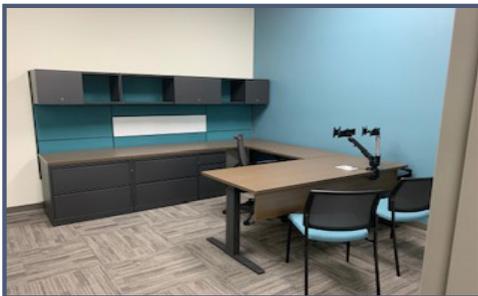




ENTERING THE 7TH INNING STRETCH

If you have ever watched a baseball/softball game, you know that the seventh-inning stretch is no joke. Even though you are so close to the game being over, you still have some time left to go. You could say that MJM is sitting in the middle of that seventh inning stretch. Each day, the new headquarters has progressed that much more. However, we are patiently waiting for our move in date.

The new headquarters is so close to being finished that our excitement is hardly contained! During the first week of March, furniture was put into place and set up for employees to easily move from one desk to another.



Originally, we communicated to our Members that on April 20th and 21st MJM would be closed to the public for the move to the new building but that was *barring no issues!* As you can imagine, or really, who could imagine that we would be experiencing a virus outbreak, the project has hit some roadblocks due to COVID-19. MJM is also doing what it can to protect its employees and Members which means we've had to push back our move-in date? MJM is doing what it can to protect its employees and Members which means pushing back our move-in date. This is necessary to ensure everyone's safety and health.

Last year, the rain had a heavy impact on beginning the process of building the new headquarters. Now, the rain is having another impact on finishing the job. The parking lot cannot be completed until the weather participates.

As we do move forward, though, we will be sure to keep our Members in the know. We will be posting on our website, social media, SmartHub and sending emails. If you haven't 'liked' MJM's Facebook page, now is the time to do so. 

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Mon-Fri 7:30a.m.-4:30p.m.



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Brooke Gross..... Communications
and Member Services Coordinator

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. Collect calls will
be accepted to report outages. 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.

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Member Trading Post

FOR SALE: Fifteen acres, timber property with creek. All utility access. Great for hunting, RV home-site or investment. Litchfield Unit 12 school district. Access off Illinois Route 16. No contract for deed or hunting leases. Selling by original owner. \$94,000. Please call 217-324-3869.

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FOR SALE: Twin bed and dresser \$75. Rocking chair \$35. Electric glass top stove with range hood. One burner doesn't work. \$200 Call 217-556-5361.

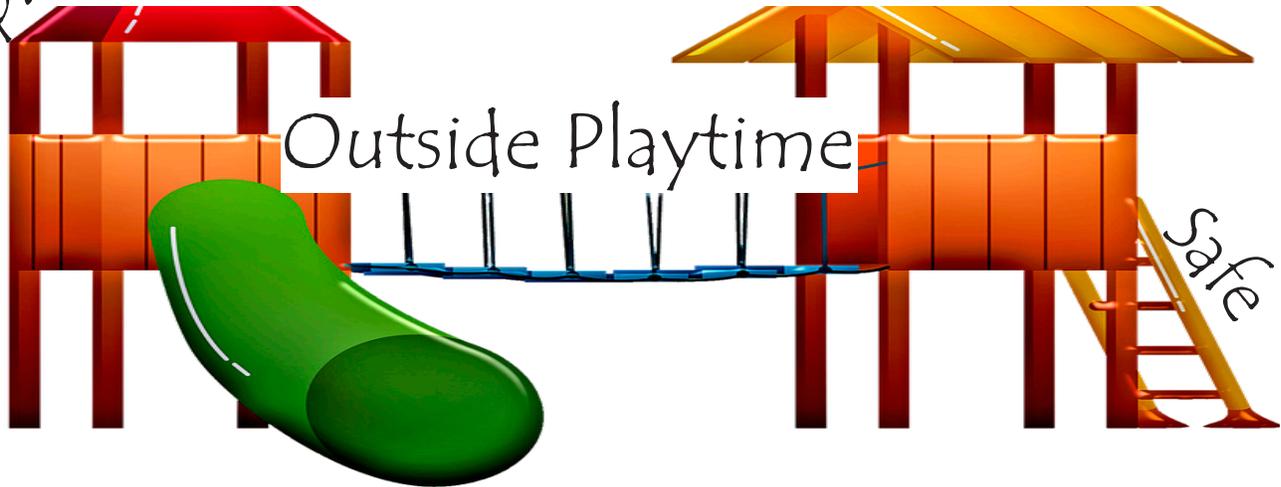
FOR SALE: 150cc fun cart for sale or trade. Call 217-730-1559 or 618-327-3837.

