARMERS' & ARTISANS' MARKET,** Alton. Locally grown fruit and vegetables, meats, farm fresh eggs and poultry, baked goods, non-food items, live entertainment and artist demonstrations. Every Saturday 8 a.m. - noon. Parking lot near Riverfront Park, Landmarks Boulevard and Henry Street. Call (618) 463-1016 or visit [downtownalton.com](https://downtownalton.com).

**June 4 - October FARMERS' MARKET,** Effingham. Offers locally-grown food, art, live music and quality artisan goods. Every Saturday from 8 a.m. - noon. Effingham County Courthouse Museum lawn, 100 East Jefferson Avenue. E-mail [effinghamfarmersmarket@gmail.com](mailto:effinghamfarmersmarket@gmail.com) or visit [facebook.com/effinghamfarmersmarket](https://facebook.com/effinghamfarmersmarket).

**June 4 - October 15 THE LAND OF GOSHEN COMMUNITY MARKET,** Edwardsville. Locally-grown fruits and vegetables, meats, cheeses, eggs, baked goods, and numerous non-food items. Expect live music, demonstrations of arts and crafts, and gardening tips. Every Saturday rain or shine and only cancels in extremely inclement weather. 8 a.m. - noon. Downtown on North Second Street. Visit [goshenmarket.org](https://goshenmarket.org).

**June 4 - November 5 OLD TOWN FARMERS' MARKET,** Belleville. Catch the morning's pick of fresh produce grown by local farmers and peruse the booths of local artisans for one of a kind treasures. Every Saturday rain or shine. 7:30 a.m. - noon. 1st Block of South Charles Street (between East Main Street and East Washington). Visit [bellevillemainstreet.net](https://bellevillemainstreet.net).



**June 5 - October 9 MARKET IN THE PARK,** Bethalto. Enjoy the park, shop locally grown produce and meat vendors, find unique artisan creations, and enjoy live entertainment. Every Sunday 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Central Park, East Central Street. Visit [bethaltomarketinthepark.org](https://bethaltomarketinthepark.org).

**June 7 - September FARMERS' MARKET,** Shelbyville. Local produce and hand made goods. Tuesdays 3 - 5:30 p.m.; Saturdays 8 - 11 a.m. starting in late June. Shelby County Fairgrounds, 1361 State Highway 128. Visit [facebook.com/ShelbyvilleMarket](https://facebook.com/ShelbyvilleMarket).



**June 11 - October 15 VINE STREET MARKET,** O'Fallon. Market features local produce, meats, handmade goods, fresh made food and drinks including live music each week. Saturdays 8 a.m. - noon. O'Fallon Station, 212 East 1st Street. Visit [ofallonstation.com](https://ofallonstation.com).

**June 23 - September 8 HERALD SQUARE FARMERS' MARKET,** Collinsville. Regional wares and produce booths, local art, crafts, food, and live music. Second and fourth Thursday of the month. 5 - 7 p.m. 115 East Clay Street. Call (618) 304-8335 or visit [facebook.com/MaryvilleILFarmersMarket](https://facebook.com/MaryvilleILFarmersMarket).

**June 24; July 29; August 26; September 30 FARMERS MARKET,** Carlyle. Rain or shine, may be canceled if a serious storm is expected. 3 p.m. - dusk. Carlyle VFW, 1250 Franklin Street. Visit [carlylelake.com](https://carlylelake.com).

**July 7 - September FARMERS' MARKET,** Wood River. Homegrown fruits and vegetables, garden and houseplants, baked and canned goods, crafts and quilts. Every Thursday 4 p.m. - dusk. Parking at Route 143 and 1st Street. Visit [wrparks.org](https://wrparks.org).

## WHO • WHAT • WHERE

Many of you instantly recognized the local landmark in our April issue—which made us wonder how many murals, iconic buildings or statues may be familiar to you, but unknown to us. Have a suggestion for a historical figure, striking place or unusual object for our puzzle pages? Email it to [joe.richardson@sweci.com](mailto:joe.richardson@sweci.com), or send it via USPS to Joe Richardson, The Southwestern, Southwestern Electric Cooperative, 525 US Route 40, Greenville, IL 62246.

