

ALONG THE LINES



DEDICATED TO SAFELY PROVIDING RELIABLE SERVICE TO OUR MEMBERS.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

APRIL 2026
VOL.19, NO. 4

**LINEWORKER
APPRECIATION DAY**
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WITH EFFICIENCY
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APRIL CALENDAR



April is Safe Digging Month

Apr. 13: Lineworker Appreciation Day

Apr. 20-24: Work Zone Awareness Week

Apr. 22: Administrative Professionals Day

Apr. 24: Arbor Day

SAVE THE DATE!

THURSDAY, JUNE 11, 2026
**MJM'S 87TH ANNUAL MEETING
OF MEMBERS**

HOLIDAYS OBSERVED:

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



OFFICE: 217-707-6156
FAX: 217-854-3918

18300 SHIPMAN ROAD (PO BOX 80)
CARLINVILLE, IL 62626

WWW.MJMEC.COOP



LINeworkERS ARE READY WHEN IT MATTERS MOST



MJM PRESIDENT/CEO, JOE HEYEN

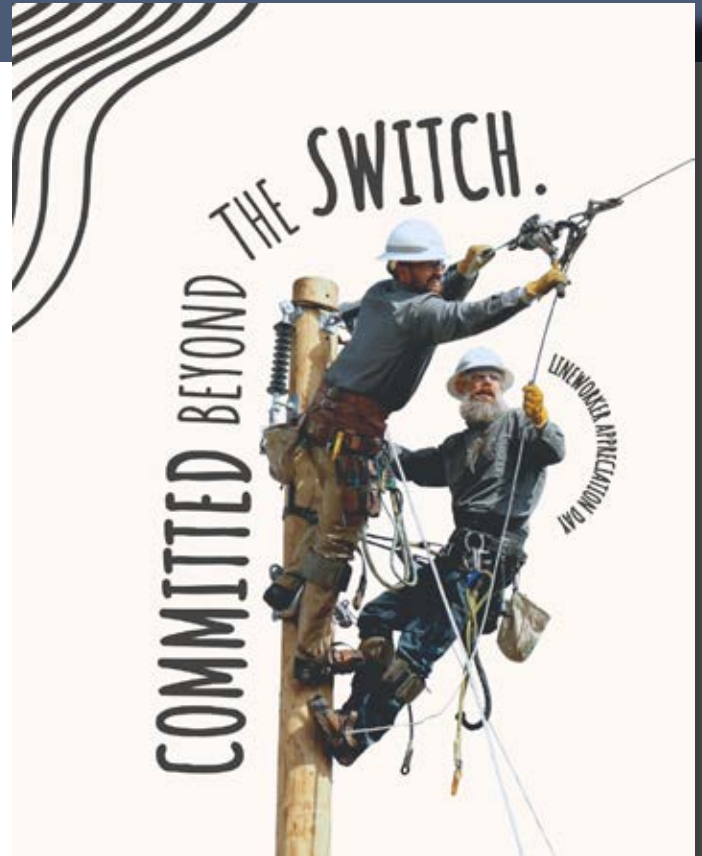


As President/CEO of MJM Electric Cooperative, I have the unique privilege of seeing firsthand what it truly takes to keep the lights on for our members. In April, we take time to pause and recognize the brave men and women who make that possible every single day—our lineworkers.

When storms impact our communities and outages occur, many people experience the inconvenience, but our lineworkers see a call to action. Our crews are always ready when it matters most—leaving family dinners, working through the night and heading into challenging conditions to restore power as safely and quickly as possible. That readiness is not accidental. It comes from rigorous training, deep experience and a shared commitment to serving others.

What makes lineworkers especially remarkable is that they aren't just restoring power to a system—they're restoring power to their own communities. They live here. They raise their families here. They understand that electricity is more than a convenience; it's essential to daily life, to local businesses, to schools, farms and emergency services. Powering the places we call home is personal to lineworkers.

Electric cooperatives like MJM were built on the principle of neighbors helping neighbors, and our lineworkers embody that spirit every day. They are the first to respond and the last to leave, often working long hours behind the scenes. At times, serving our neighbors means going beyond our own service territory through a process known as mutual aid. During major outage events, MJM crews stand ready to assist neighboring co-ops—sometimes close to home, and sometimes across state lines—to help restore power. This spirit of mutual



aid strengthens all cooperatives and ultimately benefits the members we serve.

