

THE *Southwestern*

A SOUTHWESTERN ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE MEMBER MAGAZINE

JUNE 2024 • VOLUME 76 • ISSUE 6

Capitol Letters

POSTCARDS FROM
COOPERATIVE
YOUTH DAY



THANK YOU NOTES

RECYCLING DRIVE

CANDIDACY BY
PETITION DEADLINE

PAPERLESS BILLING

INTRAVAIA SERVES ON
NRECA ADVISORY GROUP

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

04 News & Notes

I scream, you scream, we all scream for ... a \$25 bill credit? That's the sweet reward for finding the hidden image in this month's magazine.

05 Thank You Notes

During a recent storm, you showed your appreciation for our crews' restoration efforts. Here's a little of what you had to say.

06 Election 2024

Interested in serving on Southwestern Electric's board of directors? The deadline for candidacy by petition is June 24.

06 Paperless Billing

Paperless billing provides a simple solution to penalties associated with postal delays and late payments. You can pay your bill by debit or credit card or by e-check or Auto-Pay with no service charges or added fees.

07 E-cycling Drive

Join us June 8 in St. Jacob to recycle your electronics at the second of three e-cycling drives hosted by Southwestern Electric this year.

07 Intravaia Serves on NRECA Advisory Group

In February, Thaddius Intravaia, Southwestern's Director of IT, was invited to serve on NRECA's Cybersecurity Member Advisory Group. This month he'll address several hundred cyber security professionals at the NRECA Co-op Cyber Tech Conference in Arlington, Va.

08 Capitol Letters

On March 20, two area high-school students represented Southwestern Electric at Illinois Electric and Telephone Cooperatives Youth Day in Springfield. In this expansive narrative, they tell us — and show us — everything from that whirlwind day in the state's capital.

16 Energy & Efficiency

The humidity this time of year can be uncomfortable, but not as uncomfortable as a high electric bill. Beat the heat with these tips to reduce summer energy consumption.

18 Health & Safety

Almost 800 children drown in the U.S. every year, and two-thirds of those drowning deaths occur between May and August. Get the facts about kids and the danger of drowning here.

20 Who-What-Where

You sought out our saloon and shrimp signage from the April issue, but can you crack the case with this month's item?

22 Co-op Kitchen

Inspired by a butter pecan ice cream recipe submitted by Southwestern member Cathy Lilly of Shumway, this month we're dishing desserts you can savor by the spoonful.

24 Current Events

What do tacos, horseradish and Route 66 have in common? They're all the topics of local festivals this month. Read about those and much more in our calendar of events.

27 Final Frame

Link by link.





525 U.S. Route 40, Greenville, IL 62246.
Phone: (800) 637-8667. Office Hours:
Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Visit us on the Web at www.sweci.com.

Board of Directors

Jerry Gaffner, President Greenville
Jared Stine, Vice President..... St. Elmo
Annette Hartlieb, Secretary Vandalia
Sandy Grapperhaus, Treasurer Collinsville
William "Bill" Jennings Alhambra
Brad Lurkins Greenville
Ann Schwarm Loogootee
Marvin Warner Pocahontas
Ted Willman Greenville

CEO

Bobby Williams Chief Executive Officer

The Southwestern

Joe Richardson Editor
e-mail: joe.richardson@sweci.com
Mike Barns Art Director
e-mail: mike.barns@sweci.com
Nathan Grimm Media Specialist
e-mail: nathan.grimm@sweci.com

Satellite Locations:

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

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

Southwestern Electric Cooperative reserves the right to re-print member comments and correspondence in its cooperative educational and promotional materials.

The Southwestern (USPS 612-500) is published monthly by Southwestern Electric Cooperative, Inc. Periodical postage paid at Greenville, IL. Subscriptions cost \$10.67 per year. Comments or questions regarding material in this publication may be mailed to Joe Richardson, editor of The Southwestern, c/o Southwestern Electric Cooperative, Inc., 525 US Route 40, Greenville, IL 62246, or e-mailed to joe.richardson@sweci.com.

Postmaster: Send address corrections to The Southwestern, 525 U.S. Route 40, Greenville, IL 62246.

Apple and the Apple logo are trademarks of Apple Inc., registered in the U.S. and other countries. App Store is a service mark of Apple Inc. Android, Google Play and the Google Play logo are trademarks of Google Inc.

NEWS & NOTES

ON THE COVER

On March 20, students Blake Moore and Josie Gehlbach represented Southwestern Electric at Illinois Electric and Telephone Cooperatives Youth Day in Springfield, Ill. Their adventure continues this month in Washington, D.C. See the story on page 8.



CO-OP REMINDERS

June 10 Payment processing systems will be unavailable from midnight to 4 a.m., while we perform system maintenance. No payments will be processed during this time. We will resume processing payments at 4:01 a.m.

July 4 Offices closed in observance of Independence Day.



FIND US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

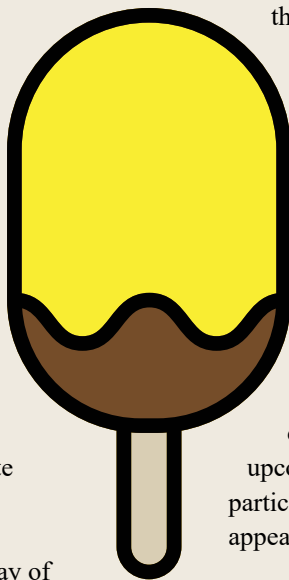
For the latest news and notes, follow us on Facebook and Twitter. You'll find us at facebook.com/SWECI and twitter.com/sweci. Search for Southwestern Electric on YouTube and Instagram. You can listen to our podcast, Wireside Chat, on Apple Music, Spotify, Audible and anywhere podcasts are found.



Reader Contest

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

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



the month following the month of publication. For our June contest, we'll need your entries in our inbox or postmarked by July 1, 2024.

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

APRIL WINNER

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

RULES TO PLAY BY

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

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

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

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

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

Thank You Notes

On April 18, an early evening storm downed trees, snapped poles and power lines, and flung debris into Southwestern's distribution system in Madison and Bond counties, leaving 3,200 members without power. Crews were dispatched to multiple locations to assess and repair damage. By 10:15 p.m., linemen had restored power to about 1,600 members.

Crews worked throughout the night and remained in the field the morning of April 19, replacing poles and repairing wire. By 6 a.m., linemen had restored power to more than 3,100 members. They completed final repairs later that morning.

To the members who made it a point to wish our crews well on social media, thank you. The employees of Southwestern Electric are grateful for your support.

