



**MJM**  
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

# ALONG THE LINES

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## Introducing MJM's CEO - Joe Heyen!

p. 2

.....

## Part 2: Retiring Estate Capital Credits

p. 3

.....

## 2022 Rate Change

p. 6

### In This Issue:

Pg. 4 - MJM and WVPA Announce Net Zero Commitments

Pg. 5 - Save Your Money on Energy Bills This Winter

Pg. 7 - MJM Electric Rate Calculator

Pg. 8 & 9 - 2022 Power Move Rebates

Pg. 10 - A Gift That Keeps on Giving!

Pg. 11 - Understanding Power Surges and Blinks

Pg. 12 - Member Trading Post

**MJM Electric Cooperative, Inc.**

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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**Holidays observed**

New Year's Day, Good Friday,  
Memorial Day, Independence  
Day, Labor Day, Veterans Day,  
Thanksgiving Day, day following  
Thanksgiving and Christmas Day.

**How to report an outage**

Call 217-707-6156. When you report an outage, give your name and location number. Before calling, check your fuses or circuit breakers. Check with your neighbors. Call to report hazardous conditions. Please do not report outages on Facebook.

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## INTRODUCING MJM'S CEO - JOE HEYEN!



MJM has announced the promotion of Joe Heyen as President/CEO effective January 1, 2022. Heyen will be taking over the reins from Laura Cutler who has retired after 11 years of service at MJM on January 7, 2022. Heyen has been the Director of Engineering and Operations for the past six and a half years.

Heyen has worked in the electrical industry his entire career. Prior to joining MJM, he worked as a lineman and foreman for Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative in Pesotum, Illinois, for 15 years and with United Utility Supply Cooperative as the Illinois Marketing Manager for 10 years.

Heyen was born and raised on the family farm in the Dorchester/Gillespie area and his father was a lineman with MJM for 30 years. He currently resides in Carlinville, IL, as an MJM Member with his wife Joan and they have a son and daughter-in-law in Chicago and a daughter in Springfield.

Heyen says, "Despite the many challenges facing the utility industry, I am excited about the future of MJM Electric. From the time I worked there as a summer helper, I knew that was where I wanted to be. It has been great working with Laura, the Board of Directors, and all the MJM employees these past six and a half years. I am looking forward to continuing the progress that we have made." 

## Part 2: Retiring Estate Capital Credits

If a Member or former Member dies, any remaining Capital Credit accumulation is a part of the estate and is assignable to the heirs or beneficiaries. Capital Credits paid after a Member has passed are considered a special retirement, as opposed to a general retirement in which MJM has been doing these past nine years. The practice since 2013 has been to make a minimum general retirement of \$400,000. In 2021, the general retirement was made for 1983 which came to \$626,570. The purpose of retiring more than \$400,000 was to retire all of 2013's margins and have a clean slate before starting early estate retirements. In 2022, a general retirement will NOT be made. It is pertinent that we clean up estates because we are on a 30+ year rotation cycle, and this will help reduce record-keeping requirements for Members who are deceased.

On September 3, 2021, the MJM Board of Directors determined that the financial condition of the Cooperative would not be impaired by beginning the process of retiring Estate Capital Credits. A motion was made, seconded, and carried unanimously that beginning January 1, 2022, to retire up to \$400,000 of Capital Credits for retirements for Members who have passed away prior to January 1, 2022, and whose beneficiaries agree to a discount rate of 7%. These claims will be paid on a first come first serve basis up to the \$400,000 cap. The motion also provided that Capital Credits can be retired for those Members passing on or after January 1, 2022. These retirements will be subject to a 7% discount rate and are not subject to the \$400,000 cap. In both cases, the person claiming the retirement shall provide proper documentation including evidence they are entitled to receive the payment such as a death certificate, will, small estate affidavit, or letter of office.