We understand any time the lights go out can be frustrating, bringing everyday life to a halt. We are incredibly grateful to our members for your patience and encouragement during these times. Linework is demanding, physical, and at times, it can be dangerous. Our crews approach each job with a focus on safety and teamwork. They take pride in their craft and in the trust our members place in them.

On **April 13, 2026**, we will celebrate Lineworker Appreciation Day, but one day is hardly enough. Every day, we thank lineworkers for their service and dedication, which are the backbone of our cooperative.

To our lineworkers: thank you for your hard work, your readiness and your unwavering commitment to the communities we serve. We are proud to stand behind you and grateful for all that you do.

ALONGTHELINES

by MJM Electric Cooperative
www.mjmec.coop

18300 SHIPMAN ROAD, PO Box 80
CARLINVILLE, IL 62626

OFFICE: 1-217-707-6156

OFFICE HOURS:
Monday - Friday 7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

HOW TO REPORT AN OUTAGE:

Call 217-707-6156 or use your **SmartHub app**.

- 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/Social Media.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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Call 811 before digging.
- 5 Home Efficiency Upgrades**
Helping you save during every season.
- 6 2026 National Policy Priorities**
For all Electric Cooperatives.

Have you changed your number, disconnected your landline, or simply have a better contact number?

If you are **not** getting notifications about outages or scheduled maintenance, please make sure to update your main contact phone number with the MJM office.

Please call the office at 217-707-6156.

MEMBER TRADING POST

FOR SALE: 2017 Suzuki Burgman 650 Executive scooter with electric adjustable wind shield, heated grips, heated seats. Approx 9,000 miles. Excellent condition. \$5,500.00. Leave message at 217-556-4546.

FREE: Old barn boards, metal roof, and beams, free to anyone that will tear down old barn and clean up the rubble.
 Call Leroy @ 618-972-4658

FOR SALE: Several Avon figurines all \$30. Eastlake Victorian vintage settee/sofa. \$275; Duncan Pfyfe vintage green painted drop leaf table, \$195; Antique "Smiley pig" cookie jar, \$225. 1996 Chevy S10, ext.cab, 2.2, 4-cylinder, green, manual shift, 2nd owner of 19 years. All records. Runs great, has cosmetic issues. \$2,450.
 Call: 217-710-5614

To list your free ad, email info@mjmec.coop, call 217-707-6156, or mail the ad to MJM Electric Cooperative, P.O. Box 80, Carlinville, IL 62626.

Each ad will run for one month. Some restriction may apply.
 No Ads in May edition/Annual Meeting Booklet

SAFE DIGGING MONTH

BY SAFELECTRICITY.ORG

Digging without knowing what is below the dirt could cause serious injury or a power outage. Underground utility lines could be anywhere, and they also shift over time. Every project, big or small, requires advance notification to 811. To start the underground utility marking process, call 811 or go to your state's own 811 center website. Having underground lines marked is free and easy to do; simply call 811 at least two full business days prior to starting a digging project.