Thank you to the awesome linemen/women that work under sometimes scary and dangerous conditions to restore our power. We LOVE you!
Connie L. Ainsworth-Miller

Thank you thank you thank you for all you do to get our power on!! ❤️
Cathy Storey

Thank you!! Less than 12 hours without power even with a pole down in our yard!! We appreciate you!!
Keri Henry

To all crews and supporting employees: Stay focused & safe! You are appreciated!
Becky Jacobson

Thank you all for getting it back on! All efforts are much appreciated.
Karen Greathouse-Thompson

Thank you for getting our power back. You are the best. Nobody notices you until they are out of power. Thanks again!
Paula & Jeff Lievers

Thank you so much!!
Margie Chilovich

Thank you very much for always working so hard, still waiting out on Mettler Rd. Stay safe!
Christine Runge

Thank you! Power is back on in Holiday Shores!!!
Shirley Wilson

Thank you all for your hard work! We were on Ptown road with a pole down and it's already been replaced. Great work!!!
Whitney Williams

Thank you! We were only out a few hours due to all of your hard work! Much appreciated!
Stephanie McFarland Rose

Thanks to crews for getting power restored. Be careful out there!
Laura Harmon Schreckenberger

Awesome work!
Chris Jingle

Thankful for our linemen! 🙌❤️
Sharon McNary

Thank you for getting our power back on last night.
Debra Stocker

We live on Silver Creek Road and the winds were severe!!! Our lights flickered once and never went out. Thank you for the quality distribution service!!!!
Ryan Renko

Thank you! Ours was back at 4:17 this morning!
Kasey Marie Dowdy

Our linemen are the best! Thank you all for your time and hard work! We appreciate you! 💡🙌
Lauren Schoen

Thank you!!!!!!
Lori Behrens

You guys are the best!! Thanks for all you do.
Tammy Rench

Thank you all and stay SAFE.
Vicki Traub

Thank you!!
Mark-Lesley Rusick



Paperless Billing Provides Quick, Easy Way to Avoid Fees Associated with Postal Delays

You've probably read about United States Postal Service delivery delays that began in 2020 and continue today. In recent months, you may have noticed payments you've mailed or your monthly paper billing statements aren't arriving as timely as in the past.

Many of us rely on our paper bill as a reminder that a payment is due. When that reminder doesn't arrive on time, we may forget to send a payment by the due date, which can lead to late fees or even disconnection for non-pay.

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 our e-bill notification is 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



There's no service charge for electronic payments. You can pay your bill by debit or credit card or by e-check or Auto-Pay with no added fees.

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.

All of our electronic billing options — including debit and credit card payments, paying by e-check or using your credit or debit card to make a payment over the phone — are free; there are no service fees associated with our electronic payments.

If you'd like to learn more, please call 800-637-8667 and ask for our billing department. We're available Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

With a single call and a few simple steps, you'll always know when your bill is due and when we've received your payment. We look forward to hearing from you!

JUNE 24 DEADLINE TO FILE FOR CANDIDACY BY PETITION

Southwestern Electric members interested in running for a seat on the co-op's board of directors have a final opportunity to enter the 2024 race. While the deadline for standard nominations (May 23) has passed, the cooperative offers an additional month to file for candidacy by petition.

A valid petition must include the candidate's name, address, age and telephone number, along with the names, addresses and signatures of at least 15 other Southwestern Electric Co-op members. Petitions must be received at the cooperative's Greenville headquarters by Monday, June 24, in order for the candidate's name to appear on the 2024 ballot. For additional guidance on filing for candidacy by petition, please see Section 4(D)3 of the cooperative's bylaws. The bylaws are available at sweci.com.

The 2024 board election, which will take place at Southwestern Electric's 86th 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. 7, 2024, and expiring on the date of the 2027 Annual Meeting.

Any active member 18 years of age or older and in good financial standing with the co-op is eligible to serve on the board of directors, so long as he or she meets the qualifications set forth in Section 5(B) of the bylaws (available at sweci.com). If you have questions about board service or the election process, please call Susan File, vice president of member services, at 800-637-8667, ext. 5924, or email her at susan.file@sweci.com.

Cooperative hosts June 8 recycling drive in St. Jacob

Southwestern Electric will host an e-cycling drive at its St. Jacob office on Saturday, June 8. Collection begins at 9 a.m. and ends at noon or when the truck is filled — whichever comes first. Electronics collected during the drive will be e-cycled by an EPA-approved recycling center.

Southwestern Electric's St. Jacob Office is located at 10031 Ellis Road, St. Jacob, IL 62281.

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

- Computers, printers, cables and peripherals (keyboards, mice, etc.)
- Fax machines, scanners, digital converter boxes, cable receivers, satellite receivers.
- Video game consoles, digital video disc player/recorders, portable digital music players.
- Networking equipment, server, telecommunications, phones, cell phones and clocks.
- VCRs, stereos, and audio/video equipment (including cable/satellite).
- Electrical, cabling, communication machinery, and equipment.
- Home electronics, blenders, toasters, irons, etc.



Please Note

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

E-cycling — electronics recycling — is the process of refurbishing, redistributing and reusing electronic devices and components, rather than discarding them. It extends the lifecycle of electronics and lowers their overall environmental impact.

This will be the second of three e-cycling drives hosted by the cooperative. The first drive was held at the co-op's St. Elmo facility last month. The final drive will be held in the fall at Southwestern's Greenville headquarters. The date has yet to be determined.

Questions regarding e-cycling or recyclable items and fees may be directed to CJD E-Cycling at 618-414-9209 or info@cjddecycling.com. CJD E-Cycling is a family-owned recycling business with offices in East Alton and Edwardsville. You can learn more about CJD E-Cycling and the materials they recycle at www.cjddecycling.com.

Intravaia Delivers Program at NRECA Security Conference, Serves on National Advisory Team

Thaddius Intravaia, Director of Information Technology for Southwestern Electric



Cooperative, will deliver a custom-crafted presentation to several hundred cyber security professionals this month at the National Rural

Electric Cooperative Association's (NRECA) 2024 Co-op Cyber Tech Conference in Arlington, Va. The conference, which takes place June 11-13, is directed to NRECA members and supporting organizations. Presentations highlight co-op cyber security and provide opportunities for professional collaboration, skills development and technical advancement.

Intravaia will discuss tactics adversaries use to gather information from openly available sources, and how they use the intel to leverage attacks. "This is a proof-of-concept presentation using a real-life consulting scenario that depicts steps taken to infiltrate a network using publicly accessible information," Intravaia said. The situation he cites involves network infiltration and an in-person, on-site adversary presence that went undetected for 10 days.

In February, Intravaia was invited to serve on the NRECA Cybersecurity Member Advisory Group (CS MAG). CS MAG membership consists of cybersecurity professionals from cooperatives across the country. The primary mission of CS MAG is to advance cybersecurity capabilities of NRECA members through research, development and education.

