

# ALONG THE LINES



DEDICATED TO SAFELY PROVIDING RELIABLE SERVICE TO OUR MEMBERS.

**JANUARY 2026**

VOL.19, NO. 1

**USING A SPACE HEATER  
EFFICIENTLY & SAFELY**

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## JANUARY CALENDAR



January is Baby Safety Month

Jan. 1: Office Closed: New Year's Day

Jan. 10: National Cut Your Energy Costs Day

Jan. 15: National Hat Day

Jan. 19: Martin Luther King Jr. Day

*Happy New Year!*

### 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  
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CARLINVILLE, IL 62626

WWW.MJMEC.COOP



# WORKING TOGETHER TO LOWER DEMAND



BY MJM PRESIDENT/CEO, JOE HEYEN



When outdoor temperatures drop, electricity use naturally rises. Colder weather drives us indoors, where we rely more heavily on home heating systems, more lighting and household appliances. Heating systems run longer and more frequently to maintain comfortable indoor temperatures. Combine that with the

fact that most people use electricity at the same times—typically in the mornings and early evenings—and the result is significant pressure on our electric grid.

MJM works closely with Wabash Valley Power Alliance, our generation and transmission (G&T) cooperative, to plan for these seasonal weather patterns and changes and ensure you have reliable power every day of the year. This partnership involves detailed resource and infrastructure planning to make certain electricity is available whenever you need it. However, it's important to remember that our local system is part of a much larger regional and national electric grid.

During the winter months, when homes and businesses across the country are using more electricity simultaneously, overall demand can approach—or occasionally exceed—available supply. This is especially true during severe weather events, such as ice storms, sudden temperature drops or equipment malfunctions that reduce generation capacity. In rare cases when demand threatens to outpace supply, the regional grid operator may call for temporary, controlled outages—often referred to as rolling blackouts—to prevent broader system failures. If such a situation arises, MJM will provide timely updates and information to members.

To prepare for these scenarios and minimize risks, MJM and our G&T partner take proactive measures to strengthen reliability year-round. These include routine system maintenance, investments in grid modernization and comprehensive disaster response planning. In 2025, our Forestry crew continued work on our systems Right of Way areas and hazard trees. Lineworkers completed line section rebuilds, substation tie line projects, substation upgrades, and replacing aging poles across the service territory. These proactive steps are designed to ensure our portion of the grid remains resilient even



under extreme conditions. Yet, maintaining a reliable electric system requires a collective effort—and every member plays an important role in lowering demand when the grid is under stress.

You can help by taking simple actions during periods of high electricity use, especially on the coldest days of winter:

1. Lower your thermostat slightly. Even reducing the temperature by a few degrees can help.
2. Delay using large appliances during peak hours, which are 3pm-7pm. Run dishwashers, washing machines and dryers during off-peak hours—typically midday or late evening.
3. Adjust your water heater. Setting it to 120 degrees F and spacing out showers helps conserve both energy and hot water.
4. Unplug unnecessary devices. Power used for lighting and electronics adds up and accounts for a significant portion of home energy use. Disconnect unused items to reduce energy waste.

Understanding how winter weather impacts electricity demand is key to maintaining system reliability. By practicing simple energy conservation habits at home, you not only save money on your monthly bill—you also help strengthen the resilience of the grid that powers our community. Together, through small actions and shared awareness, we can ensure that our homes remain warm, our lights stay on and our local grid continues to serve us reliably throughout the season.



# 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

<b>CHAIRMAN:</b> Todd Stewart.....	District 8
<b>VICE CHAIRMAN:</b> Charles Huebener.....	District 3
<b>SECRETARY:</b> Marcie Tonsor.....	District 9
<b>TREASURER:</b> Tyler Heyen.....	District 6
Tim Walsh.....	District 1
Dwayne Milner.....	District 2
LeAnn Barr.....	District 4
Frank Welling.....	District 5
James Niemann.....	District 7

## STAFF

Joe Heyen.....	President/CEO
Brian Gunning.....	Finance and Accounting Manager
Jennifer Peterson.....	Office Manager
Matt Eisenmenger.....	Operations Manager
Martin Hinton.....	Engineering Manager
Bob Brandon.....	Right of Way Manager

## EDITOR

Eric Cooper.....	Communications & Member Services Coordinator
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A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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## MJM Board of Directors Election

Districts 4, 5, and 7 are up for re-election in 2026.