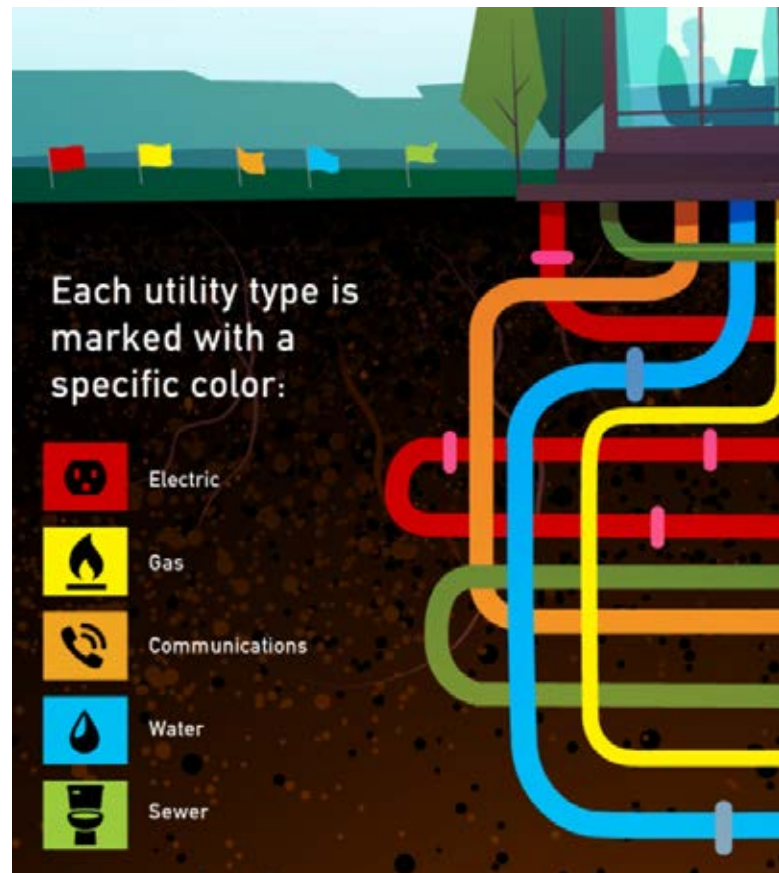
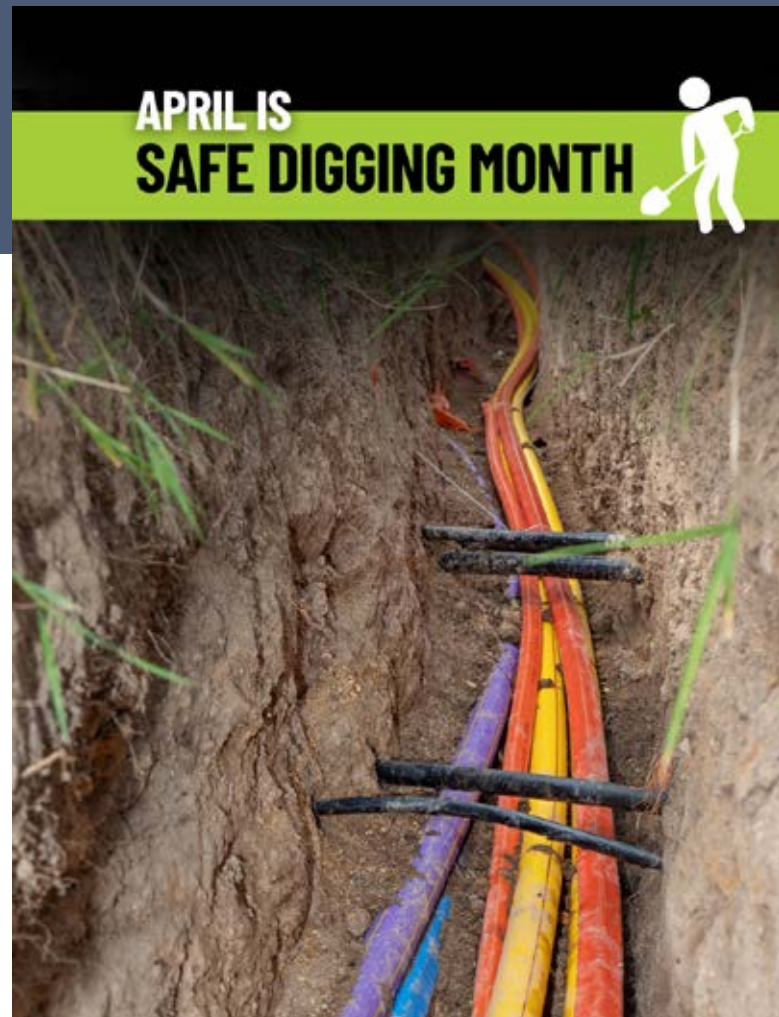
After submitting a request, underground lines will be marked by their respective utilities; however, locators do not mark private lines such as service to outbuildings, underground sprinkler systems or a gas line to a grill, for example. Private lines are the responsibility of the homeowner.

If you are only digging in a small area of your yard, you can outline the area in white spray paint or with white flags to ensure that only that part of your yard will be located and marked. (White flags are available at home improvement stores.)

THERE ARE FIVE STEPS TO SAFER DIGGING:

1. Pre-mark the proposed dig area with white paint or flags.
2. Call 811 or go online to submit your locate request before you dig. There is no charge for the service.
3. Wait the required amount of time (typically two business days).
4. Respect the marks and do not move any flags.
5. Dig with care. Avoid digging on top of or within 18–24 inches on all sides of utility marks, which may mean moving your digging project to another part of your yard.

For more information about electrical safety, visit [SafeElectricity.org](https://www.SafeElectricity.org). For more information about 811, visit www.call811.com



EFFICIENCY UPGRADES

HELP YOU SAVE EVERY SEASON

Spring and summer are opportune times for home upgrades and DIY projects. If you're planning to make improvements to your home, consider upgrades that promote better efficiency. Here are a few projects that can help you save energy and money--and increase the comfort of your home.