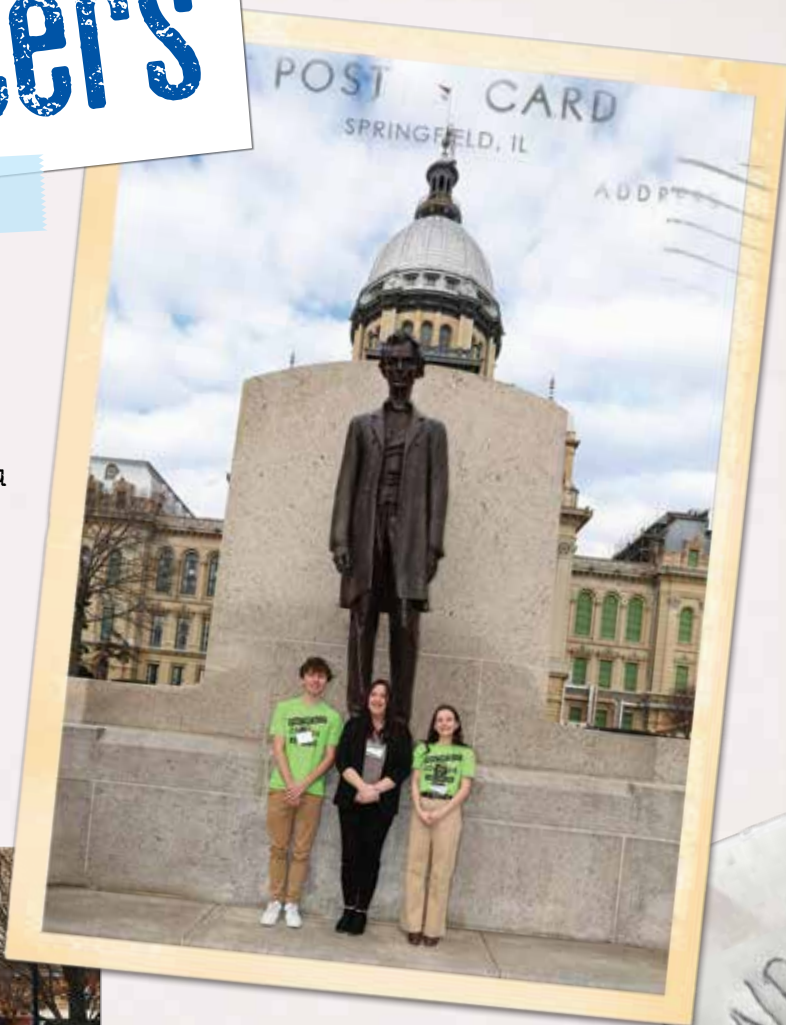
In March, Intravaia earned Certified Information Systems Security Professional (CISSP) certification from the International Information System Security Certification Consortium. Globally recognized as one of the most valued certifications in the industry, CISSP signifies the highest standards of knowledge and competence in the field of cybersecurity, including a comprehensive understanding of risk management and asset and operations security.

Intravaia has served in Southwestern Electric's Information Technology Department since 2015.

Capitol Letters

Hello! We're Blake Moore and Josie Gehlbach. On March 20, we represented you at Illinois Electric and Telephone Cooperatives Youth Day in Springfield, Ill. From June 14-21, we'll represent you again as part of the NRECA Youth Tour in Washington, D.C.

We wanted to thank you for this incredible opportunity by sharing some pictures from Youth Day as we prepare for the national tour.



Julie Lowe, Southwestern Electric Cooperative's energy manager, was our chaperone. Joe Richardson also came along. He's behind the camera. He says it's better that way.



More than 130 Youth Day delegates representing 25 co-ops gathered at the capital to learn about leadership, cooperatives and state and federal government. We were hosted by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives.



Paris Van Dyke, the 2023 NRECA Youth Leadership Council (YLC) rep from Wabash Communications Co-op in Louisville, Ill., told us about Youth Tour and her experience as Illinois' YLC delegate. After hearing her speak, we were really excited by the thought of representing you in Washington.



We had breakfast at Wyndham Springfield City Center with other co-op youth delegates and learned about cooperatives and the importance of electricity.



After breakfast, we took a cold and windy walk to the capitol. After a group photo, we thanked Paris for her inspired morning address.



ICA Youth Tour
June 14-21



The painting Treaty With The Indians tops the rotunda staircase. It's a scene of George Rogers Clark negotiating with Native Americans at Fort Kaskaskia in 1778. It was painted by Gustav Fuchs, a German immigrant from Chicago, and completed in 1886. It's the largest painting in the Capitol. The frame is 42-feet high.

Why I applied for the Youth Tour program...

I believe the experience of participating in the Youth Tour will be very beneficial for me, as I deeply value community service and fulfillment of civic duty. Coming from a very small town has positively affected the way I perceive public service at a small scale, as I personally know many people in my community are members of the school board, alderman board, or on the city council. I see the countless hours they put into their jobs, and it is truly inspiring. Every leader, from the president to the mayor of my small town, possesses this drive, and I hope to one day fulfill my duty to serve my community in whatever capacity I can through my similar drive.

The Youth Tour will allow me to see this level of service and dedication at a much higher level, while simultaneously enriching and educating me in the intricate career that is politics. I hope to gain valuable insight into the policy making that affects my everyday life, and in addition, develop my professional skills in the high stakes environment. Many people are very quick to blame public servants for various issues, which could negatively impact the amount of public service workers in the future.

Through the Youth Tour, I hope to gain a unique perspective, which I can bring back to my hometown and share the positivity surrounding an otherwise thankless job. I believe my experiences, coupled with the amazing program that is the Youth Tour, will allow a mutually beneficial interaction that could foster a future in public service for myself.

- Blake Moore

STUDENT ID



Blake Moore
Staunton, Ill.

Staunton High School
Class of 2024

Parents: Steve & Amanda Moore



Our poster...and more story to tell. →

136
Students

25
Co-ops

1
Purpose
Vision
Voice

YOUR



2024



→ If you're just joining us, this story started on page 8.



We were invited onto the floor of the House of Representatives where we took a photo with Rep. Wayne Rosenthal. Rep. Rosenthal shared his insights on leadership and public service and invited us to his office in the Stratton Building. It was filled with interesting artifacts. Each artifact had a story.



Julie, Josie, Blake & Rep. Rosenthal



Why I applied for the Youth Tour program...

I am interested in the electric cooperative because my mom volunteers on the Board for Scott Credit Union which is somewhat similar to Southwestern Electric Cooperative because they are both not-for-profit and are owned by their members. I like these types of organizations because they are motivated to do what is best for their members and provide the best service possible.

I am interested in learning about the government of the state of Illinois as well as the broader United States more than I have in my high school civics class. I would like to learn more about how government officials operate in their job positions and what each person does as well as how their jobs benefit the people that they govern.

I think it would be a life-changing opportunity to be selected for the experience in Washington, D.C. I would love to see all the historical sites, learn even more about the history of America, and how it connects to the current day United States. I would like to see in person how legislators go about creating and writing laws to be put in place. I am interested in meeting and talking with Illinois legislators in person to better understand their political positions.

In summary, reading about the past students' experiences has inspired me to seek similar opportunities and Southwestern would be a great organization to learn from!

- Josie Gehlbach

STUDENT ID



Josephine Gehlbach
Edwardsville, Ill.

Edwardsville High School
Class of 2026

Parents: Jason & Michele Gehlbach



In the Stratton Building, we met Rep. Charlie Meier. He told us about the people and areas he represents. Rep. Meier invited us to sit at his desk for a photo and offered each of us a bottle of Ski.



Julie, Josie, Rep. Wilhour & Blake

We returned to the Wyndham for the noon program. Before lunch we met with Rep. Blaine Wilhour. He made a special trip there to meet us, and talk about Youth Day, the national tour, and our plans for the future.