The early retirement of Estate Capital Credits is based upon MJM patronage only and does not include retirement of Capital Credits to the account of the Cooperative by an organization furnishing power supply to the Cooperative. Therefore, if an estate chooses to close, the Capital Credits earned from the Cooperative's power supplier will be donated to the Cooperative as permanent equity and the estate will give up its rights to those capital credits. The early option to settle the Capital Credits of an estate, minus those Capital Credits attributable to the power supplier are in lieu of waiting for a Member's Capital Credits to be retired on an annual basis during a general retirement.


Pursuant to the Cooperative bylaws, before paying any deceased Members their share of the Capital Credit distribution, the Cooperative shall deduct any amount owed by such Member to the Cooperative.

### **What happens to your remaining capital credits when you die?**

The traditional method of retirement upon death is through an estate – Capital Credits are an asset subject to probate. The process begins once we are notified of the Member's death. The executor or administrator of the estate will need to provide proof of death such as a copy of the death certificate or a publicly published obituary. The administrator of the estate determines whether the Capital Credits are to be assigned and retired with the normal general retirement cycles, or whether an immediate discounted, net present value distribution is preferred. The discounted amount is calculated based on the rotation cycle number of years in place at the time of death. If the capital credits are assigned, the subsequent checks will be made to the individuals named in the assignment. If the immediate discounted refund is chosen, the check will be made out to the estate.

This does not apply to corporations, partnerships, limited liability companies, cooperatives, limited liability partnerships or other legal entities. The patronage Capital Credited to a joint account shall not be paid until the death of the surviving joint tenant occurs.

### **What happens if no one claims your Capital Credits after you die?**

Unclaimed Capital Credits of deceased Members are subject to forfeiture similar to general retirement Capital Credits. There are times we do not learn of a Member's death until years afterward. Once we know and the process to refund the Capital Credits begins, the heirs need to complete the proper paperwork. It is a good idea to mention to those who will be responsible for your affairs after death that you are or were an MJM member and there could be Capital Credits among your assets to be claimed. Planning and communication now about your wishes when you are gone, could be very helpful to your family or heirs! If you have questions regarding the method of handling Capital Credits at death, please contact our billing department at 217-707-6156 or refer to our website at <https://www.mjmec.coop/what-are-capital-credits-0>. 



# MJM AND WVPA ANNOUNCE NET ZERO COMMITMENTS

*By Brian Anderson, WVPA's Director of Economic Development & Public Relations*

The Wabash Valley Power Alliance (WVPA) and MJM announced a commitment to achieve a 50% reduction in carbon energy production by 2031 and a goal of achieving 100% decarbonization by 2050.

These measures represent WVPA and MJM's commitment to attain net zero carbon-dioxide emissions across WVPA's power generation portfolio. Net zero is achieved when any amount of carbon-dioxide produced by WVPA's energy portfolio offset by removal of an equivalent amount elsewhere to attain a net total of zero carbon-dioxide emissions.

The net zero decarbonization effort will benefit community members by helping provide reliable energy at affordable rates into the future and while supporting the environment via the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. Along with the 22 other co-op members, WVPA and MJM analyzed the future energy landscape and determined that the changing market conditions and resource availability will afford WVPA and each co-op the ability to meet these net-zero targets.

The net zero commitments followed WVPA recently announcing it is now providing more sustainable generated energy to its member co-ops from a newly constructed 99-megawatt Prairie State solar array in Perry County, Ill. The array began commercial operations on July 19, 2021, and is expected to generate up to 230,000 megawatt-hours (MWh) each year. The array's renewable energy output will save 78,750 metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions per year – the equivalent of removing 17,100 gas-powered cars from area roads.

It is one of two Illinois-based solar arrays that is generating electricity purchased by Wabash Valley Power. The second solar project, known as Dressor Plains and located in Fayette County, Ill., began production on September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021, and adds another 99-megawatts of solar based energy generation. WVPA will purchase enough energy from these solar arrays to power nearly 30,000 homes.

"This net zero commitment and the solar array projects are new milestones in WVPA's decarbonization trajectory," said Jay Bartlett, CEO of Wabash Valley Power. "We're committed to providing sustainable, affordable and reliable energy to all of our 23 member co-ops today and into the future."