If we use your puzzle prompt, we'll thank you for the suggestion when we print the solution.

Until we use one of your items, here's one of ours. Can you identify this month's mystery item? In August, we break from our usual format to bring you Southwestern Electric Cooperative's annual report. Ergo, the solution to this month's puzzle won't appear until September.

Meanwhile, here's what you had to say about the location in our April issue.

.....



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

When I opened The Southwestern this evening, I immediately recognized the Bull Durham sign pictured on page 23. The painted Bull Durham tobacco ad is located on the west side of the building occupied by Jim's Pawn & Jewelry, 111 East Main Street, Collinsville, Illinois. It is nice to see a familiar picture in the co-op magazine!

—Carol Skasick, Maryville

The answer to the "Who What Where" in the April 2022 issue is the Bull Durham sign on Main Street in Collinsville, Illinois. I grew up in Collinsville and graduated from Collinsville High School. I could see this sign on an almost daily basis. It faded over the years and was restored by someone the owner of the building hired somewhere around 1999. Preservationists were up in arms about it being painted over, as there weren't many unaltered, original painted signs left in America. They say that the owner just wanted it to look good. I think that I read somewhere one day that the fence in front of the bull was added later, for modesty.

—Jeannette Carrington, Edwardsville

This building is located at 111 East Main Street, Collinsville. I worked for the insurance agency when the building next to us was torn down and Bull Durham was found.

Thank you for the Who\*What\*Where. We enjoy it.

—Susan Kassing, Troy

I didn't have to travel far from my north O'Fallon home to find the solution to the April 2022, Where is this? This Bull Durham wall sign can be found painted on the side of Jim's Pawn and Jewelry located at 111 E. Main St. in Collinsville, advertising the smoking tobacco, not the 1988 movie. If you're hoping to meet Kevin Costner or Susan Sarandon, forget about it! It's said that the original painting is over 100 years old but in 1999 the then-owner had the sign refreshed. Of special note, these original Bull Durham wall signs came with "modesty" fences painted in specifically to obscure the bull's private parts. My how the world has changed since then.

—Bill Malec, O'Fallon



This is painted on the wall of a former Ashman drugstore on East Main in Collinsville, Illinois. The Bull Durham wall murals are known for their strategically painted “modesty” fences that block the public’s view of the bull’s private parts.

—Jeanine Connor, Collinsville



When I showed the picture to my husband, Joe, he knew immediately that the Bull Durham sign is on the side of a building on the north side of Main Street in Collinsville. He said that it was found a few years ago when an adjoining building was torn down. There apparently was controversy at the time about whether to restore it or leave it as it is. The building owner won out and had it repainted. The fence hides the bull’s “privates.”

There’s a much more faded Bull Durham on Collinsville Ave. in Madison. Thanks for the puzzles. They’re an interesting way to learn about our local history.

—Jane Dapkus, Pocahontas

The Bull Durham mural pictured is located in uptown Collinsville, Ill., at 111 E. Main Street. It’s been a notable roadside mural for decades after it was originally painted on the side of a local tobacco shop. The building now houses Jim’s Pawn and Jewelry and is recognized as one of many locally significant landmarks uptown. It was repainted in the early 2000s amidst some controversy on how the “freshening up” of the mural was in line with historical preservation and uptown revitalization efforts.

—Jean Garcia, Maryville



CO-OP KITCHEN

# COOL SUMMER SIDES

## CHANTILLY FROZEN SALAD

### Ingredients

- 8 ounces cream cheese
- $\frac{3}{4}$  cup sugar
- 1 can pineapple tidbits
- 1 can sliced peaches
- 1 (10 ounce) package frozen strawberries thawed
- 2 large bananas diced
- $\frac{1}{3}$  cup nuts (optional)
- 1 (12 ounce) container Cool Whip

### Directions

1. Cream together cream cheese and sugar.
2. In a separate bowl, mix together pineapple, peaches, strawberries, bananas, nuts and Cool Whip.
3. Combine cream cheese mixture with Cool Whip mixture.
4. Spread into 9 x 13 inch baking dish and freeze before serving.