At lunch, Natalie Phelps Finnie talked about her life in public service. She was appointed director of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources early last year. She served as a state representative for Illinois' 118th Legislative District from September 2017 to January 2019. She was the first nurse to serve in the General Assembly.



More to say →

Want to represent Southwestern Electric Cooperative on the 2025 Youth Tour? Look for application information later this year in The Southwestern!

→ We had too much story to end on page 13.



After lunch, we went to the top of the Wyndham, had ice cream with other delegates, and enjoyed the view. Springfield looked very different from the 29th floor. We talked a lot about Washington and the Youth Tour selection process.



A highlight of the day was meeting Youth Day delegates from other co-ops. We joined students from JCE Co-op, which is in Elizabeth, Ill., and Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative, in Paxton, Ill., and together we walked to the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum. On the way, we stopped at a shop with antiques that were beautiful, rare, interesting and strange.

Here we are outside the Lincoln Museum with Noah Ponce from Wataga, Camden Fairbanks and Claire Meharry from Tolono, and Ainsley Urban from Watseka. Noah was representing JCE. Our other friends were from Eastern Illini.



Meeting Friends, Making Memories - Youth Day Recap

If you are thinking of doing the Youth Day tour in Springfield with Southwestern Electric Co-op, I really couldn't recommend it enough. There was never a dull moment while I was there.

Throughout the day I was always learning and meeting new people, including Illinois legislators. I personally got to talk with Representative Wayne Rosenthal, and my own district Representative, Charlie Meier. I heard from some great guest speakers, and met a ton of really cool people around my age from other high schools across the state as well. I made new friends and some really great connections.

Inside the Capitol, I got to visit the House floor and see the beautiful architecture throughout the building's grand hallways and staircases. I learned about how things run at the Capitol. Afterwards, we had the choice of going to explore Lincoln's home or the Lincoln Museum with our specific co-op. Our group decided to go to the Lincoln Museum, which was really impressive. The different movies and exhibits were really interesting and provided a closer look at Lincoln's early life and presidency. Touring Springfield with such a lovely, intelligent group of people was a fantastic way to learn more about the government and history of Illinois.

- Josie Gehlbach

In the plaza of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum, we stopped for photos with figures of the Lincoln family. The reproduction of the White House made a great backdrop.



We spent time with photographs of Civil War soldiers and learned about the American Reconstruction Era, when the United States worked to rebuild after the Civil War.



We ended our museum tour in the plaza. Julie said we'd asked great questions during our discussions with the representatives and that we'd been engaged and interested in the events and people around us. That's when she delivered the news: We'd both been selected to represent Southwestern Electric in Washington!

THANK YOU

As a member of Southwestern Electric, you made it possible for us to represent the co-op in Springfield and Washington. Thank you for this amazing opportunity!

- Josie & Blake



Insight & Engagement - Looking Back at Youth Day

The Youth Day experience changed my perspective on the lawmaking process, and truly opened my eyes to what our representatives were like. I was so surprised to see our state senators and representatives greet us with anticipation and excitement. They truly cared about our interests and lives, and took hours out of their day to make us feel welcomed. I was so fortunate to be one of the students chosen by Southwestern Electric, and felt that I was truly doing something important while in Springfield. Another takeaway from Youth Day that I had was the benefits of co-ops in our communities. To know that people with my best interests in mind are helping produce essential services like electricity is very reassuring to me. I can not wait to learn even more in D.C. in June!

- Blake Moore



We looked at the model of the White House, knowing that in three months, we'd see the real thing. It was the perfect end to an incredible day.

Thank you, members of Southwestern Electric, for giving us this amazing opportunity to represent you!

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.

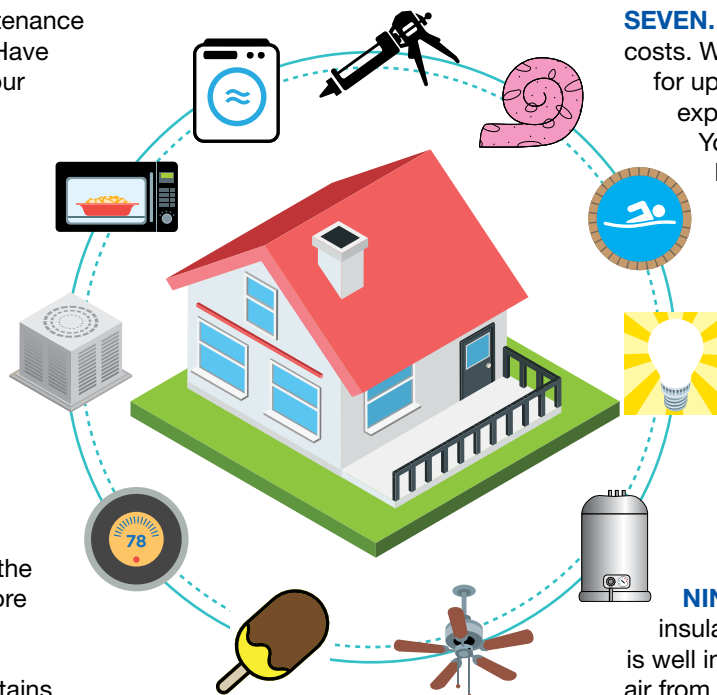
SEVEN. Lower your water heating costs. Water heating can account for up to 20% of the total energy expense for many households.

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.

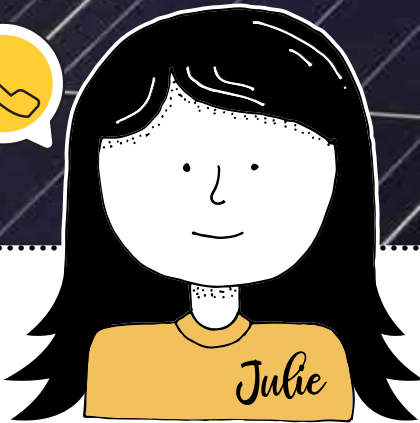
EIGHT. Seal air leaks. Seal around interior doors and baseboards with caulking and install weather-stripping around exterior doors and windows.

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.

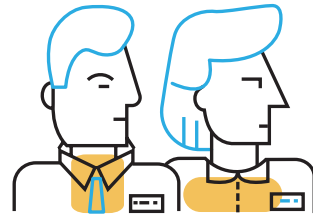
TEN. If you have a pool, consider upgrading to a variable speed pool pump. Install a timer to control the pump's cycling. Be sure to keep intake grates clear of debris.