The new solar energy adds to WVPA's increasingly diverse energy portfolio, which includes natural gas, landfill gas, nuclear power, coal, wind, solar and even manure from cattle farms in northern Indiana, as among resources generating the energy for more than 310,000 families, farms, and organizations in the Midwest. An additional 199-megawatt solar facility located in central Indiana is scheduled to come online in 2023.

"Our evolving energy portfolio, which will increasingly feature more renewable energy sources, will responsibly phase out greenhouse gases, ensuring we're able to deliver consistent and affordable energy for our local communities while benefitting the environment," Bartlett said. "We're excited to continue executing on this commitment into the future."

For more information about WVPA and our collective carbon reduction journey since 2002, please visit [www.wvpa.com](http://www.wvpa.com). 

# Save Your Money on Energy Bills This Winter

By Safe Electricity

How can you save on heating costs this winter?

Some answers to that question are basic: turn down the thermostat a few degrees from where you would normally keep it and dress in layers. Keep your feet warm and have plenty of extra blankets around.


Most people like to pull up the covers at night when it's cold outside. Add extra blankets, use flannel sheets, and a thick comforter so that you can turn down your thermostat while you sleep. It also helps to use insulated or lined curtains to keep the cold air out; not only in your bedroom, but throughout your home.

Here are some ways to make sure your home is as energy efficient as possible:

- Get your **heating system regularly maintained** and serviced by a HVAC professional so that it is working at peak efficiency. Keep your furnace clean and change the filter monthly.
- Regularly **vacuum or clean vents**.
- If you have a fireplace, **keep the damper closed** when not in use. If you do not use your fireplace, plug and seal the flume.
- Do not heat an empty home. A programmable or smart thermostat can help this become automatic. According to the Department of Energy, **lowering the temperature by 7 to 10 degrees** for eight hours a day can reduce energy costs by up to 10 percent.
- A leaky house is expensive to heat. According to Energy.gov, **sealing uncontrolled air leaks** can save from \$83 to \$166 a year. **Weather stripping double-hung windows** can save \$42 to \$86 annually. Windows, doors, attics, attic access, outlets, walls and chimneys, as well as pipes entering or exiting your home are common sources of air leaks.
- Let the sunshine in your home during the day to use Mother Nature's warmth. **Close window coverings** after dusk to reduce heat loss.
- Run your **ceiling fans** in a **clockwise direction**. Doing so will push down and redistribute warm air that naturally rises.
- Consider **turning down your water heater** to 120 or 125°F. Also install a water heater blanket to help insulate it to give it a step up in warming your water.
- When it comes time to replace your furnace or any part of your HVAC system, **consider replacing it** with an **energy efficient version** by looking for the EnergyStar designation.
- **Decrease the use** of the built-in **ventilation fans** in your kitchen and bathrooms. In the colder months, they do a good job of transferring heat from inside your home to the backyard. Use the fans only when needed and turn them off as soon as you can.
- **Bring in the moisture** with a humidifier or research other ways to do that (e.g. well-watered plants, containers of water throughout the home). **Dry air makes the air feel colder** and increasing moisture in the air causes indoor air to retain more heat. 🌈



# 2022 Rate Change

Members will NOT see a change in 2022 to the Service Delivery Charge NOR the Distribution Energy Charge. These charges both make up MJM's fixed costs to the Member. However, as explained in the December 2021 newsletter, Members will see an increase of 5% to the Power Supplier Energy Charge and/or Demand Charge depending on how a Member is billed. In 2021, there was actually a decrease in this charge, but due to different scenarios, Wabash Valley Power Alliance (WVPA) was forced to raise their rates. This charge is the wholesale power cost and a pass-through to Members. A rate calculator and rate schedule can be found on MJM's website as well as in this newsletter edition on the next page. 