## HEARTY PASTA SALAD

### Ingredients

- 1 (7 ounce) package spiral noodles
- $\frac{1}{2}$  cup sliced black olives drained
- $\frac{1}{4}$  red onion chopped
- 1 cup green pepper chopped
- 2 ounces diced pimentos
- 6 ounces cooked ham diced
- $\frac{1}{4}$  cup vegetable oil
- $\frac{1}{4}$  cup vinegar
- 2 tablespoons lemon juice
- $\frac{1}{4}$  teaspoon dry mustard
- $\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoon basil leaves
- $\frac{1}{8}$  teaspoon black pepper
- $\frac{1}{4}$  teaspoon garlic powder

### Directions

1. Cook noodles according to package directions and drain well.
2. Combine noodles, black olives, red onion, green pepper, pimento, and ham in large bowl.
3. In a sealable jar or container mix together remaining ingredients, shake well, and pour over salad ingredients. Refrigerate several hours before serving.

## CRANBERRY FRUIT SALAD (FROZEN)

### Ingredients

- 6 ounces cream cheese
- 2 tablespoons mayonnaise
- 2 tablespoons sugar
- 2 cups whole berry cranberry sauce
- 1 cup crushed pineapple drained
- $\frac{1}{2}$  cup chopped walnuts
- 1 cup Cool Whip

### Directions

1. Soften cream cheese and blend in mayonnaise and sugar.
2. Add cranberries, pineapple, and nuts.
3. Fold in Cool Whip.
4. Pour into 8 x 8 inch dish and freeze overnight.
5. Let stand at room temperature about 15 minutes before serving.

## CUCUMBER SOUR CREAM SALAD

### Ingredients

- 2 large cucumbers pared and sliced very thin
- $1\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoons salt
- 1 cup sour cream
- 2 tablespoons lemon juice
- 1 small onion finely chopped
- $\frac{1}{4}$  teaspoon sugar
- pepper to taste
- $1\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoons parsley chopped

### Directions

1. Lightly toss cucumbers with 1 teaspoon salt and chill for 2 hours.
2. Meanwhile, combine sour cream, lemon juice, remaining salt, onion, sugar, and pepper.
3. Drain juice from cucumbers, toss with sour cream mixture and refrigerate until served.

## ORANGE TAPIOCA SALAD

### Ingredients

- 3 cups water
- 1 (3 ounce) package orange Jell-O
- 2 (3 ounce) packages tapioca pudding
- 1 (8 ounce) container Cool Whip
- 2 small cans mandarin oranges drained

### Directions

1. Bring water, Jell-O, and puddings to a rolling boil.
2. Remove from heat and let cool.
3. Mix in Cool Whip and oranges.
4. Refrigerate until set.

This month's recipes are courtesy of Bond County Habitat for Humanity Cookbook (chantilly frozen salad and cucumber sour cream salad), Edwardsville Garden Club's Favorite Recipes (hearty pasta salad), Fayette County Museum 35th Anniversary Cookbook (orange tapioca salad), and Greenville Regional Hospital Auxiliary's Home Town Favorites cookbook (cranberry fruit salad).

## CURRENT EVENTS

**June 2 - 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](http://downtownalton.com).

**June 2 - 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](http://graftonilchamber.com).

**June 3 & 4 INTERNATIONAL HORSERADISH FESTIVAL**, Collinsville. Summer festival featuring live music, food,

and fun. Activities will include bloody mary contest, corn-hole tournament, root toss Little Miss Horseradish pageant, 5K run, car show, crafts and kids activities. 11 a.m. - 10 p.m. Admission is free. Uptown at 221 West Main Collinsville. Call (618) 344-2884 or visit [international-horseradishfestival.com](http://international-horseradishfestival.com).