Steps to Solar Commissioning



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



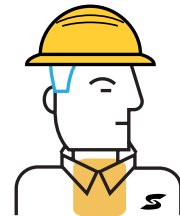
Contact your installer and insurance agent. Ask your installer for a one-line diagram. Request a certificate of insurance from your agent. They're welcome to send those documents to Julie Lowe at Southwestern Electric. Or if you'd like to review them, they can send them to you, and you can pass them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



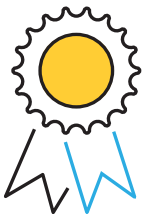
After your one-line diagram is approved by Southwestern Electric, you'll receive a \$500 invoice to cover the installation of your new dual register electric meter, a system inspection, and your array's interconnection to the grid. If your installer will be paying this invoice on your behalf, we'll send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



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



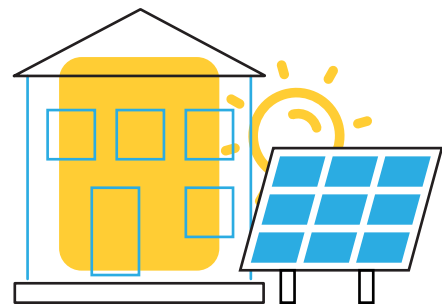
Our commissioning team will visit your site. We will inspect your system to verify it meets our safety specifications. A team member will review a memorandum of understanding with you. You'll sign this document for our files. Note: If you won't be present for commissioning, please schedule a meeting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



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



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



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

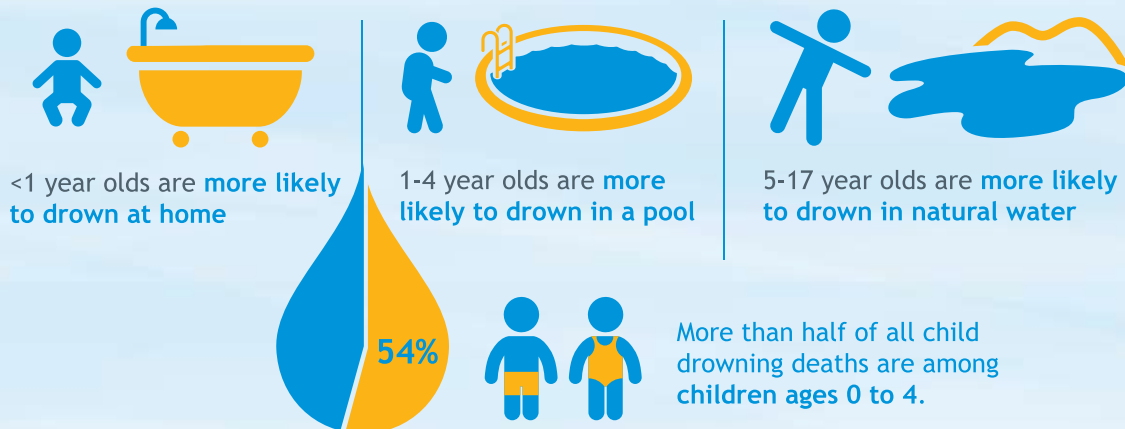
The Facts about Kids and the Danger of Drowning

Almost 800 children drown in the U.S. every year.

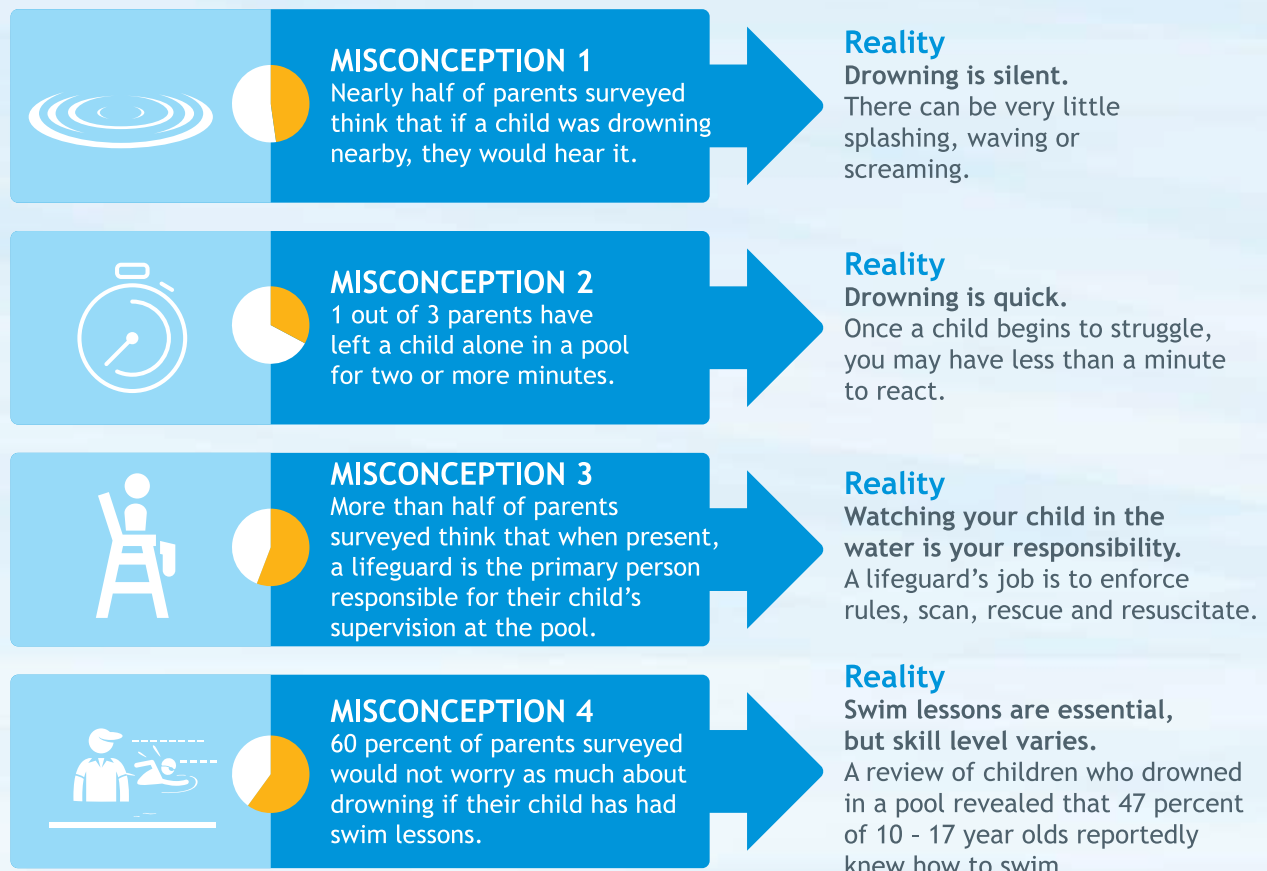


Two thirds of these deaths occur during May - August.

Drowning Risk Varies by Age



PARENTS' MISCONCEPTIONS



WATER SURVIVAL SKILLS

5 Survival Skills That Could Save Your Life in the Water



1 Step or jump into water over your head and return to the surface.



2 Float or tread water for one minute.



3 Turn around in a full circle and find an exit from the water.

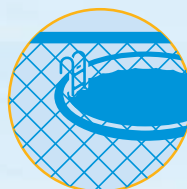


4 Swim 25 yards to the exit.



5 Exit from the water. If in a pool, be able to exit without using the ladder.

WATER SAFETY TIPS



- ◆ Watch your kids when they are in and around water, without distraction.
- ◆ Teach children to swim and the 5 Water Survival Skills.
- ◆ Learn CPR and basic rescue skills.
- ◆ Make sure pools have four-sided fencing at least 4 feet high.