## Single-Phase Non Demand Non-Heat (Rate Class 1, 2, 3 & 4)

Service Delivery Charge	\$ 47.00	per month
Power Supplier Energy Charge	\$ 0.08663	per kWh
Distribution Energy Charge	\$ 0.02497	per kWh

## Three-Phase Non Demand Non-Heat (Rate Class 6, 7 & 8)

Service Delivery Charge	\$ 105.00	per month
Power Supplier Energy Charge	\$ 0.08663	per kWh
Distribution Energy Charge	\$ 0.02301	per kWh

## Single-Phase Electric Heat (Rate Class 5, 31, 32, 33, 37, 38, & 39)

Service Delivery Charge	\$ 47.00	per month
Power Supplier Energy Charge	\$ 0.08663	per kWh
Heating Energy Charge	\$ 0.046	per kWh
Distribution Energy Charge	\$ 0.02497	per kWh

## Three-Phase Electric Heat (Rate Class 34, 35, 36, 40 & 41)

Service Delivery Charge	\$ 105.00	per month
Power Supplier Energy Charge	\$ 0.08663	per kWh
Heating Energy Charge	\$ 0.046	per kWh
Distribution Energy Charge	\$ 0.02301	per kWh

## Single-Phase Large Power (Rate Class 9)

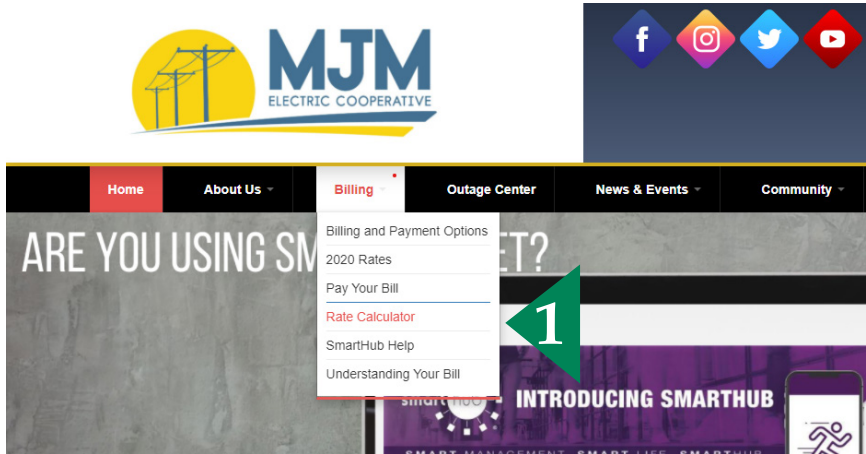
Service Delivery Charge	\$ 80.00	per month
Power Supplier Energy Charge	\$ 0.046	per kWh
Power Supplier Demand Charge	\$ 10.00	per kW
Distribution Energy Charge	\$ 0.03896	per kWh

## Three-Phase Large Power (Rate Class 10)

Service Delivery Charge	\$ 123.00	per month
Power Supplier Energy Charge	\$ 0.046	per kWh
Power Supplier Demand Charge	\$ 10.50	per kW
Distribution Energy Charge	\$ 0.041818	per kWh

# MJM Electric Cooperative Rate Calculator

Visit [www.mjmec.coop](http://www.mjmec.coop) and try out our rate calculator to compare how the rate restructuring will affect your account(s). Just have a copy of your past bill(s) and follow the steps below:



**Step 1:** Visit [www.mjmec.coop](http://www.mjmec.coop) and under our Billing tab select Rate Calculator.

**Step 2:** Using your bill, select your rate from the drop down menu.

**Step 3:** Enter your Energy Usage (kWh).

**Step 4:** Click the Calculate button.

**Step 5:** View the Rate Comparisons.

**Step 6:** Click the Start Over button to return to the Rate Calculator. 

2 **What rate are you currently on?**

Rate 1 - Single Phase 25 KVA & Under

**Energy Usage (kWh):**

888

(required)