Installing a smart thermostat is one of the simplest ways to manage home energy use and keep summer bills in check. Smart thermostats are easy to install and allow you to control your heating and cooling system from your phone. You can purchase an ENERGY STAR®-certified smart thermostat for as low as \$100, which can save you 8% on annual heating and cooling costs, about \$50 per year. This upgrade will quickly pay for itself, and you'll gain insight into better ways to heat and cool your home.

Speaking of smart, additional devices like smart LED bulbs also offer convenient control and help boost energy savings at home. With smart lighting, you can set a schedule for when and how your lights should be turned on or off. And the next time you head out to run errands and realize you left the lights on, all you have to do is turn them off through your phone. Smart lights come in a variety of shapes, colors and brightness levels--and you can purchase bulbs for indoor or outdoor use. Schedule outdoor smart lights to illuminate your home at night and when you're out of town for better security.

While it's not as trendy as incorporating smart technologies, sealing air leaks around your home is a simple, effective way to save energy and lower your bills. Applying new (or replacing old) weather stripping around doors and windows can instantly make your home more comfortable and reduce energy waste. Applying caulk to fill gaps can also improve the seal of your home. Caulk can be applied to a variety of areas, including windows, doors, bathtubs and sinks.



If your home feels too warm during summer (and too chilly during winter) even after you've sealed with weather stripping and caulk, your home may need additional insulation. Insulation is considered a more expensive efficiency upgrade; however, if your home is under-insulated, additional insulation can make a big impact on reducing energy use and costs. The cost of new insulation depends on a variety of factors like materials, size of the home and whether you use a contractor. Typically, the project costs can be recouped in a few years and your home will immediately feel more comfortable.

Of course, there are additional efficiency upgrades that can make a big impact on energy use, like replacing old appliances with ENERGY-STAR® models or replacing old, leaky windows with new, energy efficient windows. But these upgrades can be a bit pricey.

If you're wanting to make your home more energy efficient but you're not sure where to start, your best bet is to enlist the help of an expert to conduct an energy audit of your home. An energy audit can easily identify areas to boost efficiency, and then you can determine the projects you want to tackle first based on your budget and needs.

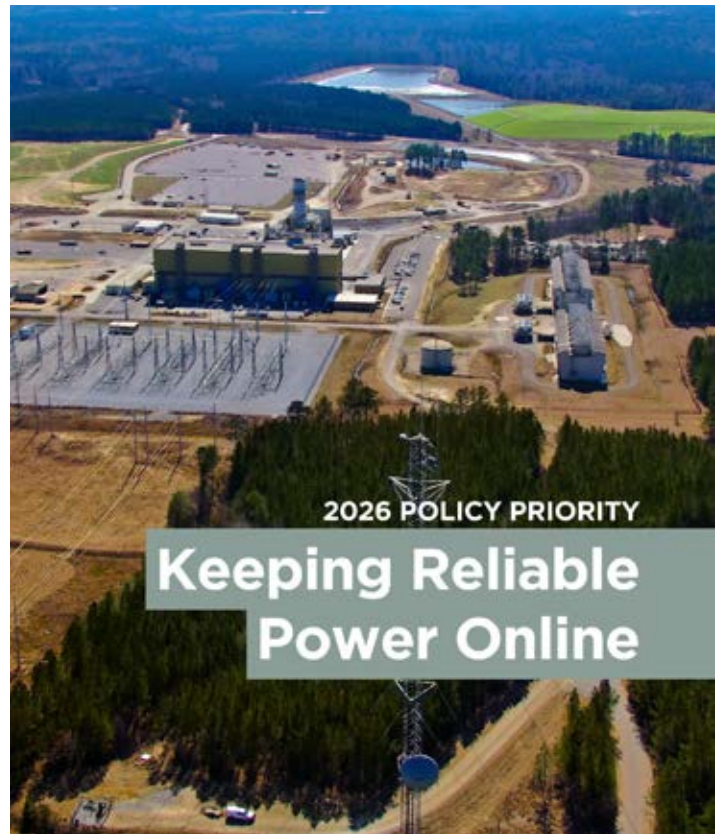
2026 POLICY PRIORITIES FOR ALL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES

American families and businesses count on reliable electricity at a price they can afford. But with the demand for power continuing to climb and the supply of always-available power sources at risk, smart energy policies are more important than ever.