© 2016 Safe Kids Worldwide

Learn more at safekids.org.

**SAFE
KIDS**
WORLDWIDE™

Nationwide®

SKW Promotes Layered Approach to Water Safety

The information for this month's Health & Safety segment was provided by Safe Kids Worldwide (SKW), a nonprofit organization working to help families and communities keep kids safe from injuries. A 2016 study commissioned by SKW indicates nearly 800 children will drown in the year ahead, with close to 70 percent of those drownings occurring between May and August.

"Silence and speed are characteristics of childhood drowning," the study states. "Drowning prevention takes multiple

strategies and the approach used involves ensuring overlapping layers of protection. Active supervision is one of the most important layers of protection and is absolutely necessary when children are in and around water."

SKW recommends assigning a Water Watcher in settings where it's difficult for a parent to provide constant visual supervision.

"A Water Watcher is an adult who commits to watching children in and around water, so that while they are in the role, their eyes and attention are only

on that task," the report explained. "This only ends when the children leave the water and/or they turn over the responsibility to another Water Watcher."

Using the Water Watcher system for a certain amount of time (such as 15-minute periods) prevents fatigue and lapses in supervision.

To learn more about water safety and read the complete study, *Keeping Kids Safe In and Around Water: Exploring Misconceptions that Lead to Drowning*, go to safekids.org.

WHO • WHAT • WHERE

You read the writing on the wall. Several Southwestern readers identified the building that served as our April mystery location — and puzzle sleuth extraordinaire Bill Malec provided an excerpt from an obituary written for the owner of a business that occupied the building a century or so ago.

You can read solutions to our April puzzle below. But before you do, can you identify the item on the opposite page? It belongs to Bill Craft of Edwardsville.

“We inherited this from my wife’s grandparents’ farmhouse in Fort Russell township,” he said. “It may have been left there by earlier residents from many decades ago — we found something tucked into a cellar beam dated from 1895! This was sitting in the cellar.”

We look forward to seeing your solutions for this month’s puzzle. 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.

Thanks to everyone who submitted a solution to our April challenge. We hope to hear from you again this month.

Edlers is on West Main in Belleville, IL. I drive past this building every Thursday on my Matco Tools route!

—Tona Walker, Troy

Edler’s Fresh Shrimp Daily located on South 11th Street in Belleville, Illinois. According to the Chamber of Commerce, it is now permanently closed.

—Donald Barnard, Edwardsville

The Edler’s ghost sign is located in Belleville, Ill. Thank you for this entertaining feature.

—Fred Faust, Edwardsville

The April 2024 “Where are we?” can be found in Belleville. This ghost sign is an advertising sign painted on a wall years ago and the paint has faded. The sign featuring “EDLER’S FRESH SHRIMP DAILY” and others is located on the side of an 1870s-era brick building at 1018 W. Main Street.

Edler’s was located on South 11th Street and closed permanently years ago as did “Geo. [George] Krug Saloon” which is also still faintly identifiable on the sign. The saloon was located in the building until the early 1900s when its namesake passed away suddenly in 1907.

In regards to the owner’s impactful life, the newspaper recognized him as, “Hale and hearty with a happy word for everyone, the news of his death was received with genuine regret by hundreds of Belleville citizens.”

—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.



What am I?

Get the Scoop

BANANA SPLIT DESSERT

Ingredients

- 2 cups graham crackers crushed
- 2 - 3 bananas
- ½ gallon vanilla ice cream
- ½ cup chopped walnuts
- 1 cup chocolate chips
- ½ cup butter
- 2 cups powdered sugar
- 1½ cups evaporated milk
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 2 cups whipped topping

Directions

1. Spread 1 cup of the crushed graham crackers into 9 x 13 inch pan.
2. Slice bananas crosswise and lay over graham crackers.
3. Slice ice cream in ½ inch slices and lay over bananas.
4. Sprinkle nuts over ice cream. Place in freezer.
5. Melt chocolate chips and butter on medium heat.
6. Add powdered sugar and evaporated milk. Stir until thick and smooth.
7. Remove from heat and stir in vanilla. Let cool and pour over ice cream.
8. Freeze until firm (at least 3 hours).
9. Spread whipped topping over chocolate layer.
10. Top with remaining cup of crushed graham crackers and freeze.
11. Before serving, remove from freezer, let soften for about 10 minutes, cut into squares and enjoy.

ICE CREAM DESSERT

Ingredients

- ⅓ cup white Karo syrup
- ⅓ cup peanut butter
- 3 cups Rice Krispies cereal
- ½ gallon vanilla ice cream

Directions

1. Combine syrup, peanut butter and Rice Krispies.
2. Press into 9 x 13 pan.
3. Let ice cream soften and press over crust.
4. Freeze for a least 3 hours.
5. To serve cut into squares and top with chocolate syrup.

FROZEN STRAWBERRY DESSERT

Ingredients

- 8 ounces cream cheese
- ¾ cup sugar
- 1 (16 ounce) package frozen strawberries thawed
- 2 diced bananas
- 1 (20 ounce) can crushed pineapple drained

Directions

1. Mix together cream cheese and sugar.
2. Stir in strawberries and then bananas and pineapple.
3. Spread into 9 x 13 inch pan and freeze for at least 3 hours.
4. Cut into 2 inch squares and serve.

HOMEMADE BUTTER PECAN ICE CREAM

Recipe courtesy member Cathy Lilly of Shumway

Ingredients

- 1½ cups chopped pecans
- ½ stick butter
- 2 cans milnot or a pint of half & half
- 4 eggs
- 2 cups sugar
- 3 teaspoons vanilla
- 2 small boxes or 7 ounces butter pecan instant pudding
- enough whole milk to fill freezer to bottom of last paddle

Directions

1. Slowly brown pecans in the butter, let cool.
2. Beat eggs and sugar until light and fluffy.
3. Add vanilla, pudding and milnot or half & half. Mix together.
3. Stir in pecan and butter mixture.
4. Pour into a 1½ gallon ice cream freezer.
5. Add milk to fill it to the bottom of the last paddle.
6. Crank until it gets hard to turn or churn on auto until desired firmness.



Butter Pecan
Ice Cream

Prepared &
photographed
by Mike Barns

CURRENT EVENTS

June 4-9 MACOUPIN COUNTY FAIR, Carlinville. 21368 State Route 4. Visit macoupincountyfair.org.

June 5 - August 22 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. Visit graftonilchamber.com.

June 7 & 8 INTERNATIONAL HORSERADISH FESTIVAL, Collinsville. Summer festival featuring live music, food, and fun. Activities will include bloody Mary contest, cornhole tournament, root toss, Little Miss Horseradish pageant, 5K run, car show, crafts and kids activities. 11 a.m. - 10 p.m.



June 1-30 PICK YOUR OWN LAVENDER, Edwardsville. Pick your own lavender Friday, Saturday, or Sunday at the Stahlhut family farm, shop an old barn full of handmade lavender products, wander the wildflowers, purchase plants and enjoy the walking paths. 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Guided tours. Tenderloin Farms, 6368 St. James Drive. Call (618) 917-0188, follow us @Tenderloinfarms or visit tfilavender.com.