# MEMBER TRADING POST

**FOR SALE:** Split Seasoned Fire Wood, pickup truck bed loads \$120 or call for delivery price. Call Leroy @ 618-972-4658

**FOR SALE:** Brand new Carlisle Turf Trac R/S, 24x12x10 NHS, \$90. Brand new Carlisle Turf Master 24x12x12 NHS, \$90. Iron Man Inversion Table, weight capacity 350lbs, 6'6" tall, good shape, \$75. Call: 217-371-1102 (leave a message)

**FOR SALE:** 8ft, 3pt Heavy-duty Grater Blade, good condition, \$1,700. A Bush Hog, 3pt, 6ft Finish Mower, good condition, \$1,800. Call: 618-372-8411

**WANTING TO BUY:** Old farm tractors and crawlers, running or not, 40HP and under. Call/leave message: 618-402-4420

**FOR SALE:** Christmas Mikasa oval platter 17", \$5. 8 Christmas soup bowls (snowman design), \$10. 5' rustic Christmas tree, \$10. Pictures available. Text to 217-691-1492

**FOR SALE:** 5-acres of land with spring-fed creek at a dead end road, 20k/acre. Great for a camping or building site. 2 leather motorcycle jackets, new, never worn, XL & M, \$100 for both. Leather gaming chair, \$100. 6ft Landpride Brushhog \$1,200. A 2015 Kia Sportage, red, 144k miles, \$6,500 (OBO). John Deere S725 54in mower deck out front, runs good, \$3,000. Call: 618-376-5121

To list your free ad, email [info@mjmec.coop](mailto: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

# SHOULD I USE A SPACE HEATER OR TURN UP THE HEAT?

by SafeElectricity.org

Drafty room? Before reaching for your space heater, consider whether it's better to plug it in or simply turn up the thermostat.

Space heaters are designed to warm small, targeted spaces — not your entire home. If you find yourself relying on one often, it may be time to address your home's energy efficiency.

## Fix efficiency first, then supplement with a space heater

Improving your home's efficiency helps it retain heat, reduces drafts and reduces your energy use. Many solutions are affordable and DIY-friendly, such as:

- **Seal air leaks.** Use caulk and weather stripping around windows and exterior doors to prevent drafts.
- **Add insulation where it matters.** Attic insulation has the biggest return on investment, and loose-fill insulation is an affordable option. Recommended Home Insulation R-Values and additional information about insulation can be found at the [energystar.gov](https://energystar.gov) website.
- **Check your heating system.** Schedule regular service for your furnace or heat pump. If it's outdated or struggling, it could be time for an upgrade. MJM offers "PowerMoves" rebates though their power provider Wabash Valley Power Alliance for several heat pump technology items.
- **Use programmable thermostats.** These can help reduce energy waste by heating only when and where needed.

Once your home is sealed and insulated, a space heater can be used to increase comfort and warm specific rooms, like a home office or bedroom, without turning up the heat for the whole house. A space heater is like a ceiling fan; it can improve comfort in a small area, but it's not a whole-house solution.



## Use space heaters efficiently:

- Heat only the room you're currently in.
- Close doors to keep heat contained.
- Choose the right size — too small and it won't warm you; too big and it wastes energy. Check manufacturer sizing guides.
- Use a heater with a thermostat and timer to avoid overheating the room or wasting electricity.

## Use space heaters safely:

- Make sure the space heater is clean and in good condition. Cords should not be frayed, brittle, or cracked.
- Purchase only space heaters that have been safety tested and UL approved.
- Plug space heaters directly into the outlet, and never use an extension cord or multiple plugs.
- Never allow pets or children near an electric heater. Accidental contact could cause serious shock or burns.
- Make sure your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors are in good working condition before using a space heater.

# 2026 RATES



The electric rates in 2026 will remain unchanged from those set in 2025. 🌈

Your "Rate Class" number is located on your monthly bill:

Service Map Loc	Service Description/Address	Rate	Meter Number	Days	Readings Previous   Present	Multiplier	kWh Usage
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## SINGLE-PHASE

### SINGLE-PHASE RATE CLASSES (1,2,3,4,5,31,32,33,37,38 & 39)

#### Service Delivery Charge

\$ 54.00 per month

#### Power Supplier Demand Charge

\$ 2.25 per kW

#### Power Supplier Energy Charge

1 - 1,100 kWh     \$ 0.07723 per kWh  
Over 1,100 kWh     \$ 0.06783 per kWh

#### Distribution Energy Charge

\$ 0.02497 per kWh

## THREE-PHASE

### THREE-PHASE RATE CLASSES (6,7,8,34,35,36,40 & 41)

#### Service Delivery Charge

\$ 112.00 per month

#### Power Supplier Demand Charge

\$ 2.25 per kW

#### Power Supplier Energy Charge

1 - 1,100 kWh     \$ 0.08663 per kWh  
Over 1,100 kWh     \$ 0.06663 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 Demand Charge

\$ 12.59 per kW

#### Power Supplier Energy Charge

\$ 0.05 per kWh

#### Distribution Energy Charge

\$ 0.03896 per kWh

### THREE-PHASE LARGE POWER (Rate Class 10)

#### Service Delivery Charge

\$ 123.00 per month

#### Power Supplier Demand Charge

\$ 13.17 per kW

#### Power Supplier Energy Charge

\$ 0.05 per kWh

#### Distribution Energy Charge

\$ 0.04182 per kWh

# 2026 BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION

MJM follows the basic principle of Democratic Member control: one Member, one vote. Did you know that as a Member of our Co-op, you are eligible to run for a Board of Director position?