FOR SALE: 1969 John Deere diesel tractor W.F. with 148 loader, metal canopy, good tires and two 6-volt batteries. Asking \$11,000. Please call 217-999-2926

To list your free ad, email brookeg@mjmec.coop, call 217-707-6156, or mail the ad to MJM Electric Cooperative, 264 N. East St., P.O. Box 80, Carlinville, IL 62626. Each ad will run for one month. Some restriction may apply. Thank you.



Keeping



As the weather gets warmer, children can more often be seen climbing trees, flying kites, and playing outdoor games with friends. However, before you send your kids outside to have fun, make sure they are aware of electrical dangers that could put a frightening halt to playtime.

One of the messages to share with children is to look up and look out for power lines. It is important to keep yourself and any play items away from power lines or anything that could be in contact with those lines.

Kites should only be flown during good weather conditions in large open areas like a park or a field. In addition, kites should be flown away from overhead power lines or other electrical equipment. A kite string can conduct electricity from an overhead line directly to the person on the ground.

Children also need to be aware of how dangerous it is to climb trees near power lines. Climbing a tree tangled in a power line can energize the tree with electricity and lead to electric shock or death.

Ensure your children are protected from the electrical service connection to your home. Be aware of these lines around pools. Pool skimmers can be long enough to reach service connection lines.

Additionally, teach your children to never play around pad mounted transformers. These are green metal boxes that contain the above ground portion of an underground electrical installation. Pad mount transformers carry high voltages and are safe when locked, but they can be deadly if someone reaches inside. If you see one in your neighborhood that is open, call authorities and your utility immediately.

Also, teach your children to never enter an electrical substation for any reason. If a ball or other toy enters the fence surrounding the substation, call your utility for help. Substations hold deadly amounts of electricity and should only be entered by professionals.

In addition to talking to your children about outdoor safety, there are also steps parents and caregivers can take to help ensure safe outdoor play.

- Make sure all outdoor outlets are equipped with ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) to help prevent electric shock.
- Keep all long-handled tools out of reach of children so they will not be tempted to or accidentally hit an overhead power line.
- Pay attention to trees and power lines. Do not plant trees near them, and if there is a tree that has grown into a power line, make sure to call a professional to trim the tree. 🚧

By Safe Electricity



Annual Meeting Roared to Life on Saturday, March 7th



Members of M.J.M. Electric Cooperative celebrated the organization's 81st annual meeting at Carlinville High School, Saturday, March 7. During the meeting, Members were updated on the progress of the new headquarters, potential new services and ongoing changes in the electric industry.

This year's theme—"Roaring into the '20s with what electrifies you!" symbolized M.J.M.'s vision for the future and featured music by Rockabilly Revival and an appearance by Babe Ruth. President/CEO Laura Cutler explained to the Members that the Cooperative's focus is on moving forward and innovation, reflected M.J.M.'s new logo design, which was unveiled at the meeting.

The move to the new headquarters was slated to occur April 20-21. The new space will create much needed room for the current staff and allow for future growth. The strategic move is in keeping with M.J.M.'s forward focus.

Treasurer W. Kay Schultz provided the financial update. Total revenue in 2019 was \$20,429,470, down from \$20,752,280 in 2018. Schultz explained that residential membership, which makes up 84.5 percent of M.J.M.'s revenue, was \$560,404 less than the prior year. However, revenue from small commercial members (14.2 percent of revenue) increased by \$220,279.