Admission is free. Uptown at 221 West Main Collinsville. Call (618) 344-2884 or visit internationalhorseradishfestival.com.

June 8 PURPLE MARTIN PRESENTATION, Collinsville. An outdoor presentation by John Miller, volunteer with the Purple Martin Conservation Association. Learn how to attract and manage a colony of these birds. 9 a.m. Gift shop open 8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. Admission is free. Meet at the rack of purple martin nesting gourds located on the parking lot near the visitor center. Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site, 30 Ramey Street. Visit cahokiamounts.org.

June 8 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. Call (618) 692-7538 or visit edwardsvilleroute66.com.

June 8 TACO FESTIVAL, Marine. Event will feature food and taco vendors, over 100 merchandise vendors, car show and live music. 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Admission is free. Village Park, 301 North Humboldt Street. Visit facebook.com/events/1666305897511490.

June 8 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, ext. 1.

June 9 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. Expect 150 - 200 classic cars, hot rods, and motorcycles. 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. 112 West 3rd Street. For more information, visit downtownalton.com.

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

June 11, 25; July 9, 23 HEARTLAND PRAIRIE HIKE, Alton. Join the Nature Institute at the Heartland Prairie at Gordon Moore Park. Walks will focus on identifying native plants and birds. Walks will focus on identifying native plants and birds. Be sure to wear comfortable shoes and bring water, binoculars and a plant identification book. 5:30 - 7 p.m. Event is free. Heartland Prairie, 4550 College Ave. Call (618) 466-9930 or visit thenatureinstitute.org.

June 14 BIKE RAMBLE, Wood River. Bring your kids for a safe and exciting family night bike ride. Once participants complete the bike ride they can join us for refreshments and entertainment. Lineup at 7 p.m.; ride at 7:30 p.m. \$3 per person; \$6 per immediate family; child bike raffle \$1. First 175 riders receive t-shirt and bike reflector. The route begins and ends at the Round House,

June 14-17 FREE FISHING DAYS

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



633 North Wood River Avenue. Register at the Round House. For more information, call (618) 251-3130 or visit wrparks.org/events/.

June 14; July 12; August 9; September 13 SUMMER CONCERT SERIES, Litchfield. Enjoy live music by a different band each month. Food truck will be available. 6:30 - 9:30 p.m. Admission is free. Walton Park, 10207 Niemanville Trail. Email tourism@cityoflitchfieldil.com or call (217) 324-9075.

June 14 & 15 HOMECOMING, Glen Carbon. The weekend will include carnival rides, games, food and drink, live music and local craft vendors. Yanda Log Cabin will have an open house on Saturday. 5 p.m. - 11 p.m. both days. South Main Street and Collinsville Street. Call (618) 288-2614 or visit glencarbonil.gov.

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.

FARMERS MARKETS

June 1 - September 21

FARMER'S MARKET, Hillsboro. A great selection of locally grown produce, plants, artisan goods, and handmade crafts. First and third Saturday of the month 9 a.m. - noon; third Wednesday of the month 3 - 6 p.m. Lincoln Plaza, South Main Street. Call (217) 710-2495 or visit facebook.com/hillsborofarmersmarketillinois.

June 1 - October 5 THE MELTING POT MARKET, Granite City. Find produce stalls, home décor, art, skin-care products, jewelry, food and snacks, locally-made crafts and live entertainment. Bring cash as not all booths can process cards. First Saturday of the month. 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Civic Park, 1301 Niedringhaus Avenue. Visit facebook.com/meltingpotmarket.

June 1 - October 19 FARMERS & ARTISANS MARKET, Alton. Local home-grown fruits and vegetables, hormone-free meats, baked goods, plants and flowers, and honey. Artists and makers will offer crafts, homemade soaps and skin care products, jewelry, artwork, pottery and art demonstrations. Every Saturday 8 a.m. - noon. Parking lot near Riverfront Park at corner Landmarks Boulevard and Henry Street. On June 22 the market will be relocated to the parking lot at the corner of Broadway & Ridge Street (next to FLOCK Food Truck Park). Visit downtownalton.com.

June 1 - October 19 FARMERS MARKET, Centralia. Every Saturday 7 - 11 a.m. Downtown at the corner of Locust and 2nd Streets. Find us on Facebook.

June 1 - October 19 LAND OF GOSHEN COMMUNITY MARKET, Edwardsville. Dozens of vendors sell locally-grown fruits and vegetables, local, farm-raised meats, cheeses, eggs, baked goods and numer-

ous non-food items. Expect live music, demonstrations of different arts and crafts, and gardening tips. The market runs rain or shine and only cancels in extremely inclement weather. Every Saturday 8 a.m. - noon. Downtown Edwardsville, North Second Street. Visit goshenmarket.org.

June 1 - October 19 VINE STREET MARKET, O'Fallon. Farmers and food makers bring produce, meats, dairy, wine, baked goods and sweet treats. In addition to local food our market brings live music, food trucks, and talented artisans together from the area to feature their hand made arts. Every Saturday 8 a.m. - noon. O'Fallon Station, 212 East 1st Street. Visit ofallonstation.com.

June 1 - October 26 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. Visit



facebook.com/effinghamfarmersmarket.

June 1 - November 2 MARKET DAYS, Carlinville. Locally-made goods, crafts, antiques, vintage and new clothing, jewelry, tools, home décor, baked goods, produce and more at this small business market. This is part farmer's market, part flea market and part craft market. The first Friday of the month. 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. For

more information, call Perry at (217) 565-0937 or email carlinvillemarket@gmail.com.

June 2 - October 27 MARKET IN THE PARK Bethalto. The market sells a variety of locally grown fresh produce and meats, honey, art and crafts, and more. Plus live entertainment. Every Sunday 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Central Park, 213 North Prairie Street. Visit facebook.com/bethaltofarmersmarket.

June 4 - October 29 FARMERS MARKET, East Alton. Seasonal vegetables, fruits, and flowers, as well as locally made honey, desserts, and breads will be available along with local artisan and crafted goods. Every Tuesday 3 - 7 p.m. Eastgate Plaza, 625 Eastgate Plaza. Call (618) 530-1880.

June 6 - July 25 NIGHT MARKET, Alton. Enjoy live music in an outdoor setting, plus artwork and other handmade/homegrown products, as well as vintage and hip thrift items. Event is indoors at the Jacoby



Arts Center and outside in the neighboring pocket park. Every Thursday night from 7 - 10 p.m. Jacoby Arts Center, 627 East Broadway. Visit downtownalton.com.

June 6 - September 12 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. Every Thursday 5 - 7

p.m. Fireman's Park, 300 North Donk Avenue. Call (618) 304-8335 or visit facebook.com/MaryvilleILFarmersMarket.

June 6 - September 26 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 wvparks.org.

June 6 - October 3 FARMERS MARKET, Brighton. Find home-grown, local produce, honey, crafts and more. Every Thursday 4 - 7 p.m. Schneider Park, 414 North Maple Street. Call (618) 372-8860.

June 6 - October 24 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.