**June 3 & 4 STREET FAIR**, Carlyle. Family fun with carnival rides, games, food vendors, craft vendors, direct sales vendors, live music, car show, and 5/50 raffle. 4 p.m. - midnight. Courthouse square, 850 Fairfax Street. Visit [facebook.com/CarlyleStreetFair](https://facebook.com/CarlyleStreetFair).

**June 4 MOVIE IN THE PARK**, Maryville. Bring a lawn chair and come out to see Sing 2 (rated PG). Movie begins at dusk. Admission is free. Drost Park, Myron Provence Parkway. Visit [vil.maryville.il.us](http://vil.maryville.il.us).

**June 5 DRIVE THRU CHICKEN DINNER**, Grantfork. Dinner includes half chicken (wing, breast, thigh, leg), mashed potatoes and gravy, green beans and applesauce. No substitutions. Serving 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. All dinners \$12. St. Gertrude's Church, 202 Locust Street. Call Gail Ohren at (618) 830-1384.

**June 5 THE ULTIMATE CRAFT FAIR**, Collinsville. Vendor meet and shop 1 - 6 p.m., art runway show 4:30 - 5:30 p.m., and live entertainment all day. Admission is free will donation. Gateway Center, One Gateway Drive. For more information, visit [jaccartstudio.com](http://jaccartstudio.com).

**June 7-11 MACOUPIN COUNTY FAIR**, Carlinville. Visit [macoupincountyfair.org](http://macoupincountyfair.org).

**June 10 BIKE RAMBLE**, Wood River. Bring your

kids for a safe and exciting family night bike ride. The route begins and ends at the Round House. Register before 7 p.m.; lineup is at 7 p.m.; ride starts at 7:30 p.m. After the bike ride, join us for refreshments and entertainment. 633 North Wood River Avenue. For more information, call (618) 251-3130 or visit [wrparks.org](http://wrparks.org).

**June 10-12 SCHWEIZER-FEST**, Highland. A celebration of the city's Swiss heritage. There will be a large assortment of foods, beverages, live entertainment, rides, and games. Friday 6 p.m. - midnight; Saturday noon - midnight; Sunday noon - 10 p.m. Parade at 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Admission is free. Highland Square, 914 Main Street. For more information, e-mail [highlandiljaycees@gmail.com](mailto:highlandiljaycees@gmail.com).

**June 11 TWO RIVERS FAMILY FISHING FAIR**, Grafton. Event will include fishing and water-safety seminars as well as educational activities and prizes. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Admission is free. Pere Marquette State Park, 13112 Visitor Center Lane. Call (618) 786-3323.

**June 12 ALL-WHEELS DRIVE-IN CAR SHOW**, Alton. Come out for the cars and stay for the live music, 50-50 drawing, vendor displays, merchant sidewalk sale, and great food. Event typically attracts between 150 - 200 classic cars, hot rods, and motorcycles. Registration for automobiles is from 8 a.m. - Noon, and trophies will be given in thirty-seven classes plus five specialty awards at 4 p.m. The fee is \$15 to enter the judging or just \$10 to display your wheels. Admission is free to public. Dash plaques and goodie bags are given to the first 125 par-

**June 11 ROUTE 66 FESTIVAL**, Edwardsville. Event will include 10K run, live music, great food, classic car show and cruise, food vendors, history tent, and local artists. 8 a.m. - 11:30 p.m. Admission is free. City Park, 101 South Buchanan Street. For more information, call (618) 692-7538 or visit [edwardsvilleroute66.com](http://edwardsvilleroute66.com).



ticipants. 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. 112 West 3rd Street. For more information, visit [downtownalton.com](http://downtownalton.com).

**June 12; July 10 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 [visitlitchfield.com](http://visitlitchfield.com).