Calculate



OLD RATE STRUCTURE			
Charge Type	Rate	Chargeable	Charge
Service Delivery Charge			
Fixed	\$ 47.00	Fixed	\$ 47.00
Energy Charge			
Distribution Energy Charge - All kWhs	\$ 0.024970	888	\$ 22.17
Power Supplier Charge	\$ 0.082450	888	\$ 73.22
Demand Charge			
Demand Rate	\$ 0.000000		\$ 0.00
<b>Total Bill</b>			<b>\$ 142.39</b>

NEW RATE STRUCTURE			
Charge Type	Rate	Chargeable	Charge
Service Delivery Charge			
Fixed	\$ 47.00	Fixed	\$ 47.00
Energy Charge			
Distribution Energy Charge - All kWhs	\$ 0.024970	888	\$ 22.17
Power Supplier Charge	\$ 0.086630	888	\$ 76.93
Demand Charge			
Demand Rate	\$ 0.000000		\$ 0.00
<b>Total Bill</b>			<b>\$ 146.10</b>

Start Over



Difference Per Month	\$	3.71
Difference Per Year	\$	44.52



## POWER MOVES®

### 2022 RESIDENTIAL REBATE PROGRAM

#### Geothermal Heat Pump

- ▶ Water-to-air closed loop  $\geq 17.1$  EER /  $\geq 3.6$  COP
- ▶ Water-to-air open loop  $\geq 21.1$  EER /  $\geq 4.1$  COP
- ▶ Water-to-water closed loop  $\geq 16.1$  EER /  $\geq 3.1$  COP
- ▶ Water-to-water open loop  $\geq 20.1$  EER /  $\geq 3.5$  COP

<b>CLOSED LOOP, REPLACING:</b> <i>electric resistance, fossil fuel, air source heat pump, or into new construction geothermal</i>	\$2,000
	\$250
<b>OPEN LOOP, REPLACING:</b> <i>electric resistance, fossil fuel, air source heat pump, or into new construction geothermal</i>	\$1,000
	\$250

#### Air Source Heat Pump (Whole Home)

- ▶ Electric Back-up
- ▶  $\geq 16$  SEER
- ▶  $\geq 9$  HSPF
- ▶  $\geq 1.75$  COP at 5° (Cold Climate ASHP only)
- ▶ Condenser and coil must be replaced and installed as a matched set

REPLACING:	COLD CLIMATE HEAT PUMP*	NON-COLD CLIMATE HEAT PUMP
<i>Electric Resistance heat</i>	\$1500	\$750
<i>Natural Gas, Propane, Fuel Oil Heat</i>	\$1500	\$750
<i>Air Source Heat Pump</i>	\$1500	\$250
<i>New Construction</i>	\$1500	N/A

#### Air Source Heat Pump (Partial Home)

- ▶ Electric Back-up
- ▶  $\geq 16$  SEER
- ▶  $\geq 9$  HSPF
- ▶  $\geq 1.75$  COP at 5° (Cold Climate ASHP only)
- ▶ Condenser and coil must be replaced and installed as a matched set

REPLACING:	COLD CLIMATE HEAT PUMP*	NON-COLD CLIMATE HEAT PUMP
<i>Electric Resistance heat</i>	\$600	\$250
<i>Natural Gas, Propane, Fuel Oil Heat</i>	\$600	\$250
<i>Air Source Heat Pump</i>	\$600	\$250
<i>New Construction</i>	\$600	N/A

#### Natural Gas, Propane, and Fuel Oil with Heat Pump - Split System (Ducted)

- ▶  $\geq 16$  SEER
- ▶  $\geq 9.0$  HSPF
- ▶  $\geq 90$  AFUE
- ▶ Condenser and coil must be replaced and installed as a matched set
- ▶ New system must heat and cool entire home

<b>REPLACING ELECTRIC RESISTANCE:</b> <i>electric furnace, ceiling cable, baseboard</i>	\$500
<b>REPLACING FOSSIL FUEL AND CENTRAL AIR CONDITIONING</b>	\$500
<b>NEW CONSTRUCTION</b>	\$500

#### Heat Pump Water Heater

▶ Minimum UEF of 2.0.	<b>REPLACING ELECTRIC RESISTANCE TANK</b>	\$400
	<b>REPLACING NATURAL GAS OR PROPANE WATER HEATER</b>	\$400
	<b>NEW CONSTRUCTION</b>	\$400

#### Variable Speed Pool Pump

▶ ENERGY STAR®	<b>REPLACING EXISTING SINGLE STAGE POOL PUMP</b>	\$250
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#### PURCHASE RECEIPTS REQUIRED FOR ALL REBATE APPLICATIONS.