June 8; July 13; August 10; September 14; October 12 FARMERS MARKET, Vandalia. Our goal is to inspire and nurture a healthy community by building a local and sustainable food economy in an engaging downtown experience while showcasing local farmers and gardeners. 8 - 11 a.m. Downtown on the west side of the Old State House. Visit facebook.com/vandaliaillinoisfarmersmarket.

June 28; July 26; August 23; September 27 FARMERS' MARKET, Carlyle. Fresh produce, meat, eggs, bread, freshly cut flowers, plants, fudge, syrup... you never know what you'll find at the market. 5 p.m. - dusk. Carlyle VFW, 1250 Franklin Street. Visit carlylelake.com.

► *Continued from page 24*

June 14 & 15 MODEL RAILROAD CLUB OPEN HOUSE, Glen Carbon. The Metro East Model Railroad Club will host open houses Friday and Saturday, 4 - 8 p.m., in conjunction with the Glen Carbon Homecoming. Watch trains run on the club's 18 x 27 foot HO scale model railroad. Free admission. The club is located in the old Glen Carbon Town Hall/Fire House, 180 Summit Street. For more information call Bob at (618) 476-9228 or Bill at (618) 531-1589, or go to www.trainweb.org/memrc.

June 14 - August 9 MUNY BAND SUMMER CONCERTS, Highland. Join us Friday evenings at 8 p.m. for free summer concerts. On the square, 948 Main street. Visit highlandmunyband.wixsite.com/muny-home.

June 15 TRACTOR DRIVE, Altamont. The Millroad Threshermans will be holding their annual tractor drive. The 25 mile drive will take us by eight country churches with historic presentations at stops along the way and lunch provided by the Bethlehem Lutheran ladies. Starts at St. Clare Catholic Church (216 North 9th Street). Approach on 10th Street to the corner of Monroe Street. Registration at 7:30 a.m.; mandatory drivers meeting 9 a.m. \$35 in advance; \$40 day of the drive (tractor driver or people mover rider). Pre-registration is preferred. To register or for more information, visit millroadthresherman.org, facebook.com/millroadthresherman or call Ken (618) 335-3790.

June 19-23 MONTGOMERY COUNTY FAIR & AGRICULTURE ASSOCIATION, Butler. Visit facebook.com/fair.montgomerycoil.

June 20-23 HAUNTED AMERICA CONFERENCE, Godfrey. Hosted by Troy Taylor's American Oddities Museum. The biggest and best, original ghost conference in America

returns for a spectacular summer event featuring new and returning speakers on ghosts, hauntings, the paranormal and the unexplained. Plus how-to-workshops, special events, haunted tours and more. Lewis and Clark Community College. For more information or tickets, visit americanhauntingsink.com.

June 21; July 21 MOONLIGHT HIKE, Godfrey. Join us on a night hike on the trails of the Mississippi Sanctuary and Olin Nature Preserve. The terrain is light to moderate and is appropriate for families. The hike will be about 2 miles with stops along the way. Meet at the Talahi Lodge. The hike leaves promptly at 8:30 p.m. Admission is free for members; non-members \$5. Registration is required. The Nature Institute, 2213 South Levis Lane. Call (618) 466-9930 or visit thenatureinstitute.org.

June 21, 28; July 5, 12, 19, 26 FIELD DAY FRIDAYS, West Alton. Join Audubon and Army Corps of Engineer staff to experience nature and learn what kind of plants, animals, flying, and crawling creatures spend their time here. 9:30 - 11 a.m. Admission is free. Pre-registration is required. Audubon Center at Riverlands, Nature Amphitheater, 301 Riverlands Way. To register, visit riverlands.audubon.org.

June 22 MILLROAD THRESHERMANS TRACTOR SHOW, Effingham. Antique tractors and Butterburgers, a great summertime combination. See beautifully restored antique tractors of various brands and other items on display. Fun for the whole family with lots of tasty treats. Culver's, 1510 West Fayette Avenue. 9 a.m. - 7 p.m. Event is free. Visit millroadthresherman.org, facebook.com/millroadthresherman or call Jim at (217) 821-1426.

June 22; July 20; August 24; September 21; October 19 CLASSIC FLICKS FOR CON-

SERVATION, Godfrey. Watch a classic movie on our giant inflatable screen. All movies this year will feature an episode of the 1939 movie serial "The Phantom Creeps" as a pre-film short. Bring your own lawn chairs or blankets, as well as your own snacks. No alcohol is permitted. No pre-registration required. Limited parking is available, so arrive early. June movie at 8:45 p.m.; July movie at 8:30 p.m.; August movie at 8 p.m.; September movie at 7:15 p.m.; October movie at 7 p.m. Event is free but donations are welcome. The Nature Institute, 2213 South Levis Lane. Call (618) 466-9930 or visit thenatureinstitute.org.

June 28; July 26; August 30 COMMUNITY BAND PERFORMANCE, Troy. Enjoy the sounds of the Troy Community Band. 7 p.m. At the gazebo in Tri-Township Park, 410 Wickliffe Street. The alternate site for inclement weather will be the adjacent recreation center/park district office. Find us on Facebook at Troy Community Band.

June 28-30 ILLINOIS ELVIS FESTIVAL, Collinsville. Celebrate Elvis Presley at largest Elvis festival in the North. Featuring 6 different Stage productions of the king himself. Gateway Center, One Gateway Drive. For more information or tickets, visit illinoiselvisfestival.com.

June 29 CRAFT BEER WALK, Belleville. An evening of exploring downtown while sampling the best beer selections from over 25 regional breweries. Participants must be 21 years of age or older. This is a rain or shine event. 3 - 7 p.m. Belleville Main Street, 216 East A Street. Visit bellevillemainstreet.net.

June 29; July 27 LIEVERS HUMMINGBIRD FESTIVAL, Worden. 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. 2:30 - 5:30 p.m. Paula & Jeff Livers Residence, 8203 Brickyard Hill Road. 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 Livers home. Watch for signs—your GPS may not be on the mark. Email Paula@gomadison.com.

June 30; July 28; August 25; September 22 SYMPHONY CONCERT SERIES, Edwardsville. Family-friendly free concerts performed by the Edwardsville Symphony. This season's theme is "The Color of Music" linking tone, color, timbre and art to music. Free children's activities during each concert. Bring your own lawn chair or blanket. Pre-concerts by local dance schools and artists at 6:30 p.m.; symphony starts at 7 p.m. Edwardsville City Park, 101 South Buchanan Street. Visit edwardsvillemunicipalcommunitysymphony.com.

July 11-16 FAYETTE COUNTY FAIR, Brownstown. Visit fayettecofair.org.

July 11 - September 19 THURSDAY NIGHT LIVE CONCERTS, Highland. Enjoy live entertainment on Thursdays with different performers each evening. Bring your own lawn chair(s), blanket, cooler, etc. and enjoy the show. The Lions Club will be selling brats, pork burgers and chicken sandwiches. 7 - 9 p.m. Highland Downtown Square, 914 Main Street. Visit highlandil.gov.

July 14-20 CLINTON COUNTY FAIR, Carlyle. Visit clintoncofair.org.



Crews install new underground cable at Pocahontas Substation.

THE FINAL FRAME