Your cooperative's Directors are MJM Members just like you. They are elected by you and your fellow co-op members to set policy and govern the co-op. Nine directors sit on the board residing in and representing a specific district in the cooperative. An MJM Member is eligible to run for Director if their primary residence is in the appropriate district and meet additional requirements as listed in **MJM's bylaws, Section 4.02 (Page 10)**.

Your Board of Directors is chosen through elections each year at the annual meeting. Each of the nine directors is elected for a three-year term and may be re-elected. Majority vote at the annual meeting decides who is elected. Terms are staggered in which three Directors are elected each year.

Prior to each annual meeting of Members, an Election and Credentials (E&C) committee is appointed by the Board. A district candidate must be accompanied by a petition signed by 35 or more MJM Members. Please note, petition forms will be made available at the co-op office late January and must be filed no more than 90 days nor less than 75 days before the annual meeting **MJM's bylaws, Section 4.05 (Page 12)**. After the deadline date, the E&C committee meets with each petitioning nominee and reviews their qualifications before certifying them as a qualified candidate. Please see our Bylaws document, **Article IV (pages 10-15)** for more details.

Each director represents the members of their district. Working closely with the CEO/President, the board ensures the cooperative provides quality service to its members.

For more info and to view policies, go to:  
[www.mjmec.coop/index.php/how-we-are-governed](http://www.mjmec.coop/index.php/how-we-are-governed)

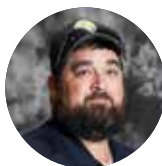


## IMPORTANT 2026 BOARD ELECTION INFORMATION AND DATES:

Directors/Districts up for election:



**4 - Director Leann Barr**



**5 - Director Frank Welling**



**7 - Director James Niemann**

Petition Acceptance:

**March 13, 2026 - March 28, 2026**

For more details on how to participate, you can contact the MJM office at 217-707-6156 or email us at [info@mjmec.coop](mailto:info@mjmec.coop).

## SAVE THE DATE!

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

# SMARTHUB

## NOTIFICATIONS & PAYMENTS MADE EASY

Sign up for a number of different notifications using our SmartHub app. Pick and choose the ones that you want to receive! Planned outages, regular outages, billing changes, payment due, payment confirmations, auto pay, and many more you can choose from.



Log into your SmartHub account and navigate to the notification screen to manage your notifications. If you need assistance, please do not hesitate to call us during regular business hours at 217-707-6156 and press option #2. You can also find helpful videos on our website: [mjmec.coop/smarthub-help](http://mjmec.coop/smarthub-help)



**Billing Notifications** – Bill Available, Credit Card Expiration, Delinquent Notices, Declined Auto Pay, Payment Confirmation, Payment Posted, Payment Reminders.



**Service** – Planned Power Outages, Power Outage, Power Outage Restored



**Miscellaneous** – Auto Pay, Login Credentials Change, Personal Info Change

To set up the specific notifications that you want, simply log in to SmartHub and go to:

**"Settings > Manage Notifications."**

- **PAY BILLS ONLINE**
- **TRACK YOUR DAILY USAGE**
- **REPORT OUTAGES**
- **GET NOTIFICATIONS**



## TIPS TO AVOID ENERGY SCAMS ⚠️

Beware of "winter bill relief" energy scams. Scammers often exploit high winter bills by offering fake discount or relief programs to unsuspecting consumers. They may ask for upfront payments or personal details to lower your rate. Legitimate utilities never demand gift cards, wire transfers or payment through apps like PayPal or Venmo. Always verify offers directly by calling your utility's phone number located on your energy bill—do not call any phone numbers provided in a suspicious email or text. Remember to take time to confirm before you pay; real savings programs won't pressure you for immediate action.



## ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Winter weather can cause your home heating system to work overtime. Check for air leaks and drafts around doors and windows, then seal them with weatherstripping or caulk. Close fireplace dampers when not in use, and consider installing insulating curtains to help keep warm air inside. You can also save energy by lowering your thermostat a few degrees. Even small adjustments like these can reduce heating costs and improve comfort during the coldest months.





# POWER MOVES®



## PowerMoves 2026 Rebate Information Coming Soon!

MJM's power provider, Wabash Valley Power Alliance, is finalizing the details for the 2026 PowerMoves Rebates.

PowerMoves provides energy efficiency rebates for homes and businesses served by participating electric cooperatives. These programs help lower upgrade costs for equipment and projects. Visit **PowerMoves.com** for details.