AHRI Certificates required for all geothermal, air source heat pump, and heat pump water heater rebate applications.

Heat loss/heat gain calculations required for geothermal and air source heat pumps.

Failure to provide requested information may result in forfeiture of rebate.

All installations are subject to verification and/or inspection.

For full requirements, see applications.

#### REBATE PROGRAM ENDS DEC. 31, 2022 AND IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE.

Visit our website at [PowerMoves.com](http://PowerMoves.com) or call your local electric cooperative's Energy Advisor for more information.



# POWER MOVES®

## 2022 BUSINESS REBATE PROGRAM SUMMARY

### LIGHTING | Retrofit only

Fixture Type	Rebate/Fixture
▶ Corn Cobb E39 Mogul Base (DLC Qualified Only)	\$10-\$45 per lamp
▶ De-Lamping	\$.10 per watt reduced
▶ Occupancy Sensors	Up to \$20 per sensor
▶ LED Lighting	Up to \$125 per fixture
▶ LED Tubes (DLC Qualified Only)	\$3 - \$5 per tube

Restrictions apply; please see application for complete program rules.

### HVAC | Retrofit only

Units	Rebate/Ton
▶ Air Cooled Unitary Package AC and Split Systems	Up to \$75 per ton
▶ Air Source Heat Pumps	
▶ Ground Source Heat Pumps	Up to \$750 per ton
▶ VFDs (1-20 HP Motors)	\$100 per HP
▶ Chillers	Up to \$40 per ton

Restrictions apply; please see application for complete program rules.

### MISCELLANEOUS | Retrofit only

Units	Rebate/Ton
▶ Process VFDs (up to 200 HP)	\$80 per HP
▶ VFD Screw Air Compressor	\$60 per HP
▶ Compressed Air No-Loss Condensate Drain (up to 200 HP)	\$100 per drain

Restrictions apply; please see application for complete program rules.

### CUSTOM INCENTIVE PROGRAM

Don't see a rebate that applies to your project? Our custom rebate program may be just the thing for any verifiable energy-saving upgrades. Pre-approval required.

- ▶ **Lighting Projects:** \$.05 per kWh for the first year's kWh savings.
- ▶ **Non-lighting Projects:** \$.08 per kWh for the first year's kWh savings.

### NEW BUILDS

If you decide to build, or to undertake a major renovation, talk to us as soon as you start planning. We can help you choose systems and equipment that are best suited to your project and earn you the biggest incentives—before they start saving you money and energy.

Get started by filling out a Project Information Form at [PowerMoves.com](http://PowerMoves.com).

*In order to receive a rebate, equipment must meet our minimum efficiency standards. Please talk with our energy engineer about your project. This is for information purposes only and not a quote or guarantee of an incentive.*

Wabash Valley Power Alliance and its member co-ops give rebates for energy-efficiency upgrades in new or existing businesses.

#### WHAT IS THIS PROGRAM?

- ▶ Available to commercial and industrial co-op members.
- ▶ Offers rebates on energy-efficient equipment.
- ▶ Applies to upgrades to an existing facility or equipment for a new facility.
- ▶ Provides a set list of prescriptive measures that earn rebates and a custom program for measures that don't fall into our set list. Custom upgrades require program approval prior to equipment purchase.

#### WHO'S ELIGIBLE FOR A REBATE?

- ▶ Non-residential members of participating electric cooperatives.
- ▶ Visit [PowerMoves.com](http://PowerMoves.com) to find out whether your co-op participates.