**June 14; July 13 FULL MOON HIKE**, Godfrey. Take a guided night hike on the trails of the Mississippi Sanctuary and Olin Nature Preserve. The terrain is light to moderate (may include some elevation change) and is appropriate for families. Hike will be about 2 miles and will include stops along the way. 8:30 - 9:45 p.m. Free for members; \$5 per non-member adult; children 15 and under are

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### Call to Confirm

Listings are provided by event organizers or taken from community websites. We recommend calling to confirm dates, times and details before you make plans. All are subject to change.

### Submissions

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

## END NOTE

by Joe Richardson

The butterfly knew nothing of covid. It also knew nothing of masks. I'm sure it sensed my presence as it hopscotched across the flowers, but it had no notion I was trying to frame a shot, or that I'd moved to keep my distance from both bug and the pod of runners who'd spilled into the parking lot. It's an odd day when you're envious of an insect, because you're standing in the sun, masked and aware of a virus, and it's not.

There was little distance between the butterfly and me, but we were worlds apart. Same went for myself and the runners. When they weren't logging miles or scaring insects, they worked for a tech company. Crossing the blacktop, they tossed around terms and spoke in a language lost on me.

Our words say a lot about who we are. They offer insight into lives we've lived, people we've known and professions we've pursued. Many of us construct our sentences from the brick and mortar of common, colloquial words and phrases. Some of us populate our speech with timely terminology, antiquated syntax or insider shorthand.

Regardless of how well-read, well-educated or widely traveled you may be, you have holes in your vocabulary. We all do. You can live a lifetime then suddenly stumble into a phrase common to everyone but you. Similarly, there are words that seep into our vocabulary, broken, misspoken or misunderstood. I've found a few of those in my own language lately. Most recently, it was the word hope.

I saw hope as quiet, passive and polite. You applied the term to circumstances outside your control. Hope the storm passes us by. Hope this letter finds you well. Hope the cancer doesn't come back. To hope meant to wish, and to wish meant to wait

for. But hope and wish aren't identical twins. They're distant cousins.

To wish is to yearn, to pine, to long for. A wish is a gossamer, ghostly thing you can sense and say but never quite grasp.

Hope is a hammer. Hope builds. Hope is insight, intention, energy and applied optimism. It is the unshakable understanding that whatever circumstance you find yourself in, you can change it—change the circumstance, change your response, or change yourself.

It's knowing that maybe you can't reconstruct your world today, but you can blueprint a building. Drive a handful of nails. Lay beams for a bridge. Put up or tear down walls.

Hope is confidence that by planning and putting in the work here, now, in this minute and the next, we can build a better day than the one we're living, and the hours in front of us may shine more brightly than those that have passed.

It's moving through a sunny afternoon while you're watching the world from behind a mask, keeping your distance, and doing what you can to protect yourself and the people around you, so that in the future you can return to this place, walk these trails, linger in the sun and the shade, admire the flowers, and chase butterflies, unfettered.

Wishes wait for change.

Hope goes about building it.

You can wish for a better day than the one you're in, or you can hope, and set about building it. You can sketch a plan that moves you from where you are to where you want to be, and begin. Given the option of waiting on wishes or building dreams driven by hope, I know my choice.

Here's hoping.



► *Continued from page 24*  
free. Advanced registration is required. Hike leaves promptly at 8:30 p.m. Meet in front of the Talahi Lodge. Park in the lower parking lot (the rock lot at the bottom of the hill). Bring a reusable water bottle, bug spray, dress in layers, and wear appropriate footwear. The Nature Institute, 2213 South Levis Lane. For more information or to register, visit [thenatureinstitute.org](http://thenatureinstitute.org).

**June 16-19 MOCCASIN CREEK MUSIC FESTIVAL**, Effingham. Four-day music festival featuring folk, bluegrass, alternative country, roots rock, and blues music in an outdoor setting. Food and beverages sold on site. Larson's Landing, 8724 East Marine Drive. For complete schedule, visit [moccasin creek festival.com](http://moccasin creek festival.com).