At MJM, our job goes beyond keeping the lights on day to day. We are responsible for advocating on behalf of our members in Washington, D.C., through our National Organization of Electric Cooperatives (NRECA), to make sure decisions being made at the federal level protect reliable, affordable power in our local communities.

As we head into 2026, America's electric cooperatives are focused on a few key issues that directly impact our members:

- **Faster Disaster Recovery:** We support the bipartisan FEMA Act of 2025. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is a critical partner in helping electric co-ops restore power and rebuild their systems in the wake of natural disasters, but it could be more effective and responsive to the needs of rural America. If the FEMA Act passes, it will help utilities restore power more quickly after storms and disasters—while keeping costs lower for rural families and businesses.
- **Cutting Through Red Tape:** Outdated and overly complex permitting rules slow down essential upgrades to power lines and substations. Streamlining these processes helps us keep up with growing demand and improve reliability. We're urging Congress to pass comprehensive permitting reforms, including the SPEED Act and PERMIT Act, both of which cleared the House in December.
- **Keeping Reliable Power Plants Online:** We're advocating for realistic energy regulations that don't force dependable power plants to shut down before reliable replacements are ready. Mandating emissions limits based on unavailable technology would force critical power plants off the grid and restrict the operation of new natural gas plants.
- **Protecting Critical Hydropower:** Hydroelectric dams in the Pacific Northwest play a key role in keeping electricity reliable and affordable across multiple states. Removing them would raise costs and threaten



reliability, which is why we support preserving the Lower Snake River Dams.

- **Smarter Land Management Policies:** We're advocating for smarter land-management policies like the Fix Our Forests Act that would allow electric cooperatives to better maintain power lines on public lands and mitigate wildfire risk.
- **Maintaining Funding for Grid Innovation and Investments:** Federal loan and grant programs help co-ops strengthen the grid, prepare for extreme weather, improve cybersecurity and explore new energy technologies—without shifting costs to members.

While you may not consider it on a daily basis, electricity is essential and underpins nearly every aspect of modern life. Understanding today's evolving energy landscape is important as it shapes how electricity is produced, delivered and consumed. Advocating on behalf of MJM's members is a critical part of our commitment to you. These policy priorities all come back to the same goal: making sure our members have safe, reliable and affordable power—now and in the future.

DO YOU RELY ON A MEDICAL DEVICE?

Let your
utility know!



Safe
Electricity.org®

MEDICAL ALERT MEMBERS HOW TO SET UP YOUR ACCOUNT FOR A MEDICAL ALERT STATUS

If you rely on medical devices that need electricity, like heart monitors, be ready for unexpected power outages. Ensure backup power is available and register with us for a medical alert status on your account.

Please supply in writing, on letterhead from your attending physician, as to what the medical condition(s) is and why you need to be noted as a "medical alert member."
(This will need updated annually.)

A MEDICAL ALERT DOES MEAN:

This information is noted on the account and during outage situations MJM personnel will be alerted to your needs. Decisions made in the field do reflect this priority on an as needed basis. If possible, purchasing a generator for these types of situations is a great option.

A MEDICAL ALERT DOES NOT MEAN:

1. A Member is exempt from being disconnected for non-payment;
2. Uninterruptible electric service is guaranteed; or
3. Service will be first in the restoration process during an outage situation.

Call our office at 217-707-6156 and we can mail you the proper paperwork. Let's keep you safe and prepared!

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

As we prepare for the seasonal shift, remember to set your ceiling fan rotation accordingly. In winter months (or whenever your home heating system is running), fan blades should rotate clockwise, which produces an updraft that pushes warm air down. In summer months (or whenever your home cooling system is running), blades should rotate counterclockwise, which produces a downdraft or windchill effect that makes you feel cooler. When used correctly, ceiling fans can boost comfort and allow you to adjust the thermostat a few degrees for energy savings.

Source: energy.gov



TIPS TO AVOID ENERGY SCAMS ⚠️

Don't fall victim to power outage scams. When widespread outages occur, scammers may target affected utility customers. They can contact you via call, text or email, urging you to act quickly and provide personal information to restore service. Always communicate with your utility through official channels, such as their website, mobile app or phone number listed on your bill. Your safety and personal information are worth taking a moment to pause and verify unknown senders.

Source: ftc.org





CALL 811
BEFORE YOU DIG

Protect yourself and avoid damage to neighborhood underground utility lines.

Safe Electricity.org®