#### WHAT'S THE REBATE LIMIT PER MEMBER?

- ▶ Prescriptive: \$25,000 per member per calendar year.
- ▶ Custom: \$50,000 per member per calendar year.

#### WHO RECEIVES THE PAYMENT?

- ▶ Checks are paid directly to the member.
- ▶ Payment may be made to Trade Ally with member approval.

#### WHAT'S A TRADE ALLY?

A Trade Ally is any contractor who:

- ▶ Sells or installs energy-efficient equipment.
- ▶ Assists customers with their rebate applications.

#### WHAT'S THE DEADLINE FOR APPLYING?

- ▶ Apply for a prescriptive rebate within 60 days from the project's completion.
- ▶ All custom projects require program approval prior to equipment purchase.

**Visit [PowerMoves.com](http://PowerMoves.com) to start the application process or find out more.**



# A Gift that Keeps on Giving!

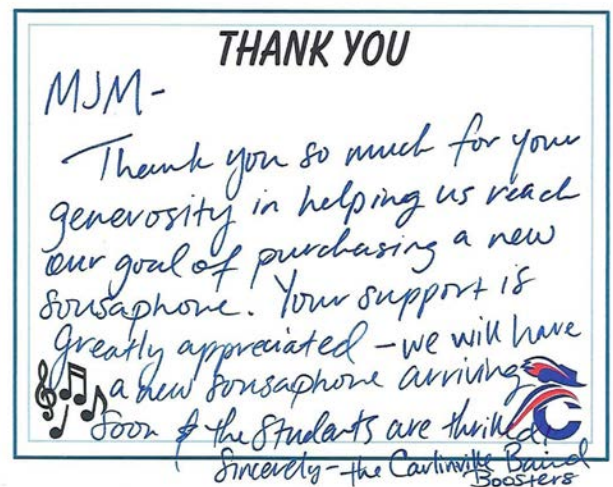
Operation Round Up (ORU) has proven to truly be a gift that keeps on giving! The Board of Trustees met on November 2, 2021, to discuss the applications that were submitted requesting funds. The three awarded organizations were named as Catholic Charities, Carlinville Christmas on the Square, and the Carlinville Band Boosters.

Catholic Charities is based out of Carlinville, IL. The organization had asked for funds to support the Mobile Food Pantry. Catholic Charities' Mobile Food Pantry is a food pantry on wheels, which visits villages such as Royal Lakes, Hettick, and Irving once a month. This provides easy access for food to families and individuals in Macoupin and Montgomery County. The Mobile Food Pantry spends approximately \$1,000 on food for each visit to the multiple communities, which provides nearly two weeks supply of food. Due to the Mobile Food Pantry serving 739 individuals/families, the Board of Trustees awarded Catholic Charities with \$2,500 to go towards the support of purchasing food.

Sometimes, Christmas cheer just needs to be spread out in a community! That is exactly what Carlinville Christmas on the Square did during the weekend of December 3rd-5th. This has been an event in Carlinville's community for many years and has easily become a beloved tradition. Covid had affected the organization's efforts to raise money last year. ORU was able to step in where fundraising had not yet met the needs. The Board of Trustees voted to grant \$2,000 to Carlinville Christmas on the Square to go towards a petting zoo and trolley rental. This was all to encourage Christmas, family fun during the holiday season!

You know what they say, music heals the soul. Be expecting to hear some jazzy tunes coming from the Carlinville Band. All thanks to the Carlinville Band Boosters. They were looking to help fund the band with sousaphones. The Carlinville Band Boosters showed that the instruments currently being used are in poor condition and are nearly falling to pieces. Due to the high prices of the sousaphones, the Board of Trustees awarded the Carlinville Band Boosters with \$2,500.