**June 17 & 18 HOMECOMING**, Glen Carbon. The village is celebrating its 130 year anniversary. The weekend will include carnival rides, games, food and drink, kid's climbing walls, local craft vendors, and the Yanda Log Cabin will be having an open house on Saturday. Friday 5 p.m. - 11 p.m. Music starts at 7 p.m. both nights. Saturday starts with 5K and 1-mile fun

run at 8 a.m. across from covered bridge and parade at 5 p.m. South Main Street and Collinsville Street. Call (618) 288-2614 or visit [glencarbonil.gov](http://glencarbonil.gov).

**June 17 - 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](http://highlandmunyband.wixsite.com/muny-home).

**June 18 JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION**, Centralia. A nationwide celebration of the end of legal slavery in the United States, the end of the Civil War, and the ratification of the 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution ending slavery. Event includes complimentary food and refreshments, specialty sandwiches available for purchase, bingo, and games. 11:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. Laura Leake Park, 500 East Kell Street. Visit [seecentralia.com](http://seecentralia.com).

**June 18 MOVIE IN THE PARK**, Maryville. Bring a lawn chair and come out to see Encanto (rated PG). Movie begins at dusk. Admission is free. Drost Park, Myron Provence Parkway. Visit [vil.maryville.il.us](http://vil.maryville.il.us).

**June 19 SUMMER SOLSTICE SUNRISE OBSERVANCE**, Collinsville. Join us as we welcome Summer! Meet at the Woodhenge reconstruction. Atop a ladder at the center post, Bill Iseminger will discuss the discovery and significance of the ancient calendar. Out of respect for Native beliefs, no ceremonies will take place during this event. 1/4 mile west of the Cahokia Mounds Interpretive Center on Collinsville Road. Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site, 30 Ramey Street. Call (618) 346-5160 or visit [cahokiamounds.org](http://cahokiamounds.org).

**June 22-26 MONTGOMERY COUNTY FAIR**, Butler. Visit [facebook.com/fair.montgomerycoil/](http://facebook.com/fair.montgomerycoil/).

**June 23-26 ALICE IN WONDERLAND JR.**, Lebanon. A theatrical performance by the Looking Glass Playhouse. All performances begin at 7:30 p.m., except for Sunday shows, which begin at 2 p.m. \$10 on Thursday and \$12 Friday - Sunday for adults; \$9 on Thursday and \$11 Friday - Sunday for students, senior citizens and active military personnel (with valid identification). Looking Glass Playhouse, 301 West Saint Louis Street. Call (618) 537-4962 or visit [lookingglassplayhouse.com](http://lookingglassplayhouse.com).

**June 25 CRAFT BEER WALK**, Belleville. Join us in tasting craft beers and beverages while strolling downtown and listening to live music. When you purchase a ticket, you receive tickets for 15 samples, a tasting mug, and a map of retailers and restaurants serving samples. 3 - 8 p.m. For more information, visit [bellevillemainstreet.net](http://bellevillemainstreet.net).

**July 2 5K FREEDOM FUN WALK/RUN**, Litchfield. Embrace your patriotic side at Lake Lou Yaeger. All ages are welcome. 7:30 a.m. - noon. 3 Primitive Drive. For more information or to register, visit [visittlitchfield.com](http://visittlitchfield.com).

**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](http://teutopolis.com).

**July 8-13 FAYETTE COUNTY FAIR**, Brownstown. Visit [fayettecofair.org](http://fayettecofair.org).

**July 9 HUMMINGBIRD FESTIVAL**, Hartford. The Lincoln Land Association of Bird Banders will catch and band

**June 14 & 18; July 12 & 26 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 April 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](http://thenatureinstitute.org).



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](http://campdubois.com).

**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](http://wrparks.org).

#### June 17-20

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



The Betsy Ross Barn in Nilwood, Ill., brings rural Americana to Route 66.



## THE FINAL FRAME