Total operating expenses in 2019 increased from 2018, partially due to the flooding of the Illinois River, for which M.J.M. is seeking FEMA assistance for reimbursement. Upgrades to two substations were also a source of additional cost. More right-of-way workers were hired in the fourth quarter as well, resulting in less right-of-way work budgeted for 2020.

Total margins for the year were \$814,626 less than 2018, with consumer sales down and expenses up in 2019. Although this caused equity to drop, M.J.M. remains strong at 45.4 percent. Equity is calculated by the energy used by each member in that year. This equals financial strength for the member, allowing for improvements in the delivery of power and service and capital projects without incurring costly loans. Ownership equity represents member investment in substations, poles and facilities. The cooperative's financial strength allowed for the return of a portion of that equity to members, in the form of capital credits amounting to \$3,708,705. The board is looking to continue the return of capital credits this year.

Additionally, Schultz reported that M.J.M.'s long-term debt is stable and that the cooperative's assets have grown.

State Senator Steve McClure and House Representative Avery Bourne took the stage to report on the political landscape in Illinois. Topics addressed included corruption, energy, taxes, criminal justice, FOID cards and the importance of rural areas being accurately counted in this year's census in order to receive federal dollars for education and transportation.

A representative from Wabash Valley Power Association, M.J.M.'s generations and transmission cooperative, made note of the changes taking place in the power industry, from natural gas to the emergence of distributed generation and the smart grid. Also discussed were electric vehicles and reduced carbon, and the importance of looking ahead to where the G&T will be in 2030.

Brooke Gross, M.J.M.'s Communication and Member Service Coordinator, presented this year's scholarship winners. Out of 20 applicants, Jack Kessinger and Riley Hempken won the \$1,000 scholarships. An honorary scholarship of \$500 was awarded to Collin Fraley.

Directly after the business meeting of the Members, the re-organization meeting of the Board of Directors was held. The following officers were elected: Robert Lehmann of Girard (District 4), Louis Johnson of Shipman (District 5) and James Niemann of Litchfield (District 7) were re-elected to 3-year terms on the board of directors. During the re-organization meeting of the Board of Directors, held after the business meeting of the Members, the following officers were elected: W. Kay Schultz - Chairman of the Board, Dennis Stewart - Vice Chairmen, William Heyen - Secretary and Robert Moore - Treasurer. 

Roaring Into the 20's with what Electrifies You



MJM
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

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B
G

SOCIAL DISTANCING

Recent guidance from U.S. public health experts suggests social distancing helps slow the spread of the coronavirus.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

Social distancing is the practice of maintaining a greater than usual physical distance from other people or avoiding direct contact with people or objects in public places during the outbreak of a contagious disease in order to minimize exposure and reduce the transmission of infection.

<ul style="list-style-type: none">Group gatheringsSporting eventsSleep oversRetail storesMass transit systemsNon-essential workers in the home	<ul style="list-style-type: none">GymsMallsPlaydatesConcerts	AVOID
<ul style="list-style-type: none">ParksTravelingGrocery storesPicking up take-outPicking up medications		CAUTION
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Take a walkGo for a hikeYard workPlay outsideRead a bookListen to musicCook a meal	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Clean houseFacetimePhone callsPlay a gameGroup video chatsStream a show/movie	SAFE

By Safe Electricity

CELEBRATING OUR EMPLOYEES

Even when the world seems to be going crazy, there is always something to celebrate. April 13th is National Linemen Appreciation Day. While people may occasionally see linemen working near their home or office, they often take for granted the steady flow of electricity they enjoy daily without thinking about the work that goes into making it possible. Linemen are the ones ensuring that the energy we rely on every day is steadily delivered with minimal disruption. Regardless of snow, pelting rains or freezing winds, MJM's linemen are always the first on the scene of any outage to help restore electricity safely to each of your homes. Although, we acknowledge the national day, MJM would like to recognize the dedication and hard work that our linemen do every single day. Use the hashtags #ThankALineman and #NationalLinemanAppreciationDay on your social media accounts to show your appreciation.



Of course, the dedication doesn't stop just outside of the building. Inside the headquarters, we treasure our staff. We appreciate everyone who is devoted to supporting MJM's Members, and whose roles are incredibly diverse, and who often go above and beyond their regular duties. We appreciate the amount of work that they do. April 22nd is Administrative Professional Day. We wish to recognize this group of dedicated MJM employees for all they do. Not only on this day but every day.