Simply amazing to see that ORU was able to fund the community with \$7,000! If you know a 501(c)(3), non-for-profit organization, please encourage the organization to place an application for funds. The best part of this program? **The organization does NOT have to be an MJM Member – just located in MJM's service territory!** If you have any questions, please call the office at 217-707-6156 or refer to MJM's website at [www.mjmeccoop.com/operation-round](http://www.mjmeccoop.com/operation-round) for an application and more information. 🎨



► Volunteering at the Mobile Food Pantry are two Catholic Charities Board Members Jill Murphy and Erving Shores. They are accompanied with volunteer Billie Caveny.

# Understanding Power Surges and Blinks

By Abby Berry, NRECA

Have you ever noticed your lights blink during a storm? Or perhaps you've noticed a blinking microwave clock when you arrive home. When this happens, you've likely experienced a brief disruption to your electric service, which could result from a power surge or blink. While the symptoms of surges and blinks can appear similar, what's happening behind the scenes can be quite different

## What's a power surge?

Power surges are brief overvoltage spikes or disturbances of a power waveform that can damage, degrade or destroy electronic equipment within your home or business. Most electronics are designed to handle small variations in voltage; however, power surges can reach amplitudes of tens of thousands of volts—this can be extremely damaging to your electronic equipment.


Surges can be caused by internal sources, like HVAC systems with variable frequency drives, or external sources, like lightning and damage to power lines and transformers.

MJM Electric encourages all members to install surge protective devices (such as surge protector power strips) to safeguard your sensitive electronics. If you're experiencing frequent surges in your home or business and you believe the cause is internal, contact a qualified electrician to inspect your electrical system.

## What's a power blink?

Power blinks are also brief service interruptions, but they're typically caused by a fault (short circuit) on a power line or a protective device that's working in reaction to the fault. Faults can occur through a variety of instances, like squirrels, birds or other small animals contacting an energized power line; tree branches touching a power line; or lightning and other similar events. In fact, when it comes to power disruptions caused by critters, squirrels reign supreme. In 2019 alone, squirrels were responsible for more than 1,200 outages.

Any of the events noted above can cause your power to blink, but you may also experience a brief interruption when protective devices that act like circuit breakers are working to detect the fault. Believe it or not, these brief power blinks caused by protective devices are actually good because that means the equipment is working as it should to prevent a prolonged outage.

Regardless of the cause, MJM's line crews will be on their way to inspect the damage and make necessary repairs after a power outage. And you can help too! Any time you experience repeated disruptions to your electric service, please let us know by calling 217-707-6156 or reporting it on MJM's free SmartHub app. 



## Energy Efficiency - Tip of the Month

When shopping for new light bulbs, know the difference between lumens and watts. Lumens measure the amount of light produced by the bulb. Watts measure energy consumption. Energy-saving LEDs come in a variety of colors and brightness levels and last 15-25 times longer than incandescent bulbs.

## Member Trading Post

**FOR SALE:** Front end loader off an Oliver 550 tractor. Two (2) portable kerosene heaters asking \$75 each. Runs good. Call 217-324-6766.

**FOR SALE:** 200 amp meter loop. Used, good shape. Asking \$450. Call 217-710-1293.

**FOR SALE:** 5 antique Oliver tractors. One Massey Harris 44. Several hundred feet of oak, hickory, walnut wood for sale. Leave a message at 217-999-7127.

**FOR SALE:** New, never used, 84" adjustable offset 3 pt. Flail Mower \$3,900.00 Call: 618-600-3116.

**FOR SALE:** Commercial, charcoal, carbon water filter made by structural fibers Inc. It is 42 inches tall and 10 inches in diameter. Asking \$750. Fiberglass water tank on heavy duty two axle trailer. \$800.00 Please call 217-854-2063.

**FOR SALE:** 1000 Gal Propane Tank, Good Condition \$1200, 618-334-4298

To list your free ad, email [brookeg@mjmec.coop](mailto:brookeg@mjmec.coop), call 217-707-6156, or mail the ad to MJM Electric, P.O. Box 80, Carlinville, IL, 62626. Each ad will run for one month. Some restrictions may apply.