How lucky is MJM to have dedicated employees inside and outside to care for MJM's Members?

Henry Ford once said, "If everyone is moving forward together, then success takes care of itself." That's exactly MJM's 2020 vision. 🌈

Operation Round Up Approved!

For many months now Operation Round Up has been publicized informing the Membership about the program and how Cooperatives can work for the development of their communities by putting their pennies together for charitable purposes.

Currently, MJM contributes money on the Membership's behalf for the following: county 4-H programs, high school post proms, county fairs, the girl and boy scouts, county crime stoppers, the D.A.R.E. education programs, school band and PTO programs, etc. Most of the contributions given are no more than \$25 to \$100.

Electric coops that offer Operation Round Up or a similar program say it has reaped rewards for their communities. The donation averages \$6.00 per year per account. If we take MJM's current 7748 Memberships and assume 50% of the Members participate, that is \$23,244 annually or \$5,811 quarterly that could be shared amongst your communities for worthwhile purposes. That is HUGE! With a program such as Operation Round Up, donations on a larger scale can be made depending on the success of the program.

There is an opportunity to get matching funds through CoBank, a national cooperative bank, which provides not-for-profit grants called "Sharing Success". They will allow up to 3 applications and the grants have to be for at least \$1,000 and are capped at \$7,000 total. This is an additional way to further the funding of a much-needed community request.

The Membership unanimously voted for Operation Round Up at the March 7th annual meeting. However, the earliest we would most likely start the program would be in 4-6 months. It will take us a little while to get back to any kind of normalcy after we make our move to the new headquarters. It will take time for us to set up the not-for-profit organization, form the rules, find members who are willing to donate their time to serve on the Operation Round Up board, and for MJM to notify Members when the program will begin.

Once the startup date is determined, we will notify the Membership of that date by means of the MJM newsletter, MJM's website and on Members' bills. There will be numerous opportunities for Members to opt out if they do not wish to participate. In order for Members to opt out, we will set up a specific email address just for that, provide forms that Members can mail back in with their payment and of course Members can always pick up the phone and call us.

On behalf of your communities, we hope you participate when the time comes. Thank you! 🌈

MJM Unveils the New Logo



ROARing into the 20's calls MJM's attention to its Mission Statement: *to be the electric provider of choice, dedicated to providing the services and products our members want and need.*

As we try to stay innovative and Member-focused, example of services and products mentioned at the 81st annual meeting were selling & installing generators, offering battery storage for Members who have distributed generation and the possibility of

doing service work on the Member's side of the meter. If we did service work, we could begin participating in Wabash Valley's power shift program by installing load control switches on water heaters and air conditioners and giving Members a cash incentive to do so. Mid-to late summer, we will be able to offer MJM Members a Wi-Fi Thermostat program through the Power Moves Program.

With the popularity of electric vehicles growing, we are researching on how we can support EV users. It's going to be interesting to see the EV market evolve and may make economic sense for a lot of our rural Members. And instead of paying at the pump and supporting international oil companies, you can pay at the plug and invest in your local cooperative, which in turn, invests in YOU!

In January, the FCC adopted rules to award up to \$20.4 billion through the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund to provide support for voice and broadband services in high cost areas. Broadband could be an option for MJM to pursue if a feasibility study showed that we could be successful, and if we got a load enough voice from our Members to participate.

As we put the past behind us, we want to move to a new level of professionalism. We are moving into a new building and with the possibility of offering new services, we have a new vision. 2020 vision. The new facility was designed for future growth and adding any new services poses no problems.

We felt the timing would be right to signify this message by communicating it with a picture, with a symbol. With the assistance of the graphic design services of the Illinois Electric Statewide Association a new logo was developed.

Circles are very versatile and suggest community, unity and an overall positive emotional message, thus a sunrise was used. Horizontal lines that strike off to the right symbolize moving forward and innovation. We feel that this demonstrates the new MJM.

We are your accountable energy partner. 

